

Baptist and Reflector

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Grahams resign missions positions for church work

RICHMOND (BP) — Maurice and Laurie Graham are resigning as Southern Baptist representatives to Kuwait and moving to Richmond, Va., where he will be associate pastor of Bon Air Church.

They joined the church June 9 and are looking for housing. Their resignations from Foreign Mission Board service will be effective at the end of June.

The Grahams were among hundreds of Americans stranded in Kuwait last August after the invasion by Iraq. They took refuge in the U.S. Embassy compound and became the focus of Southern Baptists' prayers.

Mrs. Graham, a Hutchinson, Kansas, native, and the couple's two sons joined American women and children permitted to leave Kuwait last September. Graham, of Shelbyville, was among the last Americans to leave Kuwait in December. The family has since lived in Nashville.

Graham said the decision to accept the invitation of the Richmond church stemmed largely from a lack of opportunity to quickly return with his family to Kuwait and lack of immediately available Foreign Mission Board positions elsewhere in English-language work. "Laurie and I are not closed to God's will whenever God opens the door for us to go anywhere," he said.

The Grahams' resignations will not halt Southern Baptist work in Kuwait, added Gerry Volkart, associate director for the Middle East and North Africa. "In the future we anticipate the possibility of people serving there again," she said. Maurice Graham had sought to assist a food aid program in Kuwait several weeks ago, but visa problems stymied him.

Graham was among 18 private citizens and 12 diplomatic officials given Meritorious Honor Awards by the U.S. State Department June 7 for their work at the embassies in Kuwait and Baghdad as the Mideast crisis unfolded. Also receiving the award was W. Nathaniel "Nat" Howell, former U.S. ambassador to Kuwait. As a youth and college student, Howell was active in Baptist churches in Virginia.

Such awards for civilians are "unprecedented," said Barbara Bodine, a State Department official in Washington.

The award commended the citizens and diplomats for courage, determination and commitment, and "for exemplifying the best of the American spirit of initiative, ingenuity, and good humor" at the besieged embassy.



During SBC meeting



MESSENGER — Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Holtzclaw with son Joel visit the exhibit hall while at the recent SBC annual meeting. He is director of missions, Sullivan Association. At left, the Herbert Gabharts, between sessions. He is Belmont College's president emeritus. More Tennessee messengers on pages 8-9.

Spiritual opportunities are great, Parks reports

By Connie Davis, assistant editor
ATLANTA — Spiritual opportunities "are greater than at any time in human history," said Keith Parks, president, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, during the board's report June 4 to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reiterating that message were missionaries to Liberia and Hong Kong, video film features, and music.

The spiritual opportunities are the result of "the movement of God to provide for His people" rather than the "merging of current events," Parks proclaimed. "People are more responsive than ever they have been in more places in the world," he said, referring to opportunities as "open doors" as quoted in Revelation 3:7-8.

The leader of the Richmond, Va., board which oversees 3863 missionaries in 121 countries reported on spiritual opportunities around the world.

Japan is more responsive to the Gospel, he said. Parks received a cable during the convention meeting which noted 325 people made professions of faith during a meeting led by Baptists. The result is more decisions than made last year.

He reported events which opened Eastern Europe to evangelism have resulted in an increase from three to 26 missionaries serving in every Eastern European country except Albania. He predicted missionaries will be working there soon.

During the first few months of freedom in Romania, one Romanian church of more than 2000 members baptized 400 members and started 20 new preaching points and chapels, he said.

Spiritual opportunities abound in the Soviet Union, declared Parks. The assistant mayor of one city invited a Baptist preacher to visit. The preacher was invited to speak at city hall, where 1200 people gathered to hear the message and 700 made professions

of faith.

A film about the life of Jesus has been shown in 200 theaters in the U.S.S.R. Work with Koreans in the southern area of the nation has resulted in many professions of faith. And 300 volunteers will witness to the people of the republic of Kazakhstan, a Muslim area, through a cultural exchange. Parks added 700 volunteers were needed for that project.

Turning to the Middle East, the president said because of the war missions work has begun in Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait that "would not have been possible before the war occurred." Work with the Kurds, which had begun before the war, is continuing. And the film about Jesus, translated into Arabic, has been shown twice in a Muslim mosque, he reported.

Mission opportunities, however, often have a time span limited to five years according to missiologists, said Parks.

Instead of responding to the opportunities, Southern Baptists, for the first time in 54 years, gave \$853,000 less to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions than the previous year.

The board report included the fact that one-fourth of the world's population or 1.3 billion people have never heard the Gospel. It also was noted by the year 2000 more than half of the world's population will live in developing nations and business and economic climates will become more global in nature.

Missionaries Bradley and Carolyn Brown, who have served 28 years in

Liberia, said 21 percent of the population is displaced and all Liberians are needy after the "savage, bloody" civil war.

They asked the messengers to adopt "a simpler lifestyle" to enable more gifts to missions and "warfare praying" during the "tenuous ceasefire." The Browns extended the thanks of Liberians for relief work after the war.

Missionary Bob Davis of Hong Kong noted in his report that the Asian population is half of the world population and provides many spiritual opportunities.

In Hong Kong, which will revert to Chinese territory in 1997, the people who are not rich enough to emigrate have "a growing readiness to hear the Christian message," he said. Recently 22,000 made professions of faith at a Billy Graham Crusade.

Challenges in Asia include Bangladesh, where 130,000 died in the May typhoon. Baptists are drilling hundreds of tube wells, and leading industrial training schools which include agricultural training, noted Davis.

Many challenges also exist in India, added Davis, which faces political turmoil after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, former prime minister.

Instead of problems, these are opportunities, said Davis.

Accomplishments by the board during 1990 included more than 200,000 baptisms, starting 1550 churches, and beginning work among 23 new people groups and six new countries. The board appointed 414 missionaries, directed 11,000 volunteers, and allocated \$7.4 million to hunger relief.

SBC gifts slightly ahead of budget

ATLANTA — Cooperative Program unified budget gifts received by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for the month of May increased by more than six percent over the same month last year.

The May gifts were \$12,415,289, compared to \$11,703,700 for May 1990 — a \$711,588 increase or 6.08 percent. Eight months into the convention's budget year, Cooperative Program gifts totaled \$95,715,062. That is \$1,471,717 more than the comparable period last year and a 1.56 percent increase.

The 1990-91 basic budget need for the

eight months is \$91,555,016.

Designated gifts for the month increased 40.91 percent over May of last year: \$19,608,602 compared to \$13,915,875. That also brought the eight-month total of designated gifts to nearly four percent ahead of the comparable period last year: \$107,083,976 compared to \$103,188,048.

Designated contributions include the Foreign Mission Board's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Home Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and world hunger gifts.

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Editorials

CLC now carries religious liberty defense for SBC

Southern Baptist messengers to the recent convention in Atlanta voted to break ties with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, despite a plea from the SBC Executive Committee.

This is not a "sour grapes" message, but a defense on behalf of an agency, albeit not totally Southern Baptist, which has come to the aid of Southern Baptist causes and beliefs on many occasions. Tennessee Baptists in particular have benefited from the work of BJCPA.

Last year's convention gave strong hints for the 1991 action, as well as reasons for the 1990 trimming of more than eighty percent of SBC funding for BJCPA.

That budget allocated \$50,000 to the religious liberty agency which is supported by nine other Baptist bodies.

In that 1990 SBC annual the Executive Committee gave several reasons for cutting the BJCPA budget to \$50,000. In that explanation, the committee reminded messengers that rarely has messenger action changed the proposed SBC budget. That is no longer true.

One statement is significant in view of what happened at this year's annual meeting: "We can find no example," wrote the Executive Committee, "where the SBC has not followed the recommendation of the Executive Committee as to the SBC budget during the last fifty years." The two pages of explanation made a strong case for keeping the

\$50,000 allocation for 1990-91, but also may have led messengers to take action this year to eliminate all funding.

Another reason given by the Executive Committee last year for maintaining a \$50,000 line item for BJCPA is this one:

"This proposed budget funds three approaches to religious liberty and separation of church and state: The BJCPA, the PAC (Public Affairs Committee), and the CLC (Christian Life Commission). tist's views to be presented by at least one of these groups." It is unfortunate that messengers were not reminded of this rationale.

There are other statements worth reading in that 1990 statement (pages 82-83 in the SBC annual). But since then, the PAC has been eliminated and its program and funding shifted to the CLC, and now, the BJCPA is without SBC funding.

The Christian Life Commission stands alone for Southern Baptists in their defense of religious liberty and separation of church and state. Actions for the past few years by the Executive Committee, PAC, BJCPA, and CLC have indicated a mixed bag of ideas and approaches. We assume that is why the three have been funded, so that "each Southern Baptist's views" would be represented.

Other reasons given for cutting BJCPA funds in the 1990 SBC annual include: rationalization that SBC funding was greater than that of the other nine Baptist groups, the American Baptist Church

allocated more money to its own Washington watchdog office than it did to BJCPA, the political leanings of former BJCPA staff members, past membership of Executive Director James Dunn in the American Way, lack of SBC control over BJCPA, Dunn's personality as perceived by Executive Committee members and some other Southern Baptists, and transferring the Washington bureau of Baptist Press to the CLC office.

One of the main reasons, however, for cutting ties to the BJCPA is the agency's consistent opposition to mandated prayer in public schools. BJCPA always maintained that such prayers would violate religious liberty and First Amendment precepts.

It is ironic that in 1990 ardent supporters of BJCPA could not change the budget from the convention floor to help BJCPA, while opponents could eliminate funding from the floor in 1991.

We will miss this ally that supported Baptist heritage for fifty-five years of partnership in defending religious liberty. The record shows that it will stay with the task, with or without formal support of the Southern Baptist Convention.

All the work now has been assigned to the Christian Life Commission. It is an awesome task, and often thankless. As the Executive Committee noted, Southern Baptists have varying views about religious liberty. The CLC knows all this, and now that it has the assignment, it merits support. — WFJ

He still prays for man he helped rescue — Bush

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. (BP) — Hugo Parkman prays daily for President Bush.

But prayer isn't Parkman's only connection with George Bush. Parkman, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines, helped save Bush's life during World War II.

Parkman, of Stone Mountain, Ga., was then a 24-year-old communications officer aboard the submarine USS Finback. On Sept. 2, 1944, Bush's plane was shot down by the Japanese in the South Pacific. About two hours later, the Finback picked him up from a life raft. After Bush boarded the sub,

Parkman was the first person he met in the ward room. And for the next 30 days, Parkman shared his bunk with Bush, who was at that time the Navy's youngest aviator.

The two men met again when Bush came to Atlanta June 6 to address the Southern Baptist Convention. Parkman and his wife, Doris, were among the delegation greeting the president when he arrived at Dobbins Air Force Base that morning.

Parkman said he and his wife had only a moment to speak to the president, who greeted her with a kiss. It was the couple's second face-to-face meeting with Bush since the rescue.

Their first meeting was during Bush's presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. They were the Bushes' guests at an inaugural reception attended by former crew and officers of the Finback and of the USS Jacinto, the naval carrier on which Bush was stationed.

Parkman told Bush how meaningful it was to hear someone pledge daily prayer support after his appointment as a missionary in 1958. He made the same pledge to Bush. "I'm going to be praying for you every day," he told the president.

"I believe in it," Bush replied. Several years earlier, the Parkmans had made contact with Bush when he visited the Philippines before their retirement in 1985. Although Bush's schedule didn't permit a meeting, the Parkmans left a letter for him at the U.S. Embassy there. Bush later wrote back: "I think about you every day. After all, you did save my life."

Parkman noted Bush's reference to "you" included all 84 officers and enlisted men on board the sub. "I'm not the only one who shared in this," he said. "I was just one of the team."

Parkman said he didn't realize the connection between politician George Bush and the downed aviator until Bush was running for vice president.

Parkman's memories of the rescue are reported in a biography about Bush, *Flight of the Avenger: George Bush at War*, by Joe Hyams.

While aboard the sub, Bush sometimes served with Parkman during night watches on the deck. During their conversations, "I never heard any foul language," said Parkman. "Everything was honorable, upright. He was a clean-cut young man."

Also, Bush never indicated he was from a prestigious family, Parkman said. "He was just what he was — himself."

While on night watches, Parkman said he had time to reflect on the rescue of Bush and four other pilots. "In the lonesome hours, God let me know that we had done a good thing in rescuing these aviators," said Parkman, now a member of First Church of Decatur, Ga. "We had been out on killing missions. That's why we were there. It was just a good feeling to know we had saved some lives."

Ten percent deeply committed

NEWARK, N.J. (BP) — Less than 10 percent of Americans are deeply committed Christians, a noted American pollster says.

George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the board of the Gallup Organization, made the statement to Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries gathered for an urban ministries conference in Newark, N.J.

Although results of this survey, titled "The Saints Among Us," will not be released until early next year, Gallup gave a preliminary report to the conference. About six to ten percent of Americans fall into the category he describes as "high spiritual faith."

"These people are a breed apart," Gallup said. "They are more tolerant of people of diverse backgrounds. They are more involved in charitable activities. They are more involved in practical Christianity. They are absolutely committed to prayer."

Additionally, he said, they are "far, far happier than the rest of the population."

"These are the quiet saints in our society who have a disproportionate, powerful impact on our communities."

"The Saints Among Us" study will add to an increasing database of information on American religious beliefs and practices collected by the Gallup

Organization.

Gallup said previous studies have shown:

- An ongoing one-third of American people say they have had a religious experience.

- Virtually all Americans say they believe in God or a universal spirit. Most believe in a personal God who watches over and judges people. Many say they have felt the presence of God at various times in their lives.

- A substantial majority believe they will be called before God at judgment day to answer for their sins.

- Half of Americans believe in a personal devil.

- The majority of Americans believe the Bible is either the literal or inspired Word of God.

- One-third of Americans say they have had a profound religious experience, either sudden or gradual.

- Four in ten say they attend church or synagogue each week. Seven in ten say they are church members.

- One-third of Americans watch some religious television programming each week.

- Fewer than one person in ten indicate no religious preference. Only four out of every 100 Americans say they are completely non-religious.

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BSSB vice president tapped to lead Brotherhood

ATLANTA — James D. Williams, executive vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, was unanimously elected June 5 as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission.

Williams, chosen to succeed retiring president James Smith in a called meeting of the trustees, will assume his duties as the sixth chief administrative officer of the missions education agency Sept. 15.

In accepting the post, Williams thanked commission trustees for their support, acknowledged the contribution of Smith, and spoke of his vision for the future.

"I am grateful for the confidence placed in me by the board of trustees," Williams said. "James Smith has provided outstanding leadership to the Brotherhood Commission and led in the development of new and imaginative approaches to missions education and missions involvement.



WILLIAMS

"I want the Brotherhood Commission to move forward, building strength upon strength, recognizing that until Jesus comes again our Great Commission task is not complete.

"I will take every opportunity to strengthen the Brotherhood Commission's partnership with Woman's Missionary Union, both the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, and with the state convention Brotherhood network as together we help Southern Baptists share the Gospel with all of earth's people groups."

The election of the 56-year-old Illinois native completes the work of the search committee charged with the task of presenting a presidential candidate to the board. Search committee Chairman Wendell Reed of Salem, Va., introduced Williams to the trustees and made the recommendation for his election as president of the 84-year-old agency.

Reed cited unanimous endorsement by the search committee and the agency's executive committee as affirmation of Williams' selection as the top candidate for the post.

Williams comes to his new role with extensive experience in Southern Bap-

tist life. As executive vice president of the Sunday School Board, he was responsible for providing staff assistance to the president, coordinating the work of the executive officer's team in the general administration of the board, establishing guidelines for budget development, and supervising the functions of planning, research, and communications.

Prior to joining the Sunday School Board, he served Southern Baptists for 22 years as a teacher and administrator at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

In a news conference hours after his election as Brotherhood Commission president, James Williams said he hopes to "bring the Brotherhood Commission to the denominational table."

After identifying several strengths of the Brotherhood Commission, Williams said a weakness is that many Southern Baptists "don't see the Brotherhood Commission as having that much strength."

He conceded that the missions agency for men and boys is often perceived as a stepchild among larger, more influential SBC entities.

"I'd like to help change that," he told reporters. "I want to work hard to see that everyone understands the purpose of the Brotherhood Commission. I want to work hard to give strong, very visible leadership in the convention."

One of the strengths of the commission is its ability to respond to needs for volunteers quickly, Williams said.

"One of the things that attracted me to the Brotherhood Commission is volunteerism. I have been impressed that the Brotherhood Commission can turn around on a dime and respond to volunteer opportunities."

Williams, who said he first heard God's call to full-time ministry at an RA camp in Illinois, said he is "very impressed" with the commission's staff but would anticipate some staff reorganization in the future. This would be accomplished in a "timely fashion" and in consultation with staff after determining long-term priorities, he explained.

Williams suggested the Brotherhood Commission must increase its revenue and focus on new kinds of products.

"We want products to meet the needs of consumers," he said. — Mike Day and Mark Wingfield

Elder accepts teaching/counseling post at Belmont College

By Linda Lawson and Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Citing his need to seek "God's will for my life during this part of the journey," Lloyd Elder students, with flexibility for an "at-large ministry," drew him to accept a faculty position at Belmont College in Nashville.

Belmont College President William Trout announced June 11 that trustees of the Tennessee Baptist school had affirmed his recommendation that Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, assume the H. Franklin Paschall Chair of Biblical Studies and Preaching by Jan. 31, 1992.

Historical society sets June meeting

The June 29 meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society will be held in the Stephens-Burnett Library at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

The program, which begins at 10:30 a.m., will include a tour of the East Tennessee Baptist Historical Collection and Archives, led by archives director, Glenn A. Toomey. Participants also will hear a presentation by John M. Toomey on "The History of the New Market Train Wreck." A tour of the train wreck site will follow.

During the business session new officers will be elected. Currently serving are: Glenn A. Toomey, president; Charles Nored, vice-president; and Michael Trevathan, secretary.

Nominations will also be received for the TBHS Annual Heritage Award. This award is given annually at the Tennessee Baptist Convention to the person making the greatest contribution to Tennessee Baptist history. Areas of recognition are: historical research, historical writing, historical preservation, and the support or teaching of Baptist history in general. Send nominations to: Tennessee Baptist Heritage Award, 806 Scenic Drive, Morristown, Tenn. 37814.

Elder reached a Jan. 17 agreement with Sunday School Board trustees to retire from his present position on Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after a successor is appointed, whichever date comes earlier. He then will continue as a consultant/advisor to the new president until April 1, 1993, according to the agreement, taking early retirement from the board at age 60. The agreement came following a lengthy dispute with trustees regarding Elder's leadership at the board.

In a June 11 prepared statement and in a letter to trustees of the Sunday School Board, Elder said he will begin his new faculty role after his retirement as president. The retirement agreement with the trustees allows him to pursue other activities during the time he serves as consultant.

The retirement agreement "will be honored in every respect," Elder said.

"When Dr. Trout approached me about this position, I came to see that the goals of Belmont College and the Paschall Chair are mutually consistent with my own sense of calling," said Elder. "As a Christian, I always want to be seeking and finding the will of God. One thing the Lord wants us to do is stay in His service. So, we walk by faith and tilt toward the future."

The faculty position, endowed by First Church, Nashville in honor of retired pastor H. Franklin Paschall, "affords opportunity for me to pursue a sense of calling in Christian education," said Elder. The position includes "classroom instruction, teaching/lecturing, conference assignments, student consultation, and faculty participation."

The appointment "anticipates that I will be involved not only on campus but beyond the school in an enlarged ministry," said Elder.

Off-campus responsibilities may include "preaching, teaching, research, writing, consulting, conferences, retreats, and short-term, voluntary missionary assignments. I am going to contribute a major portion of my time,

resources, and ministry back into this family that has nurtured me for almost four decades."

Although Elder said he has chosen "to begin this faculty appointment without salary," the college will provide an office and support staff from endowed funds. Under terms of his retirement agreement at the Sunday School Board, Elder will continue as a board employee until April 1, 1993.

"I want to continue in an active preaching/teaching ministry for a number of years to come," said Elder, who earlier served as a pastor of

Volunteers needed in Philippines

With less than a year remaining in the Tennessee/Philippines partnership, volunteers are needed for new projects, said Clarence Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Extension Partnership Missions director.

Two requests have come from the Philippines for evangelism projects. Sixty-five people are needed for 26 teams Oct. 17-29 in the Luzon Convention (Manila area). Volunteers should include a preacher and one-two others per team.

A large number of volunteers will be needed in February-March of 1992 for evangelism teams in the Mindanao/Visayas Convention, located in the southern area of the Philippines.

Stewart also noted several other volunteers are needed:

- A Sunday School editor in Manila for one to two weeks, between June 1 and Nov. 15.

- Non-formal education teachers — woodcarving, plumbing, auto mechanics, and writing — for one year, beginning June 1 or Dec. 1 at Southern Baptist College in Cotabato.

- Health care teams for February and March 1992. Forty-two health care volunteers, including 20 doctors, six dentists, six registered nurses, six dental assistants, and four pharmacists are being requested, Stewart said.

"God has blessed in a great way our

Texas churches for 22 years and then held executive positions with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Southwestern Seminary.

Also, he said, "Sue and I will remain in Nashville and continue as part of the extended Sunday School Board family."

To assist him in this new position, Joyce M. Byrd will become his administrative/research associate at Belmont at a date to be determined, but by January 31, 1992. Byrd is a 13-year employee of the BSSB.

relationship with the Filipinos," Stewart said.

"Let's make this last year of the partnership the greatest as we commit ourselves to go, promote, and pray."

For more information, contact Stewart at P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 or call (615) 371-2063.

Ohio's Tal Bonham recovering from stroke

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Tal Bonham, executive director for the Ohio Baptist Convention, has been left paralyzed on the left side of his body after suffering a massive stroke May 20 caused by a blood clot on the right side of his brain.

Bonham, who will be 57 July 20, has the executive director-treasurer in Ohio for 11 years. He previously was the evangelism director for the Oklahoma Baptist Convention.

Esther Lafferty, administrative secretary to Bonham, said Bonham, hospitalized in Riverside Hospital in Columbus, was "doing better" and began therapy on June 6.

Bonham has not been well for at least several years. He suffered a stroke in January of 1989 in Alabama where he was speaking, and has undergone two serious surgeries, including five-bypass surgery on his heart April 26 of this year. — BP

Our Readers Write

Proud of Belmont

I have read with concern two letters relating to the recent decision to change the name of Belmont College to Belmont University. One letter praised the action as progress; the other letter attacked the move as self-centered. As a recent graduate of Belmont, I experienced mixed emotions upon hearing about the decision. Humans, by their nature I believe, resist change. When my wife (also a recent graduate) and I heard the news concerning the new name, we were a bit dismayed at negative connotations that such a move bring to mind. We do not wish to see our alma mater become impersonal and detached. At the same time, we were excited that Belmont finally would be recognized as a growing and vital academic institution.

The most important thing to remember is that growth and change are inevitable. Increased funding and recognition for the institution are important, but I do not believe those to be the motivation behind the name change. The president, trustees, and most of all the faculty, have the best interests of Belmont in mind. If Belmont remains the friendly, caring, Liberal Arts-centered Christian institution that it was during our four years there, then the difference in titles will have only positive effects. We are proud alumni of Belmont University.

Jeff and Melanie Walters
7030 Haley Center
Auburn University, Ala. 36849

Inspired, inerrant

"All Scripture is inspired by God," declares 2 Timothy 3:16. Jesus said, "... until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law..." Peter says "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." Is it not interesting that the newly formed Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has stated that "the Bible neither claims nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching." Obviously, the Bible does claim inerrancy.

Some point out that the word "inerrancy" is not in the Bible. Well, neither are the words "rapture" and "Trinity" but Baptists surely have Biblical support for these cherished doctrines (1 Thessalonians 4:17, Matthew 28:19). The word "inerrant" simply means "without error" and the Bible does claim complete inspiration and freedom from error.

Spurgeon said: "Let those give up the

inspiration of the Bible who can afford to do so, but you and I cannot. Let those cast away the sure promise of God who have got something else to comfort them, who can go to their philosophy or turn to their self-conceit. But as for you and me, it is a desperate matter for us if this book be not true."

For years we have heard from "moderates" that the issue is not the Bible but rather overt political activity. The recently released statement by the Fellowship once for all disproves that idea. The Bible is the issue, else people would not still be questioning the inerrancy of Scripture!

Mark Drake, pastor
Everett Hills Church
Maryville 37804

Sad days

I read the papers with mixed emotions regarding Oliver North's speaking to the SBC Pastors' Conference. There was sadness, disbelief, anger, disgust, concern, and embarrassment.

What message are we sending to our young people, our members, other denominations, our nation, and the world, when a convicted felon for cheating, lying, and destroying evidence is invited to speak and given a hero's welcome? What message do we want to send?

I have heard people joking by calling the Southern Baptist Convention in 1991 the Republican Convention. The convention represents us whether we like it or not.

I have been a Southern Baptist for over 60 years. I was born into a family that had a very strong Baptist heritage — and proud of it. My great-grandfather was instrumental in organizing many Baptist churches in Weakley county. He was pastor of one church for 54 years. Another church was named for him. My husband of nearly 49 years also has a strong Baptist heritage. His great-grandfather and grandfather helped organize and pastored many Baptist churches in Carroll county.

Our church and our denomination has been vital parts of our life. I feel almost like I have lost a loved one. Many of our leaders must feel deserted by our denomination, many after having given years of unselfish service. It is indeed a sad day in Baptist life for some of us.

Val Dean Joyner
803 Forest Acres Dr.
Nashville 37220

GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on pertinent subjects are welcomed. Letters should be concise, no more than 250 words. Writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Only one letter from the same writer will be considered for publication per quarter. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published. Writers should send original copy. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Address and phone number must be included. Letters not conforming to these guidelines will be returned.

Religious liberty

I continue to be amazed and disturbed by discrepancies I observe between statements of SBC leadership on what they say they believe and the policies they are espousing. My latest observation concerns religious liberty and the separation of church and state.

The first publication of Salt, the Washington Newsletter of the Christian Life Commission, contains the statement (page 4): "Baptists always have been deeply involved in promoting and protecting the principle of religious liberty and the separation of the institutions of church and state." I regard that to be an accurate statement but I also find in news of actions taken at the Convention meeting in Atlanta the following report: "In the resolution on tax incentives for private schools, the convention said that many Southern Baptist parents are concerned that public schools are increasingly hostile to Christian convictions.

The resolution opposes direct aid to churches, but said tax incentives can give parents the right to educate their children according to their religious convictions without violating constitutional sanctions against the establishment of religion." (AP report by David Briggs).

It should be pointed out that Baptist parents have always had that right but this is the first time, to my knowledge, that the SBC has advocated using tax payer's money for that purpose. In fact, it has historically and firmly opposed use of public funds to support parochial schools and this is but another indication that the present SBC leadership is leading the convention away from its historic beliefs.

Charles J. Barton
237 Outer Drive
Oak Ridge 37830

North's message

The recent Southern Baptist Convention was honored, and honored itself, by the presence of President George Bush. This good man, in the most powerful position on earth, needs our prayers.

But we were not honored and did not honor ourselves by the presence of Lt. Col. Oliver North, especially by the standing ovations he reportedly received at the Pastors' Conference. This is the same Ollie North I watched on TV as he exuded charm and his own bogus brand of "patriotism" trying to cover up his real guilt — defying the expressed will of the American people represented by our Congress, destroying government documents, and accepting an illegal gratuity for his covert services.

Sure, a court of appeals cleared him of some of these charges. But he was cleared on the kind of "technical grounds" that defense lawyers adore, meaning that some "t" was not dotted or some "t" not crossed in the procedure.

What was North's defense for what he admittedly did? He was "obeying orders," and proudly stated that when he got his orders he "saluted the flag and went charging up the hill." Strange indeed that this "American patriot" would offer as his defense the same argument used by officers in the war criminals trials at Nuremberg.

This is certainly not to say Ollie North would go that far, or that he even realized the implications of what he was saying, but Southern Baptists can surely find better things to do than honor such a "patriot."

Wonder what gratuity Ollie received for his rousing speech? Not too long ago, his fee was reportedly \$25,000. Whatever it was, was it paid out of CP funds?

Roger Heidelberg
6716 Castlegate Lane
Memphis 38141

• Our information is that Oliver North was not paid a fee, and only normal food and lodging — which did not come from CP funds. — Editor.

Milton Webb dies

Retired Tennessee Baptist pastor Milton Ashford Webb died May 29 in Memphis.

Webb was pastor of Holmes Street Church in Memphis for 20 years. He also was associated with Cherokee Church and Merton Avenue Church, both in Memphis.

Webb, 69, was the founder of Mid-South Christian Counseling Center.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, two children, and three grandchildren.



MESSENGRERS MEET — Tennessee Baptists at the SBC included, from left, Jack Prince, West Hills Church, Knoxville; Charles Sharits, Black Oak Ridge Church, Knoxville; Ruth and Richard Easterly and Ruth Bradley, First Church, Nashville; Jerry and Brenda Oakley, Springfield Church, Springfield; J. C. Parrott, Sunnyside Church, Kingsport; Larry Gilmore, College Heights Church, Gallatin; and Don Givens, St. Elmo Avenue Church, Chattanooga.

Messengers elect Tennessee Baptists

ATLANTA — Sixteen Tennessee Baptists will serve on Southern Baptist Convention agencies, boards, or committees based on messengers' approval of the report from the 1990-91 Committee on Nominations.

Nine Tennesseans were elected for first terms. They include:

Hollie Miller, Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville, Executive Committee; Phil Glisson, Leewood Church, Memphis, Baptist Sunday School Board; Roger Oldham, First Church, Martin, Midwestern Seminary; Marshall Albritton, Park Avenue Church, Nashville, Foundation;

Tom McCoy, Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station, American Baptist Seminary Commission; Harry Grothjahn, First Church, Alcoa, Historical Commission; Allen Watson, First Church, Dickson, Stewardship Commission;

and Chuck Herring, Mullins Station Church, Memphis, and Morris Patterson, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, 1992 Committee on Nominations.

Seven Tennesseans were re-elected to serve on their respective agencies:

David Stephens Jr., Zion Church, Powell, Foreign Mission Board; Edward Futrell, Southside Church, Johnson City, Home Mission Board; Judy Beeler, First Church, Fountain City, and Billie Friel, First Church, Mt. Juliet, Baptist Sunday School Board; Mrs. Robert C. Burch, Calvary Church, Knoxville, Golden Gate Seminary; William Long, Crieewood Church, Nashville, American Baptist Seminary Commission; and Ben Mitchell, Immanuel Church, Knoxville, Christian Life Commission.

FMB 'moves ahead' despite drop in Christmas offering

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptists' annual foreign missions offering has registered a drop for the first time in 53 years, but the more than \$79.3 million received may allow some expansion to continue in 1991.

What immediately could be affected are plans to fund capital needs for new construction, equipment, and vehicles as the missions enterprise expands. But Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said Southern Baptists will not retrench in efforts to expand world missions.

If the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering had reached its \$86 million goal, it would have provided 47.06 percent of the board's \$182.7 million budget in 1991. The denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget was scheduled to provide 37.95 percent — or \$69.3 million.

When the books closed on the 1990 Lottie Moon offering May 31, Southern Baptists had sent \$79,358,610.87 to help finance foreign missions throughout the world. It was the second highest total since the offering began in 1888, topped only by last year's \$80 million total. But it was the first time in 53 years it failed to surpass giving from

the previous year.

The Lottie Moon offering, generally collected by Southern Baptist congregations during December, is believed to be the largest single offering of its kind among Christians.

The Foreign Mission Board, the Southern Baptist agency responsible for missions work overseas, last fall increased its annual budget by 4.5 percent from 1990. It based the increase largely on the Lottie Moon goal of \$86 million, a seven percent rise from the year before.

Depending on how the Foreign Mission Board decides to treat the shortfall, its effects on existing mission work could be limited. What could be more directly affected is spending for such things as new construction, equipment, and vehicles missionaries use in their overseas ministries. The one percent downturn means of \$8.3 million in Lottie Moon funds earmarked for capital projects, only \$1.6 million actually will be available.

Lottie Moon giving growth has shown

DOMs hold annual pre-SBC meeting

ATLANTA — Addresses on the effect of denominational controversy, truth and hope, the death of churches, and the revelation of the Gospel highlighted the annual Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at the Hyatt Airport Hotel June 2-3.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., described the impact of the denominational controversy, while Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., stressed the importance of staying faithful to the truth.

Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, lamented the death of Southern Baptist churches. Outgoing conference president Russell Bennett of Louisville emphasized the variety of ways the Gospel message is revealed.

In business sessions, the directors of missions elected officers, adopted a budget, and changed the name of their organization.

The new president is Glenn Hickey of Pulaski Association, Little Rock, Ark. First vice president is Larry Martin, Greater Boston (Mass.) Association; second vice president, Ken Chadwick,

a fairly steady increase, even during recent periods of economic instability. As it has grown, it has financed an increasing portion of Southern Baptists' foreign missions effort.

Despite the downturn, Southern Baptists will continue expanding involvement in Eastern Europe and in areas of the Middle East and Soviet Union that, until recently, had been closed to Christian witness for centuries, Parks said.

"We're not retrenching," Parks said. "We will trust in the Lord ... and move ahead with faith and optimism."

Hernandez challenges Hispanic ministers

ATLANTA — After assisting in the May 1990 spiritual conversion of Manuel Noriega, Rudy Hernandez told Hispanic pastors his next prospect is Saddam Hussein. "If I could get permission to minister to Saddam Hussein, I would," the San Antonio, Texas, evangelist said of the Iraqi leader.

Hispanic ministers met for three days, beginning June 1, at the Atlan-

Fortunately, many overseas Baptist groups with which missionaries work are maturing and bearing increased financial responsibility in their nations, he added.

"But we must make a note of realism and acknowledge we're being hampered because our financial resources are not keeping pace," Parks said. "We truly regret that at this time our resources are not keeping up with the appointment of new missionaries and the opening of new opportunities ... and we pray Southern Baptists will rise to the challenge."

ta Baptist Tabernacle prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hernandez said he served as translator for Noriega, a Baptist layman, and another Texas evangelist who led the deposed Panamanian dictator to make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. If God can save Noriega, he can save the more than 25 million Hispanics in the United States that need the Gospel, Hernandez said.

But Hernandez, who spoke in Spanish said to reach Hispanic Americans with the Gospel, Hispanic Christians will have to minister in English. "One half the population of Hispanic origin will have to be reached and won in English," Hernandez said.

Three sermons also were delivered on the topic of the minister and his family, his ministry, and his message. The speakers were David D'Amico, Louisville, Ky.; Roberto Gama, editor of Hispanic materials at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, and member of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory; and Raul Vazquez, Miami, Fla.

Kentucky college taps C-N's Crouch

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP) — William H. Crouch Jr., has been named 23rd president of Georgetown College, according to Robert Baker, chairman of the board of trustees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention school.

Crouch will begin his duties as president Aug. 1. He has been vice president for development at Carson-Newman College since June of 1988.

Crouch, 39, holds the doctorate of ministry and master of divinity degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Wake Forest University; and an associate degree from Wingate College.

He has been on the staff of Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, N.C., and the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. He also was pastor of two churches in North Carolina.

Married to the former Janice Banister of Anderson, S.C., Crouch and his wife have five children.

Georgetown College has an enrollment of more than 1500 students and is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Houston judge decides against re-election

HOUSTON (BP) — Judge Paul Pressler has decided not to seek re-election to the Texas 14th Court of Appeals next year.

Acknowledged as one of the architects of the "conservative" resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention the past 12 years, Pressler said he wants to spend "more time with my family and follow other pursuits."

The news release from Pressler's Houston office, dated June 10, said Pressler, 61, would finish his six year term but not seek re-election.

"After a total of 25 years in office in the legislature and on the bench at the end of this term, I am ready to spend more time with my family and follow other pursuits."

Pressler did not give details on the "other pursuits."

One Word More

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Israel is as surprising to modern pilgrims as it was to invading crusaders of 1095 and later.

Communications systems tell us much of what is happening in Israel, but often they sing the wrong song. From magazines and videos we can glimpse what the Holy Land looks like, but we don't see beyond the glitzy or the tawdry.

And Israel is a land of unsettling contrasts.

One day you may walk on mosaic floors of ancient cathedrals — and a few minutes later shop in an up-to-date clothing bazaar. You may spend your nights in plush and piquant hotels — and later feel the tugging on your soul by a beggar.

You may read — or hear firsthand — of a border incursion of terrorists repelled by elite soldiers — and sit calmly at a table outside a small cafe sipping a cola.

There are paradoxes. Hearing the Hallelujah Chorus on the sound system at the restaurant near En Gedi. Using a credit card to buy a shirt at the foot of Masada or on the Golan Heights. Eating at a Chinese restaurant on the shore of Galilee, and watching people ski on the lake's surface.

Being surrounded by the amazing quietness of the Mount of Beatitudes, and then stepping off the bus minutes later into the hub-bub of downtown Tiberias. Looking goggle-eyed at the

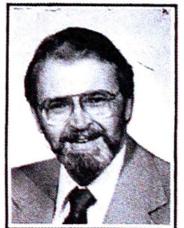
broken and massive water conduits built 2000 years ago to bring fresh water to Caesarea on the Mediterranean — sitting placidly by the gurgling Dan River while eating the "best fish in the world."

The other kinds of contrasts come by the constant reminder of everything around you that this is where Jesus lived and walked and laughed and talked — in the flesh.

You can feel His presence, touching the thoughts and ideas settling in your mind. You can hear Him speak as you are guided from place to place, sensing voices from the Scripture telling His story.

Oh yes, this is real. He is here. And it is not just at places like Bethlehem where you see the Nativity church, or the sepulcher in Jerusalem. Every stone cries out, "He is here!" Walking in the crowded ways of twisting alleys and on exquisitely beautiful hillsides. He is saying, "You are salt to the world, light to the people."

History records the stories of the conquerors and would-be rulers. But He has survived them all. And so has Israel.



ALLEN

Church musicians challenged during preconvention sessions

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist musicians were challenged to be "lambs among the wolves" of today's society at a two-day conference preceding the 134th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Allen Walworth, pastor, First Church, Huntsville, Ala., advised the more than 300 musicians attending the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference not to "put on" wolves clothing just to look out for No. 1 or to be all you can be."

He also exhorted those attending the conference at Wieuca Road Church in suburban Atlanta not to play "king of the mountain" or to become "ruthless by scratching or clawing your way to the top. Most of the time the wolves make it to the top only to find there is no reward. There is nothing there."

Milburn Price, dean of the school of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., spoke to the musicians about issues he said he believes they will face in the 21st century.

The greatest concern, he said, would be proclaiming the Gospel in a "complex world," citing statistics that indicate there will be 433 cities

worldwide in the year 2000 that will have a population of more than one million people. Today, 276 cities fall in that category.

A highlight of the 35th annual session of the SBCMC was a hymn sing featuring selections from *The Baptist Hymnal*, 1991 edition, led by Mark Blankenship of the church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The musicians passed a resolution commending the Sunday School Board for the new hymnal, which reflects the diversity of Southern Baptists "in mat-

ters of worship style, of theological emphasis, of tradition, and of musical performance."

The conference presented the W. Hines Sims Award posthumously to Claude H. Rhea Jr., former president of Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla. He had served as a minister of music in churches in Missouri, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, and Alabama. He also was dean of church music at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and vice president and chairman of the division of fine arts at Houston Baptist

University.

SBCMC President Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Church, Nashville said the Sims Award is given annually in recognition of a person who had demonstrated unusual significance to church music.

Groups and individuals who performed at the SBCMC were South Carolina Honor Children's Choir; First Light, First Church, Nashville; sanctuary choir and orchestra, First Church, Augusta, Ga.; and Image, Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla. — *Terry Barone*

Martin addresses final meeting of Forum

ATLANTA — In the final meeting of the Southern Baptist Forum, about 200 people heard former Baptist Press editor Dan Martin give a personal testimony he claimed his critics never asked to hear.

Martin, now pastor of Ledger Church, Bakersville, N.C., was discharged by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee as Baptist Press news editor last July 17 along with Al Shackelford, vice president for public relations.

Martin was keynote speaker at the

meeting of Baptist "moderates" Monday at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta.

At this seventh annual meeting the Forum participants voted to dissolve the organization and give the assets to the newly formed Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"I am a Baptist by choice, not by birth," Martin said. "I am a product of Baptist missions." He related how he had become a Christian through the witness of a Baptist home missionary in Brighton, Colo., 29 years ago.

"I was a drunk, I was not far from losing my job and my wife was about to leave me," he said. "My life was a shambles. It's a wonder I didn't end up dead or in the penitentiary."

Because his wife had been raised in a Southern Baptist church, Martin said he finally sought a Baptist church when he reached his breaking point. "I decided there might be some help for me... so I called the police station to ask if there was a Southern Baptist church in town."

He found a small mission, where the last day of a revival was under way. That night, Martin said, he walked the aisle to profess faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized. "I don't remember who the preacher was, but I do remember he was preaching the agape love of God — that He loves you no matter where you've been or what you've done."

"The 200 or so of you gathered here

"know more about who I am as a spiritual being than the SBC Executive Committee," Martin said at the conclusion of his testimony. "They never asked."

Apparently many other former participants in the Forum had said goodbye to the SBC as well, as attendance at the meeting was down to only about 200. The group had 2400 people at its first meeting in 1984 and filled large convention halls in subsequent years.

After about 15 minutes of discussion, Forum participants voted to accept the recommendation of their steering committee to dissolve the Forum.

The Forum had been incorporated in 1987, primarily because of the need to secure insurance when renting large meeting halls, explained John Hewett, Forum steering committee chairman.

The Forum steering committee proposed a resolution that the corporation be dissolved and its assets be used to pay all outstanding debts with the remainder to be given to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The transfer of funds would be designated for expenses of the new group's annual convocation, Hewett explained, because that meeting most closely parallels what the Forum was about.

Hewett said the Forum currently has assets of \$6,000 to \$8,000. — *Mark Wingfield*

Speakers challenge religious educators

ATLANTA — The biggest challenge for the rest of the century is not inerrancy, but how to get the Gospel to a rapidly changing world that defies traditional church outreach methods, speakers warned at the two-day annual session of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association at the Omni that ended June 3.

"Lost and unchurched people care less about inerrancy," said Ron Lewis, senior consultant for Church Growth Designs in Nashville.

"They could care less about whether you're a Southern Baptist church. They'll go where their needs are being met."

Meanwhile, a Sunday School leader warned that Southern Baptists are losing a generation of young people.

While 14 percent of the U.S. population is 18 to 24 years of age, only three percent of Southern Baptists are in the same age range, said R. Michael Harton, director of the division of Sunday School development for the Virginia Baptist General Board, Richmond.

Speaking on the impact of trends on

Christian ministry, Harton said changing trends can be seen as either threat or possibility.

"The role of Christian leaders in the face of changing trends is to help keep our focus and build morale," Harton said.

Another speaker, James Fitch, manager of the pastor/staff section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, dealt with characteristics of the baby boomers and difficulties Southern Baptists face in reaching them with traditional methods.

Baby boomers also are searching for love, family, stability, and rootedness, Fitch said. "The denominational name of the church is less important to them than their needs being met," he added.

In a resolution, the ministers of education applauded the leadership of Lloyd Elder, who earlier this year reached an agreement with trustees to retire as president of the Sunday School Board by Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after a successor is elected. Elder would continue in a consultant role and as an employee of the board until April 1, 1993. — *Orville Scott*



SBREA OFFICERS — Southern Baptist Religious Education Association officers elected during the organization's June 2-3 annual meeting, are, seated, from left, William A. Gambrell, president, Jackson, Miss.; Nelda P. Williams, western vice president, Dallas, Texas; Eddie Lee, assistant secretary, Evansville, Ind.; standing, from left, Joe Haynes, secretary-treasurer, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Charles Ballard, eastern vice president, First Church, Maryville; Merle Basden, Fort Worth, Texas; Mavis Allen, vice president, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and Ted Taylor, central vice president, Starkville, Miss.



GREETINGS — In photo at left, Joe Warwick of Knoxville, Tennessee, welcomes fellow Knoxvillean Hollie Miller, right, pastor of Sevier Heights Church, as Tennessee's newest member of the SBC Executive Committee. Below, from left, are the new officers of the Executive Committee — Eldridge Miller, Sallisaw, Okla., recording secretary; David Hankins, Lake Charles, La., chairman; and Fred Wolfe, Mobile, Ala., vice chairman.



SBC-related meetings

Family humorist shares perspective of minister's wife

ATLANTA — Humorist Charles V. Petty shared his perspective of the "perfect" minister's wife Tuesday during the annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon.

About 500 people gathered for the event to share in a time of fellowship, conduct business, and hear Petty, a member of First Church, Raleigh, N.C., and a motivational speaker who refers to himself as a "family humorist."

"Do you think there is such a thing as a perfect minister's wife?" he asked the audience. "No. That woman doesn't exist."

However, he said, through the years some church members have developed an ideal that they think should form a composite illustration of the perfect minister's wife. He said this perfect individual should be a prayer warrior and should read the Bible constantly, love children, play the piano, sing in the local church choir, be a submissive wife, and look good.

Instead of trying to live up to this impossible ideal, Petty suggested several ways a minister's wife could be more realistic about her role and serve to empower and assist her husband in ministry.

First, he said, the minister's wife should endeavor to use "warm words," such as "I love you" and "I missed you."

"I'm convinced there's a starving world out there that's hungry to hear some gentle, supportive, warm words from someone who cares," he said. "When your 'weary warrior' comes home after a long, hard day, dust him off and say some warm things."

Also, a minister's wife should accept the "givens" in life, Petty noted. For example, he said Sundays and Wednesdays always will be difficult days for the minister's family. A minister's wife should learn to accept the nature of those days, he said, and acknowledge the added pressure they bring to the minister's life.

It is also important to "be honest with your husband," Petty pointed out. "On occasion, you need to say to him, 'Dear, that sermon was pitiful.' Be the one person he knows will be completely honest with him."

During a business session, the organization's 1991 president, Carole Hughes of Independence, Mo., passed the gavel to incoming president Nancy



MINISTERS' WIVES OFFICERS — New officers of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives, elected during the organization's annual luncheon June 4, are, from left, Nancy Sullivan of Jacksonville, Fla., president; Barbara Riley of Plainfield, Ind., vice president; Linda Myers of Hendersonville, recording secretary-treasurer; and Joyce Thionnet of Yukon, Okla., corresponding secretary. Myers' husband, Phil, is minister of education at First Church, Hendersonville.

Sullivan of Jacksonville, Fla. Other 1992 officers are Barbara Riley of Plainfield, Ind., vice president; Linda Myers, Hendersonville, recording secretary-treasurer; and Joyce Thionnet, Yukon, Okla., corresponding secretary.

In addition, the women elected officers who will serve in 1993. They are June Honeycutt, Louisville, Ky., president; Lilly Faye Wisdom, Fulshear, Texas, vice president; Rena Henderson Jr., Saint Simons Island, corresponding secretary. — *Brenda Sanders*

Integrity, reconciliation possible amid conflicts, campus ministers told

ATLANTA — Southern Baptist campus ministers were told both integrity and reconciliation are possible amid conflict during their two-day conference preceding the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Walker Knight, publisher of SBC Today, told participants how he has struggled to maintain integrity through about 30 years of service in different areas of Southern Baptist life. SBC Today, founded by Knight and other "moderate" Southern Baptists in 1983, will be renamed Baptists Today in August.

Noel Leo Erskine, associate professor of theology and ethics at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, said there were three things that kept Martin Luther King Jr., the

slain civil rights leader, on the road to reconciliation. He said the same "landmarks" keep such dreams alive today.

He said those truths, nurtured in King by the black church, are: (1) there is a "moral order in the universe," (2) a belief in the participation of God in history, and (3) the "worth of the individual."

"History, he believed, is bound by a divine purpose," Erskine said. "Moral law is rooted in the nature of God. Human worth lies in relatedness to God. An individual has value because he has value to God."

Also addressing conference participants on conflict were Nancy Ammerman, associate professor of sociology of religion at the Candler

School of Theology, and Donald Wells, chairman of the political science department at West Georgia College.

The attendance was less than half of what it has been in most of the recent meetings. It had averaged about 100 to 120 registrants the last few years, ASBCM President Woody Hammett said. He cited a drop in attendance at the SBC meeting and economic factors for the lower attendance.

Randy Deering, area director for student ministries in Orange County, Calif., was elected 1991-92 president. Other officers are president-elect, Kyle Klemcke, Stephen F. Austin University; vice president/programs, David

Kemerling, University of Texas-Austin; vice president/administration, Judy Bailey, University of Richmond; vice president/membership, Alton Harpe, West Point; and vice president/publications, Glenn McCoy, Eastern New Mexico University.

Two members honored for their service were Ed Rollins, manager of the program support section of the Department of Student Ministries of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Lynne Gurney, who most recently served international students at the University of Hawaii before taking early retirement because of health problems.

Establish emergency fund, Smith urges

ATLANTA — James H. Smith, who is retiring in three months after 12 years at the helm of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, challenged Southern Baptists June 5 to raise \$250,000 for emergency mission action projects and encouraged his successor (James Williams) to continue following the agency's stated purpose of helping churches involve men and boys in missions.

His remarks brought a standing ovation from more than 200 people gathered at Atlanta's Omni Hotel for the annual Brotherhood breakfast.

Smith said his proposed emergency fund would help Southern Baptists reflect the "swan song" of the apostle Paul in Philippians and "reach forth to those things that are before us," which includes taking the Gospel message to areas of the world officially "closed" to it.

The fund would support efforts similar to one now being undertaken by Southern Baptist volunteers, who are providing meals and medical assistance to thousands of Kurdish refugees in camps along Iraq's border with Turkey and Iran.

"We are already reaching forth to a world that we have to approach in a different manner," Smith said. "It is imperative that we start immediately to develop an emergency fund of at least \$250,000 to provide for situations like the Persian Gulf relief effort."

Smith provided no details at the breakfast as to how such a fund would be raised, or what other Southern Baptist board or agencies might be involved. Such action would require SBC Executive Committee approval and would be administered by Smith's successor.

He also urged the Commission to "remember its purpose."

The agency's statement of purpose, "Helping Churches Involve Men and Boys in Missions," was developed during Smith's presidency.

"I get letters and calls all the time asking us to get involved in the fight against pornography, the fight against abortion, all kinds of causes, worthy causes, great causes," Smith said. "But I have to come back and say our statement of purpose says that our purpose for being is helping churches involve men and boys in missions."

Evangelists hear W. A. Criswell

ATLANTA — W. A. Criswell, preaching to an enthusiastic gathering at the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, pleaded June 5 for a return to a heart-felt religion that results in many persons receiving Jesus.

The sermon by Criswell, senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, was among three at a meeting at the historic Baptist Tabernacle. The theme of the conference was "Let's Have a Revival."

Criswell — delivering a message, "The Old-time Religion," he first preached 40 years ago — recalled the meetings of his early ministry, which spans 64 years. Those services in brush arbor and tabernacles were marked by shouts, tears, and Bible-believing preachers, he said. It was a day of great revival, he said.

"I haven't heard someone shout in a church in years," Criswell said. "How we need a great outpouring of the spirit of God. I've never seen anything wrong with raising your hands, praising God, praising the Lord."

"I never heard an old-time preacher who didn't believe the book."

Rick Gage, an associate in Bailey Smith Ministries, said the bottom line for the church is "to win the lost at

any cost."

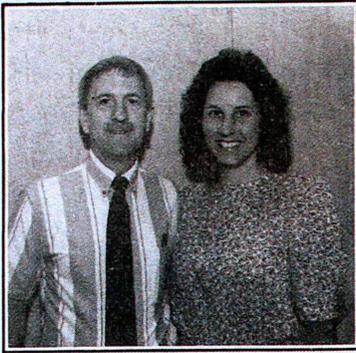
"My friend, anything short of rescuing souls from hell — you need to have your priorities examined," he said.

Gage, the son of Freddie Gage, a Southern Baptist evangelist for 40 years, denied it is more difficult to bring lost persons to Christ.

"I believe with all my heart the greatest opportunity for Southern Baptists to reach this world for Jesus is right now," he said. "And we're finding everywhere we go that people today — they're easier to reach for Christ than ever before."

Walter Ayers, an evangelist for 35 years, shared how he came from a broken, non-Christian home but saw both his parents saved in meetings he conducted as an evangelist.

Steve Hale of Evansville, Ind., was elected 1992 president of the evangelists' group. Other officers are Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., vice president; Pat Roper, Greenville, S.C., music director; Larry McFadden, Orlando, assistant music director; Bob Kendig, Gatlinburg, parliamentarian; and Jerry Spencer, Dothan, Ala., and Sam Cathey, Oklahoma City, pastor advisers. Ron Pledger, Commerce, Ga., will serve the final year of a two-year term as secretary/treasurer.



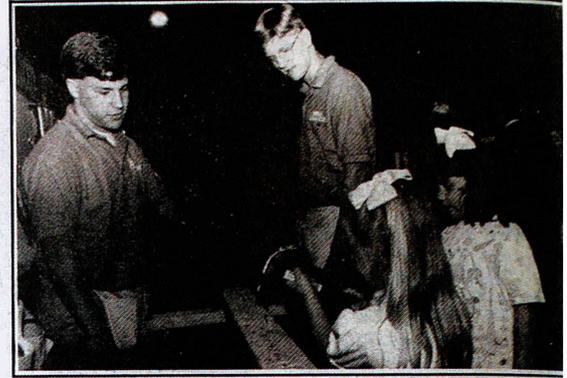
WEST TENNESSEANS Eddie Little, pastor, First Church, Hickory Withe, and his wife, Velnor



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



BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION World Changers, from left, Daniel Eady and Jared Kinny, First Church, Memphis, help April Little, middle, and Tobey Mann of First Church, Hickory Withe, hammer a nail at the commission's booth.



TWO DIRECTORS of missions with pastor friend: From left, Charles Earl, Holston Valley Association; John Churchman, Chilhowee Association; and Harold White, First Church, McMinnville



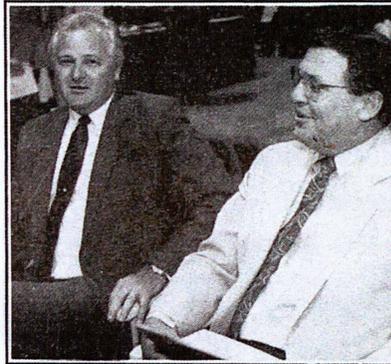
THE FRED WARDS. He is pastor of First Church, Huntingdon.



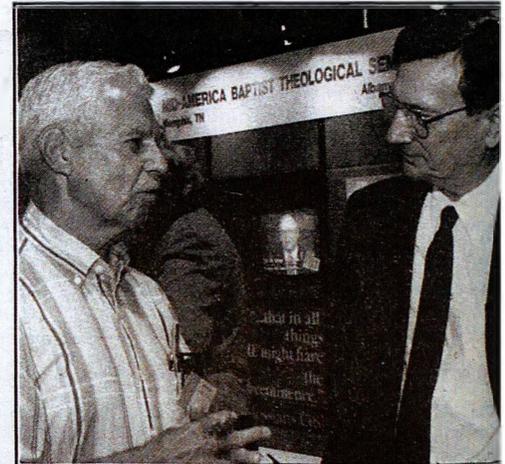
MISSISSIPPIAN Jeannie Sandidge, right, Terry, Miss., and her mother Sue Chappell, Union Avenue Church, Memphis



PAUL TABOR, left, pastor of Rock Springs Church, Springfield; and the Johnny Johnsons. He is pastor of First Church, McEwen.



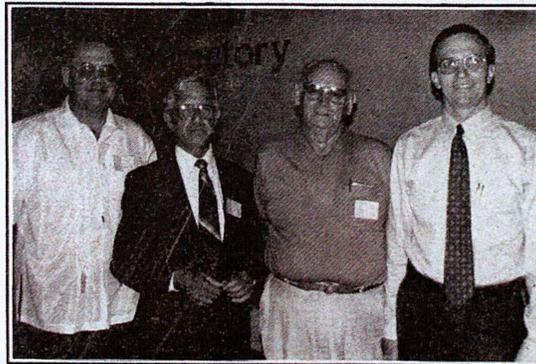
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS Charles Pratt, left, Haywood Association, and Paul Veazey, Union University, at the university exhibit area



MID-AMERICA Seminary vice president John Floyd, right, Memphis and messenger Fred Keller



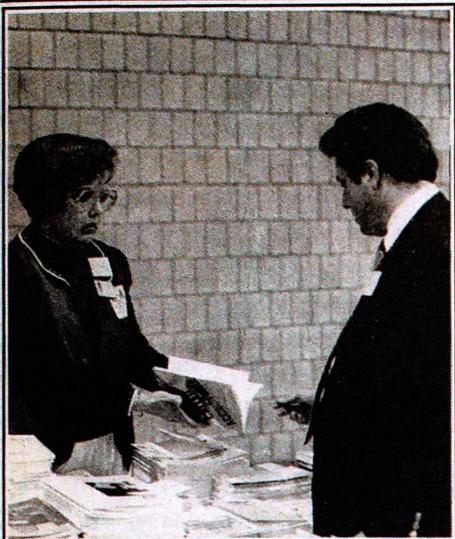
OMER AND BETTY PAINTER. He is director of missions, Tennessee Valley Association.



MT. CARMEL messengers included, from left, Gene Williams, Bruce Hullette, M. D. Thurman Jr., and Pastor John Compton, Oak Grove Church.



CONVENTION WORKERS Becky Brooks, left, Baptist Book Store, Nashville, and Mike Day, Brotherhood Commission, Memphis



REPRESENTING KNOXVILLE'S Baptist Book Store, Linda Taylor, wife of Knox County Director of Missions Walter Taylor, assists a messenger from Louisiana. The Taylors are members of Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville.



HUMBOLDT PASTOR Dennis Lunsford, left, Antioch Church, and the White family from Second Church, Union City. From left, Jerrell, Jwain, and Connie



CHARLES AND DORIS CONLEY. He is director of missions, Sequatchie Valley Association.



RON OWENS, left, pastor of Grace Church, Elizabethton, and Tim Richardson, staff member at Harrison-Chilhowee Academy



SANDRA AND JOSEPH Swinford, Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga, browse in the bookstore exhibit.

Tennesseans participate, fellowship, work at convention



FROM MORRISTOWN, Pastor Steve Taylor, wife, Diane, with son, from Witt Church.



MINISTERS, from left, Ray Newcomb, pastor, First Church, Millington; Hoyt Wilson, pastor, First Church, Lexington; Kevin Hamilton, Valdosta, Ga.; Michael Atkinson, minister of education, and Scott Andrews, minister of music, both from First Church, Sevierville



MEMPHIANS Hester and John Bedford, pastor, Beverly Hills Church, Memphis



FIRST CHURCH, FRANKLIN, messenger Ed Scott



MALCOLM NORTON with his wife and son, Mike. He is pastor of First Church, Trezevant.

Messengers approve variety of resolutions

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Before President George Bush spoke to the Southern Baptist Convention June 6, messengers corporately agreed on several things to say to him.

Their message was: support for government tax incentives in education, disapproval of the National Endowment for the Arts and Centers for Disease Control, support for the Persian Gulf War, disapproval of medical research using tissue from induced abortions, concern about the sanctity of human life, support for restrictions on advertising of alcoholic beverages, and outrage over threatened religious liberties.

Eight of the 14 resolutions adopted by messengers carried messages to the president and Congress.

Another resolution carried a pointed message to other denominational bodies studying human sexuality issues.

Messengers adopted the full slate of 14 resolutions proposed by the convention's Resolutions Committee. A total of 40 resolutions were submitted to the committee by messengers.

The committee, chaired by David Hankins of Lake Charles, La., reviewed all submissions. Of the 40 submissions, 30 received no action and ten were worked into the 14 resolutions voted upon by the full body.

Several amendments to resolutions were offered from the floor, but only one passed.

Here is a summary of resolutions adopted by the convention:

● On Parental Choice in Education.

In a departure from previous SBC statements on the First Amendment, this resolution states it is possible to develop government tax incentives for church schools without violating the ban on an establishment of religion.

The resolution says Southern Baptists have "always affirmed the right of parents to educate their children in accordance with their religious convictions" and notes that some Baptist parents "are concerned that their public school systems are increasingly hostile to Christian convictions."

It calls for Southern Baptists to encourage tax incentives for parental choice in education within the bounds of the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion.

● On Government Support of Obscene and Offensive Art.

This resolution specifically calls on President Bush to fire John Frohnmayer, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and replace him with someone "who will stop fund-

ing obscene, morally repugnant, and sacrilegious art."

The NEA has been a source of frustration for many evangelical Christians for the past two years. NEA Chairman Frohnmayer has continued to approve federal grants for projects some Christians deem obscene and sacrilegious. For example, one NEA-funded project depicted a cross submerged in urine.

Despite repeated protests, Bush has refused to dismiss Frohnmayer, saying he does not want to censor art. The SBC resolution, however, focuses not on censorship but on the federal funding of objectionable art. If the president cannot set reasonable standards for federal funding of art, the resolution says, the NEA should be abolished.

● On the Use of Government Funds to Encourage Immoral Sexual Behavior.

Carrying on the theme of the NEA resolution, this resolution criticizes a Centers for Disease Control grant of \$25,000 to a gay and lesbian health conference. The resolution cites the CDC grant as part of a trend toward government funding of immoral behavior.

The resolution calls upon President Bush "to take decisive action to ensure that such grants are prohibited in the future by means of an executive order requiring all federal policies to affirm the family and refuse any government funds to groups or programs which encourage sexual immorality in any form."

● On Sanctity of Human Life.

Although Southern Baptists have spoken to the abortion issue in previous years, this year's resolution focuses on more than calling for legislation against legalized abortion.

It specifically opposes "the testing, approval, distribution, and marketing of new drugs and technologies which will make the practice of abortion more convenient and more widespread." The controversial abortion pill, RU-486, is specifically cited.

Further, the resolution supports the current ban on federal funding for "any transplantation of tissue from induced abortions for purposes of experimentation and research."

Nancy Blackmon of Sanford, N.C., offered an amendment to call on all Southern Baptists "to work with equal fervor to compassionately encourage" women with unplanned pregnancies to

carry their pregnancies to term. The amendment was adopted.

A proposed amendment to include a statement against euthanasia failed, as did a proposed amendment to remove the phrase "except to save the life of the mother" as a limitation on abortions.

● On Endangerment of Our Religious Liberties.

This resolution speaks specifically to the 1990 Supreme Court decision Employment Division vs. Smith, which changed the way courts deal with religious liberty cases. Previously, the state was required to show a "compelling interest" in denying such liberties to enforce other laws.

As a result of this 1990 ruling, governments conceivably could enforce equal employment opportunity laws without regard to the religious beliefs of churches acting as employers. The resolution expresses "outrage" over this ruling and calls on the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission to work toward the adoption of corrective legislation.

● On Restricting Alcoholic Beverage Advertisements.

This resolution addresses legislation pending in Congress that would require such advertisements to carry warning labels like those currently required on cigarette advertisements.

Citing "irresponsible manipulation" in advertising of alcoholic beverages, the resolution calls on all Southern Baptists to inform their representatives and senators of their support for such restrictive legislation.

● On Equitable Taxation for Families.

This resolution claims that current U.S. tax laws place a disproportionate burden on families. This contributes to weakening family structures by necessitating mothers to work outside the home, the resolution contends. Public policy should promote "stable marriages and parental child-rearing," the resolution says.

● On Human Sexuality.

Although not specifically stated in the text, this resolution was designed to counter a report on sexuality to be voted upon by the Presbyterian Church (USA) the week after the SBC. In drafting the resolution, committee members discussed the Presbyterian document at length and agreed they

wanted to send a signal of support to conservative Presbyterians who oppose their church's document.

The SBC resolution calls upon "all Christians to uphold the Biblical standard of human sexuality against all onslaughts" and notes that this Biblical standard is under attack "even within the religious community."

The Presbyterian document sanctions ordination for homosexuals, and sex for responsible teen-agers and the unmarried elderly.

In contrast, the SBC resolution says sex is to be confined to marriage relationships between "a man and a woman." It cites Biblical condemnation of premarital sex, adultery, rape, incest, pornography, promiscuity, prostitution, and homosexuality.

The resolution describes sex as "a divine gift" designed by God "for the enjoyment and fulfillment of men and women" within the bounds of marriage.

Additional resolutions spoke to prayer for release of hostages, appreciation for the convention's host city, the 175th anniversary of the American Bible Society, the 50th anniversary of the SBC Chaplains Commission, the declaration of the 1990s as the decade of Bible reading, and commendation of President Bush and the armed services for their efforts in Operation Desert Storm.

C-N professors to teach in China

JEFFERSON CITY — Carolyn Blevins, assistant professor of religion at Carson-Newman College and director of the Honors Program, and John Burton, professor of physics, have been named to a ten-member team that will travel to China this summer. The team will teach English, representing a joint project between Carson-Newman and Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC).

The team will depart for China July 4 and members will tour the country for a week then they will be at Yanti University for a month to teach an oral English workshop for Chinese teachers. The group will return Aug. 7.



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Tennesseans share perceptions of SBC meeting

This was the first annual meeting that I have attended. I was impressed by the handling of business sessions — decently and in order. I experienced revival through the challenging preaching of the Pastors' Conference, and the Wednesday spiritual awakening. I am thankful our leaders are not afraid to preach the truth. — *Keith Pierce, Glenlock Church, Sweetwater* ***

I was impressed with the convention and the spirit that prevailed. Morris Chapman demonstrated a Christlike compassion and fairness in leading each session. The Pastors' Conference was Holy Spirit-led and challenging to my heart, for God's revival to begin in my life. — *Jerry Milam, Gibson Church, Gibson* ***

This was my first meeting. It was a spirit-filled time of renewal. The Call to Prayer and Spiritual Awakening was a time of refreshment and encouragement for me. I feel more than ever that God's hand is on the Southern Baptist Convention. — *Ken Hartley Jr., First Church, Huntingdon* ***

I have missed only one SBC since 1961. I always enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones. Our SBC has the greatest opportunity for reaching the world for Christ we have ever known. I pray we will allow our heavenly Father to use us to bring Bold Missions Thrust to reality. Our world needs the message we have, and our Lord has given us the mandate to take it to the ends of the earth. — *Charles Earl, DOM, Holston Valley Assn.* ***

This meeting was surely more peaceful than the one in New Orleans. We must remember that God is greater than this controversy. Baptists need now to wait on the Lord. — *Sue Chappell, Union Avenue Church, Memphis* ***

This convention was one of the most spiritual meetings I have attended. There was a sweet spirit of harmony and fellowship that prevailed. I felt uplifted as my wife and I departed for home. — *Fred J. Ward, First Church, Huntingdon* ***

If Sherman were to come to Atlanta today he would burn it again. — *Gary Anderson, First Church, Dunlap* ***

In the exhibit area I was impressed with the tools we have. In the arena I was impressed with the number of people we have. The Executive Committee shared the resources we have. I hope we have the commitment to reach our world for Jesus. — *Verlon W. Moore, Hilldale Church, Clarksville* ***

Our convention this year was most encouraging, with all figures up and progress in almost every area of our convention. The spirit for the most part was pleasant. Our great president, Morris Chapman, was capable and spiritual in his presiding. — *Robert Omason, Emmanuel Church, Crossville* ***

The meeting was very organized and conducted in an orderly and Christian manner. I sensed that finally we can meet together in a spirit of acceptance and brotherhood. — *Oran Creasman, Eastanalee Church, Riceville* ***

The convention was well planned and carried out. — *Virginia Creasman, Eastanalee Church, Riceville* ***

The sessions have been very inspiring and spiritually encouraging. It is good to see our convention focused on Christ and His purpose concerning the Great Commission. — *Jwain White, Second Church, Union City* ***

I am pleased with the direction in which our convention is headed. I am encouraged with the emphasis placed on missions and evangelism. The Foreign Mission Board report was encouraging, inspirational, and challenging. We must continue to pray the Lord of the harvest would send forth laborers. — *Mark Duggin, Parkview Church, Lewisburg* ***

There was much interest in patriotism and evangelism. Interesting also was what was said, what was not said, and what was inferred. We wait now to see if God's spirit is honored in all our activities and relationships. — *Herbert Gabhart, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville* ***

It was an excellent convention. I left feeling we had been in the presence of the Lord. I am optimistic about our future. I believe God has a voice in this world against the evils of our day through Southern Baptists. — *Sidney Waits, Shelby Forest Church, Millington* ***

It was a refreshing atmosphere of fellowship and togetherness. We were challenged with a renewed direction by President Chapman and other leaders — to evangelize, be more involved in missions and prayer. — *Bill George, DOM, Beulah Assn.* ***

The SBC was an enjoyable experience. The people of Atlanta were cordial, polite, and extremely helpful. Their service seemed to come from genuine love. The convention continued its course toward ultra-conservatism. It was strange that even with moderates not participating in significant numbers, the votes on most key issues remained 53 to 47 percent. — *Jerry D. Oakley, Springfield Church, Springfield* ***

This was the best and most peaceful convention I have attended in several years. I am grateful to God for our leadership and rejoiced with the program of speakers. President Bush's speech to close the convention showed compassion and challenged my heart. The spirit of patriotism to the Bible, the cross, and our nation permeated the convention. — *Charles Pratt, DOM, Haywood Assn.* ***

The convention proved to be spiritually uplifting as well as harmoniously conducted. The Call to Prayer for Spiritual Awakening was an opportunity for recommitment to our basic responsibility as Southern Baptists. — *James Smith, First Church, Bethel Springs* ***

Wonderfully harmonious! Our best meeting in 12 years. Morris Chapman is an outstanding leader. The emphasis on patriotism and spiritual awakening was soul-stirring and earth-shaking. Also this was the best Pastors' Con-

ference I can remember since 1961, my first. Speeches by Oliver North and President Bush were very meaningful and challenging. — *Jack Gregory, Southwestern Church, Johnson City* ***

What a refreshing convention, one that finally was absent from warfare and tribulation. What a difference to elect a president by acclamation. I sense we have set aside the gauntlet and it is my prayer we will pick up the "mantle" and be found faithful in doing what we have been commanded to do. I was encouraged by the messages, call to prayer, and repentance. We need to heed the challenge of Ed Young's message during the Pastors' Conference. — *Dennis Lunsford, Antioch Church, Humboldt.* ***

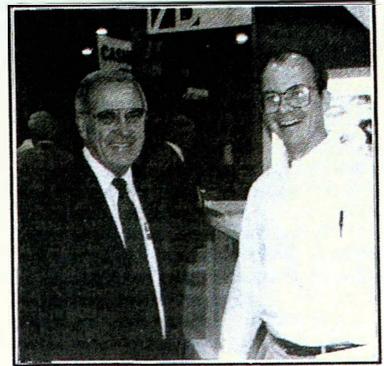
I was disappointed by actions to defund completely the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the 13.06 percent increase in the SBC operating budget, and 6.3 percent increase in the Christian Life Commission budget — when the Foreign and Home Mission boards received less than 3 percent each. I was disappointed that Lee Porter was nearly defeated as registration secretary (not because of his performance, but implied by his opponent's nominator that all convention officers should have the same views). I was encouraged by the presence of friends and by evidence God can use us as a people in spite of ourselves. — *Kenny Cooper, Bellevue Church, Nashville.* ***

I believe the SBC sessions were the greatest ever. The call for solemn assembly was a soul-stirring experience. My wife and I wept before God in the midst of it. The messages were outstanding. Harmony was evident in the business as well. May God give us more like this convention. — *Jerry L. Glisson, Leawood Church, Memphis.* ***

The convention had a more worshipful atmosphere than I can ever remember. The best part was our call to prayer and confession. I felt very little "political conflict," which was good. — *C. H. Christopher, Westel Church, Westel.* ***

Calm meeting. Some indication there is a vacuum since the other convention has been formed. The vacuum is being filled by various sub-groups, charismatic and independent oriented, etc. An attitude of cautious "wait and see" seemed to prevail. Was the low registration good or bad? — *Deryl Watson, DOM, Hardeman County Assn.* ***

A man from Baltimore saw my Baptist ID tag and asked if he could speak with me. A member of the Presbyterian USA church and deeply concerned about the direction of his denomination, he said he had been watching the events and course of the SBC the last few years. He then said, "I'd like to become a Baptist, could you tell me how?" I had opportunity to share Jesus as well as explain SBC membership. Yes, others are watching us, but praise God it's not all from a negative view! The convention was fantastic! — *H. Dean Haun, First Church, Sparta.* ***



FATHER-SON PASTORS — Jim McCluskey, left, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, visits with son, Jay, North Cleveland Church, Cleveland, at SBC.

The call to prayer for spiritual awakening was a moving experience. Seeing thousands of Baptists praying and confessing was a sight to behold. It is good for lay people to know that we preachers and staff members see the need of revival and want it to start with us. Another highlight was the powerful sermon on the cross Thursday. Many secular newspeople were really listening. — *Phil Glisson, Leawood Church, Memphis* ***

I was well pleased with the convention. The spirit of unity made every business session pleasant and the worship services had the makings of revival. Pastors' Conference and Evangelists' Conference reminded me of the "old camp meeting" days. I believe "the issue" has finally been resolved; we can now be about our Father's business. — *R. Steven Taylor, Witt Church, Morristown* ***

It was thrilling to be part of more than 20,000 persons praying for spiritual awakening. How desperately our convention, churches, and nation need God-sent revival. Spiritual awakening would make many of our problems insignificant. I hope a worship service becomes a part of every future convention. — *C. Ben Mitchell, Immanuel Church, Knoxville* ***

A very calm convention! Perhaps my strongest impression came as I listened to the medical doctor from Romania tell of the pressing need for Gospel in his country. So compelling was his call that he left his medical practice to preach. What a mission challenge for our convention. — *Albert B. Creel, DOM, Sweetwater Assn.* ***

The SBC is the annual business meeting of Southern Baptists, but I enjoyed the worshipful atmosphere set by some of the most soul-stirring music I've heard in recent years at the convention. The patriotic program and music was moving. This convention will be etched in my mind because I got to see the U.S. President in person. — *John Parrott Jr., East Rogersville Church, Rogersville* ***

This year's meeting was quieter and more relaxed. I was especially impressed with the Call to Prayer for Spiritual Awakening. It marked a milestone in my relationship to the Lord. I was impressed with President Bush's address, and pray that healing will begin and continue through the years ahead. — *Marion Arbuckle Jr., Westwood Church, Murfreesboro* ***

SBC messengers consider two motions, refer others

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — A move to change the way Southern Baptists vote on business was defeated June 6 by messengers to the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta.

In making the motion, Wayne Harrison of Norton, Va., said, "It's high time all the messengers of all our churches... have equal and fair representation." He said churches that cannot afford to send messengers to the SBC annual meeting should have the opportunity to vote.

Harrison's motion was one of two motions discussed during the annual meeting. The other 49 motions made during the meeting were referred to SBC agencies and committees or ruled out of order.

Harrison's motion called for mailing SBC business to every Southern Baptist church. Messengers would cast their vote by mail. Harrison has made similar motions in previous conventions, and the motions were referred to the SBC Executive Committee.

Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Church of Lenoir City, was chairman of the Executive Committee subcommittee that considered Harrison's motion last year.

Sullivan said implementing the motion would create a "tremendous cost and logistic problem." He said voting by mail would violate the Biblical principle to "gather the people together." Sullivan also noted that voting by mail means messengers would "miss all the debate and lose the wisdom of the elders."

The second motion considered was approved by messengers. It called for three minutes in the final session of the annual meeting to present the plan of salvation.

Messengers could make motions only during business sessions. The Committee on Order of Business considered each motion and recommended it for referral or action. Action taken on referred motions is included in the following year's Book of Reports.

The escalating cost of insurance resulted in five motions that were referred to the Southern Baptist An-

nnuity Board. The motions called for an "opt out" for maternity coverage for people past child-bearing years, lower medical insurance co-payments, reduced insurance premiums for staff members at small churches, support for ministers' wives whose husbands divorce them, and acquiring or forming a SBC insurance agency for all types of insurance.

A sixth motion referred to the Annuity Board called for the board to consider unemployment compensation for fired ministers and denominational employees.

Another motion referred to the Annuity Board called the board to consider whether its president, Paul Powell, has a conflict of interest in also serving as chairman of the board of regents at Baylor University.

A related motion, asking a committee to study whether the Annuity Board can declare itself self-perpetuating and independent, was referred to the SBC Executive Committee.

Three motions were made concerning the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Messengers voted to remove all SBC funds from the BJCPA, but the motions were made before the result of the vote was announced.

The motions called for the SBC to "totally dissolve itself" from the BJCPA, to prohibit the BJCPA from having exhibit space at the SBC, and to investigate any BJCPA funds that may be held by the Southern Baptist Foundation. The first two motions were referred to the SBC Executive Committee, and the third motion was referred to the foundation.

Motions referred to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board include requests to move promotion day and

quarterly literature distribution dates, to make January Bible Study material available during the convention's annual meeting, to include a place to report professions of faith, as well as baptisms on the annual church letter, and to offer a student discount at Baptist bookstores.

The majority of motions made were referred to the SBC Executive Committee. They include motions to:

- Require the parliamentary for annual meetings be a Southern Baptist.
 - Conduct a SBC image-building campaign.
 - Provide preschool activities during pre-convention meetings.
 - List sites of future annual meetings in the Book of Reports.
 - Create a family concerns division of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.
 - Prohibit colleges, universities, and seminaries not related to the SBC from having exhibit space during the annual meeting.
 - Require SBC committee members, officers, and board members be members of churches that give at least 5 percent of their undesignated funds to the Cooperative Program.
 - Make more hotel space near annual meeting sites available to messengers.
 - Change locations of meetings scheduled in Atlanta because of the high cost of renting Atlanta meeting facilities.
 - Encourage churches that offer Christian day schools.
 - Provide a recycling bin at annual meetings.
 - Allow mission churches to send messengers to the annual meeting.
- Two motions to move the reports of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission and Home Mission boards to more

prominent places on the program also were referred to the Executive Committee.

Two motions were referred to Southern Baptist seminaries. One calls for all books removed from seminary libraries by seminary trustees to be donated to the Richmond Theological Seminary. The second promises freedom for professors to teach the historical facts of the canonization of the Bible.

A related motion to affirm the historical facts of the canonization of the Bible was referred to the SBC resolution committee.

A motion to study the pros and cons of disassociating from secular accreditation and moving to self-accreditation was referred to the Education Commission.

Three motions were referred to the Home Mission Board: to examine the length of time pastors in mission areas receive financial assistance, to establish and support crisis pregnancy centers, and to study the doctrines of Freemasonry.

A motion to include the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and another motion to include pledges to the Bible and Christian flag during the annual meeting were referred to the committee on order of business. A motion to invite former President Jimmy Carter to speak during an annual meeting was also referred to the committee on order of business.

Motions ruled out of order included the SBC president to refrain from insulting people who disagree with him in his presidential address, for Southern Baptists to refrain from calling themselves "liberal," "moderate," or "conservative," and for a study of abortion policies of Baptist hospitals.



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Jesse Hendley
Evangelist and Director
The Radio Evangelistic Hour
Atlanta, Ga.



Louis Moore Jr.
Associate Director
SBC Christian Life Comm.
Nashville, Tenn.



Dr. Stephen Olford
President, Encounter Ministries
Memphis, Tenn.



Dr. Terry and Diane Peck
Conference Leaders
Dr. Peck is the pastor of
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Scottsville, Ky.



Dr. Frederick Sampson
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Leadership ...

Mark Wilson has been called to First Church, Jacksboro, as pastor.

First Church, Woodland Mills, called Ricky Burton as interim pastor.

Charles Frazier is serving as associate pastor of Alpha Church, Morristown.

Calvary Church, Elizabethton, called Scott Cunningham as minister of youth.

Steve Davis, Morganton, N.C., has been called as minister of music to Covenant Church, Bristol.

Towering Oaks Church, Greeneville, called Scott Riggs as minister of church growth. He comes to the church from a position in Lexington, Ky.

Eddie Pless is serving as bivocational minister of education at Midway Church, Johnson City.

Flag Pond Church, Flag Pong, called John Carpenter as interim pastor.

Union University, Jackson, student Chris Wann has been called as minister of music and youth to Chewalla Church, Chewalla.

Winald Walker has been called as interim pastor to Pleasant View Church, Dukedom.

Holloman to Monterey

Richard Holloman, the former Baptist Student Union director for Union University, Jackson, recently began serving as pastor of First Church, Monterey.

Holloman also has led as pastor Bethel Church, Humboldt; Emmanuel Church, Humboldt; Liberty Church, Prospect, Ky.; and Old Friendship Church, Henderson.

A graduate of Union University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Holloman is a native of Evansville, Ind., where he was ordained in 1969 by North Park Church.

He and his wife, who is deceased, have one son.

Lester Butler is serving as pastor of North Fork Church, Puryear.

Jamie Kay, a student at Union University, has been called to Poplar Grove Church, Trenton, to serve as youth minister.

Bethel Church, Humboldt, called Nathan Bishop as interim pastor.

Joe Franklin recently announced his retirement as pastor of Emmanuel Church, Humboldt, to be effective later this year.

Chris Rigsby recently resigned as pastor of Spring Hill Church, Trenton, effective Aug. 11, to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Oak Grove Church, Mt. Carmel, called Scott Porch as youth minister intern.

Joseph Swinford is serving as minister of music and activities at Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga.

Revivals ...

Revival will be held June 19-22 at Memorial Church, Waynesboro. Junior Roper will lead the services.

Faith Church, Smithville, will hold revival June 23-26 with evangelist Ron Ralph.

Revival will be held July 7-12 at Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar.

Church honors Gatton

Thomas E. Gatton, pastor of Second Church, Knoxville, for 20 years, will be honored by the church family at a retirement dinner June 28. He will retire June 30 after 43 years in the ministry.

He was pastor of several churches in Kentucky before coming in 1959 to First Church, Counce. He also has served as pastor of Siam Church, Elizabethton, and First Church, Mountain City. He has been active in associational work and is currently a member of the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Ordinations ...

Dave Nelson, James Smith, and Lonnie Matheny were ordained as deacons at Shady Grove Church, Paris.

Dennis Callahan was ordained to the Gospel ministry June 9 at West Memorial Church, Saulsberry.

Education ...

Roy O. Collins III, Elizabethton, has been named director of college relations and recruiting at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. A graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Collins is now a student in the seminary's master of divinity degree program and is the son of Nancy P. Collins of Johnson City. He serves as pastor of Berwick Church, Liberty, Miss.



COLLINS

Churches ...

Homecoming will be June 23 at Butler's Chapel Church, Ramer.

The 125th anniversary of Pleasant Grove Church, Coalfield, will be celebrated Sept. 29. Church members are requesting that historical information and pictures be sent to Eldon Justice, General Delivery, Coalfield, TN 37719. They are also requesting 8 x 10 pictures of all former pastors.

W. Paul Hall, Lawrence County Association director of missions presented a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Deerfield Church, Lawrenceburg, on the occasion of the church's 75th anniversary. Speakers were Leo Bunt, Gwyndol Love, Pastor Ed Lopp, and Jerry Robbins, who were all called to the ministry while members of Deerfield Church.

Members of Park Avenue Church, Nashville, will break ground June 30 for a new education building.

The body of Tri-Cities Church, Kingsport, recently purchased 33 acres to build church facilities. An anniversary service was recently held at the site to celebrate payment of the property debt and to dedicate the land to God.

Homecoming services will be held June 23 at Hatchie Church, Hornsby.

Church calls Damron

Bill Damron has been called as pastor of Shaws Chapel Church, Brownsville, after serving as interim pastor.

Damron also has served as pastor of Beech Grove Church, Dyer; and interim pastor of Eldad Church, Trenton; and Immanuel Church, Trenton. He was ordained in 1979 by Gibson Church, Gibson.

A native of Trenton, Damron is retired from his bivocational work in a trucking company. He and his wife, Patsy, have five children and two grandchildren.

The congregation of Ooltewah Church, Ooltewah, broke ground recently for a sanctuary expansion project. The addition will double the sanctuary's seating capacity.

Construction was recently completed on an educational and fellowship wing on the building of Central Church, Mountain City. The addition provides an assembly room, classrooms, and a furnished bedroom for visitors.

Members of New Hope Church, Alexandria, will have homecoming services June 30.

Construction has begun on a new building for classrooms and a baptistry at Open Bible Church, Woodbury.

Homecoming will be June 23 at New Home Church, Smithville.

The new fellowship building at Sunrise Church, Bluff City, was recently dedicated by church members.

Members of Oak Grove Church, Gray, dedicated their new education building June 9. D. L. Lowrie was guest speaker.

A homecoming celebration will be held June 23 at Beech Springs Church, Gleason.

Members of Bible Union Church, Martin, celebrated the 125th anniversary of the church June 9. Union University, Jackson, President Hyran Barefoot was guest speaker.

Homecoming and a centennial anniversary celebration was recently held at Northwestern Church, Martin.

Associations ...

Thirteen volunteers from Sullivan Association churches recently built a new chapel for Love and Grace Mission in Maracaibo, Venezuela. The new church is a mission of First Baptist Church in Maracaibo. Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions for Sullivan Association, said the project was made possible at God's direction and with the cooperation of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Sullivan Association, and missionaries on the field.

Missions ...

The congregation of West Fentress Church, Jamestown, is sponsoring a mission in Jamestown called Community Mission.

Members of Greenvale Church, Church Hill, recently started a mission congregation near Buena Vista, Va.

People ...

Luetta Webb was honored June 16 by Candies Creek Church, Cleveland, for working 52 years in Vacation Bible School.

Hospitals ...

Baptist Hospital, Nashville, will offer a free class, "When You Love an Alcoholic or an Addict," July 11, 7-9 p.m., at the Baptist Rehabilitation Center. The class is part of Baptist Hospital's "LiveSmart" program. For more information about this class or other "LiveSmart" programs, including locations and fees, or for a free catalog, call the Baptist Center for Health Promotion at (615) 329-5433.



CHURCH INSTALLS PASTOR — Immanuel Church, Knoxville, recently installed Richard Hall as pastor. A graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Hall formerly was pastor of Mill Springs Church in Jefferson City. Hall's wife is the former Karen Greenlee of Grainger County. They have two children. Participating in the service were, from left, Ben Mitchell, former interim pastor; Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Association; Gary Underwood, councilman, Knoxville; Hall; Clyde Hall Jr., Baptist Sunday School Board; Tom Couric, Fort Worth; and D. L. Lowrie, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Inerrancy issue is settled, Chapman says in president's address

By *Connie J. Umstead*, news assistant

For those Southern Baptists who believe in "the infallibility of the Word of God, the issue (of inerrancy) in our convention is settled," said Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman in his address at the opening session of the 134th convention.

"The issue will never be settled" for those who do not accept the infallibility of the Bible, emphasized Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

According to Chapman, an article appeared in a Baptist state paper in which a leader of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship said theological differences have existed between "moderates" and "conservatives" for 12 years.

Chapman cited a document released by the interim steering committee of the fellowship which he quoted as saying the Bible does not claim or reveal inerrancy as a Christian teaching, and that "Bible claims must be based on

the Bible, not on human interpretations of the Bible."

"In kindness, but in all candor, I cannot conceive of anyone claiming the Bible has errors and then, in the very next sentence, cry over human interpretations of the Bible," Chapman said. "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 human interpretation," he explained.

Inerrancy is the foundation of Southern Baptist life and must be taught in the classrooms, preached in the pulpits, and printed in SBC literature, Chapman said.

"Agreement will not always be reached on matters of Biblical interpretation, but agreement must be reached on Biblical authority," he stressed.

Chapman referred to Southern Baptists as a people of faith, missions and evangelism, and prayer.

Citing Manley Beasley's definition of

faith, Chapman quoted, "Faith is the thing which enables a believer to take firm hold upon that which is unseen and act upon it as if it is reality."

Chapman noted Moses had been pressured by Pharaoh to stay in Egypt, but "Moses could see something by faith which other men could not see with their physical eyes. Moses could see the glories of heaven," Chapman said.

He added that faith will not buckle under fear.

Chapman voiced Southern Baptist support for home and foreign missions, and the convention's goal to reach the world and America through the Cross Overseas and Crossover America emphases.

"The challenge of the hour is to capitalize on the lightning-fast changes

which are occurring all over the world. Never have we seen so many nations so open to the Gospel," Chapman said, adding, "In nation after nation around the world, people are coming to Christ in record numbers."

Chapman shared his hope of starting 1000 new Southern Baptist churches on Easter Sunday next year.

"If we do not win our cities to Christ, we will lose America," he said. "If we do not win America to Christ, we will lose the world."

He challenged every Southern Baptist church to double its 1992 Annie Armstrong Easter offering.

"God's hand is still upon this denomination and He intends for us to catch the vision. Our voice in America will never exceed our vision for America," Chapman said.

TeamTalk

By *D. L. Lowrie*

God used Baker James Cauthen to light the fire for missions that burns in my heart. During my student days at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr.

Cauthen spoke at the seminary on a number of occasions. Every time he spoke he enlarged my vision of a lost world and made me feel responsible for doing something about the lostness.

He became one of my spiritual heroes.

I had the privilege of sitting beside Mrs. Cauthen and her son at the Southwestern alumni luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention. The seminary honored Mrs. Cauthen as one of the distinguished alumni of the seminary. It was such a joy to sense the spirit of dedication that still burns in the heart of this good woman.

One of the things that I learned about her was a special inspiration. Some time ago she moved her



LOWRIE

membership from the large prestigious downtown First Baptist Church to a small new mission congregation. She left her circle of friends to become a part of a congregation of younger adults. She wanted to see this new church born. As a member of this new mission church, she has accepted the responsibility to work with the preschoolers. What an example!

Can you imagine it? The first lady of foreign missions for Southern Baptists for so many years still doing what she can do. She can no longer serve as a missionary in China, but she can take care of children on Sunday morning. Even though she is in her eighties she does not feel that she is too old to love and to minister.

It is this kind of dedication that can give to Tennessee a new generation of churches. If new churches are to be planted, there must be people who are willing to leave the comfort of the older established church and to invest themselves in ministry in a new congregation. May God raise up among us a generation of mission-hearted disciples for our Lord.

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God's guidance and David's praise

By David Brown, pastor; Mine City Church, Ducktown

If a national calamity came to our country, how many people would ask if it was God's judgment? When the three-year famine hit Israel, David sought an explanation from God. "Mother nature" was not going through a cycle. It was an act of God. Possibly through the use of the Urim and Thummim (see April 7 lesson), the answer David received was that the famine was sent because Saul killed the Gibeonites.

The account of the Gibeonites in Joshua 9:3-27 tells how they became Israelites. They misled the Israelites about where they lived. Although they were really enemies of Israel living near them, they cunningly deceived Israel and made an alliance with them. After realizing they had been duped, Joshua made them servants of the sanctuary (v. 27). There is no Scriptural evidence of the Gibeonites being disloyal to the nation of Israel after making league with them.

Fearing the Gibeonites would become a source of resistance, Saul tried to annihilate them. God was displeased with Saul's unfounded suspicions and his efforts to exterminate the Gibeonites. David was spiritually discerning of God's disfavor.

David asked the Gibeonites what it would take to make restitution for the wrong that had been done to them. The Gibeonites wanted seven of Saul's sons to bear the punishment for their father's sin. God had punished the whole Israelite nation for this injustice. It seems possible that the whole nation in some way participated in the effort to destroy the Gibeonites, or at least they were sympathetic with the atrocity. From the Gibeonites response to David, it seems Saul's family shared in his guilt, also. David turned over seven of Saul's sons and the Gibeonites proceeded to hang them.

Rizpah's vigil of devotion to keep birds and animals away from her dead

sons prompted David to show respect for the remains of Saul and Jonathan. David had their bodies moved from Jabesh-gilead to Kish's family tomb in Zelah in Benjaminite territory. David also removed the bodies of Saul's sons and grandsons who had been hanged and buried them in Kish's tomb. Then God heard Israel's prayers, forgave them, sent rain, and ended the famine.

BIBLE BOOK
June 23 Lesson
Basic Passage: II Samuel 21:1-23:39

The Philistines attacked Israel again and David went to war with his soldiers. During one of the battles, David became faint and a Philistine giant almost killed the king. Abishai came to his rescue and killed the Philistine giant. The event sobered David's soldiers. Their king was giving inspiration and leadership to their na-

tion. Expressing great affection, his troops called him "the light of Israel." His life should not be put in jeopardy. (The "light of Israel" should not be extinguished.) Therefore, they insisted that David refrain from going into combat again.

Chapter 22 is a recorded psalm of David's. In verse 29, David stated that the Lord was his lamp. In chapter 21, David's men had called him "the light of Israel." The Lord was David's "light" by which he walked through darkness (Psalm 18:28 and Job 29:2-3). King David sought the Lord's guidance during times of trouble and God gave Him divine leadership. David's heart was filled with praise for God's guidance and strength in difficult circumstances.

The Psalmist declared, "The entrance of thy words giveth light" (119:130). We can have God's guidance for our lives if we will apply God's Word to the challenges our daily lives bring us. Then, we can also praise God for the help He gives us.

Ezra comes to Jerusalem

By Omer Painter, director of missions; Tennessee Valley Association

Finally, as we come to the seventh chapter of the book of Ezra, we meet the man Ezra. Although he was one of the great men in Jewish history, not many details are known about him, and there is considerable debate about his dates. There is a gap of some 57 years or more between chapters six and seven. The Broadman Bible Commentary points out that such gaps in the time sequence were of minor concern to the ancient Jew. He was primarily concerned with the disclosure of "the mighty acts of the Lord" and not with a complete unbroken history.

The name Ezra is a form of a Hebrew word meaning "help." The Bible mentions several persons named Ezra. The one of chief importance, however, is the Ezra dealt with in the last four chapters of the book bearing his name. He was the noted priest and scribe who traced his lineage back to Aaron and who led the second major migration of Jews back to the

fatherland from Babylon. The term "scribe" does not mean a penman or stenographer. He was a rabbi, or doctor of law, an expert in Mosaic law, and in all that related to the civil and religious polity and practices of the Jewish people. As such a scribe, he possessed a great authority and influence.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
June 23 Lesson
Basic Passage: Ezra 7

Tradition says he collected and revised the books of the Old Testament, wrote the Chronicles and the book of Ezra, and probably wrote the books of Nehemiah and Esther. Also, according to tradition, he died at the advanced age of 120 years.

According to chapter 7:1-10, Ezra petitioned King Artaxerxes of Persia and was granted permission to lead a group, estimated variously to be between 1800 and 6000 people, on a four-

month trek from Babylon to Judah. The expedition which King Artaxerxes authorized is documented in verses 11-26. It has been speculated that this benevolent dispensation to the Jews was probably due to the influence of Esther, who is thought to have been raised to the high position of queen a few months previous to the departure of Ezra. Be that as it may, we notice that time and again Ezra credits the disposition of the king to favor the Jews' patriotic endeavors to the grace and goodness of God.

The document clearly described the nature of Ezra's commission and the extent of power and privileges he was granted. It not only gave all the Jews who were so minded permission to go to Judah; they were also authorized to take a large donation of money, partly from the royal treasury and partly raised by contributions by the Jews for a fund out of which to maintain the regular worship of God in Jerusalem. The Persian officials in Palestine were commanded to give Ezra financial assistance up to certain generous limits, in carrying out his patriotic mission. The priests, Levites, and

other ministers were exempted from taxes and given the exclusive right to officiate in the temple. Finally, it gave Ezra authority to reorganize the colony there and put in place a government according to Jewish laws and with their own officials who would have authority to enforce their laws.

In verses 27 and 28 Ezra expressed thanksgiving to God and acknowledges His hand in all these blessings. He specifically expressed thanks to God for moving the king to "beautify the house of the Lord." While money had been approved for re-establishing the sacrificial services "and whatsoever shall seem good," what is more becoming to the house of the Lord than His people meeting in sincere and joyful united worship?

Ezra declined to take credit for these accomplishments, but humbly acknowledged the merciful power of God upon him and graciously shared both the power and glory with the other leaders of God's people. Ezra was available and willing for God to use him, and his example and leadership inspired others to rally to the cause.

Build a Christian home

By Nathan Holloway, pastor; Wrigley Church, Lyles

What better place for our new life-style in Christ to begin to touch the lives of others than in our own home? As we cooperate under Christ in our family relationships, we contribute to building a Christian home.

In our "be your own boss" society the idea of submitting to anyone else does not set very well. The Greek word translated for "submitting" (v. 21) was used as a military term meaning to arrange in rank order. As we relinquish our rights to others and submit to other brothers and sisters in Christ, there is harmony within the body of believers. And as there is to be submission within the church, there is to be submission also within the home.

Because of the misuse and ignorance of these verses (vv. 22-24) by some husbands, many wives have rebelled against the command to submit to their husbands "as unto the Lord." The Hollywood mentality of the Christian husband as a Bible-toting,

domineering, "Hitler type" individual has also contributed to many wives' refusal to submit to the God-ordained authority of their husbands. Contrary to the hellish picture "Hollyweird" paints is the relationship Paul described in which the wife submits to the husband's authority willingly because she understands that he is as concerned for her needs and well-being as Christ is for His church. But the harmony of this relationship is not dependent on the wife alone (vv. 25-33).

The husband must have more than just an emotional type of love for his wife. This kind of love that causes a husband to be self-sacrificing and to care for his wife as "Christ also loved the church" can come only when the husband has a right relationship with Christ as his Savior and Lord.

Lacking an understanding of or yielding to Christ as Lord has caused some husbands to arrogantly claim, "I'm the boss of my house!" The only

authority that the husband has is that ordained by God and even then it must be submitted to Christ's Lordship. "The buck stops here" cannot be a Christian husband's philosophy, for Christ is the only one with ultimate authority. It is with Him that the "buck stops!"

LIFE AND WORK
June 23 Lesson
Basic Passage: Ephesians 5:21-6:9

The husband must balance his knowledge of being the spiritual head of the home with an understanding of him and his wife being "one flesh." Paul tried to help us see here (vv. 28-29) that to love our wives is to love ourselves.

And lastly, Paul explained the contribution children can make to building a Christian home. Children are to "obey" their parents. Many times when I tell my boys to do something they ask, "Why Daddy?" And most of the time my reply is, "Because I'm Daddy!" This is my way of saying to them "for this is right." (6:1).

More than just obeying, children are

to "honor" their parents. This implies the showing of respect or the valuing of parents. But even with this admonition to children, Paul came back (v. 4) to the Father's treatment of His children. A child may be forced to obey his parents, but, at least to some degree, honor and respect will be earned by the parents according to the way they relate to their children.

When each person in a Christian family cooperates with one another under Christ, and seeks the well-being of the others, they have contributed much to building a Christian home.

Acres accepts call

David P. Acres recently accepted the pastorate of Mount Harmony Church in Strawberry Plains.

Acres is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to coming to Mount Harmony, Acres was pastor of First Church, Huntsville, for almost four years.

Acres and his wife, Paulette, have two children.

Seminaries hold luncheon meetings during SBC

ATLANTA — The six Southern Baptist-supported seminaries held luncheon meetings June 5 for alumni and friends.

Reports from the six seminaries follow.

Golden Gate Seminary

The luncheon for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends included a report on enrollment and current financial situation from seminary President William O. Crews.

Crews said while enrollment is down (983 in 1989-90), he is optimistic that the trend will be reversed with a new aggressive recruiting program.

He also reported on the financial situation of the seminary, saying that a balanced budget was adopted for the second year in a row. "It has not been without some sacrifice in programs and staffing," Crews said. However, through careful management of existing resources, Crews feels the seminary can operate within the existing budget.

The alumni association presented its tenth meritorious service award to Charles R. Brannon of Phoenix, Ariz. Brannon, who earned a doctor of ministry degree from Golden Gate, is executive director for Central Association of Southern Baptists in Phoenix, Ariz.

Honored as alumnus of the year for 1991 was C. Kenneth Glenn, pastor of First Church in Bellevue, Neb. He received master of divinity and master of theology degrees from Golden Gate.

Officers elected included Gary S. Floyd of Lithonia, Ga., vice president of finance and Donald Powell of Fullerton, Calif., vice president of promotion.

Midwestern Seminary

Maurice and Laurie Graham, Southern Baptist missionaries to Kuwait, shared their testimonies with 180 alumni and friends of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at the institution's annual alumni luncheon.

Graham, a 1975 master of divinity graduate of Midwestern in Kansas City, Mo., his wife and two sons, Aaron and Peter, were trapped in the Middle Eastern country last August when Iraqi troops invaded.

Mrs. Graham and her sons were allowed to leave Kuwait in September with a plane load of American and British citizens. However, her husband remained behind at the U.S. Embassy compound with other Americans and was not allowed to evacuate the country until December.

Also during the luncheon, Midwestern's 1991 alumni of the year and honorary alumni were recognized. Alumni of the year included Robert L. Perry, executive director of Mount Vernon Baptist Association, Annandale, Va., and William L. Womack Sr., a Southern Baptist missionary to the Caribbean who served as visiting professor of missions at Midwestern during the 1990-91 academic year while on furlough.

Honorary alumni included William B. Coble, senior professor of New Testament and Greek at Midwestern; J. Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Church, Stone Mountain, Ga., and a former MBTS trustee; and G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history at Midwestern since 1959.

During a brief business session, Robert W. Webb was named alumni

association president-elect. He is pastor of First Church, Maryville, Mo., Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., began duties as 1991-92 alumni president.

New Orleans Seminary

The 1990-91 school year was the best year ever at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for alumni gifts to the seminary, President Landrum P. Leavell II told more than 550 persons at a luncheon for alumni and friends.

Recounting accomplishments made at the seminary during the past year, Leavell described the seminary's 21 long-range goals which will "bring the

The Six SBC Seminaries COMMITTED TO SERVE Golden Gate • Midwestern • New Orleans Southeastern • Southern • Southwestern

seminary into the 21st century." Approved by the trustees in March, the goals include increasing endowments and full-time enrollment.

With the seminary's 75th anniversary less than a year away, a goal of \$7.2 million has been set to be raised between 1991 and the year 2000. The income from the interest will endow a new chair each year, with "the possibility of every faculty chair being endowed," Leavell said.

The president reported a student enrollment of 1899, an increase of 83 students over the past year. When all the seminary's education programs are considered, this year's cumulative enrollment is 4313, with an increase of 678 over the past year.

During the luncheon, seminary faculty presented a distinguished alumnus award to Jerry L. Breazeale "for outstanding leadership in local church and state convention ministry."

Alumni elected Don Bouldin, pastor of Briarlake Church, Decatur, Ga., as president of the national alumni association; Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon, Miss., president-elect; Ken Story, pastor of Germantown Church, Germantown, secretary; and Neil Glausier, associate pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., treasurer.

Southeastern Seminary

"Since a journey always means changing situations, the church in the next century will change greatly from its present forms and its use of energies and resources," John Eddins, professor of theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, told 180 alumni and friends at the annual luncheon of the theological institution.

Eddins said that "In the church of Jesus Christ all are called to be evangelists and all called equally to proclaim and live the substance of the Gospel. It is the function of the church to become Christ to the neighbor and to make present the Kingdom of God through the church's way of being in the world...."

As part of the initial unveiling of the New American Commentary, Lewis A.

Drummond, Southeastern president, was presented a copy of the commentary by Tom Clark on behalf of Broadman Press.

In a business session, the alumni elected their 1990-91 officers. They are Leon Smith, president; Billy Cline, president-elect; Chester "Sonny" Holmes, secretary; Carl Heilman, local member of the executive committee; and Grover Blackburn, chairman of the executive committee.

Southern Seminary

The president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary characterized the Louisville, Ky., school's situation as "on a spectrum between Chicken Little on the one side and Pollyanna on

denominational controversy, Honeycutt said, the seminary has maintained a steady enrollment and has nearly tripled its endowment.

During the meeting, the seminary honored four distinguished alumni — Paul R. Adkins, Atlanta, Ga., Louis O. Ball, chair of the music department, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Sydney L. Goldfinch, Walnut Cove, N.C.; and John G. McCall, Clinton, Miss.

Southwestern Seminary

The future of the Southern Baptist Convention is bright, the president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary told more than 800 alumni and friends at the school's annual alumni luncheon.

"There is a new generation of young men and women gifted, talented, ready to serve our Lord," Russell Dilday of Fort Worth said. "It is in their hands that the future of Southern Baptists rests."

During his report, Dilday described activities of the past year and introduced the seminary's new strategic plan for the coming four years. The plan, "Vision for Excellence," will guide Southwestern's academic future, Dilday said.

Among the new programs Dilday introduced to alumni is a graduate diploma program, which allows students over age 30 to earn a diploma in Christian studies and continue on into Southwestern's master's degree programs. Dilday also introduced a newly developed correlated studies program that will give qualified students at Southern Baptist colleges credit for undergraduate courses.

Southwestern's national alumni association recognized three graduates for outstanding service — Eloise Glass Cauthen, wife of the late Baker James Cauthen, former executive director of the Foreign Mission Board; Bill Glass, founder and president of the Bill Glass Evangelistic Association, and Ralph Langley, pastor emeritus of First Church, Huntsville, Ala.

New officers elected were Charles Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington, Texas, president; Bob Edd Shotwell, minister of education at Hyde Park Church, Austin, Texas, vice president; and Jay Chance, vice president for public affairs at Southwestern, secretary.

the other."

The correct assessment of the seminary lies somewhere between despairing pessimism and unbridled optimism, seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told more than 800 people at the school's annual alumni and friends luncheon. Alumni should "dispel and put to death" extreme evaluations of the school's circumstances, he said.

Honeycutt said he regretted that some professors recently have decided to leave the faculty to accept positions elsewhere. However, he noted that only two of the school's 75 tenured faculty members have resigned this spring. He urged the alumni to remember that many competent professors are still teaching at the seminary.

The "covenant" document approved by the school's faculty and trustees is "important for this year and for years ahead," Honeycutt said, noting that the covenant was approved by 87 percent of each group. In the covenant, faculty and trustees agreed to fill future faculty openings with "conservative evangelical scholars."

Despite having to deal with a

CLC urges FCC to appeal ruling

WASHINGTON (BP) — A federal court opinion overturning a 24-hour ban on indecent broadcasting should be challenged, the general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission says.

A three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, in a unanimous vote May 17, struck down a Federal Communications Commission rule enforcing a Congressional ban on all broadcast indecency. The ruling leaves in force a previous FCC regulation prohibiting indecency on radio and television from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"I am disappointed in the outcome," FCC Chairman Al Sikes said. The commission will examine the decision in consultation with the solicitor general's office of the Justice Department before determining whether to appeal, Sikes said.

"We urge the FCC to appeal this

decision to the U.S. Supreme Court," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the CLC. "The FCC 24-hour indecency ban seeks to protect the public interest in public airwaves, especially the interest of parents with small children. Such interest overrides private monetary interests of broadcasters who want to hide behind the First Amendment and say some dirty words to make more money."

"Such crass, commercial interests in truly 'filthy lucre' must be subordinated to society's interest in protecting our children," Whitehead said. "Surely there is no shortage of sewage in our society and no need to make a new cesspool of the public airwaves."

The FCC's definition of indecency is "language that describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, sexual or excretory activities or organs."