

Baptist and Reflector

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■ *this week's news*

convention —

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Nashville native Jim Henry named SBC president

True Love Waits huge success; messengers say 'no' to CBF dollars

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

ORLANDO — Tennessean Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention here June 14 and messengers voted to refuse Cooperative Baptist Fellowship dollars.

Meeting for the SBC's 137th annual session, messengers also affirmed SBC leadership in an international campaign in which more than 102,000 youth have declared chastity before marriage.

Henry was born in Nashville where he spent his early years and later served as pastor of Two Rivers Church 1965-77 when he went to Orlando. He was active in the Nashville Association and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Henry's election over Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe with a stunning 55 percent majority was the first break in the 15-year hold on the presidency by

conservative leaders.

Henry, who affirms the conservative resurgence of the SBC since 1979, has not been involved in the conservative political processes.

Wolfe, who said he was surprised at the outcome, had been endorsed by conservative past presidents who form a leadership group.

Although Tennessee's support for Henry cannot be determined, more than 1,500 from the Volunteer State attended the convention. Eleven TBC churches had the maximum of 10 messengers, and an additional five churches had eight or nine.

Attendance was 20,364, short of predictions but higher than last year's 17,886 in Houston, and one of the lower totals in the decade. Florida messengers numbered more than 3,500 up from 900 in 1993.

Henry, who had pledged to avoid active campaigning, said of his presidency, "We will

work, witness, and win together. We need to get together to win lost people to our Lord."

In a post-election news conference, he expressed strong support for continuing the direction of the SBC, but pledged to try to bring back other Southern Baptists who "have a love

for the inerrant Word of God" and who have been outside.

In another action, messengers overwhelmingly passed a resolution that recognizes that born-again believers may be found in all Christian denominations, affirms the benefit of — See Nashville's Henry, page 2



CHAPEL HILL PASTOR Tim McGehee, of Smyrna Church and his wife, Kim, brought five-month-old Hannah to her first Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando.

SBC youth surpass goal for True Love Waits campaign

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

ORLANDO — It's official. Southern Baptist youth have met and exceeded their goal for the nationwide sexual abstinence campaign, True Love Waits, sponsored by the Baptist

Sunday School Board. True Love Waits is now endorsed by 25 other denominations and Christian organizations.

The proof was visibly clear June 14 in a colorful display of 102,695 signed chastity cards in Orlando.

Campaign spokesman Richard Ross said he is "very, very pleased but not surprised" the Southern Baptist goal was met.

The next step for True Love Waits is July 29 in Washington, D.C., when other denominations will join Southern

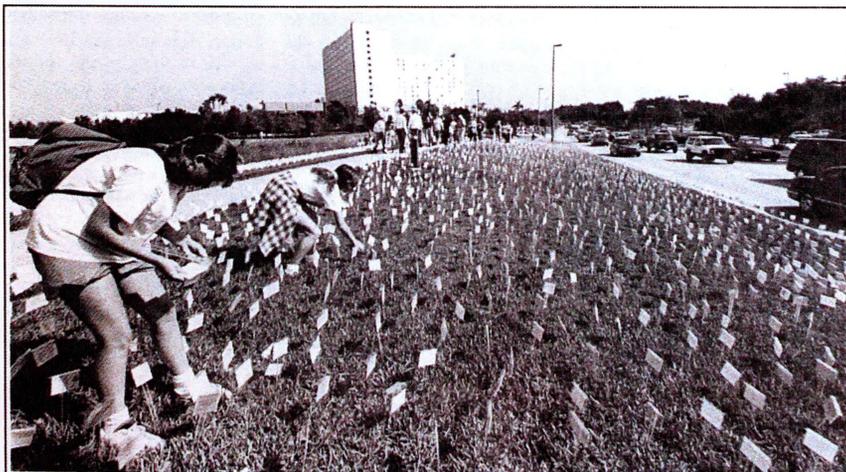
Baptists in sending pledge cards to be displayed on the Washington Mall near the U.S. Capitol.

In Orlando, SBC messengers learned more about True Love Waits during the BSSB's convention report. More than 1,000 teens participated in a short program of music, drama, and testimony.

Before the program, the youth attended a rally where four of their peers shared testimonies, including Robert Ladd of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, where the True Love Waits campaign was launched last year.

"In the beginning I decided I didn't really want to be a part of True Love Waits because I thought I was making a commitment to my community and church," said Ladd, a recent high school graduate. After talking with his youth minister, though, he realized the pledge to remain abstinent until marriage was a promise made to God.

"The cards are just kind of like a public profession of faith," he said. □



FLORIDA YOUTH Amber Carbaugh, left, and Monica Sastre were among Southern Baptist youth who helped to put up a display of more than 100,000 signed True Love Waits commitment cards during the annual session of the SBC in Orlando. — Photo by Paul Brock

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Nashville's Henry, 'no' to CBF, True Love in news

— Continued from page 1
conversation with other religious groups; calls for cooperative efforts among Christians on moral concerns; underscores the "historic Baptist doctrine" of salvation through grace alone and denies any view of salvation adding or subtracting from the sole sufficiency of Jesus as redeemer; and affirms the convention's commitment to evangelism, rejecting the view of Southern Baptist outreach as "sheep stealing."

The resolution stems from the signing of an evangelical-Catholic document signed by Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, among others.

They had joined evangelical and Roman Catholic leaders earlier this year in signing a document called, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium."

The signing sparked debate and criticism which resulted in the resolution. Lewis and several messengers defended the document when it was discussed on Thursday morning before about 7,500 messengers.

SBC resolutions are merely an expression of the messengers and do not carry the weight of motions.

True Love Waits, the Southern Baptist program for young people which promotes sexual chastity until marriage, was celebrated throughout the sessions.

State convention leaders brought 102,695 pledge cards which were displayed on small stakes or placed in a plastic tube on the grassy mall in front of Orange County Convention Center for three days.

The display attracted attention from messengers, highway travelers, and the media of the Orlando area.

Southern Baptist messengers gave two standing ovations to 1,000 teenagers who participated in a True Love Waits segment of the Sunday School Board report, and approved February as True Love Waits month on the denominational calendar, with the BSSB to provide materials to help churches carry out a yearly abstinence education program.

The Baptist World Alliance is taking the message to its 165-member groups representing more than 38 million Baptist in 150 countries.

For the other offices, messengers elected two Executive Committee members: Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese



JIM AND JEANETTE HENRY, center, and the other SBC officers and spouses were introduced to messengers by President H. Edwin Young, far right. Joining them on stage were, from left, Second Vice President Gary Frost and First Vice President Simon Tsoi and their wives. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

Church, Phoenix Ariz., and a native of Hong Kong, first vice president; and Gary Frost, an African-American who is pastor of Rising Star Church, Youngstown, Ohio, second vice president.

Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro, lost to Frost in a runoff after two other nominees were eliminated. Tsoi had no opposition.

Lee Porter, former Nashville pastor and denominational employee, now in Panama City, Fla., was re-elected registration secretary. He has served since 1977. **David Atchison**, Brentwood, was re-elected with no opposition as recording secretary.

Apparently intent on maintaining "the integrity of the Cooperative Program," messengers passed a motion which directs SBC entities to reject funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The motion was introduced by **Mike Mitchell**, member of Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga.

In its June 13 meeting, the Executive Committee voted to refuse any CBF funds for its use (though it has received a very small amount), and asked SBC entities not to accept.

The CBF sent more than \$1.6 million in church-directed gifts to the Foreign Mission Board last year and more

than \$400,000 to the Home Mission Board. CBF churches have sent designations to certain SBC entities while bypassing others — such as the Executive Committee, Christian Life Commission, and Southeastern Seminary.

The action likely will have strong repercussions throughout the SBC. No one is certain of the outcome for SBC entities and churches.

The vote to refuse CBF gifts passed by 58 percent, or 4,730 to 3,343. During the discussion, one messenger said the SBC and CBF have different agenda. Another said CBF members are brothers and sisters in Christ and opposed the motion.

In another major action, messengers voted down (55-45) a motion that would authorize a committee to study the process used in firing Russell Dilday as Southwestern Seminary last March.

In a nearly unanimous vote however, messengers approved a resolution expressing gratitude to trustees and administrators but asking that they govern with diligence, demonstrate love and service in their work, and use biblical wisdom in facing "potentially divisive issues."

President Edwin Young ruled out of order two other motions concerning Southwestern, one asking for dismissal of the trustees' offi-

cers, one praising the trustees.

In the presidential election, Henry was nominated by Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas. He noted Henry's church CP giving of 14 percent and called him a leader who would move the convention forward.

Charles Stanley, nominator of Wolfe, told of his leadership and urged messengers to "stay the course."

In other convention actions:

■ Messengers approved Al Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, to preach the 1995 convention sermon in Atlanta.

■ Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee, implored messengers to move forward boldly with Bold Mission Thrust. "We must decide if in our day getting the Gospel to every person in the world is real or pretend," he said. "Let's get real. The time is late."

■ In his president's address, Ed Young urged Southern Baptists to lead the country toward a spiritual revival. He said the issue for 15 years has been what the Bible is.

■ Messengers heard from Bobby Boyles of Oklahoma, and a series of stirring theme messages that emphasized the convention theme, "I Know He Is Able."

■ An Annuity Board trustee was replaced with Alton Fannin of Oklahoma who had been nominated originally.

■ The joint FMB and HMB presentation featured missionaries, Henry Blackaby, singers and dramatists, in the theme, Experiencing God. □

More SBC coverage in next week's issue

The June 29 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* will feature additional stories and photos from the 137th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In-depth stories will be carried next week on the missions presentations, resolutions, president's address, WMU annual meeting, and pre-convention board meetings of the WMU, Foreign Mission Board, and Home Mission Board, and other topics. □

- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
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- **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027
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Tennesseans nominated, Henry elected president

Baptist.Press

ORLANDO — In an unexpected turn of events, hometown Jim Henry of Orlando defeated Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe by 1,853 votes June 14 for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Although both are self-avowed conservatives, Wolfe was seen as the "choice" of leaders of the SBC's conservative movement, since several former SBC presidents had publicly endorsed his candidacy.

Henry, pastor of Orlando's First Church, received 9,876 votes, or 55.18 percent, to 8,023, or 44.82 percent, for Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile.

At the time of the election, there were 19,868 registered messengers, according to SBC registration secretary Lee Porter. Of that number, 90.09 percent cast ballots, he said.

Messengers elected a native of China and an African American as vice presidents.

Simon Tsio, pastor of First Chinese Church in Phoenix, Ariz., was elected without opposition as first vice president June 14.

Tsio, a member of the SBC Executive Committee, was nominated by Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of new Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga., and past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Another Executive Commit-

tee member, Gary Frost of Youngstown, Ohio, was elected second vice president June 15 after a runoff election with F. Murray Mathis, pastor, Third Church, Murfreesboro.

Four men were nominated for the post. Joining Frost and Mathis as nominees were Bobby McFalls of Sanford, Fla., and Paul Blanchard of Louisville, Miss.

Frost received 3,470 votes, or 39.07 percent compared to 2,128 votes, or 23.96 for Mathis in the first vote. McFalls tallied 2,114 votes while Blanchard received 1,169.

In the runoff vote, Frost received 58.07 percent to Mathis' 41.91 percent.

In nominating Frost, John

Hayes of Ohio noted Frost was the first black church planter apprentice appointed by the Home Mission Board in 1983.

The church he planted and now pastors, Rising Star Church, averages more than 45 baptisms a year, Hayes said.

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary since 1977, was elected without opposition for another term June 15.

Porter, associate pastor of St. Andrew Church in Panama City, Fla., was nominated by Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, Ark., and chairman of the Tellers Committee.

Recording secretary David Atchison of Brentwood, also was re-elected unopposed. □

Henry's roots

born — 1937 in Nashville
 ordained — Dalewood Church, Nashville
 religious experience — converted at Hopewell Church, Springfield, baptized at First Church, Nashville
 education — public schools in Nashville, Georgetown (Ky.) College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
 leadership — Mt. Pisgah Church, Melvin, Ala., 1960-63; Hollywood Church, Sledge, Miss., 1963-65; Two Rivers Church, Nashville, 1965-77, First Church, Orlando, Fla., 1977-present
 denominational leadership — SBC Peace Committee, Committee on Committees, Foreign Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board, TBC

Southern Baptist agencies directed to reject funds from CBF

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Southern Baptist agencies have been directed to no longer accept money channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting passed a motion June 15 for SBC agencies and institutions to "maintain fidelity to the convention and avoid compromising the integrity of the Cooperative Program" by declining CBF funds. The CBF is a group of moderate Southern

Baptists opposed to the convention's current leadership.

The motion did not indicate when it would take effect.

The SBC Executive Committee in its regular pre-convention meeting decided to stop receiving funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, effective Sept. 30.

It also encouraged trustees of other Southern Baptist agencies to follow its lead which will cost it about \$30 this year but will impact other agencies much more. Last year the Foreign Mission Board re-

ceived \$1.6 million from the CBF and the Home Mission Board \$434,000.

The messengers' action directing agencies to reject the funds will supersede the committee's request.

Of the 8,072 voting at the time, 4,730, or 58.6 percent, voted for the motion and 3,342, or 41.4 percent, voted against it. Mike Mitchell of Chamberlain Memorial Church in Chattanooga, made the original motion. Two other messengers submitted virtually identical motions.

Two people spoke to the

motion when it was discussed by messengers.

Craig Kendall of Central Church in Aurora, Colo., said the CBF and the SBC have "mutually exclusive visions." He cited differences of opinion on abortion, the nature of Scripture, homosexuality, and the virgin birth as examples.

"If we accept their money, we legitimize their claims and therefore their agenda," Kendall said.

Owen Bozeman, pastor of First Church of Milton, Fla., spoke against the motion, saying it could "severely dis-

rupt the budget cycles" of SBC agencies.

Bozeman recommended allowing trustees of each agency to decide how to handle the issue. "If we believe in the trustee system, let us let them decide."

Voting against the motion would be "in the interest of a kindly spirit," Bozeman said. "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship members are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Their gifts are Christian gifts. The CBF and SBC will soon part ways. Let us do so amicably. Let it die a natural death." □

Dilday subject of motions, resolutions in Orlando

By Lonnie Wilkey
 Baptist and Reflector

ORLANDO — Though fired Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. was nowhere near Orlando, his name was voiced by both critics and supporters during the 137th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-16.

At least six motions or resolutions about Dilday and/or the Southwestern trustees were offered during the convention, resulting in a motion and resolution that were acted on by messengers.

In addition, about 650 Southwestern alumni honored Dilday in absentia during their annual luncheon meeting June 15.

By a thousand votes, messengers refused to investigate the March 9 firing of Dilday.

Messengers turned down a motion to create a seven-

The committee wanted a resolution which would 'unite.'

— Tommy Lea, chairman, Resolutions Committee

member committee to study the "process used in dismissing Dr. Dilday, with attention being given to the proper use of authority, due process, fairness, and any other significant facts." The vote was 5,350, or 55.13 percent, against the motion and 4,371, or 44.87 percent, for the motion.

Another motion requesting the resignation of three seminary trustee officers was ruled out of order.

When the Southern Baptist Convention convened its business session June 14, Cecil Sims, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention, moved to request the resigna-

tion of the SWBTS trustee chairman, vice chairman, and secretary.

Next, Dan Robinson of Greenville, S.C., made a motion calling for a study committee. A third motion, offered by Randy Robertson of Lawton, Okla., moved to "affirm and commend" the seminary trustees.

When the motions were discussed at a later session, Robinson's motion was considered and the other two ruled out of order. SBC President H. Edwin Young said Sims' motion was ruled down because it presented "practically the same idea" as Robinson's motion.

The motion actually voted on by messengers was offered by Young, who moved "that the newly-elected convention president will appoint a committee of seven to investigate the process" used in Dilday's dismissal. According to Robert's Rules of Order, Young could offer another motion as long as the intent was the same as the original motion, he said. Robinson's original motion called for trustees to be deprived of their "privileges, duties, and responsibilities as trustees" until the study was complete.

The trustees' actions do not meet the convention's requirements for their rights to be suspended, Young said. He ruled that part of Robinson's motion out of order and presented his version.

The motion to affirm the trustees' actions was ruled out of order because messengers addressed the issue with their vote on Robinson's motion.

The trustees' firing of Dilday also prompted a resolution on trustees and administrators.

The resolution expresses gratitude to trustees and administrators of SBC agencies and institutions. It also asks them to govern with diligence, to demonstrate love and service in their work and to use biblical wisdom in facing "potentially divisive issues."

An attempt to amend the resolution to note past and present investigations of some SBC seminaries by accrediting agencies and to urge seminary trustees specifically to be more sensitive failed overwhelmingly.

The resolution passed by a nearly unanimous vote.

Resolutions committee chairman Tommy Lea, a professor at the seminary, said the committee wanted a resolution which would "unite the convention rather than divide." □

Henry puts new face on leadership with 'kinder' approach

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
Baptist and Reflector

ORLANDO — Jim Henry, pastor of Orlando's 10,000-member First Church, was surprised at his upset election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, but he seemed at ease in a post-election press conference.

He began the conference with about 60 news media people with prayer, and then carefully explained that his election was not a repudiation of the convention's conservative direction.

Henry is a Nashville native and former pastor of Two Rivers Church.

"I'm stunned," he said, "but we have been in a struggle for 15 years to correct our course."

"Our people are saying it's time to move on and get ready for the work of our Lord."

"I feel that we are conservative as a people, but the people want to go on with missions, starting churches, reaching people, staying conservative."

He explained how he had tried to sense God's will when several people suggested he be a candidate for Southern Baptists' top elected position. He

said prayer was a major factor and then "I had a great peace because I wanted God's leadership."

Asked if he would appoint moderates as well as conservatives to committee and trustee positions, Henry said, "I am committed to inerrancy of the Word of God. I take the same approach that Southern Baptists took when we voted for the *Baptist Faith and Message* twice."

The new president added that a number of people called moderate voted conservative, "but some have felt uncomfortable with some of the positions we have taken."

"My goal," he said, "is to choose people who are committed with the Bible, committed to the church, and who are talented and gifted."

Henry was asked his feelings on receiving funds from or through Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He replied he had not had opportunity to thoroughly study the situation.

"I would want to sit down and talk with the (SBC) Executive Committee about it. And it would depend on whether the gifts would be without strings."

About those Southern Bap-



NEW SBC PRESIDENT Jim Henry fields questions during a press conference after his election as wife, Jeanette, listens. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

tists who feel left out, Henry said, "If people are committed like mainline Southern Baptists are, we will say, 'Come on in if they want to.'"

"I really don't know whether the CBF wants to split away," he said.

Referring to Russell Dilday, the recently fired president of Southwestern Seminary and his endorsement of Henry, the new president said he had not asked anyone to endorse him.

"I wanted no baggage," he answered. "I want to work with Southern Baptists to

achieve the goals we have made to win people." He later said he did not know all that led to the firing, but that it was "tough on all concerned."

"The trustees have said they could have done it in a better way. I say let's move on without sacrificing commitment and spirit."

Asked what he would tell Southern Baptists as a new kind of leader, Henry said, "It's still fresh to me, but it seems people are saying that the new direction [since 1979] has been good, but it has been tough."

"Now let's move ahead. Young conservative pastors say they want to build a godly people, working together with a great sense of commitment"

"I feel there is a well of love and a desire to be family. I have been picking this up from phone calls and letters. It has been building and maybe I have caught a rising tide."

In response to a question about reconciliation in the convention, Henry responded that he wants to seek God's face.

"I want to talk to people and to find ways we can do things together and move forward."

Referring to a statement he made in 1990 about "broadening the SBC tent," Henry said, "I have been involved in the conservative movement, but in 1990 several of us said, it is time to move toward openness, to enlarge the tent. Morris Chapman and other young pastors have made a deliberate effort in this. We have to get on with the spiritual reformation."

"We have had a tenacious, difficult time for 15 years. Folks are worn out with tension, they are tired. We have settled on the direction, now let's quit hitting on that." □

FMB trustees appoint 55 missionaries in historic joint service

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Fifty-five men and women, including several from Tennessee, joined Southern Baptists' foreign missions force June 12 in a historic joint session of the denomination's Pastors' Conference, Foreign Mission Board, and Woman's Missionary Union.

About 13,000 onlookers gave a standing ovation after FMB trustees had risen in a unanimous vote of approval for their appointment.

Among those appointed with strong Tennessee ties were Michael and Carol Ewing, David Jamieson, Dale and Kimberly Ledbetter, Cheryl Keathley Cox, Larry and Shari Ray, and Gale Suratt Davis.

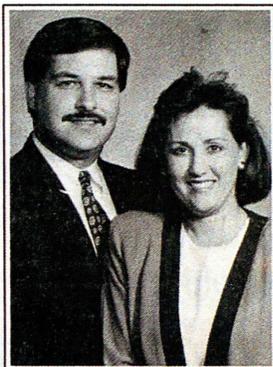
The Ewings will live in Tanzania, where he will work as administrator of Kigoma Baptist Hospital and together will be involved in outreach ministries.

Ewing is a native of Memphis. Mrs. Ewing also considers Memphis her hometown. They are presently members of Bartlett Church, Bartlett. They have three children.

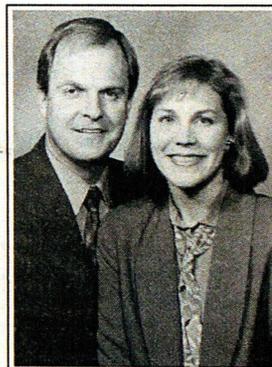
Jamieson will live in Uganda where he will work as mis-



THE COXES



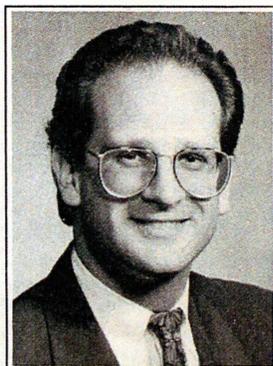
THE EWINGS



THE LEDBETTERS



THE DAVISES



JAMIESON



THE RAYS

sion treasurer and be involved in outreach ministries.

A native of Jackson, Miss., he considers Brentwood his

hometown and Brentwood Church his home church.

Ledbetter, pastor of Sylvania Church, Dickson, since 1991, and his wife were appointed to serve in the Ukraine, where he will start and develop churches and together be involved in outreach ministries.

Though natives of Mississippi and Michigan, respectively, both consider Central Church, Crossville, their home church. They have one child.

Cox and her husband, Larry, of Clinton, Miss., will serve in Germany and use their skills in CSI-related projects in developing nations.

Cox was born and reared in Memphis. They have four children.

The Rays were both born and reared in Memphis. Since 1985 he has been associate pastor of Broadway Church, Olive Branch, Miss. The Rays will serve in Belgium, where he will start and develop churches. They have a child.

Davis, who now lives in Louisville, Ky., was born and reared in Memphis. She and her husband, Ronald, will live in North Brazil, where he will teach in a seminary and together they will be involved in outreach ministries to the people there. They have two children. □

Stick around, more good may happen yet

■ one word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

For many people, survival of the Southern Baptist Convention has been an ongoing debate. Some felt that eventual death was certain, and others believe the convention has flourished.

An accurate prognosis may be that the convention will survive, but with a new face, a different way of doing things.

Actions at Orlando underscored that theory. The convention emerged from the meeting still headed in the same direction with a new face at the top, a face that winked at messengers and smiled at the outside world.

Shunning the "favorite son" presidential candidate, messengers chose Jim Henry as president over Fred Wolfe. If 51 percent is a mandate, then Henry's 55 percent margin surely must be a landslide. And a post-election drop-in planned for Wolfe, who was endorsed by former SBC presidents and favorite, was still staged with a subdued aura. Wolfe turned down a scheduled news conference and expressed surprise as did Henry at the outcome.

Henry pledged to have no active campaign. He said he asked no one to endorse him. He said he was a part of the conservative resurgence of the convention, and that his leadership would steer the SBC in the same direction.

But Henry presents a different style of leadership, a pause in a decade of hand-picked candidates. As someone coined it, he comes across as a "kinder

and gentler" leader.

Jim Henry was a longshot winner for several reasons. He did not have a campaign and his approach to the opportunity was low key. He said he was willing to serve and do his best if elected.

Henry benefited from being recognized as apolitical while adhering to conservative views. Messengers seem weary of having only one candidate for the SBC's highest elective office; sometimes there have been two but the moderate always was a definite underdog.

Henry said in a news conference that his appointees must believe in an inerrant Bible, and he said that some of those good Baptists had felt uncomfortable for a few years. He would like to invite them to come back. But he will be watched by everyone.

Lest there be some confusion here, it is evident that Henry is not talking about large numbers of moderates or members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He is seen as a president who will be conciliatory without violating principle or doctrine, and who says he wants to broaden the tent. That is a key principle to inclusion or exclusion.

Messengers' attitudes changed some because they sensed leadership that is more open and less demanding. Even the paid non-Baptist parliamentarian was needed even less than before. (This is a good time to cut that relationship).

What else happened in Orlando?

□ Henry Blackaby, Larry Lewis, Jerry Rankin led a superb missions program.

□ Following a move by the Executive Committee, messengers voted for SBC entities to refuse money coming through Cooperative Baptist Fellowship channels. The Executive Committee itself has received very little from CBF-aligned churches and though some SBC entities have received substantial sums, this cuts off that supply. Authority of trustees has been taken away in this matter. This action is tough for many Baptists.

□ True Love Waits, the Sunday School Board-sponsored sexual abstinence plan for teens, is a smashing success. The idea is being adopted worldwide by many Christian groups.

□ Though resolutions have no teeth, messengers overwhelmingly adopted one which backs dialogue with Roman Catholics in certain areas of concern. The resolution does not compromise Baptist doctrine and affirms a commitment to evangelism. Led by previous dialogue with Catholics by the Home Mission Board and Christian Life Commission, the resolution encourages unity in addressing common moral concerns.

These major actions of SBC messengers merit attention. Other events and actions will be discussed in next week's issue. Thousands of Southern Baptists have longed for a light at the end of the long tunnel of division. Time will help the assessment. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

Whistles and bells

I visited Haley's Grove Church in Crab Orchard on a Sunday a few weeks ago.

The church is 125 years old, and the people wanted to honor those who walked before them.

When the morning worship time drew near, the church bell rang out. In that big valley of the Cumberland Plateau area, I think that bell reached the hearing of many people.

I thought to myself it had done that long years ago, calling in the faithful and the drifters.

The pealing of church bells used to be the primary method of reminding folk of God's Sunday morning. I heard it in my own home church as a boy.

On the farm, we often relied on the big bell by the barn to announce "dinner time" and going-back-to-work time. And in earlier days I think it was rung to wake up the people in the morning, and to tell the distant plow hands the sun was setting.

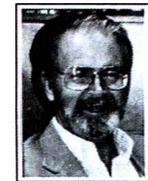
We had other ways of communicating out in the country. My father and older brothers were whistlers — so I developed a pretty good whistle myself. They also taught me to put my fists together tightly with an air space for blowing between the knuckles of the two thumbs. I can still toot a smart little tune.

The "fist horn" was used to send a message across fields or a short distance down the road. And my father used his dependable steer's horn for calling the hounds back home.

Necessity is the mother of invention, some say. The bells, horns, and whistles were born of need — we needed to send messages, to communicate.

We do it differently now, I mean send those messages, but there is still a best way to communicate to a wayfarer your love for Jesus. Tell him. Show him. Be a model. Speak a Bible truth. Become a friend.

Several in my family demonstrated joy by whistling. We could hear each other coming from a long way off. And it's for sure I learned that too. Whistling shows joy. If you really love Christ, people will know it from afar — by joy. ☺



ALLEN

Jim Henry's conservatism assessed by SBC leaders

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Reactions to Florida pastor Jim Henry's election as Southern Baptist Convention president were mixed, although all agree a conservative won.

In a sampling of current and former SBC leaders, Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church in Jacksonville, Fla.,

and a former SBC president said he was surprised by Henry's election over Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.

Vines said the margin of Henry's election, 55 to 45 percent of the votes cast, "was the most surprising thing."

Vines said he thought the low messenger turnout indicated that messengers who would

have voted for Wolfe did not attend the convention.

In a news conference Henry said he heard from many who were tired of the 15-year SBC battle and wanted to move on. Vines agreed that could have been part of the reason for Henry's election.

Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, Ark., said it was "an interesting election with two wonderful men being nominated. Both are proven men, but the convention felt Jim Henry was the man to lead us for the next year or two."

Horne also said he thought it was a sign for the convention to move on, but not necessarily a "sign of repudiation of the past reformation. I think it shows the independence of Southern Baptist people who have a great past with an anticipation for the future."

"They're ready to go on and see what is before us."

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said, "I'm not sure how to evaluate the meaning of this election in terms of factors to Henry's election. I know Jim Henry to be a solidly evangelistic pastor who will continue

the course of theological recovery which has been set by this denomination over the past 15 years.

"I look to the future with eager expectation that Jim Henry will build on this foundation (laid over the past 15 years)."

Believing both men are solid conservatives, Mohler said "one got 55 percent of the vote and the other got 45 percent. The moderates got no votes."

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and a former SBC president, agreed with Mohler and said, "It has been a wonderful day for Southern Baptists ... it's been a win/win situation with Southern Baptists the winners because of it."

Because the endorsed candidate didn't win does not signal a "fracturing of conservatives within the convention," he said.

Saying he thought it was going to be a close race, Draper said he was "surprised by the margin (of Henry's victory)" and attributed it possibly to strong nominating speeches, particularly that by Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas, who nominated Henry. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



June—

- 23 — A new ministry among a group of adolescents. Also pray for their leaders, Pedro and Eva Rodriguez, Emilio and Nirma Zapata, and missionaries Lee and Phyllis Walker.
- 24 — The unsaved people who encounter retired missionary Charles Alexander will develop a hunger for Jesus Christ in their lives.
- 25 — Area office support Hayward Armstrong's quiet time with the Lord each day as he seeks to know God's will.
- 26 — Missionary Jim Dobbins and his students in a seminary class in church administration.
- 27 — Missionary home evangelist/nurse Marilyn Graves desires not to get bogged down with jobs.
- 28 — Kate Carter, retired missionary now living in Johnson City, will continue to crave knowledge of God's Word and apply it consistently.
- 29 — Strong relationships between missionaries and nationals.

Resolutions committee ponders evangelical/Catholic document

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Southern Baptist messengers overwhelmingly adopted a resolution backing dialogue with Roman Catholics while affirming historic Baptist principles different from Catholics.

The resolution affirms a commitment to evangelism while noting some concerns expressed about the document "Evangelicals and Catholics Together," which was signed by two Southern Baptist agency heads.

The resolution follows the March 29 signing of "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the

Third Millennium" by Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis and Christian Life Commission President Richard Land.

That document recognizes both groups as Christians, addresses common moral concerns and condemns proselytizing, or "sheep stealing." It was condemned by some convention messengers as linking Southern Baptists with a group that believes in salvation by works.

One motion offered during the convention called for the convention to disavow the document. That motion was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

"I have had more flak on the field from people who are challenging our pastors," said Douglas Pilot an associational director of missions from Altoona, Penn., who spoke against the resolution. "There are a lot of people up our way who feel we've been compromised."

Messengers rejected an amendment that would have asked agency leaders not to support ecumenical statements and put the SBC on record as not endorsing this Catholic-evangelical document.

T. C. French Jr., pastor of Jefferson Church in Baton Rouge, La., said the document hurts missions efforts in predominately Catholic areas because of the way Catholics view evangelism.

"The Home Mission Board

and Louisiana Baptists have poured millions of dollars into south Louisiana," French said. "Catholics view (a statement rejecting proselytizing) as saying we will not evangelize."

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis rejected any notion that the document prevents evangelism of nominal Catholics. "I don't think the document itself ever prohibited a strong thrust to evangelize all people."

Father Frank Ruff, a field representative of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, hailed the resolution as supportive of conversations between the National Conference and the HMB's interfaith witness department, which dates back to the 1970s.

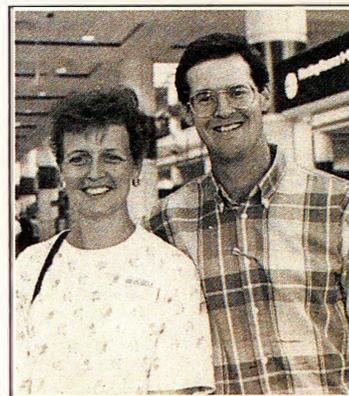
Resolutions committee chairman Tommy Lea, however, noted that the primary purpose of the document was to clarify, not endorse. "We were not primarily interested in affirming them but in clarifying for Baptists what could have been an ambiguous document."

Lea noted that Catholics and evangelicals have "found ourselves in the same foxhole" fighting abortion and pornography. While such cooperation implies a tolerance of different doctrines, it does not mean compromise, he said.

Lea noted that the resolution passed following a motion to add into the convention minutes a quote by Mother Theresa concerning abortion. □



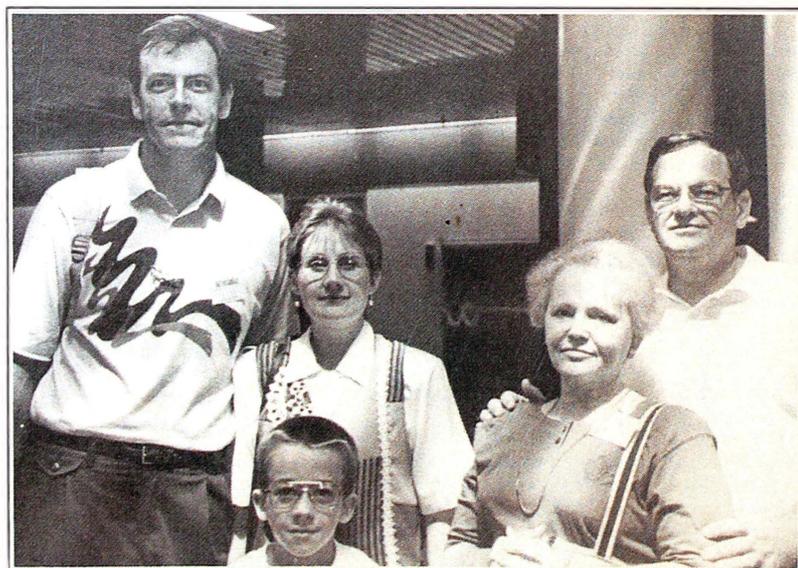
MR. AND MRS. JACK MAY, left, retired pastor and wife, Broadmoor Church, Memphis, and current pastor, Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis; and Dick Sisk, pastor, Broadmoor Church.



LEIGHANN AND TOM MCCOY of Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station, where he is pastor.



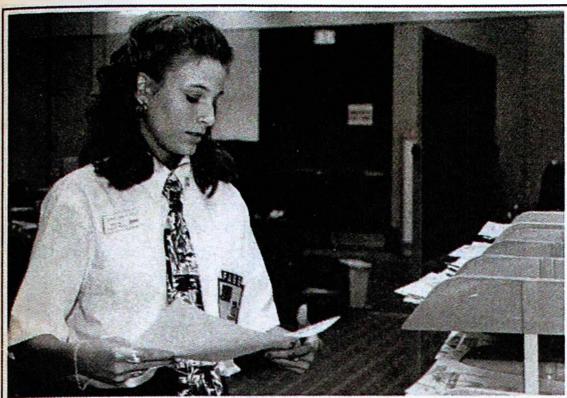
KEVIN AND KAREN GOZA of First Church, Woodbury, where he is pastor.



GREG, SUSAN, AND JONATHAN LONG, from left, Pleasant Grove Church, Maryville, where Greg is pastor, and Charles and Jean England, of Grove City, Ohio, who formerly served Grandview Church in Maryville as pastor and wife.



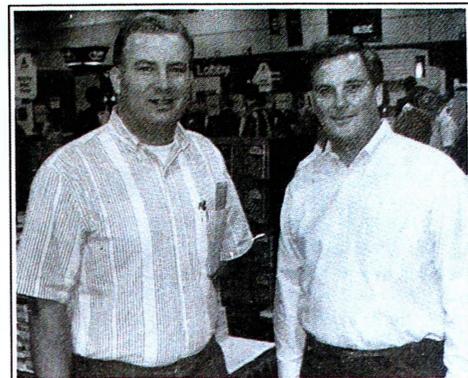
MR. AND MRS. JOHN COMPTON, left, pastor and wife of First Church, Dickson, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emmert, pastor and wife, Manley Church, Morristown.



SBC PAGE *Carrie-Ann Segraves, an Acteen from First Church, Huntingdon, works in the newsroom.*



PAGE *STEPHEN STEWART, a Royal Ambassador from Woodmont Church, Nashville, prepares hand-outs for messengers.*



PASTORS *GREG BOWERS, left, First Church, Portland, and Ernie James, First Church, Bolivar.*



FLOYD 'LAMMIE' LAMMERSFELD, left, evangelist from Gleason, and Mr. and Mrs. John Rushing, pastor and wife, North-side Church, Columbia.

Tennesseans respond

■ It was a joy to see the spirit with which our native son Jim Henry's election was accepted. We came to a Baptist meeting. — **Frank Ingraham, First Church, Franklin**

■ Dr. Ed. Young has done a marvelous job presiding. He has been exceptionally sensitive and fair. If anyone thinks Dr. Jim Henry's election is a sign the SBC is changing directions you will be mistaken. Dr. Henry is a strong conservative with a mind of his own. FBC gives a refreshingly high percentage to the Cooperative Program. He will provide exciting leadership to the SBC. — **Richard Holloman, pastor, First Church, Monterey**

■ This is one of the most convenient places the SBC has met in recent years. Dr. Young did a good job of leading us. The spirit was warm and sweet fellowship abounded. I was glad to see Dr. Henry elected as our president. He will lead us well into the future. — **Jack May, pastor, Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis**

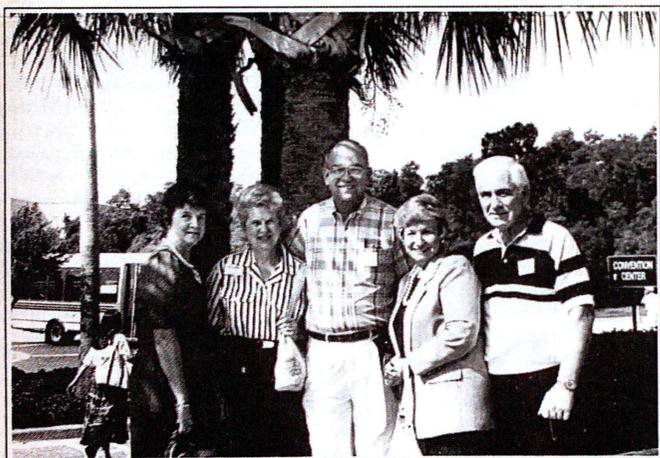
■ One of the best WMU annual meetings ever. The spirit was real and moving. We were challenged to stretch. Concerning the SBC meeting, I'm hopeful that Jim Henry's election will bring a measure of healing to the convention. Disappointed at the blatant political comments and actions. — **Ann J. Davenport, First Church, McMinnville**

■ Great presiding by Ed Young. Close votes show division on issues such as SWBTS and CBF. — **Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association**

■ A very exciting, uplifting meeting. Well attended. Most everyone I talked to feels good about our new president and the direction our convention is headed. I truly feel that the greatest days of the SBC are just ahead. — **Kerry Smith, pastor, Kingwood Church, Chattanooga**

■ Well attended; a minimal response to controversial issues; controlled by the sweet spirit of President Ed Young, with the highlight of the commissioning service on Sunday evening. — **J. Patrick Maloney, pastor, Mission Oaks Church, East Ridge**

■ The political climate of the convention overshadowed the spirit of the meetings. I was disappointed at the number of motions on the same issue. I was pleasantly surprised at the election of Rev. Henry. The WMU meeting was void of evident politics and the spirit was wonderful. — **Carolyn Outland, Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro**



MARY LOU CRUTCHER, left, of Louisville, Ky., joins the Fowlers — from left, Pat and Roy, director of missions, McMinn-Meigs Association, and Cherrie and Ray Fowler, pastor, Highland Heights Church, Memphis.



MR. AND MRS. BILL ROBBINS of Allen Church, Brownsville, where he is pastor.

Pastors hear diverse messages at conference

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — A rainbow has no more diversity of color than the 1994 SBC Pastors' Conference had in speakers, musicians, and themes. Persons attending the June 12-13 meeting heard former SBC presidents, a politician, a professor, an evangelist, a layman, a college football coach, an independent Baptist university president, and pastors from across the United States.

SBC church choirs, along with contemporary Christian musicians provided inspiration along with the sermons.

Jack Kemp, former secretary of Housing and Urban Development, cited suffering fostered by society's "moral ambiguity."

"We face a crisis deeper than crime, deeper than the economy, and much higher and bigger than political partisanship. We face a crisis of confidence in our very own ideals," said Kemp. "It is the very strip mining of our ideals which leaves men and women and particularly our children unable to believe in anything. The answer to the tears and the fears of mankind is the law and the love of God. All mankind's problems are answered in the life of a babe born in a manger."

Jerry Falwell

Jerry Falwell encouraged the pastors to give higher priority to prayer, family, and service. He cited a recent survey which indicated pastors spend less than 10 minutes daily in prayer. The pastor of Thomas Road Church and president of Liberty University, both in Lynchburg, Va., said, "Set the clock to rise earlier. Curtail late night television. Successful families don't happen by accident," Falwell said.

He criticized President Bill Clinton's stance on a number of issues, including abortion and homosexuality.

Falwell admonished listeners not to counsel, work, socialize, travel, dine, or travel alone with "any woman who is not your wife, even your secretary." He told pastors to "speak often and positively of your wife ... build your social life around her ... maintain social courtesies ... remember her tangibly on special days ... and provide for her better than yourself."

Football Coach Bobby Bowden

Introduced as "a family man of the first order," Florida State University football coach

The No. 1 killer of Baptist churches is the word tradition.

— Larry Wynn, president, Georgia convention

Bobby Bowden said when he trusted Christ he committed his life "to the service of Christ through football. I am thankful for what God has done for me."

Admitting football is a priority, Bowden emphasized, "It is not THE priority." The importance of FSU football comes after his church, family, and God, he said.

Coaching college football 42 years has taught Bowden that trust and commitment are as important in a relationship with Christ as in having a winning football program. "God doesn't need my ability," said Bowden. "He just needs my availability. I just make myself available to God and he does all the rest."

Tennessean on virgin birth

The virgin birth is crucial to the existence of Christianity as a religion, said former SBC President Adrian Rogers who is pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis.

He addressed comments about the virgin birth of Christ made recently by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leader Cecil Sherman, saying Sherman called the virgin birth "an incidental doctrine."

"I reject that with all of the emphasis, unction, and function of my soul," said Rogers as the crowd erupted in applause.

In a recent Baptist Press story, Sherman said he personally believed in the virgin birth but he may not fire a seminary professor solely on the basis of the professor's disbelief in the virgin birth.

Rogers also commented on reports that conservatives in the SBC are fractured. "Some people are just salivating, hoping that we'll disintegrate and fracture. ... Brother, I want to tell you, when you get people who believe the holy Word of God and love the holy child of God and are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, there is unity. And it goes beyond who's elected president of any convention."

Presidential contender

"The world is on fire and the flames are out of control," said Fred Wolfe, pastor of the Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala. "The flames of humanism, secularism, and liberalism have smothered our country."

The former president of the Pastors' Conference said the United States is in the same situation that Israel was in when Isaiah caught a vision of God.

"Isaiah saw the judgment of God because of Uzziah's sin, and we have seen the judgment of God on our nation's sin," Wolfe said. "The worst judgment God can give to a person is to give them up to their sin."

Wolfe said, "To know, worship, believe, and serve God is the vision all believers should have."

Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Church, Pensacola, Fla., said three simple truths are necessary to have a heart for evangelism: "a soft heart, dirty hands, and an open wallet."

Preaching from the parable of the good Samaritan, Traylor said Christians often decide whether they will serve others based on racial, economic, and religious considerations, but he said the Samaritan was concerned with none of these conditions.

Traylor said, "We've got people on both sides of the road of life, dying and dirty; the AIDS victim, the alcoholic," he said.

Advising his listeners to have "a heart for the family and leadership," Tony Evans said the Bible has answers for hurting families. "God created the family as the first institution of society."

Evans, pastor of Oakcliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, said "messed-up people make for messed-up families" that eventually result in a "messed-up world. If we want a better world, we must create a generation of better people through the church."

We are in a mess "because Christians have withdrawn from culture. We have turned it over to the sinners," said Evans. "Believers must have a heavenly perspective in a hellish environment. We must bring the Bible back to the culture" to save American families.

The greatest issue in the SBC today is "what are we going to do to win people to Jesus Christ in America and throughout the world," said Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ark.

The way to accomplish that, said Floyd, is to get ready for the "fiery" trails of Christian leadership and unashamedly stand tall for God.

Seminary professor

Standing tall was what Jesus faced at Gadara, said Calvin Miller, professor of communications and ministry studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "Jesus commanded evil spirits to come out of a demon-possessed man, and cast them into a herd of swine," said Miller.

"We're still afraid of demons. We let them define our culture for us," he said, exhorting listeners to be courageous in defining to the culture what morality is. "We need to come against our world with a strong defining witness" and quit worrying about being so "user-friendly" and showing how much "fun" church is.

Christian motivational speaker Zig Ziglar said nothing of significance happened in his life until age 45, when he came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior, even though he was baptized at age 12.

Ziglar encouraged pastors to "preach with conviction" as he looked to his years as a salesman, saying, "Selling is a transference of feeling. The pastor's product is faith in Jesus Christ."

"Everyone instinctively believes in God," stated Ziglar, yet man is in "rebellion and denial."

Reflecting on the theme, "A Heart for the Church," Larry Wynn, current president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and pastor of the Hebron Church in Dacula, Ga., said, "The greatest book ever written on church growth is the New Testament Book of Acts."

Drawing comparisons between the early church and contemporary churches, Wynn said, "The No. 1 killer of Baptist churches is the word tradition." He said the biggest battles between a pastor and the congregation "make no difference in eternity."

Honoring Criswell

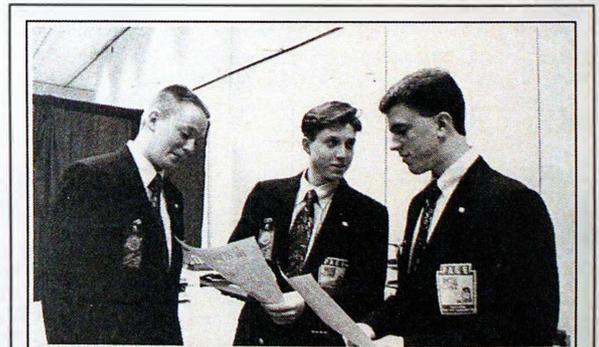
Longtime pastor of First Church, in Dallas, W. A. Criswell, was honored for his lifetime of service to Southern Baptists.

Saying no one has stood taller for the inerrancy of Scripture than Criswell, conference president and Georgia pastor Ike Reighard, called on O. S. Hawkins to lead the recognition for the octogenarian pastor.

Hawkins, current pastor of the Dallas church, recalled Criswell's address to the 1985 pastors' conference, a message entitled "The Curse of Liberalism."

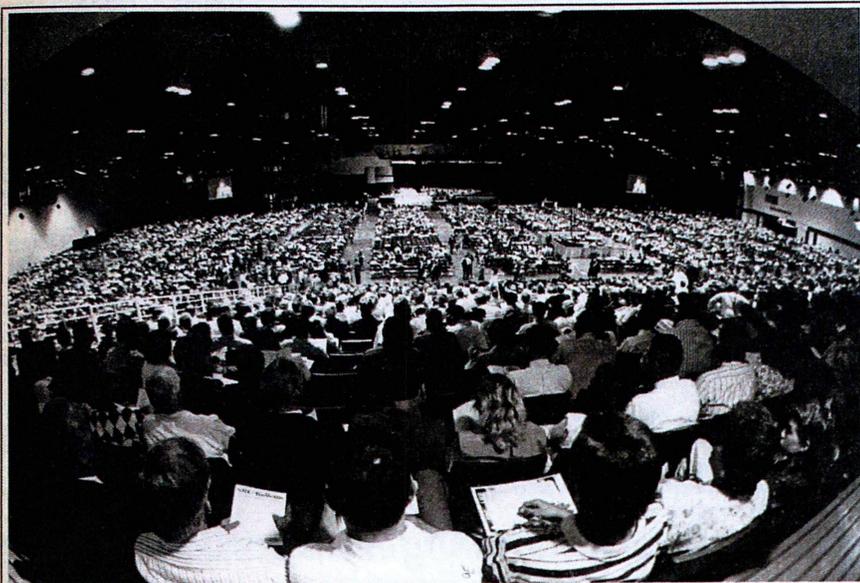
Others addressing the conference were Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church in Atlanta; James Merritt, pastor, First Church, Snellville, Ga.; Jay Strack, evangelist from Dallas; Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Rick Stanley, an evangelist from Fayetteville, Ga.; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga.; Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; John Maxwell, pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church, San Diego; Lt. Clebe McClary of Pawley's Island, S.C.

Officers for the conference are James Merritt, president; David McKinley, pastor of First Church, Merritt Island, Fla., vice president; and Lee Mabry, pastor, Fortified Hills Church, Smyrna, Ga., secretary/treasurer. □



SBC Pages

Tennessean Jason Roy, left, 14, of First Church, Sweetwater, talks with Wes Butler, center, of Texas, and Chris Choate of Marion, Ill. The pages, who earn the position through the Royal Ambassador and Acteen missions programs in churches, served during the convention in Orlando.



CLOSE TO 20,000 MESSENGERS from across the nation converged on the Orange County Convention/Civic Center for the three-day annual Southern Baptist Convention, which last met in Florida in 1975.

Motions included -

- **Mike Mitchell (Chattanooga, Tenn.)** — That the SBC direct its entities to maintain fidelity to the convention and to decline to receive funds channeled through the CBF or any other body or funding group which competes with the Cooperative Program. (See page 3)
 - **Craig Kendall (Colo.)** — That this convention instruct all of the convention's agencies not to receive funds from or cooperate with any organization which competes with the Cooperative Program. (See page 3)
 - **Richard Lazor (Hawaii)** — That the convention instruct the entities of the convention to refuse to cooperate with or accept funds from organizations which compete with the Cooperative Program. (See page 3)
 - **Wayne Dorsett (Ala.)** — That Mother Theresa's quotation on abortion be read into the official minutes of the 1994 SBC. (passed)
 - **Cecil Sims (Ore.)** — That this convention request the resignation of the three officers of the board of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. (See page 3)
 - **Dan Robinson (S.C.)** — That this convention institute disciplinary action against the officers of the trustees of SWBTS through a committee to be appointed by the president of the convention elected in 1994. (See page 3)
 - **Randy Robertson (Okla.)** — That the 1994 SBC affirm and commend the trustees of SWBTS and affirm the convention's time-honored trustee system. (See page 3)
- Referred because deal with internal operations or programs of an agency —**
To the Home Mission Board and the Christian Life Commission —
- **Robert Good (Miss.)** — That the agreement on evangelicals and Catholics signed by Richard Land and Larry Lewis be recanted, and no such future document be signed without convention approval. *To the Brotherhood Commission —*
 - **David Prather (Ohio)** — That the Brotherhood Commission encourage men to become involved in Promise Keepers ministry. *To all SBC Seminaries —*
 - **Tony Darnell (Mo.)** — That Southern Baptist seminary students who are members of churches

which decline to donate to the Cooperative Program receive no CP funds for underwriting their seminary education.

Referred because in nature of resolution —

- **Gary Dull (Fla.)** — That the agreement on evangelicals and Catholics signed by Richard Land and Larry Lewis be renounced by the 1994 SBC on the basis of biblical and theological compromise.

Referred to Executive Committee because deal with bylaws, constitution, or budget —

- **Carrol Johnson (Texas)** — That Article 9 of the SBC constitution be amended with regard to the qualifications of missionaries on issues regarding the authority of the Bible.
- **David Baker (Mo.)** — That the SBC create a standing committee to act as a liaison with schools operated by cooperating Southern Baptist churches.
- **Wayne Harrison (Va.)** — That the Executive Committee of the SBC find a way to let churches which do not send to the convention all of the messengers to which they are entitled to vote on officers of the convention.
- **Clyde Glazener (Texas)** — That SBC Bylaw 21 be amended to provide for two members from each qualified state and the District of Columbia to be appointed from their areas by the president of their respective state convention.
- **Larry Blackmon (Texas)** — That Article 6 of the SBC constitution be amended to provide for the removal of trustees elected by the convention, by majority vote of any convention.
- **Richard Tribble Jr. (Ill.)** — That a committee composed of the presidents of the state conventions be formed to review and update the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

Ruled out of order, in conflict with bylaws —

- **Robert Lutz (Fla.)** — That beginning in 1995, all candidates for national SBC offices publish a short statement of faith addressing issues including truth of Bible, abortion, homosexuals, and female pastors.

First, Memphis, votes to establish 'sister' church

MEMPHIS — Members of First Church, Memphis, voted June 19 to establish a sister church with a separate name in east Memphis (Cordova).

First Church Pastor Earl C. Davis will move to the new congregation as its full-time pastor. The vote was 504-255, according to *The Commercial Appeal*, a daily newspaper in Memphis.

The move ended years of debate over whether to have "one church in two locations."

Under a recommendation presented by an ad-hoc committee of deacons of First Church, a previous decision to have one church in two locations was rescinded.

The recommendation stipulated First Church would donate its property at Trinity and Sanga roads, along with associated planning documents, to the sister church. "The ownership of the property would be transferred to trustees of the sister church and the new church would as-

sume responsibility for the associated indebtedness, which is approximately \$40,000, thus releasing First Church of this financial liability," according to the recommendation.

The recommendation also provided for the "personal transition of Dr. Davis, and that of the sister church" as well as allowing for "collaboration" between the two churches in areas such as "use of the Sanga/Trinity property by FBC for recreational purposes, utilization of FBC facilities by the sister church for weddings, special events, etc., and utilization of FBC literature, hymnals, and other properties by the sister church during the early stages of its development."

Davis' final day of employment at First Church will be July 17. The initiation of services and programs at the sister church will be July 24. The new church plans to begin building this year. □

Carson-Newman to hold 65th annual preachers' school

The 65th annual Carson Newman College Preachers' School will be June 27 through July 1 on the campus.

The school isn't limited to those preparing or involved in full-time ministry, but is open to wives and children of ministers.

Serving as "preacher of the week" for the school is evangelist Junior Hill of Alabama.

Teachers include William Blevins, professor of religion, who will speak from his book,

Your Family — Your Self; Truman Brown, a consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Joyce Heiss, retired missionary, and David Howell, assistant professor of religion, who will preview the January Bible Study topic, Galatians.

Gene Riley, staff evangelist at Saginaw Valley Church, Saginaw, Mich., will lead sessions on music evangelism.

For registration information call (615) 471-3245. Financial aid is available. □

Churches celebrate 100-plus years

Three Tennessee Baptist churches will celebrate significant anniversaries June 26.

First Church, New Tazewell, will observe its centennial with guest speaker Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Observing 125th anniversaries are First Church, Rutherford, and Pleasant Grove Church, New Market. □

Retired East Tennessee pastor dies

Floyd E. Harlow, 77, of Mosheim died May 12 at Life Care Center of Greeneville.

Harlow was a graduate of Carson-Newman College and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He was a former pastor of Brown Springs Church, Mosheim, Rutledge Church, Rutledge, Prospect Church, Loudon, and various others.

Harlow was retired and was a member of First Church, Greeneville. □

Wolfe surprised at election loss; expresses support of Henry

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

ORLANDO — Losing Southern Baptist Convention presidential candidate Fred Wolfe said he was surprised at the outcome of his June 14 loss in a much-publicized contest with Jim Henry of Florida.

In a telephone interview after the election, Wolfe told Baptist Press he thought the

election would be close but that "we had a chance of winning."

Wolfe received 8,023 votes (44.82 percent) to Henry's 9,876 (55.18 percent).

Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., said he really did not know what made the difference in the election.

"I would have to see how large the Florida vote was. That could have made a differ-



WOLFE

ence," Wolfe said. "I know a lot of people from other states came and voted for me," he said. The election was held in Orlando, where Henry is pastor of First Church.

Regarding Cooperative Program giving to SBC ministries, Wolfe said CP giving in past presidential elections had not been a deciding factor, noting candidates had lost whose church gave more to the CP than the winning candidate.

Last year, First Church, Orlando, forwarded 14 percent of its undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Pro-

gram and has led the convention the past three years.

On the other hand, Cottage Hill's CP giving the past few years has been under 5 percent, according to records from the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Wolfe, however, had made a commitment to increase the church's CP giving by one-half percent per year.

"Jim's CP giving helped him a great deal, but I don't think it was a deciding factor," he said.

When asked if he thought the election signaled Southern Baptists were ready for a change in leadership, Wolfe said that could be read into it.

"Only the messengers know," he said.

Wolfe was publicly endorsed for the presidency by several former SBC presidents.

Wolfe was gracious toward Henry.

"I have great love and admiration for Jim Henry. I'm praying for him that he will do an outstanding job as our president," he said, noting he would "do everything I can to help him be successful as president."

The day following the election Wolfe was re-elected chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. □

Election of Henry sends message to world, Graham says

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — The election of Jim Henry June 14 as president of the Southern Baptist Convention sends a positive message to the world, according to the man who nominated Henry for the post.

Jim Henry embodies the very best of what Southern Baptists are about, said Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas.

Henry defeated Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe by a 9,876 to 8,023 vote.

Graham said he was overwhelmed by the confidence the messengers expressed in Henry.

"In these critical times Jim Henry sends a beautiful, balanced message of grace and truth to the world," Graham said.

Henry's victory over Wolfe, who was publicly endorsed by several former SBC presidents, was not "a referendum on the past or past presidents," Graham said.

"This is just a clear signal regarding our future." □

Chapman urges CP support; messengers approve budget

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Southern Baptist Convention messengers approved the 1994-95 Southern Baptist program allocation budget of \$136,539,730 during the opening session of the 137th annual meeting of the SBC.

In action taken during the report of the SBC Executive Committee, Southern Baptists also adopted a challenge goal of \$150 million in honor of the SBC's sesquicentennial anniversary in 1995.

Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, urged Southern Baptists

to support the Cooperative Program, a missions and ministry funding plan that has served Southern Baptists well since 1925, he said.

Noting that since its beginning the Cooperative Program has been a partnership with the SBC and Baptist state conventions, Chapman said, "The Executive Committee is steadfastly loyal to that partnership with state conventions."

He reminded messengers that the Cooperative Program has a "strong accountability factor" because it is approved at three levels — the local

church, the state convention, and the SBC — before those dollars are spent.

He urged messengers to continue supporting "that partnership between the SBC and state conventions, fueled by gifts from God's people to God's work."

Chapman told messengers that in their pre-convention meeting June 12 the Executive Committee had voted not to accept funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptist moderates not in sympathy with current SBC lead-

ership, effective Sept. 30.

Though Chapman did not tell messengers the amount the Executive Committee would lose, Vice President for Business and Finance Jack Wilkerson earlier told Baptist Press the Executive Committee has received about \$700 year-to-date in Cooperative Program-designated funds from CBF. The Executive Committee's portion of that is about \$15.

In separate action later in the convention, messengers voted for all agencies to refuse CBF funds. □

Classified

ORGANIST: Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, is seeking a bivocational organist. Please send all resumes to Evelyn Larson, 308 Overhill Dr., Old Hickory, Tenn., 37138.

WANTED: Minister of Music and Youth. Send resume to Jimmy Vise, chairman of the search committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 67, Parsons, Tenn., 38363.

STAFFERS NEEDED: Range Hills Church, 2741 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, Tenn., 38127, is seeking a part-time minister of music and a part-time minister of youth. Send music resumes to the attention of Fred Jones and the youth resumes to the attention of Youth Minister Search Committee.

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■ Sunday School lesson commentary

□ Jesus' appearance in Galilee — Bible Book Series for June 26

By Brent Seals, pastor, First Church, Elizabethton

How many times have you wanted to hang a "gone fishing" sign on your door? Maybe when the pressures of parenting or work build and you feel trapped. The disciples took the day off and went fishing. The ministry for all practical purposes had shut down. Yes, the resurrection brought a flurry of renewed optimism, but it also raised a number of questions they had no answers for — like, "Now what?"

John 21 is an epilogue to this Gospel. The opening event, an all night fishing expedition, is a living parable of how the risen Lord relates to his servants as they toil in the world. At the time the disciples had no idea that they were actors in a spiritual drama. But when it was over and as the days passed, given an opportunity for reflecting, they knew.

Working and learning — vv. 1-14

As usual, Peter's inability to sit still helped create the scene. When Peter blurted out, "I'm

going fishing" the others followed. Though they fished all night they caught nothing. Those men were a microcosm of the church toiling in a restless world. Some realities important to our spiritual lives stand out.

(1) At the heart of who we are to be is fishing or in biblical terms evangelism. (2) This is hard work and we should remember that Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

When the master appeared and questioned their success, they had to acknowledge their failure. Failure is not all bad when we use it to assess our past methods to see if we have done right or wrong.

Malcolm Muggeridge says, "Christianity, from Golgatha onward, has been the sanctification of failure." Our failures bring us face to face with the weaknesses and inadequacies that lie within us, so that God's strength is made perfect in weakness. Jesus knew they had caught no fish. When they

Focal Passages John 21:1-25

admitted failure he could help them. So it is with us. When we trust Christ and do as he says, it is he who gives the increase.

Restoration — vv. 15-17

What a picture! The risen Lord serving breakfast to his disciples. Yet things were not the same as they had been before. There was little conversation that morning. The disciples were awkwardly silent as they sat huddled around the fire, gazing timidly at their Lord. When breakfast was finished Jesus spoke to Peter. "Simon do you love me more than these?" (v. 15) Peter's heart must have been pounding wildly and stomach was surely upset. The Lord was really saying, "Peter after all that has happened, can you truly say you love me and you love me more than these other disciples do?" Peter had to think back to two weeks before in the Upper Room when he boldly pro-

claimed, "Lord, I will lay down my life for you" (ch. 13:36-37). The pains of humiliation pierced his heart as he remembered three times denying the Lord. Jesus was asking Peter do you love me with an **agape** love — a sacrificial love. Peter could only answer that he loved the Lord with a **philia** love — affection or friendship kind of love. Friendship love is wonderful, but not enough.

In Jesus' first question, he challenged the superiority of Peter's love. In the second question, he challenged whether Peter had any love at all. And in his final question, he challenged Peter's claim to affectionate love. Jesus recognizing Peter's presumptions about himself were gone forever said to him, "Tend my sheep."

Love — vv. 18-19

As the restoration was accomplished in the sight of all, they understood their Lord had planned this setting. Peter's denials were before a charcoal

fire and now his confessions were before a charcoal fire. There are three denials, and now three confessions, as well as three commissions. This is significant because it was custom in the Near East to say something three times in order to solemnize it.

Through Peter Jesus was saying to us all that the greatest priority in life is to love God. (Matthew 22:27-38). It is all too easy in the following of Jesus to put the priority on service. Techniques, methods, and power can all too easily become our primary focus.

Service — vv. 19-23

Whether we die young in service to our Lord or live to be an old Saint, the call is the same to all, "follow me." We too stand on our own shore and hear him speak the same words to us, "Do you love me?", "feed my sheep" and "follow me." □

□ God brings victory — Convention Uniform Series for June 26

By Mike Thrower, pastor, Brunswick Church, Brunswick

The events recorded in the first 12 chapters of Exodus speak only to the beginning of God's dealings with the Hebrews as a people. It is in the wilderness that the nation is really born. Immediately after their release a crisis arises that will try their faith.

The direction — ch. 13:17-22

From the very beginning God was there to provide direction to the people. Rather than lead them by the shortest route to the land of Canaan, God directed them along a more circuitous way. This was in part defensive. Those who would keep them in Egypt and those who would defend the promised land against them would be massed along the shortest route. The Hebrews were not ready to fight a battle, so God took them another way.

Even more importantly, they had not learned to trust the Lord

Focal Passage Exodus 13:17—14:31

completely. They needed the time in the wilderness to learn how to be a nation and how to be a people of God. This was truly the honeymoon of their relationship where they learned of one another.

God gave this direction clearly through a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. In this initial stage of obedience all that was necessary was to follow the pillar around and stop when it did. God was leading them according to their ability to respond.

A parenthesis mentions the bones of Joseph. He had requested that the people carry his bones back to the promised land (Genesis 50:25) as they had carried the body of Jacob back. The fulfillment of this promise is recorded in Joshua 24:32.

Joseph and Jacob are the only two men the Bible tells of being embalmed, both in order to be returned to the land promised by God.

The dilemma — ch. 14:1-20

God is ready to test the people. He has them camp while He prepares to punish Pharaoh. Pharaoh decides that he was wrong to let the people go. He sends his army, horses, and chariots to recapture the Hebrews. They overtake them at the camp by the sea.

Perhaps you have been in a spot where you felt like you were between the devil and the deep blue sea. The Hebrews were literally between the Pharaoh and the Red Sea. This was their dilemma. The test was deciding what to do.

The people wanted to go back to Egypt (v. 12). They preferred the security of slavery for they did not yet see with eyes of faith.

Moses was more mature in his faith. He said "Stand by and see," (v. 13). He knew God could deliver them.

But God desired an even greater act of faith. He said "Go forward," (v. 15). His challenge was to trust him to take them across the sea. Moses was to stretch his hand out over the sea and the Lord would divide the waters for them.

Will Moses obey? Will the people trust the water to remain divided as they cross? God is testing both leader and people. It is time to begin to teach them of his power and of their need to trust him.

The deliverance — vv. 21-31

Moses believes and obeys. The Lord of the world sends a strong east wind that divides the waters at that exact moment. The waters form two walls with a dry path between. The sons of Israel pass through in safety.

For the Egyptians however there is judgment. As they follow the Israelites across the seabed, God causes their chariots to swerve and confusion to come. He tells Moses to once again stretch out his hand over the sea. And at that moment, for God desires that all understand this is happening at his direction, the waters return to their normal place. The Egyptian army is destroyed.

The first lesson of many has been given. God is in control. He will bring deliverance. But there must be trust and obedience on the part of the people.

The same truth applies today. God is willing and able to meet our needs. But we must believe in him and obey him as he leads us. □

□ Living with hope — Life and Work Series for June 26

By Tommy Stevens, Meadow View Church, Lawrenceburg

Living through Hurricane Camille was one of the most frightening experiences of our lives. The storm devastated the Gulf Coast and caused billions of dollars in damage, to say nothing of the loss of human lives. Yet in the eye of the storm, small birds fly safely for thousands of miles. The world always storms around us, but we live safely in the eye of the storm as we dwell in Christ Jesus.

Hope in his glory — ch. 2:18-20

Americans, like Judah, have made idols to call on for salvation. We do not make carved stones or wood. We are much more sophisticated for that. Our idols are just as powerless. They

are things like money, power, luxury, popularity, or even our own selves. People do not see the glory of God because they are blinded by their own spiritual darkness. But God has not abandoned the throne of the universe and he has not abandoned those who trust in him.

Hope in his mercy — ch. 3:1-2

Did you get paddled as a child? You wondered if mom or dad hated you. You wondered if they would ever love you again. Then they took you into their arms and poured out their love. Habakkuk had been reproved by God. He must have felt like the little child you were. After learning of his own acceptance, he

became concerned with the people around him. Genuine revival always becomes an evangelistic effort. When we get right with God, we become concerned about what concerns God. He is concerned with the salvation of the souls of men and women.

Hope in his faithfulness — v. 16

Bravery is only fear that has said its prayers. Habakkuk knew the coming wrath of God upon Judah. Even in the midst of such trouble, there was a peace that passes understanding. When we look at the circumstances of our lives, they may look like disjointed happenings occurring by chance. When you look at a section of

Focal Passages Habakkuk 2:18 — 3:19

certain line drawing, it also looks randomly made. But when you look at the whole work, you see the figure that comes from those lines.

God sees the whole picture of our lives and their intertwining with other lives whose lives are intertwined with still other lives. The figure that he is forming is the perfect Kingdom of God and our lives are but a small segment of the whole. When we see an activity as a small part of the whole of our lives, we can better trust God in His faithfulness to make our lives fulfilling.

Hope in his joy — vv. 17-29
Habakkuk experienced a complete reversal of his attitude. When he complained about every problem that arose he was miserable. But now he has changed his focus from the circumstances and his own misery to the face of God. His joy is no longer founded on circumstances, but on a relationship with God. We are called to rejoice, not because of all things, but in all things. We have joy because we have a great God, and Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen. □

Musicians encourage unity in convention

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Voicing concern about denominational division, speakers addressing the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference called for a halt to denominational squabbling which has characterized the SBC for more than 15 years.

Dan Yeary, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, said divided Southern Baptists "desperately need each other. I am concerned about the denomination which spawned me, encouraged me, and equipped me, and which now finds itself deeply divided."

Addressing more than 200 church musicians, **Mark Blankenship, president of SBCMC from Nashville**, called on Southern Baptists to be "Together in Jesus," the theme of the conference. "The world ought to recognize us (Southern Baptists) because of our love (for one another). We also ought to live in harmony because of our love (for one another)," he said.

He called on Southern Baptists to create "positive bonds" in the middle of denominational controversy. To help the controversy end, Blankenship called on Southern Baptists to "avoid being manipulative, judgmental, argumentative, presumptuous, and prejudicial." Instead, he called on Southern Baptists to "practice patience, joy, honesty, gentleness, love, flexibility, purity, peace, friendliness, gratitude, and encouragement."

Yeary also said we all like to be on the "cutting edge," but instead "find ourselves jumping out of a plane without a parachute" when confronted with situations which are difficult to grasp and with questions which are difficult to answer.

The Hines Sims Award, given annually for outstanding service in the area of church

music, was bestowed on James McKinney, retiring dean of the school of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. His wife, Elizabeth, was named an honorary member.

Officers of the group for 1994-95 include president, **Blankenship** of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and secretary-treasurer, **Louis Ball of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.** □

Campolo warns educators against reinventing Jesus

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Sociologist Tony Campolo asked participants at the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting in Orlando to what degree American Christians transform Jesus into a collection of their own traits and values.

"What comes across," he suggested, "is not the biblical Jesus, but a white Anglo Saxon Republican."

Campolo, a professor at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., offered an analysis of the subtle changes he believes have been made in the biblical Jesus. It has a great deal to do with money, he said.

Christians have changed the hymn book to "10 percent to Jesus I surrender," Campolo said. "If Jesus had 60,000 bucks and knew that people were starving," what would he do? Campolo asked. He said that the Bible has more than 900 verses that say to sell what you have and give it to the poor.

"You could see that a person without seminary education might think that's what Jesus meant. All you have to do is not put wealth in front of God," he said. "Fortunately," added Campolo, "we can create a new Jesus that allows us to maintain our wealth and power."



JOHN MCBRIDE, left, director of missions, Shelby County Association, pauses during the pre-convention meeting of the directors, in which he spoke. He is pictured with his wife, Lynn, and Bill Smith, director of missions, Western District Association. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

Campolo quoted the Lord as saying that at the judgment some professing Jesus will be told, "I don't know you." He suggested that will happen "because maybe the Jesus they were serving and worshiping is not the real Jesus at all."

Newly elected officers of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association include **Carolyn Jenkins, minister to youth/college at First Church, Nashville, president-elect, 1994-95.** □

DOMs receive racism statement

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — More than 350 Southern Baptist directors of missions attending their annual meeting in Orlando were presented with copies of a document urging the SBC to reject racism and "publicly repent and apologize to all persons of African descent for condoning and perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime."

Called a "Declaration of Repentance," the document is the result of a meeting of 15 directors of missions and ministers from large urban areas in Atlanta last October. Members of a Race Reconciliation Task Force that drafted the document passed out copies of the declaration to the DOMs during the 33rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions. However, the task force missed an opportunity to address the DOM gathering when they failed to appear for their scheduled five-minute time slot during the program.

Ignatius Meimaris, executive director for Greater Boston Baptist Association, said the association had many black churches interested in "hooking up" with Southern Baptists in some way, and it wants to develop church plants that will reach African Ameri-

cans. The passage of the declaration will show them Southern Baptists "are concerned about the issue of racism and definitely give us more legitimacy," he said. The task force also hopes the resolution will be presented for adoption in state convention annual meetings.

John McBride of Shelby County Baptist Association spoke to the group and said the key to being an effective manager is to "make sure you are identifying with what God is doing in the association."

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, told the group that the SBC's goal for Bold Mission Thrust, reaching everyone in the world with the Gospel message by the year 2000, can still be accomplished. □

African Americans call for inclusion

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — Although still struggling with the role of their organization, Southern Baptist African Americans were challenged to close ranks and work together for more inclusiveness within the denomination.

The African American Fellowship drew nearly 300 for its June 12 worship service at Tangelo Park Church in Orlando and 110 to its fellowship luncheon and business session at an Orlando hotel June 13.

Noting that "some of us have been trying for 20 years," fellowship president Joe Ratliff, pastor of the Brentwood Church in Houston, said "I am not convinced the convention is ready to be inclusive."

One or two African Americans serving on SBC committees will not make much of an impact, Ratliff said.

When discussing participation in the SBC Pastors' Conference, Ratliff added, "We're

not trying to get up a separate pastors' conference. We just want to be a part of the Pastors' Conference. We want to be part of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Telling his audience that the SBC is a great instrument, he admonished them to "use that which God has given us."

The officers reported that the steering committee had met with the chief executive officers of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and Christian Life Commission. "We've been able to raise questions and say that we are present. We are not to be ignored," said Ratliff. "They have been responsive and we will wait to see application and implementation of what we have discussed." □

Hispanic fellowship holds 7th celebration

Baptist Press

ORLANDO — The National Southern Baptist Hispanic Fellowship met June 11-12 at First Church of Pine Hills, Fla., with total attendance for both days exceeding 1,300, encompassing messengers from 17 states.

The 7th annual Hispanic Celebration started with Cross Over and telemarketing evangelistic events on Saturday morning.

"Hispanic participation during these events was promoted by the Hispanic leadership," said Rudy Hernandez, president of the SBC Hispanic Fellowship. "This was our first attempt to promote Cross Over participation as a fellowship. ... The results were very encouraging and we've learned a lot that will help us to involve and deploy Hispanics more effectively next year in Atlanta."

The Saturday afternoon seminars led by Hispanic leaders Daniel Sacher, David D'Amico, Rose Zamora, Edwin Torres, and Geriel DeOliveira attracted more than 300 participants. The seminars were followed by a complimentary appreciation meal for ministers and their wives, organized by J. V. Thomas, director of the SBC Home Mission Board's Key Church Program.

The Saturday evening session featured a musical celebration highlighting Hispanic talent from Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and others from the 20 Hispanic nationalities representing the growing Hispanic diversity within the SBC.

A new magazine for Hispanic Southern Baptists, *La Voz de Los Bautistas*, began publication this summer. □



ENJOYING THE DOM MEETING were Bob and Ruth Polk, left, of Watauga Association and Herbert and Mary Lou Higdon of Madison-Chester and Crockett Association.