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September 30, 1970

Baptist VIEWpoll
 Martin B. Bradley, Director

No Consensus of Baptist Leaders
 On Reorganizing Annual SBC Meeting

by Kenneth Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)--In the Baptist VIEWpoll's latest survey, a representative panel of pastors and Sunday School teachers failed to agree on suggestions for reorganizing the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Responding to indications that some are dissatisfied with the convention's annual meeting as it is now structured, VIEWpoll posed this question to the representative panel: "The suggestion has been made that the large annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting has become unworkable because of size and complexity. Several suggestions for reorganization have been offered. Please indicate the one suggestion...which seems most practical to you." Six alternatives were listed from which one choice was made.

The largest portion of pastors 31.0 per cent felt that "a further limiting of the number of messengers" was the best solution suggested, but only 20.5 per cent of the teachers liked this suggestion.

The largest portion of teachers 32.9 per cent countered that the "election of representatives from various states to conduct convention business" appealed most to them. However, only 8.0 per cent of the pastors liked this suggestion.

"A general meeting every other year" was found to be attractive to 12.9 per cent of the pastors and 10.7 per cent of the teachers.

The suggestion that "a convention of simultaneous state meetings connected by closed circuit television be held" had little appeal for 6.9 per cent of pastors and 8.9 per cent of teachers.

"None of the above suggestions seem practical" to 17.8 per cent of the pastors and 5.2 per cent of the Sunday School teachers.

The fact that 23.4 per cent of the pastors and 21.8 per cent of the teachers would express no opinion on the matter of reorganization would tend to indicate either a reluctance to reveal their true feelings, a lack of prior consideration of or desire for reorganization or inability to know how to constructively deal with the situation.

Write-in suggestions for reorganization included regional meetings only, regional meetings with periodic general conventions and seating of messengers only.

Current VIEWpoll findings are based on 92 per cent response of the panel members.

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Baptist Worker's Son Killed
 Playing With Hand Grenade

9/30/70

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--The 11-year-old son of a Baptist associational missions worker was killed along with two companions when a hand grenade the boys were playing with exploded.

David Crawford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Crawford, died four days after the explosion. His two companions, Ricky Leamon and Bobby Ewing, both 13, were killed instantly.

Crawford is associational superintendent of missions for the Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association here.

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The accident occurred on young Leamon's 13th birthday. He had invited David and Bobby to his home to play with a football he received as a birthday present.

When one of the boys kicked the football over a fence into a neighbor's back yard, they found not only the football but a round box containing some military hand grenades.

They took one of the grenades, called a M-26, back into the Leamon's yard where it exploded.

Police later reportedly found 36 more grenades buried in the neighbor's yard.

Funeral services for Crawford were held Oct. 1 at Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to a David Crawford Memorial Fund for missions set up by the Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association.

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Spanish-Speaking Baptists
Advise Publishing House

9/30/70

EL PASO, Tex. (BP)--A 45-member advisory committee spent the last ten days of September in study sessions at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House here.

Committee members are from 13 national Baptist bodies in Latin America, from Spain and from the publishing house itself. They are pastors, bookstore managers, convention administrative officers, theological teachers and leaders in women's work.

Seventeen are Southern Baptist missionaries serving under its Foreign Mission Board which operates the El Paso facility.

The committee meeting--the second in the institution's 65-year history was convened to study the literature it produces for use in Spanish-speaking countries of the world. The sessions provided a place for the exchange of information, views and expertise to help the publishing house evaluate its materials.

Also it is expected that when the advisory committee members return to their own countries they will be better able to encourage the use of literature in the work of establishing churches and equipping the members for witness and ministry.

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