



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
120 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2455
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Features Editor

June 11, 1974

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234
Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

Carolyn Weatherford Sees
Bright WMU Future

By Bonita Sparrow

DALLAS (BP)--That old Woman's Missionary Union image of women concerned about China's starving children but not too bothered about their own community problems is outdated.

Today's woman is actively involved in her world, not as a do-gooder but as a minister and witness to people. She's sensitive to political issues and changing conditions and is interested in helping society's victims.

That description comes from Miss Carolyn Weatherford of Jacksonville, Fla., who was named here to succeed Miss Alma Hunt as executive secretary of the 1.2 million member WMU. She assumes her duties October 5 when Miss Hunt retires after 26 years.

The new executive secretary is a soft-spoken woman with an easy smile and a warm personality. She has the ability to make immediate, warm friends out of total strangers.

"I started out as a Sunbeam and never in all the days I was a GA and YWAer did I ever in my wildest imaginations see myself walking in the footprints of people like Annie Armstrong, Catherine Mallory and Alma Hunt.

"I was happy as Florida's state WMU director and fully expected to be there until I retired."

She approaches her new duties with high enthusiasm. "I think WMU has a great future. In recent years there's every indication that this is a healthy organization and in important one--not only to women in the church, but to the church mission program itself.

"I don't expect to go in and make sweeping changes. I think our organization at the convention level has been very innovative and creative, but that creativity has not always filtered through to the churches.

"Some changes have already been made. More emphasis is being placed on evangelism, for instance. And working women will bring changes to WMU.

"The working woman is probably more sensitive to issues and ways she can be influential in changing conditions through politics--and that's mission action. As more women have more money to give, they can take an active financial role in missions. The working woman has more opportunities to express herself, to learn about voting intelligently.

"One of the phases of the old community missions concept was the Christian use of the ballot. In recent years we haven't given much thought to the ballot, and I think that needs to be re-emphasized. Much of what we are dealing with in our mission action program is a result of our failure to legislate."

But the emphasis on involving women in local missions will not be at the expense of world missions, Miss Weatherford indicated.

"Missions is missions," she said firmly. "A woman concerned about meeting missions needs on a local level is going to be concerned about meeting missions needs in Japan, too."

Although Miss Weatherford in no way considers herself a feminist, she is concerned about women's rights and has been speaking to it positively as an individual.

"I've tried to make women sensitive to their worth as individuals, and I think WMU must do more to help women realize their own personal worth and the worth of other women.

"I see discrimination against women as an overall part of discrimination against races, minorities, religions. I think we should be doing more as an organization to affirm the worth of the individual.

"Actually," she pointed out, "the Christian woman doesn't have to be liberated because in Christ she is already liberated. It's a matter of finding out what He's liberated us for."

"But when I encounter a woman who is limited in business because of her sex, or when I am asked to speak in a Baptist pulpit and at the close of the service a deacon rebukes me for speaking because I am a woman, I realize that, really, people can keep you from recognizing what Christ has liberated you for."

Miss Weatherford considers herself a goal-oriented person rather than a flaming crusader, and she expects to approach her new duties "slowly."

"I believe that we have already laid the foundation for change in WMU and now we must discover methods of getting to the grass roots and implementing those changes.

"The career woman, the working wife, the mother of small children all have a stake in WMU. It's the only organization in the church that gives women a continuous source of information about what's happening in the world through missions and allows the average woman to actively participate through prayer and giving.

"WMU helps her be a better mother because she can set a creative environment for her children. Then if they are called to missions, they will know what the Lord is talking about."

Miss Weatherford has been in love with missions for a long time.

"I was a mission volunteer but there was a health problem." After graduating from Florida State University in 1951 she served as a high school librarian before going to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. There she worked with young people as a Baptist Student Union director and thought her interests lay in that direction.

"But I hadn't reckoned with the Lord, or with Miss Mary Essie Stevens of the Alabama WMU," she said. "She was my real instructor in WMU work. I've been in it for 16 years now and have loved every minute of it."

It was only recently that Miss Weatherford realized how her parents' concern for missions had directed her life.

"We visited our old homeplace in Mississippi where I was born (at House, between Meridian and Philadelphia) and attended the church they had attended in the early 1900's. They told me the church had split over the questions of missions and they had elected to stay with the group of Missionary Baptists.

"That was long before they were even married but now, years later, I have an opportunity to put their mission beliefs into actions. It's an exciting prospect."

J. D. Grey Says Pastors
Should Keep Their Pay

DALLAS (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention President J. D. Grey of New Orleans said here he hopes pastors will continue to keep their income and won't face a cut in salary.

In his address to 8,000 attending the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference at Dallas Convention Center here, Grey, retired pastor of New Orleans' First Baptist Church, appeared to counter a move by another former SBC president, W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist, Dallas, to return all of his salary to his church.

Criswell recently announced to his congregation in a televised worship service he would give back "every penny" he earned in salary during his 30 years as their pastor.

Grey did not name Criswell, but in the introduction to his message declared he would speak about "the pastor's position, the pastor's program, the pastor's partners and the pastor's pay.

"Now I know you want me to save a few minutes for that last part," Grey said. "There's been a lot said about it in recent days. I believe I want to say something particularly in Dallas about what the word of God says about the pastor's pay."

When he arrived at this point, near the end of his address, Grey inserted these statements into his prepared speech:

"The laborer is worthy of his hire. I'll stand by that till the cows come home.

"I read the other day one of our brothers is going to give back a lot of money he's been paid. Well, I'm computing now how much they owe me. I never was paid as much as I was worth back there in those early days.

"I think every man puts his own price on his services. One brother thinks he hasn't been giving them nothing (sic) in all these years, go on and give them their money back," he asserted.

That's all right with me. I don't object to that a bit. I'm saying that facetiously, of course. Every man's got to do it his way."

Grey said he knows what the Bible's plan is and said, "I don't want some tightfisted skinflint of a church member somewhere to pick up that news story and go to his pastor and say, 'We're going to cut your salary,' and you see preachers all over the country giving their money back.

"God's word says the laborer is worthy of his hire," Grey repeated.

Grey also appeared to take a dig at women preachers.

Speaking of the pastor's ordination, Grey noted: "This God-called man is also going to be ordained of the Lord, and notice I said 'man.' Did you hear me on that?"

-30-

Missions Superintendents Urged
To Use Multi-Talented Lay Persons

6/11/74

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist superintendents of missions were challenging here to lead their churches to the unity found in Christ, to make better use of tools at their disposal and to do something to keep "five and ten talent" laymen and women involved and in the denomination.

Owen Cooper, outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Convention, told 350 superintendents of missions meeting in their annual session at the First Baptist Church that the "next great burst of Christianity in propagating the gospel is waiting on greater involvement of more lay persons."

Cooper reminded the superintendents that at least 10,000 Southern Baptist will graduate from Baptist colleges this year.

(more)

"And I'll bet not 10 of them have been asked to take a job in a pioneer area," he chided.

He challenged the superintendents to utilize the years of training of the some 80,000 Southern Baptists who will retire this year, labeling them "five and ten talent" laymen and women. "Many leave the denomination because they aren't given places to serve," he said.

Both Hugh Chambliss, president of the Conference of Superintendents of Missions, and Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn., underscored the unity theme.

Paschall, a former SBC president, said the world is afflicted by division and it threatens churches and the denomination. The answer, he said, is in the unifying power of God in Jesus Christ.

"There is no place for division among Christians and no rationale for division in the church," he said. "By the blood of Jesus we are one."

The Nashville pastor took a slap at persons who for years have been inactive in the church and then suddenly, after purportedly "receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit" become judgmental and undercut the spirit and unity of a church.

"We must acknowledge diversities; not all have the same gifts. But there is one Spirit," Paschall said. "And when diversity is so emphasized that it destroys unity it is not of God."

Chambliss urged the superintendents to lock on to an objective, keep hooked up to the power of Christ and go on functioning together.

Lawrence Childs of Charlotte, N.C., was elected president of the organization, succeeding Chambliss. Other new officers are Richard Bryant of Miami, Fla., vice-president; Ray McClung, Little Rock, Ark., secretary; Robert Helmich, Muskogee, Okla., treasurer; and Gene Strahan, Champaign, Ill., newsletter editor.

The superintendents presented Miss Alma Hunt, retiring executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, a plaque honoring her for 26 years of service to and in support of missions.

In other business they approved a report recommending that the third Sunday in May be placed on the Southern Baptist Convention Calendar of Activities as a day of prayer for associational missions promoted by the Brotherhood Commission in cooperation with the Division of Associational Services of the Home Mission Board.

-30-

Schools Split \$1 Million
Gift of Land From Couple

6/10/74

HOUSTON (BP)--A gift of land valued at approximately \$1 million has been given to Baylor College of Medicine and Houston Baptist University by Mr. and Mrs. Don McMillian, a Houston couple.

One-half of the property was given to Baylor College of Medicine, formerly a Texas Baptist school, to establish the Earl McMillian Endowment for cardiovascular research and training in memory of Earl T. McMillian, and one-half was given to Houston Baptist University, a Texas Baptist school, to establish the Robert H. Ray Endowed Chair of Humanities memorializing Mrs. McMillian's father.

"This gift, which establishes our second endowed chair, will help Houston Baptist achieve the strength that Mr. Ray envisioned during his life," William H. Hinton, university president, said.

"The Earl McMillian Endowment will be used to further the college's program in cardiovascular research and training," Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, Baylor College of Medicine president, said. "We are delighted to have Mr. and Mrs. McMillian's interest and outstanding support of our work to defeat heart disease."

-30-

Evangelism Not Timetable
Related Pastors Told

DALLAS (BP)--Evangelism is more concerned with preparing people for the second coming of Christ than with setting a time and place for His return, Harold L. Fickett of Van Nuys, Cal., told more than 8,000 persons attending the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here.

Fickett told fellow pastors evangelism "should be the number one priority in our lives."

"We really have lay involvement" in evangelism in the First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, which he serves as pastor, Fickett declared. The church is unaffiliated with any Baptist convention.

"We have over 2,000 of our members trained in witnessing, and they use their training."

Fickett explained he considers himself a member of the "preparation committee" for Christ's second coming, rather than one concerned with figuring out dates and places for that event.

He also chided Christians for failing to use literature adequately in spreading the gospel. Jehovah's Witnesses, among the religious groups, and the Communists far outflank Christians in using literature to propagate their message, he said.

-30-

Pastors Elect James
Pleitz as President

6/11/74

DALLAS (BP)--James L. Pleitz, 46-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church of Pensacola, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here Monday.

Pleitz, former chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, defeated Bill Weber, vice president of the conference, in a run-off. Weber is pastor of Northway Baptist Church, Dallas.

Pleitz, who also is chairman of the trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, succeeds Jaroy Weber of Lubbock as head of the pastors' group.

Elected vice president was Donald L. Dyer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La. Joe Bob Mizell, pastor from Tuscaloosa, Ala., was elected secretary.

-30-

Wrapup

Pastors Urged To Help Lead
America Out Of Political Morass

6/11/74

By Theo Sommerkamp

DALLAS (BP)--More than 8,000 Southern Baptist pastors from throughout the nation were reminded here that they have a responsibility to help lead America out of its lapse of political integrity and into a climate where the spiritual principles of justice, quality and morality will flourish.

Both the governor of Texas and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention called for renewed spiritual commitment in American life during the opening night "spectacular" sponsored by the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference at the Dallas Convention Center.

Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe set the tone for the conference when he declared, "Democracy is founded upon the principle that all who rule will rule with justice, equality and morality--all Biblical precepts inherent in Christian teaching."

Introduced as a committed Christian himself, Briscoe said the "questionable conduct of some people in public office" causes government to break down and endangers the faith and support of the people in government.

Without mentioning Watergate or any other political scandal by name, Briscoe pointed out the role for pastors: "You as ministers will continue to play a vital, dominant role in building our state and nation."

He said he believes a Christian spirit is "spreading throughout this state and nation."

-more-

Former SBC President W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 18,000-member First Baptist Church of the host city, named high leaders in government in his address following Briscoe's asking the pastors to imagine what might have happened if these leaders had followed God.

He specifically named former U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew, former Texas Gov. and former Secretary of the Treasury John Connally, Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, and President Nixon. - He called attention to what he considered misdeeds on the part of each.

With Agnew, it was "accepting bribes...and kickbacks," and with Connally, "corporate financial maneuvering." Kennedy was accused of "abandonment" (though he did not specify abandonment of Mary Jo Kopechne at the accident on Chappaquiddick Island). Though he did not call him by name, Criswell accused the President of using "language that blasphemes the name of the Lord."

After each individual reference, Criswell asked rhetorically what would have happened if the person had turned to God in prayer or for counsel, or had heeded biblical commandments, or had turned his heart and life over to Christ.

In another speech, H. Edwin Young, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbia, S. C., called the Watergate tapes released for publication "one of the most pornographic and vulgar and blasphemous documents you have ever heard and the words have come from the lips of the highest elected man on the face of the earth."

He branded it "an abomination unto the Lord." Young said President Nixon may serve out his term in office, but he "has lost much of that authority in the White House."

Young, in the strongest comments on Watergate during the conference, observed that not once during the Watergate tape transcriptions that have been published had the President asked: "What is right? What is best? What is moral? What is honest?"

Instead, there are all sorts of political chicanery and intrigue and payoff and backbiting and subtleties and vulgarities," he charged.

Criswell, who also commented on immorality in government, became the target for criticism in another address--not because of kickbacks, or corporate financial maneuvering, but because of reports he was giving back to the church his total salary earned in 30 years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas. The total amount is estimated to exceed \$600,000.

Another former SBC President, J. D. Grey of New Orleans, spoke to the pastors on various factors in the pastor's life, including his salary.

When Grey reached the portion of his address dealing with the pastor's pay, he inserted these comments:

"I read the other day one of our brothers is going to give back a lot of money he's been paid....

"That's all right with me.... Every man's got to do it his way."

Then he added, "I don't want some tightfisted skinflint of a church member somewhere to pick up that news story and go to his pastor and say, 'We're going to cut your salary,' and you see preachers all over the country giving their money back."

"A laborer is worthy of his hire," Grey indicated.

Although Grey did not call Criswell by name, there appeared to be no question as to his reference.

The Pastors' Conference elected James L. Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., as president for the coming year. He defeated three Texans who were also nominated for the office.

Elected vice president of the Pastors' Conference was Donald L. Dyer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La. Elected secretary was Joe Bob Mizell, pastor from Tuscaloosa, Ala.

One of the speakers to the conference, Pleitz encouraged his fellow ministers to become involved in the power crisis, both economic and spiritual.

Pleitz, a former chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and now chairman of trustees of the denomination's Radio and Television Commission, succeeds Jaroy Weber of Lubbock, Tex., as president.

In three speeches to the pastors, Henry Brandt, president of Christian Leadership Training Foundation, Flint, Mich., urged them to reprove, instruct, rebuke and correct their church members on their spiritual life.

He acknowledged it would not be popular, but it was the pastor's duty, and it would result in the members having a stronger spiritual commitment.

Harold L. Fickett, pastor of the independent First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif., said evangelism is more concerned with getting people ready for the second coming of Christ than it is with setting a time and place for Christ's return.

He plugged lay involvement in evangelism, saying more than 2,000 members of the Van Nuys church are trained in witnessing and practice it.

Warren C. Hultgren, pastor of Tulsa's First Baptist Church, warned of the "subtle danger of doing God's work merely in response to pressure from others."

The 8,000 conference goers participated in something new in platform watching. Two huge projection screens were installed on either side of the platform to make the action there visible to back seaters who were about 300 feet from the elevated stage.

Commercial type TV cameras, a total TV master control center, and some 40 technicians set up the system which projects a singer or speaker's face enlarged up to 30 times normal size, giving the folks in back the benefit of a "front seat." Otherwise stage personalities and choirs would have been only specks and masses of color to those so remote from the platform.

-30-

Tidwell Named President
Of Religious Educators

6/11/74

DALLAS (BP)--Charles Tidwell of Fort Worth, Tex., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association at the close of its two day meeting here.

Tidwell, professor of church administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was vice president and president-elect last year.

He succeeds Luke E. Williams Jr., director of church activities at First Baptist Church of San Antonio.

Elected vice presidents were Elaine Dickson, dean of student affairs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Bob Bingham, executive assistant, program services division, Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Bob Feather, associate minister for administration and promotion at Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, is president-elect and vice president.

William E. Young, superintendent of the children's section, church training department, Baptist Sunday School Board, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Named associate secretary was Miss Neta Stewart, dean of women at Southwestern Seminary.

Registration at the meeting was 443 persons, eclipsing a previous record of 431, set several years ago.

-30-

Wrapup

Educators Urged To Be Life
Support Systems For Warped World

6/11/74

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)--A call to be "innkeepers" to the world concluded the 19th annual Southern Baptist Religious Education Association meeting here.

Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio, paralleled his own life to that of the Good Samaritan.

"Jesus does not require me to climb down off the mule and pick up the poor beaten man. He does that. It is as He picks them up and brings them to the inn that we can care for them. We are the innkeepers of the world," he said.

The San Antonio pastor called on his brethren to be life support systems in a "warped and diseased world."

In addition to Allen's address, the religious educators heard two other educators

-more-

discuss trends and methods of education, and elected new officers as they closed their two-day meeting.

It was one of four specialized conferences held Sunday and Monday in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention's three-day annual meeting.

Charles Tidwell of Fort Worth, professor of church administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was elected president of the organization, replacing Luke E. Williams Jr., of San Antonio.

Elected vice presidents were Elaine Dickson of Louisville, Ky., and Bob Bingham of Atlanta, Ga.

Bob Feather of Dallas was named president-elect and vice president; William E. Young, of Nashville, Tenn., was re-elected secretary-treasurer and Neta Stewart of Fort Worth was elected associate secretary.

Registration at the meeting was 443, besting the previous record of 431, set several years ago.

Earlier Monday, Ralph C. Atkinson Jr., professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Nolan Estes, superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District, took a look at education from their various perspectives.

Atkinson discussed motivation, manipulation and bribes in church life, while Estes pe red into the future for a look at what he considers trends in public education.

The seminary professor charged churches often use bribery and manipulation to achieve required results, and often have an obsession to judge the success or failure of an educational program on the single basis of attendance.

Part of the bribery--which he called the familiar carrot and stick method--is offering "air conditioning, pew cushions, bridal parlors, parking garages, bowling alleys, skating rinks, gymnasiums, dining rooms, theaters, Holy Land tours and supercruiser buses to make the church more appealing to people.

"Few of us see these carrots as bribes but rather as the church keeping in tune with the times. And, most of them are acceptable to us because they are carrots that appeal to us as adults. You can get a rise out of us only when the bribe appeals to a child as in the case of yo-yos, balloons and Easter chickens to the kids who ride the church bus."

Atkinson added that a subtler form of bribery is "bestowing a high sounding title on a person and requiring little or no work."

"The church has its ways of manipulation, too. When we force people to go along with us in activities they don't agree with in order to retain our goodwill...we are manipulating them. When we disguise our true feelings in order to get what we want from an unlikable, but powerful church member, we are manipulating him. When we coerce church members into accepting responsibilities out of a sense of guilt, fear, or morbid duty, we are manipulating them."

Summing up, he said, "For the church it is not enough to do the right deed; it must be done for the right reason. Otherwise it is sin. Jesus says even prayer can be polluted."

Estes, a Baptist layman, talked to the ministers about trends in public education.

Noting the religious educators have a very important role, Estes said: "Education must offer food not only for the brain but for the soul. It requires both to prepare young people for life, and life requires knowledge, concepts, skills and values.

"Knowledge and skills without values are extremely devastating. If they have knowledge and skills, but no values, they become like robots...like the people in Hitler's Germany who answered to any master."

He listed eight trend areas in public education which public educators "are having to deal with now."

Among them are the politics of education, equally effective education for all children, early intervention, parent education, self renewal, career education, the sharing of power and accountability.

As to politics, Estes said "there is a fatigue with and a rejection of expertise...a growing disenchantment with the elite.

'Years ago, educators dealt with a board of education composed of the power structure of the town.

"Now it is a broader structure. We have Brown power, Black power, Teacher power, Parent power, Student power, and even a little Flower power. We are poorly equipped to deal with this. Our training has left us unprepared. We are busy retooling ourselves," he added.

As he discussed the sharing of power, Estes noted many people are demanding a "piece of the action."

"The truth is: The King is dead. There is a deterioration in the attitude of people toward authority. The day has gone when an administrator could be autocratic.

"When you share power, your problems multiply, but the end result is worth it."

The affable schoolman predicted the next 10 years will see more suits against educators than the last 20 years of desegregation tests.

The reason is a recent court decision requiring not only equal education for all children but "equally effective education for every child...there is a vast difference."

"Each child deserves the best we can give him. There is nothing so unequal as the equal treatment of unequals. All children differ and need different education. We have got to throw the floodlight on all children, not just the spotlight on a few."

In referring to the suits, he said professional malpractice suits are now being filed against educators.

"Under the ruling if you fail to provide equally effective education, it results in a malpractice suit."

Among business items, the educators voted to authorize a study of the problems of people dropping out of vocational religious work.

-30-

SBC Adopts \$40
Million National Budget

6/11/74

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention adopted a record \$40 million Cooperative Program budget to meet operating and capital needs of its national agencies for the 1974-75 fiscal year.

The budget, as adopted, was recommended by the SBC Executive Committee, the Convention's central program, fiscal and policy organization operating between annual sessions of the SBC.

The Foreign Mission Board will receive 50 per cent of the \$36 million voted to cover operating expenses for the agencies. The Home Mission Board will receive the next largest single amount, \$6,750,000 for operations.

The six SBC-supported theological seminaries will share a total of \$7,560,000 in operating funds. The only other million-plus agency is the Radio and Television Commission, allocated \$1.7 million for operations.

One million dollars will be divided among agencies receiving capital needs funds during the coming fiscal year. The final \$3 million dollars has been tabbed as the "challenge budget."

If the full \$40 million is collected, the Foreign Mission Board will receive \$1.5 million of the \$3 million "challenge budget," which is over and above its regular allocation.

The Home Mission Board will receive \$562,500 from the "challenge budget," and the seminaries will split \$630,000 in challenge money.

Messengers approved 11 recommendations, including one for capital funds allocations totaling almost \$5 million over a five-year period ending in 1978.

They also okayed a change in the program statements for the Foreign and Home Mission Boards which permits the transfer of Southern Baptist mission work from the Home Mission Board to the Foreign Mission Board.

Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, executive director of the Home Mission Board, told messengers home mission work in Panama dates back to 1905 and the construction of the Panama Canal.

He said the work in Panama today is an example of how the gospel cannot be kept in narrow boundaries. The Baptist work spread out of the United States-governed Canal Zone strip into the nation of Panama on both sides of it.

(more)

"It is now truly a national movement," Rutledge declared. He said the Home Mission Board had initiated discussions with the Foreign Mission Board about transferring the work to the foreign board.

"Baptists in Panama were also consulted about the transfer of responsibility," he added. "We are glad we have come to this point."

Another recommendation enacted provides for planning SBC outreach during the 1980's. It is called "Impact 80's."

Still another enacted proposal urged Southern Baptists to provide \$150 million in Cooperative Program gifts for state and national ministries in the Bicentennial year of 1976.

-30-

Pitts Resigns Dallas
Baptist College Presidency

6/11/74

DALLAS (BP)--Charles P. Pitts, president of financially-troubled Dallas Baptist College for seven years, resigned here at a special meeting of trustees.

Pitts, formerly pastor of Highland church in Dallas for 13 years, had guided the former Decatur Baptist College from a junior college status to a four-year institution. The name was changed and the college moved to a southwest Dallas campus in 1965.

Clifton S. Harris, vice president, became the ranking official upon Pitts' resignation.

In his resignation to trustees, Pitts cited "mounting financial pressures at the college and health concerns" as major reasons for relinquishing the presidency.

"This decision was reached only after a great deal of soul-searching," he commented. "It wasn't an easy decision because our experience with thousands of persons in a Christian endeavor for higher education has been gratifying in all respects."

There was no immediate announcement as to Pitts' plans. One report said he might be asked to continue in a consultant position at the college with an off-campus office.

Although the college is directed by a board of trustees elected by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, there has been a special committee of the convention's Executive Board involved for more than two years because of the financial problems.

Some of the convention leadership were to meet with an executive committee from the board to chart immediate steps for the college.

Dallas Baptist College's financial problems first surfaced as critical in 1972. The convention approved refinancing of \$3.8 of a \$5.5 million debt through the Dallas Higher Education Authority. In effect, this municipal authority took title to dormitories, issued the bonds and received a 20-year lease for payment.

The three-man convention committee was established to keep tab on financial affairs. One report, two years ago, was made to the first closed meeting of the convention's Executive Board in 20 years.

-30-

New Baptist Hymnal
Combines Old and New

6/11/74

DALLAS (BP)--Contents of the 1975 edition of Baptist Hymnal were revealed here during the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

William J. Reynolds of Nashville, secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department and editor of the hymnal and chairman of the hymnal revision committee, presented the printed table of contents to the packed ballroom of the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel.

The volume, to be released in March, 1975, features 187 old hymns and 175 hymn tunes new to Baptist Hymnal.

The 495 total hymns span a variety of musical styles. While familiar and widely-used hymns have been retained, other familiar hymns (not included in the 1956 edition of Baptist Hymnal), Negro spirituals and the works of contemporary authors and composers have been added, Reynolds said.

-more-

Familiar hymns added to the 1975 edition include "Victory in Jesus," "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "In the Garden," "How Great Thou Art," "In Times Like These," "So Send I You" and "Send Me, O Lord, Send Me."

Negro spirituals added include "Were You There," "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" and "There Is a Balm in Gilead."

Works by contemporary authors and composers in the hymnal include "Do You Really Care" by Cates, "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" by Akers, "Set My Soul Afire" by Bartlett, "His Gentle Look" by Red, "People to People" by Reynolds, "Pass It On" by Kaiser, "Reach Out and Touch" by Brown, "Without Him" by LaFavre and "He's Everything to Me" by Carmichael.

Also included are new tunes to the old text, such as "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy," "Redeemed" and "Just As I Am" and new texts set to old tunes.

Hymn titles suggesting the contemporary flavor of the space age are "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens," "God of Earth and Outer Space," "God's World Today" and "Declare, O Heavens, the Lord of Space."

Baptist Hymnal (1975 edition) was compiled by a committee of 68 Southern Baptists. Included are pastors from both large and small churches, ministers of music, ministers of education, faculty members from colleges and seminaries, state music secretaries, evangelistic singers, church organists, professionals from the recording and music publishing industry, composers and representatives of denominational agencies.

"A survey was made in 1972 to determine which hymns in the 1956 edition were being sung by Southern Baptists," said Reynolds. "With this as a beginning point, the hymnal committee determined which hymns to retain in the 1975 edition."

"The 1972 survey produced a second list of hymns that the churches wanted for use in congregational services. A third list of hymns for consideration was created by suggestions from groups and individuals. These suggestions included both old and new songs.

The committee carefully evaluated each hymn for scriptural accuracy of text and strength and lasting value of hymn tune," he continued. "The primary concern was to produce a hymnal for the congregation, a hymnal filled with hymns and gospel songs that would be sung. The committee has added significant hymns from existing traditions that we have not had before," he said.

Worship aids in the hymnal are scripture passages for individual, unison, responsive or antiphonal reading. Scripture readings, while mainly from the King James Version, are also chosen from the New American Standard Bible, Revised Standard Version and Today's English Version.

To aid music directors, pastors, organists and pianists, Baptist Hymnal (1975 edition) contains title, author/composer/alphabetical (by tunes), metrical and topical indexes.

Introduction of the hymnal will come during PraiSing 75, March 10-13, 1975, in Nashville. This event will be a festival featuring noted singers George Beverly Shea, Hale and Wilder, The Centurymen, country and gospel singers and church, college and seminary groups. Thirty continuous hours of singing through the hymnal--every word and every note of every song--will be a special feature of PraiSing 75.

Another phase of the hymnal introduction will be PraiSing 76, an emphasis on congregational singing approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in Portland in 1973. This emphasis will be led by music secretaries in each of the state conventions in 1976.

-30-

Wrapup

Musicians Unveil Hymnal;
Premiere Children's Musical

By Charles Willis

DALLAS (BP)--Unveiling of the contents of the Baptist Hymnal revision and the premieres of a children's musical and a commissioned anthem were among highlights of the two-day annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference here.

William J. Reynolds, secretary of the Sunday School Board's church music department and editor for Baptist Hymnal, 1975 edition, revealed the table of contents which features 187 old hymns and 175 hymn tunes new to the hymnal.

The 495 total hymns span a variety of musical styles. While familiar and widely-used hymns have been retained, other familiar hymns not included in the 1956 edition of Baptist Hymnal, Negro spirituals and the works of contemporary authors and composers have been added.

-more-

Baptist Hymnal, 1975 edition, was compiled by a committee of 68 Southern Baptists. Included are pastors from both large and small churches, ministers of music, ministers of education, faculty members from colleges and seminaries, state music secretaries, evangelistic singers, church organists, professionals from the recording and music publishing industry, composers and representatives of denominational agencies.

The premier of a new children's musical from Broadman Press, "Jonah's Tale of a Whale," by Robert Graham was presented by the children's choir of First Baptist Church, Garland, Tex., under the direction of Harrell Slack.

A second premier for the conference was the conference-commissioned anthem for 1974, "Praise God in His Holiness," by the late composer James Cram of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, performed by the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Oratorio Chorus, Robert Burton, director.

A service of praise, led by the Centurymen under the direction of Buryl Red of New York, included performances by concert artists Robert Hale and Dean Wilder of the New York City Opera and by the Dallas Baptist College Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Doug Smith.

A tribute to Jane Marshall, composer of sacred music, featured the singing of her compositions by the sanctuary choir of First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla., under the direction of James Woodward.

The concluding event of the conference was a presentation of William Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast" by the Oratorio Chorus of Southwestern Seminary and by the Fort Worth Oratorio Symphony.

Composer-arranger Rick Powell of Nashville discussed "Electronic Music and the Church." Separate "interest sessions" provided emphases on contemporary worship, adult choirs, music and worship and instrumental music. A session on children's choirs featured a demonstration of music-learning activities with children from the Southwestern Seminary children's choir school.

Jesse Fletcher, director of the mission support division, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, spoke at a banquet honoring music missionaries, followed by presentation of the W. Hines Sims Achievement Award for distinguished service to the cause of church music to Warren M. Angell, dean emeritus of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, Oklahoma Baptist University.

Keynote address for the conference was given by John Claypool, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, on "Worship as Event."

Newly-elected vice presidents of the organization are A. Joseph King, minister of music at University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, local church division, Sam Prestiège, music secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, denominational division; and Evelyn M. Phillips of the school of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, educational division.

President Donald Brown, music professor at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., has another full year in his term of office.

-30-

Wrapup

Women Urged To
Listen to Their World

6/11/74

By Mary Ann Ward

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist women were urged to "listen to their world" through a commissioning service for new foreign missionaries, a home missions emphasis on language missions and by a series of speakers at the annual two-day Woman's Missionary Union meeting at the Dallas Convention Center.

Miss Carolyn Weatherford, executive secretary of Woman's Missionary Union in Florida, was presented as the new executive secretary to succeed Miss Alma Hunt who is retiring Oct. 5.

In a program honoring Miss Hunt for her 26 years of service, Porter Routh of Nashville, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, presented a plaque on behalf of the Executive Committee.

The women reelected Mrs. R. L. Mathis as president of Woman's Missionary Union for her sixth and final term and adopted a resolution proclaiming support of the Cooperative Program.

Other officers elected were Mrs. Roy F. Snyder of Camden, Ark., recording secretary, and Mrs. Edward L. Byrd of Florence, S. C., Mrs. Gary McNeece of Artesia, Calif., and Mrs. Huber

-more-

Drumwright of Fort Worth, Tex., all members at large.

In the keynote message, Gardner C. Taylor, black pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, N.Y., called for equal quality education for every child.

"The neighborhood concept of education has too often been a mask for preserving privilege based on race and for preserving deprivation, also based on race," Taylor said.

Emphasizing that Southern Baptists worship each Sunday morning in 25 languages, a home missions emphasis presented by Oscar Romo, director of the language missions department of the Home Mission Board, featured seven language missionaries.

Jimmy Anderson, a Creek Indian from Shawnee, Okla., said that while most Indians consider Christianity a white man's religion, "no white man is smart enough to think up something this good. But, by the same token, neither is any red, black or brown man. The gospel is God's way," he said.

Another home missionary, Miss Juana Luz Garcia, who was jailed in Cuba for her faith, said that the United States is the only country to offer refuge to 400,000 Cubans who have fled communism.

Eugene Nida, executive secretary of the translations department of the American Bible Society, told the women that by 1980 the society expects to receive 400 million annual requests for Bibles for new readers.

More than 8,000 Baptists attended the opening night session featuring the commissioning of 22 newly-appointed foreign missionaries. In testimonies, two couples related that the foreign missions emphasis that was part of the Southern Baptist Convention activities in Portland, Ore., in 1973 was influential in their decision to pursue appointment.

In the Cooperative Program resolution, the women voted to pledge increased support to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention at its meeting June 11-13, proclaim June 8-9, 1975, a special time of recognition of the Cooperative Program, make the Cooperative Program a focal point of the WMU annual meeting in 1975 and to urge local church WMUs to educate church members about the Cooperative Program and its role in mission support.

Other speakers at the meeting were Mrs. James Fancher, Jackson, Miss., author; Mrs. Olivia de Lerin, executive secretary of the Mexico WMU; C.B. Hogue, director of evangelism division, Home Mission Board; and Mrs. George Beasley-Murray of Louisville, Ky.

-30-

Jaroy Weber Defeats Kenneth Chafin for SBC Presidency

6/11/74

DALLAS (BP)--Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., was elected president of the 12.3-million-member Southern Baptist Convention here in a run-off at Dallas Convention Center. He is 52.

Weber, outgoing president of this year's SBC Pastors' Conference, won over Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston.

He succeeds Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Miss., a retired industrialist, who will step down after serving two one-year terms.

Weber was previously pastor of the Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., and the First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex.

He has also served as pastor of churches in Orange, Tex., and West Monroe, La., and was evangelism secretary for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

A native of Louisiana, he holds bachelor of arts and honorary doctor of divinity degrees from Louisiana College and a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Weber has served on the SBC Executive Committee.

A son, Billy Weber, pastor of Northway Baptist Church, Dallas, was vice president of this year's Pastors' Conference and was nominated for the conference's presidency in a race eventually won by James Pleitz of Pensacola, Fla.

-30-