

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

SBC Executive Committee  
 460 James Robertson Parkway  
 Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
 (615) 244-2355  
 W. C. Fields, Director  
 Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor  
 James Lee Young, Feature Editor

**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, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461  
**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

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75-90

### Evangelists Told They Play Major SBC Role

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Vocational evangelists were told here they play a major role in the evangelistic outreach of the Southern Baptist Convention.

C. B. Hogue, Atlanta, director of evangelism at the SBC Home Mission Board, reminded the annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists of the program statement of the board.

The Home Mission Board is to "cultivate mutually helpful relationships with Southern Baptist vocational evangelists.

"We link arms with you and walk the streets of Baptist life together, declaring unequivocally we are in business together, doing what God has called us to do," Hogue told about 2,000 people attending the three-hour conference.

The audience consisted of vocational evangelists--those who devote their full time ministry exclusively to conducting evangelistic meetings--as well as pastors and laymen. A large part of the attendance included wives and children.

Contemporary gospel music performed by a band, singing groups, and instrumental and vocal soloists attracted many of the people present.

A 21-year-old evangelist from Little Rock, Paul Jackson, in his sermon, defined the "power" of the Great Commission as "dynamite."

"Some say that when you get the power of the Holy Spirit, you speak in tongues," Jackson declared. "That's not what the power of the Holy Spirit is all about.

"When you get the power of the Holy Spirit, you become an evangelist. That's the indication of power."

Jackson said the power of the Holy Spirit was given to share the gospel of Christ around the world.

In another address, Hyman Appleman of Kansas City, Mo., drew "amens" when he said, "If the Baptists slow up, there is not another denomination on the face of the earth which can take our place."

Appleman added that "every large denomination but one is begging for candidates for full time Christian service; every large denomination but one is losing membership." That one exception, he observed, is the Southern Baptist Convention.

Manley Beasley of San Antonio was introduced as the new president of the conference, succeeding Sam Cathey of Tulsa.

Other new officers include Larry Walker, Dallas, Vice president; Lowell J. Leistner, Orlando, Fla., and Felix Snipes, Atlanta, co-directors of music, and J. Frank Davis, Garland, Tex., pastor-advisor.

The conference meets each year in conjunction with the session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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"Hallelujah" Has  
Devastating Effect

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

By Catherine Allen

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Vonda Kay Van Dyke stood in a brilliant beam of light cutting through a blackened Convention Center here where 16,000 Southern Baptists intensely sat.

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The former Miss America crooned pop religious music to the messengers between links of her testimony about the power of prayer.

Suddenly childish screams shattered the atmosphere and 16,000 heads snapped toward the south bleachers. Two little figures clattered down the metal steps screaming in fright. Had someone fallen from the steep bleacher onto the concrete floor? Had one of the ever-present birds swooped down from the catacombed ceiling?

Miss America's spell was broken. But Vonda Kay instantly reacted with a demonstration of her belief in prayer. "Let's have a word of prayer," she said. "God, we don't know what happened. It's a very big place. But we need you right now. Others need you. Help us."

Then she finished her story about praying for a chance to share her faith in the finals of the Miss America pageant in 1965.

After another song, the lights went up. Convention President Jaroy Weber, who had sent someone to investigate, satisfied the audience's curiosity.

"They say a brother got so excited that he shouted "hallelujah" and scared some children," he explained. "And if someone shouted amen in your Sunday morning service back home, the same thing would probably happen."

Persons seated near the outbreak verified the story, saying that the children were probably asleep when they were startled by the "hallelujah."

Earlier in her act, Miss Van Dyke had co-opted a pastor from the audience to act as her "dummy" while she showed off her ventriloquism act. Herman H. Mauch, pastor of Burrows Memorial Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, was the lucky man.

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SBC Messengers Hear  
Clower; Annuity Board

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A Baptist performer in the Grand Ole Opry gave 16,000 Southern Baptist messengers some advice here on how to be "a good hand" in church.

Humorist Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, Miss., a one-time fertilizer salesman, said one of the things to do is to spend as much time trying to get people to come to church as making sure some people don't come.

"I know some churches which hide clubs and sticks outside the front door so if people who are not welcome to worship show up, they can club them down.

"I have known churches to vote on whether or not a choir which had one black member could sing in their church. And the day of the vote people showed up who had not been to church in years."

The 275-pound comedian, who sprinkled his address with humor, maintained a serious theme as he urged the Baptists to act like Christians, not pagans when tragedy strikes.

"If we polled all Baptist preachers, I think this would be their greatest disappointment. When a little rain fell in the lives of individuals they thought were strong Christians, they went to pieces."

Finally, Clower warned the Baptists about the devil.

"I would not underestimate the power of Satan. Satan does go about like a roaring lion, seeking those he can devour. Be ready...."

The messengers also received annual reports from two of their largest agencies, the Annuity Board and the Sunday School Board.

The Annuity Board, which administers retirement monies for thousands of preachers and other denominational workers, reported its funds outperformed 92 percent of all comparable funds during 1974.

Asked to review its protection programs, the board reported it found no need to establish a new retirement program but felt churches could use the existing ones better.

The board also turned down a suggestion to create a retirement home plan for ministers.

"Retirement home facilities are very expensive. The Annuity Board has no money to invest in home projects. The funds the board holds are designated funds deposited for retirement needs of members. There is no way whatsoever that these funds could be used for construction of retirement homes or complexes," the report said.

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The board suggested that a local church consider paying a housing allowance for its pastor so he can buy himself a house before he reaches retirement age.

The report of the Sunday School Board told of sales of \$52,503,000, an increase of almost 10 percent over the previous year.

Also up were Sunday School enrolment at 7,190,829 and church music enrolment at 1,304,068. Grady C. Cothen, new president of the board, helped present the report.

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Jerry Clower:  
Color Him Funny

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

By Charles Warren

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention encompasses many colorful people. One of them is humorist Jerry Clower. Color him funny.

Entertaining at the convention's annual meeting here, the Baptist layman from Yazoo City, Miss., who performs in the Grand Ole Opry among other places, had the Southern Baptist messengers roaring with laughter. The convention corridors were empty when he spoke--small accomplishment in a convention of 16,000 wandering messengers.

Speaking with the deep Southern accent you'd expect from a "country boy" from Yazoo City, Clower quipped, "I'd rather be at the Southern Baptist Convention with my back broke than to be at any other convention in good health.

"There's only one place where there's no laughter," he continued, "and that's hell. And I've made arrangements to miss hell, so Ha! Ha! Ha!"

He said when someone asked him what percentage of Christians there are in show business, he responded, "About the same percentage as I met in the fertilizer business."

Then Clower got serious, gave a testimony of his Christian conversion, and challenged the Baptists to "make sure of a few things."

He said if he were a Southern Baptist who loved the denomination he'd first make sure he was saved, then seek out a New Testament Bible believing church to which he would be faithful, not being a "knit-picker.

"I would then make sure I spent as much time trying to get people to come to church as I did making sure some people don't," he said. "Some churches hide clubs and sticks outside the door so when people who aren't welcome show up, they can club them down and not let them in the church."

He drew applause when he said, "If there was one drop of Jerry Clower in God, I know some Baptist white people He would turn black."

Continuing his "sermon points," he suggested he'd never have his mind so made up that facts wouldn't change it.

Concluding, he said the greatest compliment God had ever paid him was arranging for him to address the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Please know one of the evidences that I know I am a Christian is that I, some kind of something or 'nother, love all of you for ever more a while."

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Cothen: Don't Replace Bible  
With Doctrinal Statements

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Grady C. Cothen of Nashville, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, told Southern Baptist messengers here that denomination doctrinal statements must not be substituted for the authority of the New Testament.

Cothen, chief executive of one of the world's largest religious publishing houses, said, nevertheless, that he fully accepts the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the SBC in 1963. The document is the denomination's most recent theological statement.

"I will never forget the Baptist Faith and Message," Cothen declared to an outburst of laughter. He was referring to a stormy session during the 1963 Kansas City convention when the statement was being considered line by line while he presided. Cothen was a convention vice-president then and had been called upon to preside after SBC president Herschel H. Hobbs suddenly became ill.

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Referring to the final statement, Cothen said, "I believe every bit of it. . . but I will not substitute it for the New Testament."

To repeated applause, Cothen called on the convention to recognize that "the basis for faith and action for Baptists is the New Testament." He then promised that the Sunday School Board in its publications would follow the convention's wishes in interpreting the Bible.

"You figure it out and tell us what you want," he continued, "and we'll try to follow it . . . if we can't, we'll resign."

He further challenged the convention to raise what he called "larger issues" rather than quibbling over doctrinal statements.

Referring to the size of the Sunday School Board, Cothen said that "some mornings I agree" with those who say it is too big. He reported that the agency has around 1,400 employees, with 1,800 other curriculum writers within the SBC.

Cothen, who has been in his post less than a year, told the convention that he intends to admit his board's mistakes at annual sessions. He said, "I decided to tell you about it instead of letting you tell me about it."

Turning to Sunday School Board objectives for the next decade, Cothen listed three priorities--a major new effort to promote "in-depth widespread Bible study," a church training program designed to "equip the saints," and plans for evangelist outreach.

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SBC Messengers Spend  
\$5 Million in Miami Beach

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

By Dan Martin

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Southern Baptists spent about \$5 million here, but many downtown merchants complained the Baptists were not big spenders.

The total economic impact of the SBC annual meeting on Miami Beach was estimated at "between \$4 and \$5 million," according to Hal Cohen, executive director of the Miami Beach Tourist Development.

But a merchant who operates a toy store in Lincoln Mall said: "They are very nice people. They are very polite. But frankly, they are not very big buyers."

Robert Munoz, manager of a mall shoe store, said the Baptists are very pleasant... very courteous, and they have helped business a whole lot. We are always glad to have such a big convention come to town."

The balloon hawker in front of the Convention Center--Jack Graf--was both complimentary and uncomplimentary.

They are very nice people, but they're not spending too much. A little, but not too much," he said.

Cohen says the SBC is "one of the largest conventions we've ever handled," while explaining Miami Beach hosts more than 600 conventions each year.

Conventions are a \$40 million a year business here.

Miami Beach has a population of about 180,000, about half permanent residents and half tourists and conventioners.

The Miami Beach tourist development authority recently began a campaign to beef up the convention business. Hotel clerks, bellhops, waitresses and merchants were encouraged as part of the campaign to adhere to the theme: "Tourists are your bread and butter: butter 'em up."

Cohen also maintained that Miami Beach is a great bargain.

"Eight months of the year we are cheaper than any comparable spot in the world," he said. "From Easter to mid-December, we have rooms available for about half what they are in the winter season." Meals, also, are available at a great price range, according to the Tourist Development director.

Most messengers to the convention questioned about the costs of Miami Beach responded favorably.

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"I was rather surprised. I expected it to be more," said David Deck, a pastor from Bowling Green, Ky.

Deck complained, however, about tickets on cars in the parking lot of the convention: "I think that is a bit much, looking at how much we are spending here."

Lt. Peter Corso of the Miami Beach Police Department, said the parking tickets are not issued by police.

"No matter how I say it, it doesn't sound good, but the parking meters are not under the police department. They are under the finance department."

Although several cars parked in the lots adjacent to the convention center sported tickets, a police sergeant said the Baptists "are very careful not to break any law... There are less than the usual number of parking tickets...."

Corso said the "town is very quiet... It is a very low profile convention."

He said other conventions bring additional duties because of intoxication, disturbances and so forth.

"The Baptists are excellent...very well behaved," he said.

Hotel and motel operators also were complimentary of the Baptist guests.

Al Koenig, an employe of Hilyard Manor Motor Hotel, related that one of his guests "hit another car in the parking lot.

"That Baptist preacher went to every room looking for the owner. I think that is marvelous. Somebody else would have just driven off. But he went looking for the owner.

"I think they are excellent...and I'm Jewish, I'm not even a Christian," Koenig said.

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SBC: The Scene  
of a Reunion

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

By Bonita Sparrow

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A Baptist layman from Washington State and an Alabama pastor looked among the more than 16,000 registered messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention and found each other after more than 31 years.

William F. Rasberry, pastor of Stowers Hill Baptist Church in Attalla, Ala., and Allen 'Pete' Peterson, a retired insurance broker from Kennewick (Wash.) Baptist Church, stood among the crowd at the convention and talked old times.

They resumed a friendship dating back to 1941 when the two were sergeants assigned to the Armed Forces School at Fort Knox, Ky.

Petersen, from St. Paul, Minn., with a big city background was a Swedish Baptist. Rasberry, from a rural Alabama background, would not have seemed the type of man he'd pick for a buddy.

"When we first met 31 years ago we had nothing in common but Christ," said Rasberry. "But you'll have to agree that's a pretty exciting common denominator."

The two men made friends with three students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville-- Samuel G. Shepherd, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., pastor; Austin Staples, (a real Yankee, from Maine) now pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala., and Carl Compton, now pastor of First Baptist Church, Myrtle Beach, S. C.

"When the three 'preacher boys' went out of town to supply in church pulpits, Rasberry and I would sleep in their beds at the seminary," said Petersen. "We would go over to Walnut Street Baptist Church to hear Dr. Kyle Yates preach."

"We were both active in a Victory Training Union class that was really a good group," said Rasberry. "I've still got some of the old newsletters they used to print once a month."

"The reunion really began two years ago during the Portland Southern Baptist Convention," said Peterson. "I was a messenger then and the girl at the registration desk let me look for the names of my former buddies. I found Austin Staples, called his motel and made sure he and his wife were there."

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Petersen, speaking in his Washington accent, didn't identify himself but the Staples' agreed to wait for him.

"When I first walked in, Austin didn't recognize me," Petersen said, "but Mrs. Staples did. She rushed over and gave me a big hug and kiss. Austin just stood there wondering who was kissing his wife. I was the one who introduced them."

"And when I recognized him, I went over and kissed his wife," Dr. Staples grinned.

Back in Alabama, Dr. Staples called Rasberry with the good news and Rasberry and Petersen began a series of telephone conversations.

"When I called, I told him I'd bet he didn't know who I was," Rasberry said. "He called my name; immediately."

How did he know? "That Alabama accent," Petersen admitted.

When they began planning to meet during the Miami Beach convention they discovered the housing office had assigned them to the same floor of the same hotel.

"Since that time we've talked ourselves hoarse," said Rasberry. "I don't know when we'll ever catch up."

They still have that same common denominator--Jesus Christ.

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SBC Messengers Refuse  
To Denounce Charismatics

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here refused to take a position specifically opposing the charismatic movement--gifts of the Holy Spirit--reaffirmed their traditional stance against alcohol, and passed a resolution on television violence that also decried the additional "psychological violence of racism, chauvinism and economic discrimination."

The resolution, originally designed to deal with the charismatic movement, was offered by Tommy French, pastor of Jefferson Street Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

It had called on churches to examine personal experience, worship experience, and doctrinal practices in light of the teachings and authority of the Bible.

It also had urged Baptists to refute "certain practices and teachings of Neo-Pentecostalism, more commonly known as the charismatic movement, whose churches are referred to as 'Full Gospel' churches, as lacking sufficient support for acceptance in Southern Baptist churches."

The resolution, as returned by the SBC resolutions committee and presented by French, reaffirmed the 1963 convention's stand on the Holy Spirit, outlined in the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted in Kansas City.

French, who said he wished the resolution could be "more precise and could say that Southern Baptists are not charismatic," nevertheless moved its adoption. During debate, Terry Harper, pastor of Exmore, Va., Baptist Church, offered such an amendment.

Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., chairman of the resolutions committee, told messengers the committee had given a big portion of its time to this resolution and called attention to the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

"Anything more than this is less than Baptist," he said. "Anything less is not Southern Baptist. We feel we must not leave here with ruptured feelings but, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit return, home to win America for Christ."

The amendment was defeated and the resolution, as brought out from the committee, was passed.

The Baptist Faith and Message statement describes the Holy Spirit as the spirit of God which inspired the Scriptures, enables men to understand truth, cultivates Christian character, and bestows spiritual gifts. "Spiritual gifts" are not defined.

Messengers also adopted a resolution on world hunger, urging churches to set aside a day of prayer and fasting each month to help meet the problem.

The resolution, which was adopted after brief floor debate, also urged Americans to develop a life style of sharing and to work to replace any tendency toward hoarding.

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The world hunger resolution, presented by Harry N. Hollis Jr. of Nashville, an SBC Christian Life Commission staff member, also called on government and private agencies to seek ways of sharing agricultural technology with countries needing this help.

It passed after brief floor debate in which Wayne Stephens, pastor of First Baptist Church, Douglas, Texas, reminded the crowd that "Jesus told us to feed the world with the word of God and as Christians we should put the Gospel out as our primary concern and not be so much concerned with the social aspects of hunger."

The Christian citizenship resolution, presented by C. Welton Gaddy of Nashville, another Christian Life Commission staff member, was passed unanimously.

It sought a moratorium on public pessimism with the political process and urged people with Christian convictions to make their views known to decision makers, to accept political responsibilities, and to be willing to run for political office.

A resolution seeking vigilance when dealing with curriculum in public schools and authorizing the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Christian Life Commission to utilize its resources to keep the public aware of issues was passed after an amendment was tacked on by H. A. Markham, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Fairburn, Ga.

Markham cited instruction courses which he said were introduced by the National Science Committee and the Educational Development Center of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

He claimed they taught fifth and sixth graders things that were "detrimental to Christianity." Referring to courses of study called "Exploring Human Nature" and "Man, A Course of Study," he said they urged "cannibalism, divorce, wife swapping, adultery, abortion, and refusal to submit to the authority of God, parents and country."

The Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs were instructed to study the information and report its findings to the 1976 convention.

The alcohol resolution urged churches to work to eliminate the advertising of alcoholic beverages on radio and television. (Self imposed regulations adopted by the broadcast industry presently allow only advertisements of such low alcohol content beverages as some wines and beer. Advertisement of "hard liquor" is not presently allowed on the broadcast media.)

The resolution on alcohol also called on churches to teach its dangers and to minister to victims of its abuse.

In a resolution on freedom of religious broadcasting, the convention stated its support of the existing Federal Communications Commission policy in "protecting the rights of religious groups and representatives to engage in religious broadcasting" and urged the Commission to continue the policy.

It also called on the Baptist Joint Committee to continue its vigilance in behalf of religious freedom.

Other resolutions touched on violence, family relationships, prayer for religious freedom, and concern for Vietnamese refugees.

Messengers also approved, after some revision, a resolution by Floyd Craig, a Christian Life Commission staffer from Nashville, decrying portrayal of violence in the media and commended the FCC for efforts to eliminate violence on television.

Denominational agencies were urged to give top priority to providing Christian family living resources, and churches were instructed to teach monogamy (one marriage) and provide compassionate help for couples facing marital problems.

The resolution on prayer for religious freedom called on Baptists to renew their commitment to pray and fast for persecuted Christians. It supported a day of prayer in churches on Baptist World Alliance Sunday.

The problems of Vietnamese refugees were recognized when messengers recommended that churches and families support them with prayer and "aid in their resettlement throughout the country."

Another resolution expressed appreciation to the state of Mississippi and its governor, William Waller, for the loan of that state's replica of the Liberty Bell was passed. The replica remained near the platform of the Convention Hall and was rung to signal the opening of each session.



Messengers also recognized the efforts of John H. Williams, retiring this year after 15 years as assistant treasurer and director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee.

Another resolution called on churches to encourage participation of college students and young adults in Freedom 76 in December, a bicentennial gathering sponsored by more than a dozen denominational agencies, designed to present innovative Christian approaches to citizenship, vocation, the home, and the church's mission.

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Baptists Urged to Help  
America Live up to Dream

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

By Catherine Allen

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Southern Baptists were challenged here to help their nation live up to the American dream and to "redeem the time" for Jesus Christ.

Flags of the 50 states and Puerto Rico, each of which has Southern Baptist work supported by the Home Mission Board, decked the platform for the presentation and music was provided by gaily robed French and Spanish-speaking choirs.

William E. Pinson, professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., told messengers that the crying need of America is to live up to the American dream.

"The best way Southern Baptists can make Christ's freedom ring is by answering the cry of America's need for this unfinished dream," he said.

He urged messengers to admit the faults of the nation and seek improvement. "To accentuate the positive and ignore the negative is a ploy to avoid reality," he said.

Pinson said the American dream consists of faith in God, of pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, of cities undimmed by human tears, of prosperous rural areas, of government by and for the people, and of brotherhood.

Citing failings of these dreams, he said, "One nation under God is not a reality. Unbelievers increase at twice the rate of believers."

Pinson said that the nation is a maze, not a melting pot, with one-third of the population oriented toward ethnic groups and with minorities growing at a faster rate than the anglo population.

"Insofar as the patriot's dream is compatible with a Christian's vision, we must strive for it," Pinson told the more than 16,000 messengers.

Russell Dilday, pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta and president of the Home Mission Board urged the denomination to commit itself to offer fulfilment of the American dream through various programs of the Home Mission Board.

"Each generation of believers has a specific segment of time to redeem for Jesus Christ," he said. "On the brink of the national bicentennial, we are not responsible for the past. We cannot redeem it. We can't redeem the future. We have only this time."

Dilday said that Southern Baptists know how to win America to Jesus through their missions and evangelism programs. Only commitment is lacking.

Jimmy Anderson, Indian missionary in Oklahoma, said that Christian Indians should get the public ear to be spokesman for Indian problems.

"I'm tired of AIM (American Indian Movement) getting all the attention. AIM fans flames of discontent and says that Christianity is the Indians' greatest enemy.

"When they say that Christianity is the white man's religion, I say 'Don't give the white man so such credit.' No white man is that smart --or red or black man."

Anderson works with three Indian tribes in nine counties in central Oklahoma. One of fewer than a dozen Indians who have graduated from a Southern Baptist theological institution, he said that trained Indian pastors and straight words about the gospel of Jesus Christ are the main needs in Indian missions.

"Indians are looking to see if the white man means it when he says love," He said.

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## SBC ROUNDUP

SBC: A Panorama of Pageantry,  
Addresses, Resolutions

By Roy Jennings

MIAMI BEACH, (BP)---Encouraged by reports of progress of their 20 agencies and inspired by pageantry and addresses, messengers to the 118th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention approved a record Cooperative Program allocations budget of \$51 million, re-elected President Jaroy Weber to a second term and passed resolutions on 16 subjects ranging from hunger to violence.

The 16,212 messengers also decided to keep Southern Baptist Convention as their name for the present and refused to (1) tamper with their Baptist Faith and Message statement, (2) take a position on the charismatic movement, (3) get significantly involved in examining public school curriculum, or (4) limit the president to a single one-year term of office.

Approved without a dissenting vote, the new budget was more than 25 percent higher than the 1974-75 budget of \$40 million.

The new budget, which becomes effective October 1, calls for a basic section of \$41 million, capital needs of \$1,080,000, and a challenge section of \$8,920,000.

In another Cooperative Program feature, the messengers saw a teenage Royal Ambassador boy arrive with a torch from Memphis, Tenn., to climax a 29-day, 1,468 mile trip involving 2,153 Baptist boys. The torch run was designed to draw attention to the 50th anniversary of Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

The messengers also learned that more than one million Southern Baptists had signed the 1975 "Declaration of Cooperation," a document pledging support to the Cooperative Program.

Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., was elected to a second one-year term as president without opposition.

Earlier in the three-day convention, Weber urged Southern Baptists to speak to the spiritual and social problems of the world through greater lay involvement, special days of praying and fasting, an emphasis upon new church growth and expressions of compassion.

"We must speak to the social problems of the world, but our speaking must be in the context of biblical revelation and not from the lips of liberal sociologists, philosophers or theologians," the Texas preacher said.

"We can no longer wait for a specialized task force of professional missionaries to win this world to Christ. Some practical plan must be adopted and propagated by the Foreign and Home Mission Boards to involve lay persons in our direct mission task."

Other convention officers chosen included Hunter Riggins, auto dealer from Poquoson, Va., first vice president; James Monroe, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., second vice president; Porter Routh of Nashville, treasurer; Clifton Allen of Winston-Salem, N.C. recording secretary; and W. Fred Kendall of Nashville, registration secretary. Routh, Allen and Kendall were re-elected for new one-year terms.

In another election, during a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, Charles E. Harvey, pastor of Sunset Acres Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., was elected to a second one-year term as chairman.

Chosen to serve with Harvey were William Ches Smith III, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tifton, Ga., vice chairman; and Dennis Lyle of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, secretary. Routh was re-elected executive secretary-treasurer.

In other action, the messengers dropped Memphis, Tenn., as the site for their 1977 convention because of insufficient hotel accommodations and added Kansas City, Mo.

They also accepted an Executive Committee recommendation to upgrade and expand the evangelism program of the Home Mission Board. Three departments were added to accommodate programs of evangelism development, personal evangelism and mass evangelism.

In the area of long-range programing, the messengers approved an Impact 80's recommendation concerning the denominational emphases for 1979-86. The emphases were based upon such convention and church concerns as family, leadership development, vitality through Bible learning, church planning, Baptist doctrine and heritage, community involvement, dynamic discipleship, vocational ministry, mission involvement, Biblical giving, church fellowship, and church growth.

Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., keynoted the convention with a plea for a series of strategies designed to still spiritual and physical hunger pains

and shore up society's "sagging morality."

"In international missions we are discovering the day of lay involvement in missions, acceleration of crusade evangelism utilizing laymen, natural disasters as days of opportunity for service and change in strategy, and hunger as an urgent responsibility."

Allen also called for a national missions strategy which would involve fitting programs to the various publics discovered in communities and training lay Christians to impact each public.

Named to preach the convention sermon in 1976 at Norfolk, Va., was Warren G. Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa. Chosen as the alternate was Charles G. Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.

The most popular speaker at the convention was comedian Jerry Clower, a Baptist layman and Grand Ole Opry performer, if applause was the criterion.

Clower, a one-time fertilizer salesman from Yazoo City, Miss., gave the messengers some advice on how to be a "good hand" in church. One of his suggestions was to spend as much time trying to get people to come to church as making sure some people don't come.

"I know some churches which hide clubs and sticks outside the front door so if people who are not welcome to worship show up, they can club them down."

Clower drew heavy applause when he said, "If there was one drop of Jerry Clower in God, I know some Baptist white people he would turn black."

Messengers offered resolutions on 30 subjects.

Besides hunger and violence, the approved resolutions dealt with the American Bible Society, Christian citizenship, the Liberty Bell, prayer for religious freedom, alcohol abuse, the Holy Spirit, help for the Vietnamese refugees, Freedom '76; expressions of appreciation to the host city and John Williams, retiring director of financial planning for the Executive Committee; and awareness of possible public school curriculum problems.

The resolution on hunger called for Southern Baptist churches to set aside a day of prayer and fasting each month. It also urged Southern Baptists to use their resources to bring relief to the hungry and to "develop a Christian social ethic which will provide guidelines for dealing with hunger problems."

In the resolution on violence, the messengers condemned not only physical acts of violence, but also psychological violence such as racism, chauvinism, and economic discrimination, profanities and vulgarities.

The Federal Communications Commission was commended for its determination to respond to the calls of the American people for the elimination of violence on television.

The resolution called on Southern Baptists and all Americans to commend publications, networks, editors and producers who refuse to exploit violence, and to ask advertisers to stop sponsoring programs glorifying violence.

In a stand on prayer for religious freedom, the messengers resolved that Southern Baptists renew their commitment to pray and fast for persecuted Christians and express concern and support for missionaries who have had to leave their field of work.

While the resolution on the Holy Spirit merely reaffirmed the adequacy of a section of the 1963 statement of the Baptist Faith and Message, it got more than its share of attention from the messengers.

Messengers sought, without success, to amend the resolution to say that Southern Baptists aren't charismatic now and haven't been.

Two other efforts to amplify the Baptist doctrinal statement were also defeated.

Mrs. R. L. Sappington of Houston, an opponent of women's liberation, wanted fellow messengers to instruct the convention president to call a meeting of state Baptist convention presidents to draft a fresh statement.

The Texas preacher's wife wanted the committee to add sections on the structure of authority in the New Testament, the structure of authority and practice in the home, an appendage on "the unique structure of the Southern Baptist Convention and any other articles the committee would deem pertinent."

Another well known messenger, M. O. Owens of Gastonia, N. C., wanted the convention to clarify the meaning of a clause in the statement. When Owens didn't appear for the discussion at a business session, the matter was dropped.

The messengers approved a resolution recognizing the need for vigilance concerning public school curriculum content and asked two of their agencies as well as local church groups to serve as watchdogs.

Joe Burton of Nashville led the unsuccessful effort to limit the convention president to a single one-year term instead of two. He cited as reasons "to discourage political striving, prevent any president from exploiting the office and to keep any ecclesiastical hierarchy from developing. Burton retired after 18 years as registration secretary for the convention.

A series of miscellaneous suggestions were referred to agencies for examination.

The Executive Committee agreed to look into a request for more ways Baptist institutions can show more tangible assistance to Southern Baptist pastors and ministers.

A request for help for ministers involved in problems in family relationships was referred to the Sunday School Board for attention.

The Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee was asked to look into the matter of a complaint that buildings for use in pagan worship were being constructed on government owned land.

Among the reports from the agencies which elicited loud applause were those of the Sunday School Board, the Brotherhood Commission, the Home Mission Board, and Foreign Mission Board.

After describing the agency's progress in a variety of areas, including sales, Grady C. Cothen, president, reiterated his support of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement and added:

"I believe every bit of it . . . but I will not substitute it for the New Testament."

Mrs. Roseargentina Pinel-Cordova of San Antonio, the consul general of Honduras to Southwestern United States, drew heavy messenger support as she lauded the efforts of Southern Baptist laymen to alleviate suffering in her country following Hurricane Fifi and gave her personal Christian testimony. She spoke to the report of the Brotherhood which included testimonies about Royal Ambassador growth and preparing lay persons for witness and ministry.

The Home Mission Board supplied part of the color and pageantry with a stirring parade of flags of the fifty states and Puerto Rico.

Jimmy Anderson, an Indian missionary in Oklahoma who spoke to the mission board's report, told the messengers that Christian Indians should start getting the public ear to be spokesman for Indian problems.

"I'm tired of AIM (American Indian Movement) getting all the attention. AIM fans flames of discontent and says that Christianity is the Indians' greatest enemy. When they say that Christianity is the white man's religion, I say 'Don't give the white man so much credit.' No white man is that smart--or red or black man."

Vonda Kay Van Dyke, who was Miss America in 1965, followed the home missions presentation with a concert and testimony about her faith in prayer.

The final session of the convention was climaxed with an account of the tragedies and triumphs of missionary service around the world as part of a presentation by the Foreign Mission Board.

Missionaries from Vietnam, Bangladesh and West Africa told of the suffering and opportunity in the lands they serve. Eighteen missionaries were introduced to the messengers.

Woman's Missionary Union, which shared the final session with the mission board, emphasized statistical growth, financial stability and accelerated goals for special mission offerings.

Goals for the home mission offering will be \$9,500,000 in 1976; \$11,250,000 in 1977; \$13,000,000 in 1978, and \$15,000,000 in 1979.

Goals for the foreign mission offering will be \$24,000,000 in 1975; \$26,000,000 in 1976; \$28,000,000 in 1977, and \$30,000,000 in 1978.

Six SBC Seminaries  
Meet in Miami Beach

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The six Southern Baptist Convention-sponsored seminaries held reunions, elected alumni officers and heard "state of the seminary" reports here this week.

Four seminaries were involved in the annual meeting of Southwestern Seminary alumni presentation of distinguished alumni awards.

Southeastern Seminary President Randall Lolley presented a distinguished alumni award to Midwestern Seminary president Milton Ferguson.

Stanton Nash, assistant to the president at Golden Gate Seminary, presented a similar award to William J. Reynolds of Nashville, head of the church music department at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

A third award went to Bill Moyers, noted columnist for Newsweek magazine, who received the award in absentia from Southwestern professor William Pinson.

Russell Dilday, pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., was elected association president.

Lavon N. Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norman, Okla., was named vice president elect, and John Earl Seelig, vice president for administrative affairs at the seminary, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

At the New Orleans Seminary meeting, Landrum P. Leavell, II made his first keynote address to alumni. Leavell was named president this year.

Miss Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, Ala., received the Faculty Distinguished Alumnus Award for 1975. She is executive secretary of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union.

Elected alumni president was Charles Merry Christmas Sr., pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church, in Birmingham, Ala.

Other officers are Frank Gunn of Biloxi, Miss., president-elect; Mrs. Thomas Hill of El Paso, Tex., secretary, and Frank Ling of Moncks Corner, S. C., treasurer.

A missionary and a college dean received alumni of the year awards at the Golden Gate Seminary alumni association meeting. They are Stephen P. Carleton, academic dean at California Baptist College, and Gordon E. Robinson, missionary to Nigeria.

Elected president of the association was Hazen M. Simpson, pastor of Burbank Central Baptist Church.

Others elected are Wayne A. Eurich, superintendent of missions in San Diego, Calif., president-elect; Max Kell, pastor of El Camino Baptist Church of Sacramento, vice president; and L. Arthur Nunn, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, of Petaluma, Calif., treasurer.

A new "Brooks Hays Lectureship," was announced during the annual get-together for Southeastern Seminary. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Hays were presented to alumni during the luncheon.

Also, alumni heard the first "state of the seminary" address by President Lolley since he became president.

Officers are Charles F. Granger, pastor at Wauchula, Fla., president; Carter Morrell of Kensington, Md., vice president; Fate Thomas of Chattanooga, Tenn., secretary, and Jim Auchmuty of Birmingham, Ala., director.

Midwestern alumni were given "A Look at Tomorrow," by president Milton Ferguson during their session.

Officers of the association are Tom Burgdorf of Kansas, City, Mo., president; Joe Barbour of Kansas City, Kan., vice president, and Ms. Betty Raines of Kansas City, Mo., secretary.

More than 1,200 former students of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary met to salute "Alumni of the Year" and pay tribute to a deceased seminary staff member.

The near-record alumni gathering was presided over by Dan C. Stringer, Jr., executive secretary of the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Oregon, and Mark Caldwell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Plantation, Fla. Stringer has served as president of the association for the past year and Caldwell as secretary.

The alumni meeting honored Arthur Rutledge, executive director of the Home Mission Board; David Byrd, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.; and Hugh Peterson, emeritus dean of the seminary, as outstanding alumni.

The group elected Julian Cave, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., to serve as president-elect. He will assume the presidency in 1976. Also elected a national officer was Dorothy M. Pryor, executive secretary of the Georgia Woman's Missionary Union since 1963. She will be secretary of the 12,000-member association.

Following the luncheon the alumni adjourned to a memorial service for T. R. "Bob" Allen who died Monday, June 9 in the Miami Convention Center's exhibition hall. Allen was superintendent of grounds at the seminary for 33 years.

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SBC Agency Reports Reflect  
Economics, Bicentennial

Baptist Press  
6/12/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Economic pressures and U. S. bicentennial plans were reflected in reports from commissions and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention during the final business session at the SBC here.

The Southern Baptist Foundation "truly had to walk a tightrope in 1974" in seeking to maintain sound investments of \$12.7 million in trust funds, Kendall Berry, executive secretary-treasurer, said.

Berry cited the "conservative nature and astuteness" of foundation trustees as a stabilizing factor in a year of Watergate, change of national leadership, an oil embargo, and food shortages. He called a deterioration of approximately 10 percent of net assets a "relatively enviable record."

The Historical Commission, the Education Commission, and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs told of plans for observing the nation's 200th birthday.

A convention-wide plan of coordinated promotion for use in the churches and associations in 1975-76 was a project the Historical Commission shared in. The commission has an ongoing program which encourages churches to preserve their histories on microfilm and in other ways.

A national colloquium in Williamsburg, Va., will be sponsored by the Education Commission prior to the 1976 SBC meeting. The commission also emphasized the close cooperation with the convention's Foreign Mission Board in offering professional services to overseas educational programs. A group of Baptist educators visited Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan, and Hong Kong Baptist College as part of this program.

Southern Baptists will be one of nine Baptist groups in a national convocation in Washington, D. C., sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as part of the bicentennial observance.

Enrollment has doubled in the past five years at the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, Tenn. The report from the American Baptist Theological Seminary Commission also indicated alumni have pledged gifts of \$25,000 for the current year.

The seminary, sponsored by Southern Baptists and by National Baptist (black) groups, draws many students from limited educational and cultural backgrounds. Blacks are also enrolled in all six Southern Baptist seminaries. Spring enrollment at the Nashville school was 140.

Evangelistic growth of 9.8 percent in Africa was reported by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) which has 99 member Baptist groups. Overall growth in evangelistic efforts was 2 percent.

BWA representatives intercede with embassy offices around the world in behalf of persecuted Baptist groups.

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