



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 14, 1977

77-105

Officials Testify On  
Child Pornography

WASHINGTON (BP)--Officials in President Carter's administration favor "the concept" of legislation against child pornography, according to testimony here, but they fear that current proposals in Congress fail to meet rigid constitutional tests of free speech.

They suggest that the proposals focus on "child abuse," rather than on pornography, to assure that the courts will not void them on constitutional grounds.

The officials expressed the views in a joint hearing before the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Education Subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor, called by U.S. Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.) and U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.). The hearing was on the sexual exploitation of children and bills H. R. 3913 and H. R. 4571.

Administration officials invited to testify were John C. Keeney, deputy assistant attorney general, Criminal Division, Department of Justice; C. Neil Benson, chief postal inspector, United States Postal Service; and G. R. Dickerson, acting commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

Keeney's testimony, on behalf of the Justice department, stressed that the broadness of the bill's language would make it virtually unenforceable in court. The Supreme Court has consistently protected expression under the First Amendment. The proposed legislation would violate court guidelines.

Keeney stated that changes in the bill would make it more useful and also make convictions easier to obtain.

Benson told the joint hearing, "Significant revision would be necessary to make the proposed legislation workable from an investigative point of view."

However, Benson offered any help possible in developing a bill "which would avoid the technical, practical, and constitutional problems in the proposed bills."

According to Dickerson up to 60 percent of materials seized by Customs officials which are pornographic contain child pornography. He suggested that it be made a criminal violation to transport or mail child pornography in foreign commerce as a deterrent. At present, unless a person attempts to smuggle such material into the country, there is no criminal penalty.

U.S. Rep. John M. Murphy (D-N.Y.), co-sponsor of the legislation, emphasized that the bill made no attempt to deal with the troublesome legal issue of "obscenity" but rather with the economic foundation of the pornography industry.

"Our legislation makes it financially unsound, and legally fearsome, to even consider the use of a child in such a manner," Murphy asserted.

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Wrapup

Pastors Elect Smith, Hear  
Battery of Sermons

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

By Dan Martin and Stan Hasteay

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--More than 10,000 persons heard thundering sermons and Christian psychology and elected an Oklahoma preacher as their president during the two-day Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here.

Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was named president of the conference, succeeding Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala.

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Pastors chose Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of Jacksonville, Fla., First Baptist Church, as vice president and John Hatch, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Tex., as secretary-treasurer.

The pastors also heard 12 sermons, six of which were by non-Southern Baptists.

Warren Wiersbe, pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, delivered three messages; Stephen Olford, who terms himself an "independent Baptist sort-of adopted by the Southern Baptists," preached twice, and Clyde Narramore, a Christian psychologist from Rosemead, Calif., spoke once. Narramore is a member of a congregational church.

The pastors, however, reserved their most thunderous ovations for three Southern Baptists.

Two of them--W. A. Criswell of First Baptist Church of Dallas, who spoke and R. G. Lee, pastor-emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., who was absent--received a standing ovation. Both are former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) presidents.

The third--Adrian Rogers, current pastor of Bellevue--was interrupted numerous times as he preached to the pastors.

Selection of the non-Southern Baptists drew criticism. Several pastors questioned the need to go outside the SBC for speakers when there are Southern Baptists who are excellent preachers and Bible teachers.

Smith, in a post-election interview, said he believes the conference "ought to feature Southern Baptists . . . we have some outstanding Bible teachers and preachers."

Noting he is a conservative he said he believes that fact assisted in his election. "I preached at about a dozen state evangelism conferences this year and it appears the men want as president somebody who will have a conference that will feed them . . . fill them."

He said he is not a member of the conservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, which espouses the verbal inspiration theory of Bible interpretation and has vowed to ferret out "liberals" in the SBC. He averred: "I am a loyal Southern Baptist. I'll be a Southern Baptist 'til I die. Southern Baptists have been good to me. I would not do anything to hurt Southern Baptists."

While he says he agrees theologically with BFMF, he said he would not join the group, and in fact declined to write for the BFMF publication, Southern Baptist Journal, or to speak at a BFMF conference in Arkansas.

Lee, 91, drew a standing ovation even though he was absent. He was scheduled to speak at the closing session--as he has done for many years--but suffered a heart attack recently.

He sent a taped message, and participants heard excerpts from Lee's former addresses to the conference.

In the message, he said he is "getting better," and said: "God bless each one of you."

Criswell, pastor of the SBC's largest congregation, defended the infallibility of the Bible against critics and skeptics, past and present.

He decried present-day attacks on Scripture, particularly by college professors, whom he described as "smart boys" who mislead Christian young people and cause them to give up the faith.

Criswell said that "there has never been a spade of dirt turned up by the archaeologists" which denies the infallibility of Scripture.

He also said that while the Bible is not a scientific textbook, it is more reliable than science.

Criswell was greeted by a thunderous standing ovation before his address and was interrupted several times for polite applause.

Rogers, who took Lee's place on the program, told pastors "Five men rule America from their graves," and listed Charles Darwin, Soren Kirkegaard, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud and John Dewey as men who "hatched the egg which poisoned" science, religion, politics, psychology and education.

"This kind of thing," he said, "has sabotaged God, deified man, sanctified sin . . . liquidized society."

He also told the pastors he had seen Lee a few days ago, and said "he gripped my hand and said to me, 'Pastor, we can do it . . . we can shake the world if we let God get hold of us one more time.'"

Wiersbe chided churches for leaving America's cities, noting: "God is not building a silo. God is building a city."

He said he grew up in Chicago and has always "loved the city." He challenged pastors to have pity on people, even those victimized by life's harshness.

Olford, pastor-emeritus of Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, now president of Encounter Ministries, Inc., of Holmes Beach, Fla., decried the number of men leaving their pulpits for other employment and said statistics show 70,000 empty pulpits across the nation.

"I am disturbed that so many are stepping down . . . I am deeply concerned," he said, telling pastors they must restore "dignity" to the pulpits.

A Georgia pastor--John T. Tippet Jr., of Calvary Baptist Temple in Savannah--denounced homosexuality, abortion, liquor, crime, pornography, universalism and "personality oriented three-ring circuses" in the churches.

He told the conference that the "gay crowd is going to get it," but warned pastors it is not their job to seek vengeance against homosexuals.

Tippet told the crowd repeatedly that God is in control and their job is "to preach the word" and "minister to the critical social needs of their people," at the same time.

Lindsay, of Jacksonville, the new first vice president of the conference, told pastors "this nation is going to Hell, and largely because the pulpits are silent" on the subject of sin.

He referred specifically to problems of homosexuality, abortion, divorce, illegitimate births, runaway youths and teenage drunks.

Psychologist Narramore told the pastors: "Twenty percent of the men here today need some professional help. Some of you have wives who are in depression, who are showing schizophrenic tendencies . . . some of you are having homosexual inclinations . . . some of you are having an affair.

"I encourage you. Why don't you get some help? When you need help, get it. You will always be glad you did," he said.

An evangelist, Sam Cathey of Owasso, Okla., talked to pastors about the Holy Spirit, lacing his address with anti-charismatic statements. He facetiously quoted those who say that Southern Baptist life has "enough elasticity" to accommodate all kinds of viewpoints, and then cried: "BALONEY!"

A true, Southern Baptist, he said, will stand on the "inerrant" Word of God and he challenged those who disagree by saying, "Why don't you just get out . . . and as you go, don't take any of our churches with you."

Southern Baptist lay evangelist Carliss Odom of North Little Rock, Ark., a cerebral palsy victim, gave his testimony.

"The Lord has put a smile on my face, a song in my heart, a spring in my step, and has made my life very exciting," he said.

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Smith Elected To  
Head Pastors

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here.

He succeeds Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala.

The nearly 7,500 persons at the conference also named Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., as vice president, and John Hatch, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Tex., as secretary-treasurer.

Smith, who had been vice president under Vines, was elected without a runoff, garnering more than half the votes cast. He defeated Lindsay and John T. Tippet Jr., pastor of Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah, Ga.

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Smith was nominated by John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, Tex., and a former pastor of the church in the Oklahoma City suburbs Smith now leads.

Lindsay was nominated by Bobby Welch of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., and Tippett by Bobby Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moss Point, Miss.

Lindsay, nominated for vice president by Billy Weber, pastor of Northway Baptist Church of Dallas, Tex., accumulated about two-thirds of the votes in defeating Tippett, nominated for vice president by Ted Sisk of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., and Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., nominated by Marvin Gibson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cleveland, Tenn.

Hatch was elected by acclamation after his nomination by James Miller, pastor of Ridglea West Baptist Church of Fort Worth. Hatch succeeds Mike Todd, pastor of Bluff Park Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala.

In a post-election interview, Smith said he feels the primary responsibility of the president is the conference. "I hope to have one which will encourage and prepare pastors for the greatest responsibility in the world. I hope the conference will bless and equip them to go back and do the jobs they have," he said.

Asked if he sees the position as having a broader scope, Smith said: "I suppose that anybody elected to the office has some kind of influence. If I have any, I would want to lead our churches toward evangelism and the preaching of the word and the building up of the local church.

"I think the president has to remain faithful to that which has made Southern Baptists great: the seeking of the lost and the building up of the saved."

Smith said he believes the pastors' conference "ought to feature Southern Baptists . . . ought to be predominately Southern Baptists. We have some outstanding Bible teachers and preachers."

He made the statement in response to a question which noted six of the 12 speech slots in this year's conference are filled by non-Southern Baptists.

Smith added, "I am a loyal Southern Baptist. I'll be a Southern Baptist 'til I die. Southern Baptists have been good to me. I would not do anything to hurt Southern Baptists."

Smith noted he is "conservative," and added he believes he was elected because of that.

"I preached at about a dozen state evangelism conferences this year and it appears that the men want as president somebody who will have a conference that will fill them . . . feed them.

"I believe the men who preach at the pastors' conference should be excited about the fact that the Bible is God's word, who burn with a zeal for souls and who are committed to building the local church."

Smith said he is not a member of the conservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, which espouses the verbal inspiration theory of Bible interpretation and vows to ferret out "liberals" in the Southern Baptist Convention, and in fact said he declined to write an article for the BFMF publication, Southern Baptist Journal, and to speak at a BFMF Conference in Arkansas.

"I appreciate these people, but I am content to preach the word within the context of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

"I would not join their group," he said, while noting he believes the members of BFMF are a "cross-section of Southern Baptists."

While he agrees with them theologically, he said the main difference is one of "attitude . . . their attitude is that they want to have a separate identity."

"I believe as a Southern Baptist I can do anything I want. I don't have to have a separate tag," he said.

Smith, 38, is pastor of a church which runs in excess of 3,000 in Sunday School, one traditional Southern Baptist measure of church size.

Saying the last four presidents of the Pastors' Conference have been leaders of denominational "super churches," Vines observed the presidency of the prestigious conference probably won't go to the man who pastors a church which runs 150 in Sunday School.

"He just hasn't had the exposure we've had . . . not that we deserved to have it. I get a lot of invitations not as Bailey Smith, but as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church.

"As they say in politics, it's in name identification."

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Bible Scientifically  
Correct, Criswell Says

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--W.A. Criswell, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), told Southern Baptist pastors here he believes the Bible is scientifically accurate.

The fiery Criswell, pastor of the 19,000-member First Baptist Church, Dallas, labeled as blasphemers those who contend there are scientific errors in the Bible and seek to excuse the mistakes.

"My brother, if the Bible is not also scientifically accurate, it is not, to me at least, the Word of God.

"Now, if the Bible is the Word of God, and if God inspired it, then it cannot contain any scientific mistakes because God knew every truth and fact of science from the beginning," Criswell declared.

Criswell shared the podium with Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, and Stephen F. Olford, president of Encounter Ministries, Inc., of Holmes Beach, Fla.

Speaking on "The Infallible Word of God," Criswell took his text from II Peter 1:21, recalling that "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

"Now that is the Biblical idea of the inspired Word of God. Holy men of God wrote it down, they spoke, used words and syllables, sentences and paragraphs, language, ideas, and thoughts. They wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit of God."

Criswell chided theologians who contend the Bible is not a textbook of science and don't expect it to be scientifically accurate.

"I agree with the theologians on one thing, that the Bible is not a textbook on science. The Bible is the Word of God written for the salvation of man. We are not to read the Bible as a textbook on civics, geometry, astronomy, cosmogony or anthropology.

"From beginning to ending there is not a word or a syllable or a revelation in the Word of God that has contradicted or ever will contradict any true, substantiated scientific fact," Criswell said.

While the Bible does not reflect the scientific background of the day in which it was written, the Bible is a historical book kept from error by the Holy Spirit, the minister explained.

Criswell suggested the preachers could avoid confusion <sup>from</sup> critics if they knew their Bible well.

Baffling discrepancies in translations aren't really discrepancies at all, Criswell said, and "these so-called scientific errors in the Bible melt away under close analysis."

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#### Wrapup

Churches Urged to  
Be Redemptive

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--About 330 participants in the 22nd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association here heard four speakers encourage churches to accept the denomination's "Bold Missions" challenge, make Bible study more effective, be more redemptive in its ministry, and allow itself to be continually "broken and reshaped."

The group also elected new officers for 1977-78 and honored two long-time Sunday School Board leaders who are retiring.

William E. Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., called on theologians to simplify Bible study for lay people. He described the amateur Bible student as "tentative, hesitant and almost excluded" from any serious Bible study.

"Complexity has tended to immobilize some of our sharpest people and the amateurs become confused outsiders or lost," he said.

People either feel embarrassed and muted or retreat to a simplistic pre-critical period, Hull explained.

"If Baptists ever get the idea that an understanding of New Testament Christianity is available only to a handful of specialists with years of technical training, then Bible teaching is just about as good as dead."

Albert McClellan, program planning director and associate executive secretary for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, encouraged the group to follow the example set by President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist.

"I think Mr. Carter represents something that is latent in all of us, and that is a certain kind of enthusiasm that, if it burns brightly enough, will catch the world on fire," McClellan said.

"Many of our churches have become so preoccupied with the business of building churches at home, that they have given little regard to what is happening abroad," he continued. "We cannot survive as the missionary Baptist church in that way--there is just no future apart from the missions task."

Suggesting a theology for bold mission to which McClellan referred, W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., suggested Baptists "allow the church to be continually broken and reshaped," disregarding the antiquated specifications so long imposed.

B. A. Clendinning, minister of counseling at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, warned the educators that churches are going to lose many of their members unless they become more redemptive.

He told of a Baptist church member who left a church after the pastor delivered a "scathing" sermon against homosexuality. The man called Clendinning to find out if his church would accept someone as a member if the church knew he was a homosexual.

"What is the church for if it's not for people who have problems; for people who are sinners; for people to worship, to grow and to learn even in the midst of their human frailties?" he asked.

"If we are to truly minister, we are obligated to care for man's needs whatever they are, wherever they are. If we don't zero in on those very real needs, an increasingly large number of those people are going to defect. They are going to go where their needs will be met or stay home where they are comfortable."

The two retiring Sunday School Board directors honored were Philip B. Harris, secretary of church training department at the Sunday School Board, and A. V. Washburn, secretary of the Sunday School department. The men and their wives were recognized and their wives were presented silver serving bowls.

The newly-elected officers of the association are Elmer F. Bailey, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, president; Charles M. Lowry, director of the teaching and training division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, president-elect; Lawrence Klämpnauer, minister of education and administration, Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., vice-president from the church group; William G. Caldwell, associate professor of education administration, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, vice-president of the teaching group; Melva Cook, program consultant of the family ministry department of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, secretary-treasurer; and Marjory Perkins, consultant for preschool and children of the Maryland State Baptist Convention, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Theologians Urged To  
Simplify Bible Study

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--William E. Hull, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., called on theologians here to simplify Bible study for lay people.

Speaking in the opening session of the 22nd annual Southern Baptist Religious Education Association meeting at the Sheraton Royal Hotel, Hull, former dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said interest in the Bible is declining because it's so hard to teach.

Hull described the amateur Bible student as "tentative, hesitant, and almost excluded.

"Our difficulty in dealing with the Bible revolves around the complexity of it. There are more translations, versions and technicalities to Bible study now days. This complexity has tended to immobilize some of our sharpest people and the amateurs become confused outsiders or lost."

People either feel embarrassed and muted or retreat to a simplistic pre-critical period, Hull said.

"There is an awful lot of dependence today even in our curricular literature on the standard commentaries, and what that really means is we're not studying the Bible--we are studying Barclay."

Hull suggested that serious Bible study within the Southern Baptists Convention has been limited to seminary-trained persons.

"If Baptists ever get the idea that an understanding of New Testament Christianity is available only to a handful of specialists with years of technical training, then Bible teaching is just about as good as dead.

"Those who are in command of the critical method, who have the technical training, the doctor's degrees, the linguistic and historical knowledge, most of them are doing very little to help the church in its feelings of rebuff.

"Many of them would say, 'OK, you want to have a New Testament church? Well, which kind? Do you want the Jesus of the Synoptics or the Jesus of John? Do you want the Paul of the Epistles or the Paul of Acts? Do you want the church as it was in Judaism or the church as it was in Hellenism? Do you want a church like Galatia where there were no official leaders or a church like the pastorals where there were bishops and elders? And, do you want the kind of church that was submissive to the state in I Peter or the kind that was opposed to the state in the book of Revelation?'"

Hull said such a complex approach confuses and frustrates the church member who is really serious about returning to a Biblical basis for the church.

He called on churches to "rehabilitate the reformation ideals of the church teacher.

"The New Testament office of the teacher...has been allowed to wither," he said. "We can direct religious activities or we can preach, but in between those two there is a kind of uneasiness."

During the opening session, the religious educators also heard testimonies of the success of the educational programs of three Southern Baptist churches.

The speakers, Charles P. Wood, minister of education at Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.; Bill Taylor, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La.; and Richard Douglas, pastor of First Baptist Church, Putnam City, Okla., all credited their basic Bible teaching programs with the success of their total church programs.

The three men also gave credit to the outreach and visitation efforts of their churches.

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Wrapup

Campus Ministers Launch  
New Organization

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

By Carol Franklin

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The fledgling Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers elected officers here and heard a noted Christian psychologist discuss the benefits and disadvantages of popular psychological movements.

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Dick Bumpass, director, student ministries, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., was elected the first president of the newly-formed organization in session at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Other officers are Mike Lunde, campus minister, Texas Technological Institute, Lubbock, Tx., vice-president of administration; Ron Brown, campus minister, Roanoke College, Roanoke, Va., vice-president of publications; Geneva Metzger, campus minister, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C., vice-president of programs; and Don Gurney, director, student ministries, U. S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., vice-president of membership.

R. Lofton Hudson, director, Midwest Christian Counseling Center here, led sessions on Transactional Analysis (TA) and Transcendental Meditation (TM).

Hudson told the campus ministers (formerly BSU directors) that TA's popularity in the 1960's is a "sign of the times" with its emphasis on individualism, rebellion and anti-authoritarianism.

Hudson said, however, that TA can be useful to the Christian minister because its professional jargon is more easily understood by the layman than most psychological language.

TA also places a healthy emphasis on childhood and intimacy, Hudson said.

Hudson was critical of TM but stated that its techniques of meditation can be borrowed by the Christian. "We want instant salvation, instant growth, instant maturity, instant everything," Hudson said. "We can't have that but the questions are--are we going to knock it (TM) or are we going to develop something better?"

In another address he said application of New Testament cultural ideas about man/woman relationships to our modern culture is heresy.

"We have made pretty good progress in our understanding of race relations but we have a long way to go in man/woman relationships," Hudson told members of the association.

"The word translated 'submission' in Ephesians really means to lift up, not to knuckle under," Hudson said. "The idea of a chain of command is a heresy. God is father and we are all brothers so there is no place for such ideas."

Hudson noted three components of marriage: commitment, continuation, and encouraging the partner's growth and fulfillment.

He questioned traditional understandings of when a couple is married. Without answering his own questions, he challenged the campus ministers to consider if God really has anything to do with a "marriage" that is forced by pregnancy or maintained because "divorce isn't nice."

On remarriage following divorce, Hudson said that "it is a sin not to remarry if your potential as a person can be better achieved in marriage with its love and support.

"The concept of 'til death do us part' is not in the Bible," Hudson said. "We want to aim at a lifetime commitment but in some situations it would be immoral bondage to force a partner to stay. The Bible speaks of one man and one woman leaving parents and cleaving together but not specifically the words in the marriage ceremony."

Hudson said that Anita Bryant, in her campaign to repeal a "gay rights" ordinance in Dade County, Fla., made at least two false assumptions.

"Anita Bryant makes the mistake of assuming that all homosexuals are alike, that the term means just one pattern of behavior. She also assumes, falsely, that homosexuals solicit non-homosexuals to become one. That just isn't so."

Bumpass said he feels campus ministers should stay out of denominational politics.

He said campus ministers need to focus on intensive Scripture study, personal prayer life and a balanced program of evangelism and mission interest but "stay out of the swinging door of denominational political intrigue."

"We are servants first," Bumpass said. "We have to be responsible and prophetic without sacrificing integrity."

Bumpass noted that present-day students have not rejected Biblical authority but are simply ignorant of the Bible's contents. "While students are throwing out what mama and papa said and what the local preacher said, they're taking on what the professor of



psychology said and what the professor of political science said. We need to be there to give them solid Biblical content."

The new president stressed the importance of constant growth and education for campus ministers.

"Until we've been in school long enough to know how profoundly ignorant we are, we haven't been there long enough. We've all been victimized, however briefly, by those whose theology was complete by the time they were nine years old. We can't afford that in an academic setting. We must be open to other disciplines and to criticism."

Bumpass also paid tribute to the contribution of Woman's Missionary Union to student ministries. "The WMU is one of the greatest friends BSU has ever had. Who else will work their heads off, who else meets weekly to study missions, pray for missions, who never fails to come through when you need help?"

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'Time' Critical for Southern  
Baptists, Sullivan Says

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

By Larry Crisman

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The word "time" played a major role in James L. Sullivan's final speech as president of the Southern Baptist Convention here in Roe Bartle Convention Center.

He voiced the word 12 times to emphasize points during the address. It was particularly noticeable in his last point:

"For Southern Baptists now is the time of greatest danger and greatest opportunity, and the two are inseparable," Sullivan declared. "Only history will determine which way we have gone."

Sullivan, stepping down after only a year as head of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, borrowed the 120th Southern Baptist Convention's overall theme of "Let the Church Reach Out" as a springboard for his swan-song remarks to messengers.

"Southern Baptists now stand at a... threshold," Sullivan said. "The hour to move out and upward is upon us."

Sullivan challenged messengers to stand united behind "Bold Mission Thrust"--a campaign designed to spread the message of Jesus Christ throughout the world by the turn of the century.

"Southern Baptists, like Abraham, stand now at the crossroads, feeling compelled to move," Sullivan remarked.

He advised the 12.9 million member denomination to "ask God to lead each step of the way and to determine our route as we progress.

"This is not the time for the routine and too ordinary," Sullivan stressed later in an interview with Baptist Press. "These are intense times and the challenge must be met with faith and daring much like Abraham's journey (into the land of Ur)."

Sullivan, former president of the denomination's sprawling Sunday School Board in Nashville, announced his resignation as president of Southern Baptists shortly before the convention. He was elected last year in Norfolk, Va.

In the speech, Sullivan surveyed Southern Baptist heritage, then spoke to "sensing our obligations" and "surging into action."

"Our Baptist history is glorious and our people have been courageous," Sullivan said.

But the current church must maintain its past passion for evangelism and outspokenness.

"Silence at times can be golden, but at other times it may be yellow."

Besides evangelism, Sullivan noted, the church has other major duties: helping believers communicate with their maker, proclaiming the truths of God, providing Christian instruction, fulfilling its local responsibility and sharing with others.

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Admonishing Southern Baptists to "surge into action," the SBC president said he believes "Christ-like compassion will not allow for inaction anywhere in the world.

"Christianity is more than a theory," Sullivan explained. "It is rescue."

He defined the term "rescue" as the process by which the world is "lifted" from the quagmire of sin."

"Realizing that the world is just one generation away from paganism should goad us into zealous action as we seek to rescue persons in peril . . . with the piercing Gospel," Sullivan said.

The Southern Baptist Convention, which has more than 35,000 churches, "is in the era of its greatest strength and testing," Sullivan said.

He asserted that Southern Baptists now have the technological hardware and know-how to evangelize globally.

"Our goal is to use these forces to extend, expand, let God empower and move with force to the ends of the earth . . ."

"The key is that local churches do their part in increasing the number of tithers in their membership and sharing the financial growth equally with others."

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SBC Adopts \$63.4  
Million Budget

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY (BP)--Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Tuesday adopted without opposition a record national Cooperative Program budget unified \$63.4 million.

Included in that figure is a basic budget of \$54 million, more than \$1 million for capital construction, and \$8.3 million in "Bold Advance Budget" funds. Bold Advance monies will be distributed to convention boards and agencies if the basic budget and capital needs budget are surpassed.

The 1977-78 budget is \$8.4 million above the 1976-77 budget.

The recommended budget was brought to messengers by the SBC Executive Committee. Executive Committee chairman W. Ches Smith III of Tifton, Ga., told the messengers that their action on the budget would be the "most important" decision made at this 120th session of the 12.9-million-member denomination.

Messengers also approved an Executive Committee proposal that Bylaw 20 of the SBC Constitution regarding state representation on the Executive Committee and denominational boards of trustees not be amended to provide representation to states where less than 250,000 Southern Baptists reside.

Seven states currently report fewer than the required quarter of a million Southern Baptists. State conventions in those states had asked the convention to consider giving them some representation on the policy-making bodies.

In another procedural move, the convention adopted an Executive Committee recommendation limiting local members on convention boards and agencies. Hereafter, only 12 (instead of the present 18) members may reside in the immediate vicinity of the convention's four general boards. Only 3 (instead of 5) may belong to any one local congregation.

Trustees of other convention agencies may hereafter include only eight local members and not more than two from any one congregation.

In other actions, the convention adopted recommendations from the Executive Committee approving Los Angeles as the site for the 1981 annual meeting and changing "sexist" language in certain bylaws.

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Baptists Urged To  
Oppose Korea Pullout

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Southern Baptists were urged here to become involved in preventing President Jimmy Carter's recent decision to pull American ground troops out of Korea.

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Timothy Chou of Seoul, a pastor representing Korean Baptists, told Southern Baptists attending the convention's 120th session in Kansas City that such action would cause war.

"There are 2,000 communist tanks poised along the 150 mile long Demilitarized Zone (established by the United Nations at the end of the Korean Conflict) and they could be in South Korea in three minutes," he declared.

"Forgive us if we have failed you," he pleaded, "and please do everything you can to prevent this American pull out and the war in Korea that would follow. Please pray for us."

Chou was among six messengers from other countries and other Baptist bodies introduced by Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

The others included Isaish Henderson of Kansas City, National Baptist Convention; Charles Z. Smith of Seattle, American Baptist Churches, USA; Rev. and Mrs. Joshua Thompson of Belfast, Ireland, Irish Baptists, and Jose Borrás of Madrid, Spain, Spanish Baptists.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, welcomed delegates to the city. Responding to Ferguson was Gaines S. Dobbins, 91, of Birmingham, Ala., who received a standing ovation from delegates.

Dobbins told the delegates he had lived through some of the most momentous times in the world's history but "today you have the transportation and the methods of communicating to spread the Gospel more effectively than during any other era."

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SBC Releases Votes,  
Opposes IRS Ruling

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention voted here to disclose the results of each vote taken, including tallies in elections and to protest an Internal Revenue Service ruling on "integrated auxiliaries of a church."

The decision came after Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., proposed an amendment to a recommendation from the convention's Executive Committee.

That body had recommended that vote tallies be disclosed on all ballots cast except for election results, which would be released only at the request of the messengers.

Chafin, in proposing his amendment that all results be announced, argued that "we need total openness on our votes."

In introducing the recommendation, Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, and member of the Executive Committee, said Southern Baptists were for openness in sharing all of the facts.

However, Paschall drew the line at revealing the vote for the officers "in the interests of protecting those who may be defeated for office. We do not want to encourage the victor to gloat over his victory and the loser to be embarrassed about his defeat."

Some messengers spoke against the amendment. Franklin Owen, executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, warned that the proposed action "would discourage the nomination of ordinary men" to convention offices.

Richard Beale, a Salem, Va., layman and member of the Executive Committee, said that "irreparable damage" might be done to the reputation of candidates who lost badly.

Others, however, supported Chafin.

G. Hugh Wamble, a professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., said that the American people would not tolerate secrecy by withholding vote counts in political elections.

While the amendment required a two-thirds vote of the messengers, first vice president Dotson M. Nelson ruled that the amendment carried easily.

In another major action, messengers voted overwhelmingly to protest a regulation imposed by the Internal Revenue Service earlier this year in which the federal taxing agency defined "integrated auxiliaries" of the churches.

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The issue, which has been addressed by a variety of Southern Baptist entities, objects to the elimination of certain kinds of religious institutions from IRS' traditional exemption from filing informational forms.

They include colleges and universities, child care facilities, homes for the aged, and hospitals.

IRS claims that the "integrated auxiliaries" definition is necessary because Congress has failed to define the ambiguous term.

It first became law when Congress passed the Tax Reform Act of 1969, using the term for the first time.

IRS contends that it has the responsibility of defining the term, but more than 80 church bodies, including Baptists, have disagreed, saying that the regulation has the effect of defining the mission of the churches by government.

A religious group's "principal activity" must be "exclusively religious" to save it from the filing regulation, IRS has stated. The churches' position is that government has no right to restrict their agencies and institutions in such a manner.

The SBC's action directs the convention's officers, the Executive Committee, and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a denominational agency located in Washington, D.C., to "take all necessary actions...to articulate and protect the Convention's position."

In other actions, the convention adopted recommendations from the Executive Committee to purchase a piece of property in Nashville, Tenn., adjacent to the SBC Building to relieve staff overcrowding, and to require convention agencies to adopt uniform auditing procedures.

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Allen Defeats Vines  
for SBC Presidency

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

KANSAS CITY (BP)--Messengers to the 120th session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here elected Texas Pastor Jimmy Allen as their president in a runoff election with Alabama Pastor Jerry Vines.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., succeeds James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Sullivan, elected last year at the convention in Norfolk, declined the traditional second term, citing "ceaseless air travel, constant physical and emotional strains and extended absences from home" as reasons for his decision.

Allen and Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, and outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, were among six men nominated for the post. Allen, who won a plurality on the first ballot, but not a majority, defeated Vines 5,100 to 3,300 in the runoff.

The newly-elected president was nominated by H. Edwin Young, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C.

Before becoming pastor of the 9,000-member San Antonio church in 1968, Allen was executive secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. Prior to that he held several pastorates.

Allen has been active in denominational activities for many years, including service as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1968-1971. He is a member of the SBC Executive Committee. He recently completed a term as national president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Other nominations for the presidency were Clifton W. Brannon, evangelist from Longview, Tex.; Dotson M. Nelson, pastor of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Warren G. Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.; and Richard A. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

Brannon was nominated by Kenneth Waldrop of Albuquerque, N.M.; Nelson by Conrad R. Willard of Miami, Fla.; Vines by Adrain P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn.; Hultgren by T. T. Crabtree of Springfield, Mo.; and Jackson by Jimmy Draper of Enless, Tex.

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Sunday School Board  
Trustee Approve New Position

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in a specially-called meeting here, approved creation of a new management position, elected new personnel and updated the institution's bylaws.

J. Ralph McIntyre, pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, since 1959, was elected director of the board's church and staff support division.

B. Elaine Dickson, on special assignment to the executive office of the board during the past year, was elected to the newly-created position of church services and materials coordinator.

A native Texan, McIntyre is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. In 1970, the doctor of divinity degree was conferred on him by Florida Bible College, Miami, Fla.

He has served as pastor of churches in Tennessee and Texas and has served on various board and agencies in Southern Baptist life. Currently, he is president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and is a trustee of the Sunday School Board.

The church and staff support division includes the church administration, church music, church library, church recreation, and church architecture departments.

Miss Dickson, a native of Illinois, holds the B.S. degree from Southern Illinois University, the M.R.E. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and the Ed.D. degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. She has done additional graduate study at Illinois State University, Boston University and the NTL Institute for Applied Behavioral Science.

In her new position, Miss Dickson will coordinate matters related to the Christian development, Bible teaching, and church and staff services divisions.

Trustees also approved changes in the institution's bylaws to update terminology and trustee committee assignments related to current organization.

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Minister-Wife Inseparable  
In Ministry of Church

By Bonita Sparrow

Baptist Press  
6/14/77

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--"No minister's wife can avoid being involved in his work," John Drakeford told 350 women attending a luncheon during the 22nd annual conference of Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives at William Jewell College here.

Dr. and Mrs. Drakeford of Fort Worth, Tex., presented a dialogue--"Together--in Missions" on the ideal pastor's wife, during a luncheon break of the annual Southern Baptist Convention in nearby Kansas City.

Drakeford, professor of psychology and counseling at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told the group many of their members are "on the horns of a dilemma, in an identity crisis. They are pulled in two directions--toward the strident voices of the women's libbers or toward the alternative, complete submission."

He paused for effect: "I say, a plague on both directions. There is a central pattern in the ministry. Husbands and wives are partners, and they can enrich each other."

The Drakefords worked from the passage in the Bible's book of Proverbs to describe the ideal women.

They compared her to a gem with many facets. "The facets of an ideal wife are hard work, strength and dignity, partnership, subtlety, and example," they said.

"Within the church life we are the examples and people look at us and decide by what we do how viable our witness and testimony is," Mrs. Drakeford reminded.

Mrs. John E. Lawrence of Raleigh, N.C., president of the Conference of Ministers' Wives, introduced the new officers. These include Mrs. Landrum Leavell II of New Orleans, president; Mrs. Harold Zwald of Atlanta, vice president; Mrs. Tom Brandon of Sherman, Tex., recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Alton McEachern of Greensboro, N.C., corresponding secretary.

Mrs. John Hamilton of Ames, Iowa, is president-elect.

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