

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

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77-165

WRAPUP

Commission Addresses Itself
 TV, Alcohol, Homosexuality

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), in its annual meeting here, voted to continue its emphasis on television morality, to sponsor a consultation on alcohol abuse and to develop resource materials for Southern Baptists on homosexuality.

Commission members approved a \$462,000 budget for 1977-78, including a seven percent cost of living increase for the staff, and elected William M. Tillman Jr. as director of research and editorial services. Tillman, who is completing work on a Ph.D. degree in Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will join the commission's staff Oct. 1.

In other action during the two-day session, the commission passed resolutions on energy and ABC-TV's new show, "Soap," authorized one-year consultant relationships with two retired seminary professors, Henlee H. Barnette and T. B. Maston, Southern Baptist authorities in the field of applied Christianity, and presented its Distinguished Service Award to William M. Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Members of the social and moral concerns agency also heard an address by SBC president Jimmy Allen and re-elected Forrest H. Siler, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lawton, Okla., as chairman. John S. Harris, pastor of Pineville Park Baptist Church, Pineville, La., was re-elected as vice chairman and Larry Maddox, pastor of Maywood Baptist Church, Independence Mo., was elected as recording secretary.

The Christian Life Commission's continued emphasis on providing help for television viewers will include increased attention to the impact of TV on children, a plan of action to deal directly with advertisers and further cooperation with other groups to improve programming. During 1977-78 the commission also will try to share Southern Baptist concerns with the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission and appropriate House and Senate committees in Congress.

The commission also authorized its advisory committee to seek additional funds necessary to expand the television project.

The consultation on alcohol abuse next year will invite experts to speak to denominational leaders on the various aspects of the problem and to help devise programs to deal with the issue. The commission staff will also work to develop materials to help Christians cope with the problem of alcohol.

In response to specific action taken on the subject of homosexuality at the Southern Baptist Convention in June, the commission approved a program aimed at providing informative resource materials on "What Christians Can Do About Homosexuality." A special resource piece would include articles on what the Bible says about homosexuality, homosexuality and the law, counseling homosexuals and what churches can do about homosexuality.

The commission's resolution on "Soap" called on ABC to withdraw the controversial, sex saturated series immediately and to "replace it with a program that is in keeping with ABC's responsibility to behave as a guest in the homes of the American people." The resolution also urged Southern Baptists to support local affiliates which refuse to air "Soap," and to express their disapproval to stations that do carry "Soap" and to companies which sponsor the show.

The resolution on energy encouraged Southern Baptist churches to take bold measures to reduce energy consumption in their buildings and to "alert their members to the fact that energy conservation in their personal lives and business activities is a matter of Christian responsibility."

Cauthen Reported Doing
Well After Collapse

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)--Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was reported recuperating well here after fainting while speaking at a local church.

Cauthen was reading the Scripture at the Sunday morning service of the Jackson Way Baptist Church here Sept. 18 when the pastor, Dan L. Ireland, noticed he was having difficulty. The pastor stepped up to Cauthen just as he fainted and lowered him to the floor until a rescue squad could be called.

Cauthen recovered consciousness as he was being taken out of the church and waved to members of the congregation. Examination at the Medical Center here showed Cauthen's blood pressure was up and his heart beat was irregular.

Mrs. Cauthen, who flew here from Richmond, said preliminary diagnosis indicates that Cauthen did not have a heart attack but the doctor asked that he remain in the hospital three days for further tests and observation.

She reported Sept. 19 that Cauthen had "a very good night" in the hospital's intensive care area and had eaten a good breakfast. His heartbeat had normalized. She said she hoped to accompany him back to Richmond at the end of the observation period.

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NOTE: An update on Cauthen's condition is expected Sept. 21.

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Hospital Puts Moratorium
On Sex-Change Operation

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9/19/77

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--A five-member surgical team which performs sex-change operations at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City have agreed to a moratorium on the operation following a request by Joe L. Ingram, executive director-treasurer of Oklahoma Baptists

Although the moratorium remains in effect, the hospital's governing board, elected by the state Baptist Convention, voted 11-5 and the executive committee of the medical staff voted 12-2 to continue the operations. The issue may be discussed further at the annual meeting of Oklahoma Baptists, Nov. 14-16 in Tulsa.

Ingram, who made his request to Jay Henry, president of Baptist Medical Center, is out of the country and was not available for comment.

Information that the operations have been performed at the hospital for the past two years recently became public knowledge through news stories. Some 50 sex change operations have been performed at the Baptist hospital.

Information that some 50 sex change operations have been performed at the hospital during the past two years recently became public knowledge through news stories. Such operations are also performed at University Hospital, Oklahoma City. Some 50 medical centers and teams throughout the country also perform it.

The procedures can change people born with a physical anatomy of one sex, yet identified psychologically and emotionally with the other sex. The procedure, according to reports, is normally used to change males-to-females, although female-to-male conversions are also performed.

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Radio-TV Commission
Involved With 'Directions'

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will be involved with two ABC-TV "Directions" programs in October.

The October 2 "Directions" will feature a conversation with Owen Cooper, retired Yazoo City, Miss., industrialist, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

On October 30 "Directions" will feature "Truce," one of the documentaries produced by the Radio and Television Commission for release in its 1978 group of "The Human Dimension" segments.

"Directions" is ABC's half-hour public affairs program for television. It is on the network 1:00 to 1:30 p.m., Eastern time.

Paul M. Stevens, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, submitted Cooper's name to Sid Darion, "Directions" producer. The conversation with Cooper, which will be taped in New York September 23, will be hosted by ABC news correspondent Herbert Kaplow.

"Truce," produced by John C. Stevens of the commission staff, features Dr. Ed Franks, a modern country doctor in a small, isolated, west Texas community of Iraan, who practices what he calls "the art of people medicine." He is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and is credited with encouraging young medical students to view rural family practice as a specialty.