



-- FEATURES
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78-187

'Husker Teammates
Witness for Christ

By Luther Alexander Jr.

LINCOLN, Neb. (BP)--University of Nebraska defensive lineman George Andrews spends large chunks of his time chasing quarterbacks.

But Andrew's routine was reversed a few seasons ago when Cornhusker quarterback Tom Sorley caught him.

"I became a Christian after living with Tom Sorley my freshman year," Andrews recently told the Baptist Digest, newspaper for Kansas and Nebraska Southern Baptists.

"They (my teammates) have seen a totally new George. The guys who have gone all five years with me have seen a difference in me and the type of life I lead, and they all know why," he said.

Andrews and Sorley, named co-captains by their teammates, are both members of Southview Baptist Church in Lincoln and are in demand as speakers for Nebraska churches, religious groups and civic organizations.

The two football stalwarts recently led Nebraska to a bruising 17-14 win over then top ranked Oklahoma, giving them the inside track for the Big 8 championship and Orange Bowl bid. For many of the kids in Nebraska, playing for the Cornhuskers and being part of the excitement that victories like that bring, would be the greatest thing in the world.

"But I tell them of something greater," Sorley said. He tells of the time he broke both bones in his right forearm--his passing arm--during a spring scrimmage that could have given him the number one quarterback slot.

"I looked to heaven and said 'Why now, God?' He used that to show me that football was too high a priority in my life; it was beginning to mean more to me than God, my family and my education," Sorley explained.

The pair says opportunities to share their faith come in many situations. They sometimes get together with Christian football players from other teams after the games or Andrews even has brief chats with Christian ballcarriers when he helps them to their feet after having tackled them.

"Experiences like that are what makes it great," Andrews says with a broad smile.

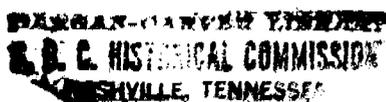
Sorley said he was grateful he learned to be compassionate in his approach to the unconverted. "It makes a lot of difference when you know somebody," he observed. "When I was in high school, our youth group would get into their cars and go to the municipal park where people were smoking dope, and try and convert the hippies.

"It was canned Christianity. Every Sunday night we'd go out to the park and the youth director would open a can and pour out Christianity. I began to change my approach after I met George. He was such a nice guy, but he didn't know the Lord."

Both Sorley, a senior business major, and Andrews, working on a masters degree in business administration, hope to play professional football.

"But I can't play football forever," Andrews said. "I know God is going to put me where my background will be put to good use. That's the most important thing in my life--being in the will of God."

(BP) photo mailed to Baptist newspapers by Baptist Digest.





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Va. Baptists Continue
University Support 606-434

ROANOKE, Va. (BP)--Virginia Baptists narrowly defeated an effort to delete the University of Richmond from state convention support.

Elected "messengers" to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia voted 606 to 434 to continue financial contributions despite the controversy which has swirled around the university.

Opponents to continued convention support repeatedly cited opposition to biblical interpretation and campus lifestyle.

Last year, Robert Alley, then chairman of the university's department of religion, reportedly told a group of atheists that "Jesus never really claimed to be God or to be related to him."

Alley, a tenured professor, resigned his chairmanship during the controversy surrounding his statements and was shifted to direct area studies. He no longer teaches any religion courses.

Campus lifestyle allegations referred to policies of the university which allow students to drink alcoholic beverages in designated areas, although the university does not advocate such consumption, and to allow visitation of opposite sexes in dormitory rooms under certain specified conditions. One messenger also cited an advertisement last year in the university student newspaper of an R-rated movie to be shown on campus.

The University of Richmond opposition was part of a five-part agenda by an unidentified but obviously organized group seeking to control actions of the convention, although the university controversy is broader than any particular group.

Other unsuccessful measures on their agenda reportedly included efforts to elect a president and a first vice president, to request University of Richmond trustees to delete all references to Baptists from their charter, and to amend the convention's statement on abortion.

The abortion committee report, after much discussion, was adopted with only minor changes. The committee had requested that the Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg, discontinue all convenience abortions and requested that no doctor be allowed to perform an abortion without consulting with two other physicians.

A successful amendment requested that the doctor also confer with the hospital chaplain and/or family pastor before performing the abortion.

An unsuccessful amendment would have prevented abortions except in the cases of incest, forcible rape or to save the life of the mother.

In other actions, messengers approved overwhelmingly and with no debate an effort to amend the convention's religious liberty report to support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

They also resolved to oppose any legislation which would place Sunday Schools under state provisions for licensing of child care facilities.

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Two laymen, Emmett Stroop, manager of an oil products distributorship in Harrisonburg, Va., and Melvin Harris, a certified public accountant from Alexandria, were elected president and first vice president respectively.

Messengers voted an \$8,100,000 annual budget, of which 38 percent will go to Southern Baptist Convention causes through the SBC's national Cooperative Program. They also voted to refer for study a motion to increase Cooperative Program percentage one percent per year over the next 11 years until it reaches 50-50 distribution.

The 1979 convention is set Nov. 13-14 in Virginia Beach.

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Kan. - Neb. Raises
Cooperative Program

Baptist Press
11/16/78

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)--Elected "messengers" of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists re-elected their president and increased Cooperative Program giving in an "extremely quiet" annual meeting.

Gene Hawkins, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., was unanimously re-elected to his second term as president.

Messengers approved a total budget of \$1,555,779, which includes a convention Cooperative Program goal of \$833,000 in receipts from Kansas and Nebraska Baptist churches. Of the state goal, 21 percent is designated for world mission causes through the national Cooperative Program, an increase of one percent over last year.

The convention adopted resolutions that condemned television vulgarity, violence and nudity; encouraged Christians to teach positive biblical aspects of sexuality; and again commended the work of Kansan Richard Taylor and Nebraskan James Hamilton for their work against drugs and liquor in the two states.

The 1979 convention will be Nov. 12-14 at the Highland Manor Motel in Great Bend, Kan.

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Alabama Baptists Fired
By Bold Mission Zeal

Baptist Press
11/16/78

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--Alabama Baptists made good their promise to Southern Baptists to support Bold Mission Thrust by adopting a comprehensive report of a special study committee which calls for major changes in both program and budgeting procedures for the next decade.

"Few challenges have flamed the zeal and fired the commitment of Alabama Baptists as Bold Mission Thrust," M. Pat Harrison, chairman of the committee and pastor of the First Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., said of the Southern Baptist Convention goal to proclaim Christ to the world in this century.

Actions of the messengers of the 156th annual meeting of Alabama Baptists proved him correct.

Major actions in the report include: 1. Increasing from 35.5 to 45 percent the Cooperative Program allocation to SBC causes beginning with the 1979 convention year and increasing one-half percent each year thereafter until the division is 50-50 after shared denominational expenses; 2. Approving a \$1 million Good-News-Alabama budget for a massive media blitz next spring; 3. Continuing the Bold Mission committee another year to furnish leadership for the effort; 4. Establishing a state Mission Service Corps for volunteer missionaries; and 5. Establishing goals and objectives for all agencies and institutions of the convention and offering goals for volunteer adoption by local churches.

In other action, messengers passed a resolution commending entertainer Anita Bryant for her stand against homosexuality, re-elected Harper Shannon, pastor of Huffman Baptist Church, Birmingham, as president and voted a record-shattering budget.

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Messengers adopted a \$10.5 million Cooperative Program budget, of which 35.5 percent will go to SBC causes, plus a \$1.7 million challenge goal, of which 55 percent will go to SBC causes, and \$4 million goal for offerings for a total \$16.2 million budget.

The 1979 convention will meet Nov. 13-14 at First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

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Maryland Baptists
Confront Deficits

Baptist Press
11/16/78

NEWARK, Del. (BP)--In a convention dominated by concern over finances, elected "messengers" to the 143rd annual session of the Baptist Convention of Maryland made history by meeting outside geographical Maryland for the first time in the 142 years of the convention.

They approved a record budget, debated issues such as the structural role of the Woman's Missionary Union and the right of messengers to adjust the proposed budget from the state mission board, and elected James Willey, pastor of Middle River Baptist Church in suburban Baltimore, as president. He is a Delaware native.

During the meeting at Ogletown Baptist Church, Newark, Del., messengers, who have faced three years of deficit budgets, debated actions of the state mission board which limited the 1979 Cooperative Program budget to only a \$6,612 increase over the current budget for 1978, which will experience a projected four percent shortfall.

In October, the board had approved the deletion of two staff positions, one currently filled, and the reduction in allocations to the state paper, the Baptist building operation-maintenance expense and to the agencies and institutions of the denomination.

In the opening session of the convention, former Maryland WMU President Frances Andrews presented a motion calling for an increase of \$5,000 to the WMU budget internally to preserve a staff position for adult promotion, currently filled by Barbara Elder, who came in June, 1977. After debate, the Andrews motion was approved by secret ballot on a vote of 122 to 119.

The total budget for the 1979 year amounts to \$2,157,958, including \$1,454,700 in receipts from Maryland convention churches. Maryland Baptists will send 40 percent of the Cooperative Program amount to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

In a series of resolutions messengers opposed decriminalization of marijuana, denounced the Anheuser-Busch beverage, Chelsea, also known as "Baby Beer," opposed tuition tax credits for private and parochial schools, decried state lotteries in Maryland and Delaware, and took action urging response to world hunger.

Outgoing Maryland Convention President William Hillis called for messengers to miss a meal and give the proceeds to world hunger projects through an offering. Messengers contributed more than \$500.

The convention met in Delaware as a tribute to the growth of Southern Baptist life in Delaware. Currently, seven Delaware Baptist churches, with about 3,500 members, are affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland. The pastor of the Ogletown Baptist Church, Otis L. Doherty, was elected one of the vice presidents in recognition of the Delaware affiliation with the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

The convention will meet at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bel Air, Md., Nov. 12-14, 1979.

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