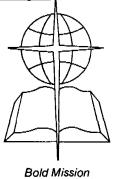
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While It Is Yet Day!

Photo Information

Photo 1

MISSIONS CLUSTER--M. Giles Fort, Jr. (left), his wife Wana Ann, and son David (seated), shared their experiences as missionary physicians with Louis R. Cobbs at a meeting of Woman's Missionary Union in Houston. All three Forts are foreign missionary physicians. Mr. and Mrs. Fort are on furlough from their appointment in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia. David is a foreign medical missions volunteer from Dallas. The cluster was directed by Cobbs, secretary for missionary personnel, Foreign Mission Board. Photo by Mark Sandlin

Photo 2

CAUTHEN ACCEPTS AWARD-Baker James Cauthen, retiring executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, accepted an award from the Woman's Missionary Union prior to his Sunday afternoon address to the women in Houston. Cauthen's wife Eloise (left), accompanied him in accepting the award. The award was presented by Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU. Photo by Mark Sandlin



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Top Ten Givers

Bold Mission

While It is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 10—South Main Baptist Church of Houston and Sumny Hills Baptist Church of Fullerton, Calif., led the Southern Baptist Convention in gifts to the 1978 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

The top 10 churches in both total and per capits gifts to the effering were announced by William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, during ceremonies at Woman's Missionary Union's annual meeting preceding the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main, received a plaque from Tanner f r the church's offering of \$22,951.

G. William Grady, pastor of Sunny Hills, also got a plaque for the church's effering of \$1,624.36 which averaged \$36.09 for each of the 45 resident members.

The mission board compiled the lists of top 10 churches from 1978 unif rm church letters on file with the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Nine other churches leading in total gifts received latters of commendation and a book. They were First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, \$19,322; First Baptist Church of Columbus, Miss., \$17,054; First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., \$15,641; First Baptist Church of Houston, \$15,440; First Baptist Church of San Antonio, \$15,104; Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, \$14,902; First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., \$13,962; First Baptist Church of Columbus, Ga., \$13,922; and Wieuca Road Baptist Church of Atlanta, \$13,308.

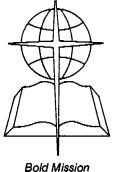
Leading churches in per capita gifts per resident member also honored were Palmerville Baptist Church of New London, N.C., \$35.55 for each of 29 members; Rifle Southern Baptist Chapel of Rifle, Colo., \$29.46 for each of 28 members; New Zion Baptist Church of Ona, Fla., \$27.89 for each of 85 resident members; Keysville Baptist Church of Rose Keysville, Ga., \$25 for each of seven members; New Concord Baptist Church of Rose Hill, Miss., \$25 for each of six members; Bates Park Baptist Church of Estes Park, Colo,, \$23.44 for each of 39 members; Midway Baptist Church of Lamesa, Tex., \$21.83 for each of 68 members; Hart Camp Baptist Church of Littlefield, Tex., \$20.91 for each of the 23 members; and Hill Creek Baptist Church of Richlands, Va., \$20.62 for each f 26 resident members.

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By Judy Touchton--10:30 p.m. Sunday







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Roundup for Monday PMS

Bold Mission
While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 11--A missionary to the underprivileged in Houston told Southern Baptist women here Monday that times of death provide the best opportunity to share the .Christian faith in the ghettos.

Mildred McWhorter, director of the Baptist Center and Fellowship Center as a home missionary, reported she's called upon to conduct graveside services in her assistance to those persons untouched by the ministries of local Baptist churches.

Through the two Baptist centers, Southern Baptists minister to about 5,000 persons a year, many in the 56 Bible study groups offered each week, she said.

The missionary added she also finds jobs for the unemployed, makes medical referrals for the sick, enrols others in the work program to earn food and clothing, and helps young people on drugs.

McWhorter described the Houston ministries for almost 3,000 women attending the two-day annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, at the Civic Center Music Hall.

The women's group is one of five Baptist organizations closing out meetings Monday night in advance of the three-day meeting of the SBC which starts Tuesday at the Summit. The other Baptist groups are composed of pastors, ministers of education, ministers of music, and associational directors of missions.

The pastors were treated to a series of sermons, including one by 'Ralph W. Stone, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., on the seeds of success.

"God has placed within every human being either the seeds of success or the seeds of failure," Stone contended. "You become the deciding factor as to which seeds you will sow.

"I know that many people do not like the word success because the only thing they ever associate with it is money. Money is not a true criterian for success. The most successful people I know are not wealthy at all. Their lives are characterized by a good family, steady employment, and an involvement in their church."

Stone listed his seven principles of success as a sense of direction, understanding, courage, charity, esteem, self-confidence and spirit.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., described for the ministers the role of the pastor as a shepherd.

"Some churches want lap dogs, some want yap dogs, and some want lead dogs. God has called us as lead shepherds and you will find, nearly without exception, that the churches that are doing business with God are marked with strong pastor-shepherds."

Richard A. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., also addressed the pastors.

The 122nd annual meeting of the SBC, expected to attract about 18,000 messengers from 50 states will feature addresses by former White House Aide Charles Colson Tuesday, by Evangelist Billy Graham on Wednesday and by country comic Jerry Clower and Russian Baptist dissident Georgi Vins on Thursday.

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By Roy Jennings--11:30 p.m., Sunday

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Pastors' Conference

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 10---The opening session of the two-day conference of Southern Baptist pastors was used as a platform here Sunday night to endorse Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, as the conservatives' candidate for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and former SBC president, made the unqualified endorsement during the opening remarks of his address to the 8,000 preachers.

"We will have a great time here if for no other reason than to elect Adrian Rogers as president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Criswell said.

Criswell's church operates Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, a hotbed of Southern Baptist conservatives concerned about liberalism in the 13.2 million member denomination.

In an interview following the address Criswell said he expects Rogers to be nominated and elected, even though he explained there is an "unwritten law" that forbids a former SBC president to nominate a candidate for that office.

Criswell also indicated that if Rogers is nominated and agrees to run, two other candidates, Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; and Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will withdraw their names. Rogers and the other two pastors are the three candidates reportedly committed to doctrinal reform within the denomination, primarily over the issue of biblical inerrancy.

Rogers, pastor of the largest Southern Baptist church east of the Mississippi River with more than 10,000 members, said God hadn't "spoken to his heart" about offering himself as a candidate but that he should know by Tuesday, date of the election to choose a successor to President Jimmy Allen of San Antonio. It was Rogers who fired the opening volley at liberalism in an address kicking off the pastors' conference at the Coliseum.

Rogers expressed concern about the liberalism that he claims is taking over Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries. He also attacked Baptist publications for their support of the seminaries and denominational agencies, and stated that every Baptist church with an excellent track record in annual baptisms is "a conservative Bible-believing church" with pastors who "believe in the inerrant, infallible word of God.

"It is not the only ingredient," he said, "but it is the basic ingredient.

"I've been reading our Baptist publications," Rogers continued. "They're saying to forget orthodoxy and get on with evangelism and missions. That's ridiculous. What you believe determines what you do. Your zeal is never any greater than your conviction and your conviction comes out of the word of God.

"If those liberals will ever come to the Cross of Christ, all heaven will break loose," he said.

Another speaker at the opening session of the conference of pastors devoted most of his address to an attack on liberalism in the denomination.

James Robison, evangelist of Hurst, Texas, said if Southern Baptists tolerate the liberalism of the convention "we will be guilty of the death" of the convention.

Even President Allen didn't escape Robison's criticism.

Robinson said he disagreed with President Allen's recent statement that "There are those who would like to change the agenda of the convention from missions to orthodoxy,"

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Page 2--Pastors' Conference

and that "such a shift of emphasis would be tragic because it would make us miss God's initiatives at a time when we are in a unique position to become a flash point in spiritual awakening."

In rebuttal, Robison said that "without the Bible you have no message. Without the Bible you have no evangelism. Without the Bible you have no mission...and it does matter which Bible you believe."

Most of Robison's attack however was aimed at professors of Baptist colleges and seminaries. He said Satan works most effectively when he influences the "minds of those who teach others...sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism."

"How many are coming out of our seminaries with a zeal for souls?" Robison asked. "there are some, but it's in spite of and not because of our institutions."

Robison also defended Harold Lindsell, editor emeritus of Christianity Today and president of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship who asked liberals to leave the SBC. He said editors of Baptist publications should not have attacked him in their editorials and "it's a shame that a seminary president called him and his book 'poppycock.'"

"We must elect a president not only dedicated to the inerrancy of the word of God, but who will stand to remove any seminary professor who doesn't believe in the inerrant Word of God," Robison said.

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By Charlie Warren--11:40 Sunday night



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SBC News Room

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Sunday Campus Ministers

HOUSTON, June 10--Campus ministers live on the cutting edge of the frontier of theology and ministry, John Newport, noted Fort Worth lecturer and theologian, said Sunday at the University of Houston Religion Center.

Addressing the third annual meeting of the nearly 100-strong Association of Campus Ministers, Newport said, "Many want to study religion but not many want to pay the price of being a campus minister."

Newport, who will become vice president for academic affairs at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth July 1, addressed current issues in society which campus ministers face.

He identified two issues: the expansion of consciousness and futurology. In two future addresses during the two-day meeting, Newport will add other issues, including arts and media, the use of the Bible as a moral guide and attitudes toward miracles.

Both futurology and mind expansion can complement the functions of Christianity, he said.

"Some contend the biggest deterrent to creativity and expanded consciousness is orthodox religion," Newport said. "But for Christians, Biblical tradition is not a deterrent."

Recent movements in mind expansion include the charismatic movement, or speaking in tongues, he added. "From these charismatics and from far eastern religions, we can learn lessons of the positive aspects of interpersonal relationships, emotionalism, spontaniety and the use of the subconscious.

"Southern Baptists' genius has been the mediating role--seeing the lessons in these disciplines and trying to move both extremes toward the middle without being caught in between."

Of the presence of futurology, which he defined as a catch-all term for planning for the future, Newport said Southern Baptists can respond to its challenges.

"Futurology emphasizes the importance of the world-wide movement to recover moral and spiritual values," Newport said.

"This is what Southern Baptists are all about in Bold Mission Thrust."

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By Judy Touchton--11:30 p.m., Sunday





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WMU Vocational Dinner

Bold Mission
While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 10--A woman professor in social work education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., called on the Southern Baptist Convention here Sunday night to take steps to make young women aware of the difficulties facing them if they answer God's call to enter denominational work.

Anne Davis told 300 participants at a dinner for women in church-related vocations that too many girls come to Baptist seminaries thinking an education will guarantee them a place in denominational or church life.

"Our denomination in its literature and through other processes must begin earlier to acquaint young women called of God to what may be in store for them if they answer that call." Davis said.

She said the reality of the difficulty of a women getting the position she thinks she has been called for--and then trained to fill--often does not strike until late in the seminary process.

"I have a lot of young women in my classes wondering what they are going to do," she said. "The idea that they will be guaranteed placement upon completion of their seminary work just does not work."

Davis said she thinks it is "more difficult--much more difficult" for a woman to pursue a Southern Baptist career today than it was 20 years ago. "It was easier for me when I started, because people weren't looking for me."

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The professor characterized today as a difficult time for women in Southern Baptist life.

"But in our denomination to make progress you just about always have to suffer temporary setbacks before you can make any long-range gains."

Davis said one of the major steps confronting women in seaking a religious calling is competence.

"In our society, an incompetent man can be hired to fill a position. A woman has to be competent to get the job."

The dinner meeting was held as part of the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union. It grew out of an inter-agency consultation on women in church-related vocations last September in Nashville.

Laura Fry, evangelism consultant with women for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, said women need to become more conscious of the role they can assume in Southern Baptist life.

Too often, women are ruled out of jobs just because they have always been occupied by a man, she contended.

"Just the suggestion that it could be filled by a woman often opens doors.

"In my pilgrimage thus far with God's leading, I have learned that he is constantly preparing us for the next step he wants us to take. We may not understand now why we are experiencing what we are, but we must trust that he is growing us for that next step.

"As a woman in a church-related vocation, I have learned both patience and persistence."

Fry said women must be patient.

"At the same time, we must be sensitive to the appropriate moment for Spirit-led persistence and aggressiveness with human beings that he brings into our lives."

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Page 2--WMU Vocational Dinner

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, called the dinner a continuation of the WMU role of helping women find their places in church and denominational life.

"Today we can no longer say, 'here am I, Lord, send my brother '," she said.

Weatherford said she was certainly "open" to exploring the possibility of making similar dinners an annual event at the conventions.

"We hear from women all over the country expressing their desires for help in seeking to follow God's will in their lives."

-30-

By Bracey Campbell -- 10 p.m., Sunday

Magnificent Obsession

By Billy Graham

Text: "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also" (Acts 17:6).

Tonight is a historic chapter in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention. Southern Baptists have taken "Bold Mission" seriously in the face of dramatic and traumatic changes facing society, the church and the world.

As I said in Kansas City two years ago, God has given to our denomination visibility, acceptance, opportunity, leadership and resources to take the spiritual initiative in meeting the challenges of our day as never before. We have seen a demonstration of it here tonight. When have we ever had the technology, the television, the radio, the printed page on a scale that we have tonight to take the Gospel to the whole world? When has there been a service—that appointed more missionaries at one time than we have witnessed here tonight?

For the next few minutes I would like to address especially young people and adults about our responsibilities in evangelism and missions as we undertake an even bolder mission for the future.

Youth today have unparalleled pressures. They are the first generation to grow up with the constant awareness that one miscalculation by their government could destroy the world. We have witnessed an actual "China Syndrome" in Pennsylvania that shook the world. We are reading in our magazines and watching on etelevision and witnessing in our society "alternate lifestyles." We are living in a period when the world is almost frightened out of its wits as we witness an unparalleled arms race where \$400 billion was spent on armament last year. Our motion picture and television screens are filled with doomsday movies. No generation has faced such unparalleled dangers and such unparalleled challenges and opportunities.

The famous novelist Lloyd Douglas coined the phrase "Magnificent Obsession!"
The early apostles had a magnificent obsession to turn the world upside down with their message.

The people of Jesus' day accused Him of being "beside Himself." Governor Festus said to the Apostle Paul after listening to him speak: "You are out of your mind, Paul!... Your great learning is driving you insane" (Acts 26:24, NIV). When young men and women, and even adults, offer to leave home and go to the hard places of the world to serve Christ, they too are often accused of being out of their minds. The Apostle Paul said: "For whether we be beside ourselves, it is of God: or whether we be sober, it is for your-cause. For the love of Christ constraineth us" (II Corinthians 5: 13,14). "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (v. 11). Paul said: "We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us ... be ye reconciled to God" (v. 20).

The world appreciates and understands enthusiasm until it becomes religious fervor. Then immediately enthusiasm becomes suspect. You can be as obsessed, mad, or enthusiastic as you like about sports, pleasure, money, or drink. You can be mad about the discos and still be considered a sane and normal person. But bring that same enthusiasm into Christian missions and we are accused of being beside ourselves. Yet every man and every woman who is dedicated to Christ must of necessity be possessed of that fervor to bring to others the message of the Gospel which he or she has experienced.

Think of the glorious daring of those early apostles! Little wonder that the world called them mad. Paul was satisfied with nothing less than taking the Gospel to Rome. William Carey had no less a vision than the whole of India for Christ. He was a shoemaker and pastor of a small Baptist church. He formed the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792; went to India in 1793; preached, taught school and translated the Bible. He translated the entire Bible into six languages, and parts of it into twenty-nine other languages.

Since that time nearly 200 years ago, thousands of missionaries have gone to all the continents of the world blazing the trail for the Gospel, building schools, hospitals, teaching the illiterate, taking care of the sick, but primarily winning souls to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Magnificent obsessions indeed—every one of them! Who could understand their zeal? They carried the flaming truths of the Gospel far and wide, reckoning nothing of peril or reproach. They surmounted obstacles, overcame difficulties, and endured persecution. That was their obsession—the magnificent obsession of doing great things for God!

These men of the past have handed on to us a torch. We, too, must have their obsession. We must dare to believe God for even greater things in the year to come.

While some countries are closing, others are opening. The great cities in many parts of the world are open to us--television time is available--radio time can be purchased--we are free to print the Gospel--millions are crying for a little bit of food--other millions are suffering physical ailments and need doctors and nurses--but the whole human race is suffering from the spiritual disease of sin that only Christ and His Gospel can meet. Let us get on with this obsession with a new dedication and fervor that we have never known before.

In too much of the world the emphasis has already been shifted from the Christians to other religions and ideologies. They, too, have an obsession to win the world to their view. The enthusiasm and the sacrifice they show for their beliefs often puts our half-hearted efforts to shame. The world has to take them seriously because of the utter abandon of their followers. I've often stood in airports or on street corners and watched some of these people at work. I've heard people around me muttering, "They're crazy; they are mad." Would to God that the world found us Christians dangerous enough to call us "mad" in these days when false religions and materialism are sweeping over the world. Would that we, too, could be considered "beside ourselves" so that we might at least demand the world's attention and be as enthusiastic in the pursuit of evangelistic and missionary aims as they are in the pursuit of their ends.

It is my prayer that as we meet on this historic occasion tonight, that this magnificent obsession, the love of God in Christ Jesus, will so constrain hundreds of you that you will offer, this very night, to serve His cause, to march under His flag, to surrender yourself to the Lordship of Christ, to use your gifts in His service. It is my prayer that we will present Christ with a fervor that will put all worldly enthusiasm to shame.

There are four things I want you to consider before I ask you to publicly commit your life to the Lordship of Christ tonight.

First, the authority we have. It comes from the command of Christ. After the dramatic events of that first Good Friday and Easter, Jesus gave His marching orders to His followers. His command is inescapable: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Just before His ascension, He said: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth!" (Acts 1:8).

With His command ringing in their ears they set out to not only reach the world, but to turn it upside down. They suffered hardship, persecution, floggings, beatings, death, but they said, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

Thus we are people under authority. We go because we have been sent. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour and made Him Lord of your life you have to take seriously His command. You have to face squarely if your talents, gifts and training prepare you for Christian service. Is Christ really Lord of your life? Have you submitted your will to Him, your future, your vocation? Then what will you do with His command to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel? Is Christ calling you to undertake some new field of service for Him? We go because we are sent, and we are sent because that is God's way of accomplishing His purpose. This is God's great plan, that men and women would come to acknowledge Christ as Lord, that a whole new community would be formed throughout the world—the "community of God."

Second, consider the message we proclaim. Time after time in church history the message has been blunted, watered down, diluted, it has lost its power. But time after time the church recovers its message and continues the spread of the Gospel, and continues to grow. The early apostles had no doubt about their message, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The message that Baptists have always proclaimed can be summed up in humanity's sin against a holy God which ruins this life and subjects us to judgment in the world to come. The Cross, the Resurrection, the necessity of repentance and faith, the call to discipleship as commanded in the Great Commission. Paul said, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:3,4).

Page 3 Billy Graham Speech

Tonight, God has a great message He wants to deliver to the world. He says, "I love you. I want you to come back into fellowship with me. I want you to be reconciled to me. I will forgive you. I will give you eternal life." This is good news to a despairing world. He has asked you to be His ambassador. Think of it! An ambassador from the court of Heaven to deliver a message to every one of the four billion people who live on this planet, and especially the 2 ½ billion that have never heard.

Third, the people we are to reach. Jesus said, "Beginning at Jerusalem...to all nations." They were surprised when He mentioned Jerusalem first, because that's where they had crucified Him. But Jesus loved Jerusalem and He loved the people of Jerusalem.

Your Jerusalem is where you live. When Jesus had transformed the demon-possessed man of the Gadarenes the man wanted to follow Jesus from that moment on wherever He went. Jesus said, "No. Go home to thy friends and tell how great things the Lord hath done for thee."

The world that our Lord is talking about includes the geographical world, but it also includes the psychological and the sociological world. It includes the world of the school, business, government, labor. I would not want to give the impression that you should have an unwarranted sense of guilt if you do not head for Africa or India. I would like to challenge you to be a witness for Christ wherever God sends you. I believe there is a missionary gift—but in order to find out whether God wants you to go you must be willing to say, "I'll go where You want me to go, and be what You want me to be. Whether in America or abroad, Lord, I'm willing." That's what I'm asking you to say tonight to God,

During the past five years God has sent me throughout India, in several parts of Africa, in Korea, Latin America, Europe, Australia, and most recently in Eastern Europe. I am finding a receptivity to the Gospel on a scale I have not known in my nearly 40 years of evangelism. The fields are white unto harvest, but I warn you the night is coming when no man can labor.

Fourthly, the power we have been promised. A few years ago there was a picture in Life Magazine that showed a straw which had penetrated a light pole during a tornado. I asked myself how such a fragile straw could penetrate a light pole. It was because the power of the wind which was driving it was so tremendous.

Christ has promised a power far greater than that. He said, "I will send the Holy Spirit upon you." There are twenty-three Hebrew and Greek words in the Bible translated "power." The one Jesus uses here means the explosive power of God. We are reading, hearing and experiencing the energy crisis in many parts of the world. But what about a spiritual "energy crisis"? God's spiritual energy reserves never run out. He said, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Our power comes from the Holy Spirit. The Spirit prepares hearts. The Spirit guides us. The Spirit gives us boldness. The Spirit has given us the Word of God. The Spirit gives us wisdom. The Spirit alone can bring conviction and faith. Therefore we are dependent on Him. Our "bold mission" will never be accomplished by organization or methods alone. It will be accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit through us.

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:2). Christ asks you to renounce your plans, your goals, your ambitions, your motives. He asks you to put first His plans, His goals, as your top priority. He asks that your ambitions and motives become His. In the New Testament the word "Christian" is used only three times: In Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, and I Peter 4:16. In each of these occasions there is the idea of suffering and persecution in the background. To serve Him is costly—but the rewards are overwhelming in this life and the life to come.

Who is God calling tonight? Everyone! Whether you have the finest education or no education. He is calling the rich and the poor, and the white and the black.

A century ago God called Dwight L. Moody. He was an orphan at four, he had no formal education. There were thirty-seven grammatical errors counted in the last letter he wrote in his lifetime. He heard Henry Varley say, "The world has yet to see what God could do through the man who would wholly yield himself to Christ." Moody reflected on a park bench about that statement. Varley had not said, "a great man, a learned man, or a rich man"—he said "any man." Moody got up from the bench and said, "by the grace of God, I will be that man." With one hand he shook Europe, and with the other he shook America. Many of the greatest movements of our generation have come as a result of the ministry of Dwight L. Moody. He probably never heard the word ecumenical, and yet he was the father of the ecumenical movement. He never preached a social gospel sermon in his life and yet out of his evangelism came almost as many social movements as came from Wesley.

Page 4
Billy Graham Speech

At the other end of the spectrum was a wealthy, highly-educated athlete at Cambridge University. He was probably one of the greatest cricket players of his day. His name was C. T. Studd. His father was a friend of Queen Victoria. He was one of Britain's foremost owners of race horses. Moody went to Cambridge, and there was a great spiritual awakening, as a result of which C. T. Studd was converted. He resigned from the celebrated Cambridge Eleven Cricket Team, and led the Cambridge Seven out to China as frontier missionaries, a movement that was to trigger one of the most momentous movements of modern missions. Reflecting on what made him do it, C. T. Studd said: "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention God is calling upon young and old alike to submit to the Lordship of Christ, to salute, and say, "Yes, Sir, I will go where you want me to, I'll be what You want me to be." Jesus said, "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

God is not calling us tonight to a playground or a sports arena. He is calling us to a battleground. God has promised us His full resources in the battle.

There was a very famous organ at the Cathedral of Freiburg in Germany. The man who had played it for many years had now become too old. One day a stranger came in and asked if he could play the organ. The old man said, "No. I am the only one allowed to play this organ." The stranger persisted, and finally the old man gave in. The stranger began to play such beautiful music as the old organist had never heard. His eyes began to fill with tears, and at the end he asked the stranger, "What is your name?" The answer came back: "My name is Felix Mendelssohn." The old man told the story over and over and he would always end by shaking his head and saying, "To think I almost did not allow the world's greatest organist to play on this organ."

There are hundreds of you listening to my voice tonight that God is speaking to. You could be on the verge of missing God's great call in your life. If you answer "Yes" it will bring fulfillment, joy and peace in this life, and glorious rewards in the life to come. I am asking you to say tonight: "I'll go where You want me to go, and I'll be what You want me to be, Lord."

The Task and the Destiny

Baker James Cauthen Scriptures: Ephesians 2:11-16, 3:6-8, 3:20-21

These words from the Apostle Paul call us to some vital truths which we must always remember. Nothing must turn our minds from them if we are to do the will of our sovereign Lord.

First, let us remember the tragedy of a divided, troubled, suffering world. It can never be better described than Paul has done in the words of this Scripture passage. It is a world separated from Christ. It is dead in trespasses and sins. It is following the course of this world. It obeys the spirit that is now at work in the "sons of disobedience."

He clearly describes it as being alienated from the commonwealth of God's people. Those without Christ have no part in that wonderful statement, "Our citizenship is in heaven."

Without Christ the world's people are strangers to the convenants of promise. They are totally unaware of what God has promised to those who put their faith in him. They have no awareness of what Jesus meant when he said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

The darkest description lies in these words, "Without hope and without God in the world." Multiplied millions throughout the world face life's sorrows, hunger, homelessness, suffering, disappointment, and death with no hope.

They face hatreds, hostilities, pride, cruelties, and oppression with no hope.

They face wars with all of the indescribable suffering occasioned thereby with no hope.

In recent weeks a government study in our country estimated the number of casualties that would be occasioned by a nuclear strike upon our land. The estimate ran from 20 million, as a minimum, to 169 million in one initial blow.

To live in a world where such a horror is possible is to make us keenly aware of the gravity of modern man's situation.

Modern man is a poor lost creature. He is in the dark. He is bound by chains he cannot break. He is taught by many teachers that do not illuminate, led by movements that cannot liberate. He is aware of horrors that he cannot exterminate. He is indeed. "without hope and without God in the world."

Let us also remember God's marvelous deed of redemption. The Scripture clearly states that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself. It is in Christ that God has acted supremely. We must ever remember what the Savior himself declared, "For this I was born. For this came I into the world, to bear witness to the truth."

Jesus further said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly." "I am the bread of life. He that cometh unto me shall not hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." "The words I speak, I speak not of myself, but what I have heard from my Father." It is clear that God has acted specifically in Jesus Christ. It is in the cross and in the empty tomb that we see God's deed of redemption. It is in viewing what God has done that we can understand that Christ suffered on the cross and conquered death in the resurrection that God himself might be just and the justifier of all who believe in him.

God has revealed himself in Christ and he has by inspiration given us a completely reliable, trustworthy authoritative record of that relevation. This record indicates throughout its entire scope that God has acted redemptively in Christ Jesus. It is in Christ that all the dividing walls between mankind are broken down. It is in Christ that all hostilities are brought to an end.

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In Christ alone is peace. It is in him that people everywhere, under whatever conditions, find peace with God, with their fellow man, and with themselves. It is in Christ that a united humanity is a possibility. In Christ we are bound together by love and joyfully seek to do the will of our living Lord. It is in Christ that we become

Page 2---The Task and the Destiny

members of God's household, fellow citizens of his kingdom.

In Christ alone all mankind, however diverse in nationality, in race, in culture, in circumstances, can be united as a holy temple in the Lord, a dwelling place of God in the spirit. It is in him that we become a temple of praise, thanksgiving, and prayer.

We must further remember the divinely entrusted task which has been committed unto us. We must keep in mind that the peoples of the whole world may share in Christ through the gospel. They are fellow heirs through the gospel. They are members of the same body through the gospel. They are partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

Jesus clearly stated, ${}^{\cdot}$ I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes unto the Father but by me."

We must bear in mind that making this gospel known to all the world is clearly commanded by our risen, sovereign Lord. After he had suffered the agonies of the cross and had conquered death in the resurrection, Jesus clearly stated his will for those who had embraced him as Savior and Lord. On that resurrection day, Jesus said, "As the Father sent me, so send I you."

On that same resurrection day, Jesus stated, "Thus it is written that the Christ must suffer and be raised on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins be preached in his name to all nations." Then to make it unforgettably clear so that all might understand, he had his followers meet him in Galilec. The Scriptures say, "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, 'All authority is given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and make disciples of every nation baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you alway, even to the end of the age.'"

And who can forget that the very last thing that Jesus said to his disciples when they had walked outside Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives and the disciples inquired, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus replied, "It is not given to you to know the times and the seasons which the Father has reserved in his own authority, but ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you and ye shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

There can be no reasonable doubt that our Lord has commanded us to take the gospel to the whole wide world.

This gospel must be shared with every person on earth. This was the clear understanding of the Apostle Paul who considered that we have been entrusted with the gospel. He stated in the letter to the Colossian church, "Him we proclaim warning every man, teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man mature in Christ." So long as there is any person in the whole world who is unaware of Jesus, our task is not complete. This is why this convention has done wisely to commit itself to Bold Mission Thrust that before the end of this century every human being on earth may hear and be able to respond to Jesus Christ.

Page 3----The Task and the Destiny

This is the priority task in our service for our Lord. Notice how Paul regarded his privilege, "Of this gospel, I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace." "To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

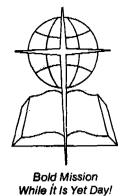
No matter what it costs, this worldwide mission thrust must be our priority item. It gives evidence of our faith in Christ and his Word. Let us pray, give, go, send, preach, teach, bear witness to the lost, the hungry, the poor, the broken, the distressed, and, if need be, suffer and die that the name of Jesus Christ be made known to every human being on the face of the earth.

Let us also remember the power that accompanies us and the destiny that awaits in this task. In face of the enormity of this task, the obvious difficulties make us cry out like the disciples did when they saw the great multitude and the little handful of loaves and fishes, "What are these among so many?"

We must remember that there is a secret of victory. It is in the Scripture stated, "Be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man." It is in the glorious doxology with which Paul closes this passage that he says, "God by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we can ask or think." We must ever keep in view the ultimate destiny to be reached in God's own time and in God's own way and brought about by God's own power.

Habakkuk viewed this destiny when he said, "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Isaiah described it when he said, "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the lion and the fatling together and the little child shall lead them." Micah expressed it, "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not rise up against nation, neither shall they study war any more." And the writer of Revelation in a marvelous statement said, "After this I looked and behold a great multitude, which no man could number, from every nation from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb.'"

Our task is clear. Our Lord has commanded it. As a convention we have embraced it. We have laid our hands to it and through his grace and power will press forward, braving all dangers, and paying whatever price must be paid, with our hearts crying out, "Not unto us, not unto us, but to thy name give glory, oh God," and firmly believing that in God's own time the day will come when "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord" to the glory of God the Father."



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Sunday Night Session-Religious Educators

HOUSTON, June 10---Getting back to the basics of discipleship holds the key to the success of Bold Mission Thrust, Jesse C. Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., said here Sunday night.

"There's no substitute for discipleship and inevitably we come back to it," Fletcher said.

Fletcher spoke to about 300 persons attending the opening session of the 24th Southern Baptist Religious Education Association meeting at First Baptist Church.

Developing the two-day meeting's theme of "Religious Education: Key to Bold Missions," Fletcher talked about "Discipleship: Basics for Bold Missions."

"Discipleship is at least three dimensional and we find it hard to put it into the flat dimension of religious statements," Fletcher said.

Fletcher said three "metaphors" which embody the dimensions of discipleship are following Jesus Christ, learning from Christ in a teacher-student relationship, and realizing the importance of becoming teachers who disciple others.

To implement the basics of discipleship in Bold Mission Thrust, Fletcher advised Southern Baptists to follow the example of outreach practiced by Christ.

Southern Baptists need to take their eyes off circumstances and focus them on Christ, he indicated.

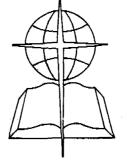
The association is one of five groups which will close out two-day meetings Monday night in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention which starts Tuesday at the Summit.

Speakers at Monday sessions will include Peter Wagner, associate professor of church growth, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., and William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

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By Larry Crisman--9:15 p.m. Sunday





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Monday Music

Bold Mission
While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 11--The energy crisis and Bold Mission concerns highlighted Monday sessions of the 23rd annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at Tallowood Baptist Church.

The musicians used trumpets, trombones, organs, guitars and handbells to accompany a wide variety of mini-concerts, ranging from spirituals to traditional hymns plus specially commissioned anthem by Milburn Price of Greenville, S. C.

James McKinney, dean of the school of music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and nephew of the late Southern Baptist musician B. B.McKinney, ended a two-year term as president of the conference.

In the president's address, McKinney told the musicians that they have in music missions "a key that will open doors and unlock barriers that the spoken word sometimes cannot penetrate to reach persons in places of political, cultural and social power who can unlock still other doors through which God's message may enter. "Music is truly the universal language."

Price, chairman of the music department at Furman University, wrote the anthem, "O Give Thanks to the Lord," specifically for a premier performance at the conference. His song is the 14th commissioned anthem written for the music conference.

The new president-elect of the conference is Al Washburn, associate professor of church music at Golden Gate Baptis@heological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. He will assume leadership of the conference in 1981, after the two-year term of Thad Roberts, minister of music at South Main Baptist Church, Houston.

Gladys Day, retired faculty member of Southwestern seminary, and Lee Roy Till, former minister of music at First Baptist Church of Dallas, were presented honorary life memberships in the conference.

Gwenn McCormick, director of the Department of Church Planning for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, spoke to the denominational division of the musicians' conference about the energy crisis and its effect on Southern Baptist churches and denominational agencies.

"America has grown up as a nation believing more is good and bigger is better, much preferring to believe the energy shortage is a temporary situation," with the blame belonging to the energy companies, McCormick said.

"However; the American people are beginning to reluctantly accept the fact that there is an energy crisis. Even with that admission though, there is still doubt, suspicion and the urge to find a scapegoat."

McCormick added that Americans' use of energy must be recognized for what it is-"Irresponsible and sinful. We've got to adjust to the fact that saving energy is more
important than saving time."

Russell Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern seminary, opened conference sessions with talks on bold missions. Dilday cited information from a recent study of American families which revealed a changing ethic and morality.

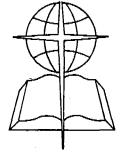
Southern Baptists must take advantage of information such as this to be certain they are speaking to the present needs of the world instead of speaking to needs that no longer exist, Dilday said.

"The excitement of Bold Mission Thrust is that we have been given not only a message, but that we have the resources and goals to share it with the world.

"Southern Baptists must understand the world as best they can to say we have in Jesus Christ the only answer to their needs. That is Bold Mission Thrust," Dilday said.







Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

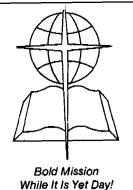
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NOTE TO REPORTERS AND EDITORS:

Due to the limited space, we are not able to provide enough typewriters for you to reserve one for your exclusive use. Use one whenever you find it available.

Thanks, SBC News Room CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE OFFICERS--The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference elected Thad Roberts Jr. (left), minister of music at South Main Baptist Church, Houston, president; Polly Riddle (center), director of keyboard studies at William Jewell College, vice president of educational division; Bill J. Pearson (front right), minister of music, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, local church division vice president; Al Washburn (back left), chairman of the department of church music, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, president elect; Charles Gatwood (back left), director of church music department for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, denominational vice president. Photo by Stephen W. Medford





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Religious Educators Roundup

HOUSTON, June 11--William Pinson literally brought his audience to its knees here Monday night.

After delivering a fiery speech in which he called for Baptist unity in a "crisis hour," the president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., asked about 450 persons attending the last session of the Religious Education Association's 24th meeting in Houston's First Baptist Church to go to their knees in prayer.

"God didn't bring us to Bold Missions to splinter," Pinson declared. "I pray you will be agents of unity this week in Houston."

Pinson, who spoke on "The Religious Educator: Agent for Bold Mission," said since arriving in Houston for the Southern Baptist Convention, he has seen "friends for life at each other's throats."

He referred to the issue of inerrancy of scripture brewing at the annual Convention.

"Let's kneel and pray for unity," he said. "Let's make personal commitments to be agents for change this week."

According to Pinson, because of the possibility of Convention division over inerrancy and the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists face "the greatest crisis hour" in their history.

Not since the "financial catastrophe of the 1930's" have Baptists faced such pivotal crossroads," he said.

"I'd hate to see it (the Convention) tumble into division," he said. "We must believe the whole Bible and not just part of it. It may cost some of you your jobs."

Pinson called on Southern Baptists to "breathe fire" into their churches if they want Bold Mission Thrust to work.

"When the people of God want to stay in Jerusalem all the time and when they do not want to go out unto the uttermost, they get sick spiritually," he remarked. "Until Southern Baptists get serious about the going, we won't grow."

Pinson's speech climaxed a two-day agenda which focused on a theme of "Religious Education: Key to Bold Mission."

Lawrence Klempnauer, minister of education of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, was elected president for 1979-80. President-elect is Dr. J. Roger Skelton, professor of religious education/church administration, Golden Gate Seminary.

Other new officers include Roy Lee Williams, Union Baptist Association, Houston, vice-president, Field Services Group Thelma Williamson, director of childhood education, First Baptist Church, Ferguson, Mo., vice-president, Church Workers Group F. Marvin Myers, administration consultant, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, secretary-treasurer, and Tim Holcomb, minister of education, Polytechnic Baptist Church, Fort Worth, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Besides Pinson's speech, other highlights of the two-day meeting included addresses by Peter Wagner, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and Jesse C. Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

"As goes the Sunday School, so goes the church," Wagner said in a speech Monday morning.

BCAR 375



Religious Educators Roundup--page 2

"The Sunday School is still the most successful structure for growth in Southern Baptist churches," he said.

Fletcher, who spoke Sunday, called on Southern Baptists to get back to the basics of discipleship to ensure the success of Bold Mission Thrust.

"There's no substitute for discipleship and inevitably we come back to it," he noted.

According to Fletcher, Southern Baptists sometime are hardpressed to practice biblically-taught discipleship because they find it hard to articulate.

Fletcher pointed out the Bible presents a formula for discipleship in 2 Timothy 2:2. This passage, he said, provides a multiplication approach to discipleship.

Before Fletcher spoke Sunday, actress Jeanette Clift George of Houston discussed the "jey of productivity" in Christian living.

"Joy is God's responsibility; obedience is ours," she said.

George joined the After Dinner Players of Houston in leading worship during the meeting. Grady Nutt, humorist from Louisville, Ky., entertained at a Monday luncheon.

In all sessions, LeRoy Ford, professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, provided teaching tips for religious educators.

Registration reached 455. Visitors numbered 85.

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By Larry Crisman-9:20 a.m., Tuesday





Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

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Gideon Bible

HOUSTON, June 11--Home Mission Board Executive Director William G. Tanner began his address to the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting here by expressing appreciation for the Gideon Bible in his hotel room.

Tanner, indicating that he had forgotten to bring his Bible to the Southern Baptist Convention, quipped that "I plan to take it back."

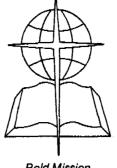
"I've got 40 of these at home," foked Tanner, holding up the Gideon Bible.

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By Bracey Campbell -- 9:50 a.m., Tuesday

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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Reasons For Giving For Immediate Release

HOUSTON, June 11--Frank Pollard, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., explained to participants at the annual Woman's Missionary Union meeting how his church was able to triple its Lottie Moon Christmas offering in four years.

"The ladies in our church really got interested in the offering...The men in our church are afraid of the ladies. So they give..."

The church gave \$80,000 to the mission offering in 1978, compared to \$25,000 four years ago.

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By Bracey Campbell--9:45 a.m. Tuesday







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For Your Information

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

New officers of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference are Thad Roberts Jr., minister of music at Houston's South Main Baptist Church, president; Al Washburn, chairman of the department of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., president elect; Polly Riddle, director of keyboard studies at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., vice president of the education division; Bill J. Pearson, minister of music at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, vice president of the local church division; and Charles Gatwood, director of the church music department of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, vice president of the denominational division.

-30-

Jim Lowry--9:50 a.m., Tuesday



(SBJ) -- SOUTHERN BAPTIST JOURNAL NEWS RELEASE

from:



June 12, 1979

The Southern Baptist Journal P.O. Box 468 Buchanan, Georgia 30113 Dr. William A. Powell, Editor Telephone 404-646-3856

Wednesday at 4:00

HAROLD LINDSELL NEWS CONFERENCE

The BFMF (Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, Inc.) is hosting a News Conference with Dr. Harold Lindsell on June 13, in Houston, Texas.

This News Conference will be at 4:00 Wednesday afternoon

It will be at Greenway Theater #3. This is immediately adjacent to Stouffers' Greenway Plaza Hotel.

This theater is at the entrance to the Underground Mall right next to the Summit. You can simply walk through Stouffers' Hotel lobby directly to Theater #3.

Zondervan released Dr. Lindsell's latest book June 5: "The Bible In The Balance."

This is a sequel to his best-selling 1976 book: "The Battle For The Bible."

The longest chapter in Lindsell's new book deals with liberalism within the Southern Baptist Convention -- and especially at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Dr. Lindsell is President of the BFMF and is the Editor-Emeritus of "Christianity Today."

The BFMF is a group of loyal Southern Baptists who pray for the day when every teacher in our schools and every writer of our Sunday School literature is personally committed to the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible as the infallible Word of God.

The BFMF publishes the "Southern Baptist Journal."





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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Roundup for Tuesday pms

HOUSTON, June 12-Southern Baptists were urged here Tuesday to resist the temptation of a major debate on orthodoxy and to channel new energies into their plan to communicate the Christian gospel to the entire world by the year 2000.

Jimmy Allen, president of the 13.2 million member Southern Baptist Convention, warned the messengers to the 122nd annual meeting of the denomination at the Summit they were being pressed by "good and sincere people" to change their emphasis from missions to a debate on theology.

"We must resist that temptation," advised Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio. "We must remain a Bible-believing, Bible-sharing, Bible-obeying people committed to the Lordship of Christ."

"When Simon Peter suggested an alternative agenda to Jesus, he said that the voice is the voice of a friend but the message is the message of the enemy."

In a final address closing out a second one-year term as SBC president, Allen said Southern Baptists were standing at a unique moment in history, led by God to become the largest evangelical body in the most powerful nation on earth.

"He (God) is calling us as Southern Baptist Christians to be a flashpoint in spiritual awakening with which he is seeking to sweep our world," Allen said.

While Southern Baptists are a complex and multicultured people stretching across every state in the nation and into 94 other countries, they also are often a flawed people, Allen contended.

"There are times when we are limited in our vision, so wrapped up in our loyalty to our own territory, our own programs, our own egos that we lose sight of the vast purpose and promise of God.

"There are times when we are so colored by our culture and silenced by our surroundings that we fail to speak the truth of God.

"There are times in which our differences in opinion become differences in relationships and we make the Corinthian mistake of gathering our allegiences behind the Apollos." and the Peters and the Pauls, instead of centering it wholly and totally in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Allen told the messengers the bottom line on their plan to evangelize the world during the next 21 years was commitment in terms of faith, priority, and confrontation.

In the context of confrontation, Southern Baptists must take stands for human rights and human survival, Allen explained.

"We must confront our system of political and economic decision making with the call to respond as the world's richest nation to the cries of the hungry in vast areas of our earth.

"The costly and dangerous nuclear arms race must be brought under some kind of orderly limitation," Allen said. "I am personally convinced that the Stragetic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) is a step in the right direction."

But Southern Baptists need to respond immediately to the giant evangelistic opportunity, because time is running out, Allen said.

During the three-day convention ending Thursday, the messengers will consider a 1930-31 budget of \$33 million and hear addresses by former White House aide Charles Colson, evangelist Billy Graham, country comic Jerry Clower and Russian Baptist dissident Georgi Vins



A series of related Baptist groups closed two-day meetings Monday night with the election of officers.

R. Edward Gilstrap of Atlanta was named president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, while Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., was elected to a fifth one-year term as president of the 1.1 million member Woman's Missionary Union.

James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Tex., was chosen president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and Al Washburn of Mill Valley, Calif., president-elect of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

-30-

By Roy Jennings--4:40 p.m. Monday



SBC News Room The Summit, Houston (713) 850-9127 Wilmer C. Fields SBC Press Representative Robert O'Brien News Room Manager Norman Jameson Photography/Features Manager

While It Is Yet Day!

Messengers React To Taxing Missionaries

HOUSTON, June 11--Most of the messengers to the three-day Southern Baptist Convention starting Tuesday were unaware Monday of a recent Congressional act which will require foreign missionaries to pay federal income taxes.

However, they seem equally divided on whether Southern Baptist missionaries should pay the tax.

The Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978 eliminates a provision which previously excluded income up to \$20,000 for United States citizens working for charitable and religious organizations and living in foreign countries. The provision had covered all missionaries under appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who qualified as bona fide residents of foreign countries.

But starting with the 1979 taxable year, missionaries' incomes will be subject to taxation. This taxation may cost Southern Baptist missionaries as much as \$1 million annually in federal income taxes.

Some messengers felt that anyone who is a citizen of the United States should pay taxes, even if living in a foreign country.

"I think missionaries should pay the same taxes as those people living in this country," said Paul Faircloth, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dania, Fla. "These people are making a salary and they receive some benefits from this country--especially from the state department."

Faircloth, who worked at a Southern Baptist mission in Brazil one summer, said he is all for increasing the salaries of missionaries but not to cover the taxes they will have to pay.

John Horton, pastor of the Emory Baptist Church in Atlanta, pointed out that the missionary is not much different in his financial situation than many Southern Baptist pastors.

"They are not deriving their income from foreign countries, but from here. If a person is a citizen of the United States, he should be responsible for some income tax, no matter where he lives.'

Others attending the convention expressed similar ideas to those of Mrs. Peggy Jones of Paducah, Ky. Although unaware of the new law, she felt missionaries are already sacrificing enough and should not have to start paying something they haven't been paying previously.

"They shouldn't have to pay. They live off meager incomes," said Lanier Singleton, pastor of the New Salem Baptist Church in Sumter, S.C. "Some of the money we are spending domestically could be spent better elsewhere. I think we ought to add Bold Management to Bold Mission. Missionaries are not treated nearly as well as some of our denominational executives here are."

Others also suggested one way to provide more money for missionaries is to get rid of some of the "denominational desk jobs."

Other messengers are concerned that the new congressional tax act is but one more step toward government control.

"I'm afraid things are leading to total taxation," said Ray Walls, pastor of Sheldon Road Baptist Church in Tampa, Fla.



Page 2--Messengers React To Taxing Missionaries

Jimmy Mores, pastor of Branchton Baptist Church in Tampa, says he hates to see the church pay taxes. But, he would welcome it if paying taxes meant the government would not be supporting churches and the government "would get off our backs."

One person had heard of the new tax law affecting missionaries and had not formed an opinion.

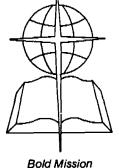
"I would like to have more facts. I've wanted to read the law and see what they have in mind," said U. A. McManus of the Alabama Baptist Foundation, Montgomery, Ala. "There may be certain concessions within the law which would allow for certain groups. But, if the missionaries do have to pay, I believe the Foreign Mission Board will have to supplement missionaries' incomes in some way."

He went on to say that if the taxation of missionaries was an oversight on the part of the federal government, he believes the law will be corrected.

"I don't think there is any organized movement to take away the rights of religious groups," said McManus, who has a background in taxes. Before becoming a Baptist minister, he was an agent for the Internal Revenue Service.

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By Jennifer Bryon--4:45 p.m., Monday



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Directors of Missions Roundup

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 11--That Southern Baptist stepchild, the local association of churches, at last is beginning to feel like a real member of the family, directors of missions indicated at a two-day conference here.

With the growth of metroplexes and the spread of Baptist work into all 50 states, it's the 1,197 associations that offer the key to continued growth of the Southern Baptist Convention, directors of missions learned at their annual meeting.

These associations, through which local churches cooperate voluntarily for fellow-ship and joint projects, have been part of Baptist life in this country since the first one was founded in 1707--more than a hundred years before the Southern Baptist Convention itself was formed.

The key such associations can offer is teamwork, said James Nelson, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's new director of associational missions.

"The unprecedented opportunities of the major metropolitan areas can stagger our minds if we look at them in isolation," Nelson said. "However, the association can overcome that."

He believes the 35,000 Southern Baptist churches have no choice but to band together more effectively in their local associations if they're going to meet the challenge of the next two decades.

"Who can develop a strategy for Seattle, Los Angeles, Chicago or Houston but the people who live there and who have heard God's call to be on mission in these places?" he asked.

And Nelson thinks this is beginning to happen. "Baptist leaders across the nation are joining the movement for stronger associations," he said.

Nelson sees strong opportunities for growth not only in the newer Southern Baptist areas like the Northwest and New England, but also in the sunbelt--the string of states that stretches necklace-like from Virginia and North Carolina westward to California.

This sunbelt, which includes some of Southern Baptists' strongest areas of work, recently was described as the most rapidly growing population segment of the nation, Nelson pointed out. "Missions and evangelism there will not require millions of dollars," he said, "but equipped, motivated and functioning associational and church missions committees involving people in Christ."

An example of this active associational outreach was detailed by Ed Onley, director of church-community ministries of Capital Baptist Association, Oklahoma City.

This association's 124 churches have more than 2,400 volunteers actively involved in 27 different activities ranging from free medical and dental clinics to a center for battered women and prostitutes.

Onley's latest project is a permanent Trucker's Chapel that the association hopes to open September 1 at the busy Trucker No. 2 truckstop on Interstate 40 northeast of Oklahoma City.

The 6-by-12-foot chapel will be staffed 24 hours a day with volunteers who counsel or just talk with truckdrivers.

Originator of the idea was an independent Oklahoma trucker, Fred Wright, who came to Onley in January saying, "Ed, we've got a problem. Gals in vans are tempting good, moral family men as they cruise the highways. We've got to offer the truckers another place to go."

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"With diesel oil prices going up, it's costing a bundle to operate the mobile chapel," Onley said. "But we can put up one of these permanent chapels for \$997, and Christian truckstop owners will furnish the site and the utilities."

If the first one is successful, he believes hundreds of similar chapels could easily be set up and staffed by Baptist volunteers through associations across the country.

How do projects like these in Oklahoma City affect the growth of the association? Onley points out that since the ministries were started in 1973, the Capital City Association's budget has grown from \$120,000 a year to \$500,000.

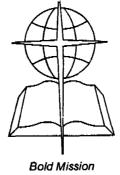
"People are giving more because they can see things happening with their own eyes," he said. "And the Cooperative Program, home missions and foreign missions offerings are all increasing, too."

In their closing business session, the directors of missions elected R. Edward Gilstrap, executive director of missions for the Atlanta Baptist Association, as president. They named Larry Rose, director of missions in Waco, Texas, as president-elect.

Other officers are George Arthur, Dexter, Mo., re-elected secretary; Robert A. Wells, Reno, Nev., treasurer; and Harold Blackburn, Silverhill, Ala., re-elected editor. Preston Denton of St. Louis will be host director when the group meets in that city next year.

-30-

By Bob Stanley--3:45 p.m. Monday



SBC News Room The Summit, Houston (713) 850-9127 Wilmer C. Fields **SBC Press Representative** Robert O'Brien News Room Manager Norman Jameson Photography/Features Manager

While It Is Yet Day!

Phyllis Bennett Feature

HOUSTON, June 11--Phyllis Bennett began her 32 years of marriage in a one-room trailer in a North Carolina mill town as wife of a college student and part-time pastor.

That's far from the 30th-floor suite in the Hyatt Regency here where she is spending the week of the Southern Baptist Convention with her husband, Harold Bennett, who becomes the new executive secretary of the convention's executive committee on July 31.

Mrs. Bennett greets guests to the suite as graciously as if it were their new Nashville home.

"We've been happy wherever we've been," Mrs. Bennett explains, adding she believes happiness is much more a state of mind than a state of being.

"I've felt sorry for husbands whose wives are unhappy when they've moved. Some people who go from being a pastor's wife to a denominational worker's wife are unhappy," she says.

Yet Mrs. Bennett, whose husband has been in denominational work for 19 years, is happy.

"I'm a family person...fairly down-to-earth. I kind of take things as they come," she savs.

Her life with Harold Bennett has been full of adjustments. They have moved often. Mrs. Bennett has learned to look on the positive side of such situations.

She takes joy in small things, things less observant folks might overlook, like her grandmother's cameo on a gold chain around her neck and a gold charm bracelet, started before the high gold prices of late, with charms from each country she's visited with Bennett.

Even in today's climate of growing acceptance of women in alternate roles, Mrs. Bennett is comfortable being a "wife" and all the term traditionally implies.

Although she taught physical education before the Bennett's three children were born and after they were up in elementary and high school, she never saw teaching as a career.

It was satisfying, but never her whole fulfillment in life.

"I'm through teaching, I hope. I've taught all I plan to teach. Being a wife and mother and being at home is more important to me," she explained.

In fact, Mrs. Bennett, who mentions she is often accused of resembling Betty White-the happy homemaker on the cld Mary Tyler Moore televisions series :-- is happy in her traditional role.

"I think women have a lot to offer," she says, although she adds she would not presume to advise her husband about his job.

Mrs. Bennett does not expect her life to change much with her husband's new job, except she plans to play golf a little more often...and to travel.

"If the last few months are any indication, then we're in for a lot of travel," she admits.

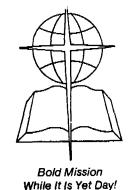
"I'm glad this job came at a time in my life, when the children are grown and married, so I could be free to go with him, to be at his side.

"I see him giving a lot of himself, see him pushing when I know how tired he is. I guess that's the protective part of me," she says.

"After all, I married Harold for the man, not for the job. I am a support person. I felt I should make a happy home for him and that will not change with this new job."

Judy Touchton--4:00 p.m. Monday





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Lindsell News Conference

HOUSTON, June 11--Arch conservative Harold Lindsell defended his view of the inerrancy of the Bible here Monday and outlined what he claimed were evidences of liberalism in Southern Baptist seminaries.

When Lindsell finished his news conference, Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, staged an ad-hoc meeting with media, charging Lindsell was "playing games with words."

Lindsell, president of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship and former editor of Christianity Today, drew generously from his new book, "The Bible in the Balance," to support his charges that there are liberals within the Southern Baptist Convention who do not believe the Bible is verbally inspired.

Lindsell gave specific names and cited specific articles in attempting to prove his point.

Lindsell cited a news report which quoted him as saying Southern Baptists must face the issue of biblical inerrancy or suffer the consequences, even if it means the loss of 500,000 members.

"That should be put in context," he said. "That represents only about four percent (of the total membership). But I think if we are likely to follow the pattern of other denominations, it would be better to lose the 500,000.

"But I hope we don't lose anybody. It would be better if some of these people whose views are not comparable to those generally held by Southern Baptists would have some kind of conversion experience," he added.

Lindsell, who lives in a suburb of Chicago, Ill., said Southern Baptists actually are creedal people.

"This business of not being creedal is, no matter how thin you slice it, baloney. We are creedal.

"In Texas (Baptists) threw out a couple of churches because they were speaking in tongues. If that is not creeping creedalism, I don't know what is."

At one point he said if he were president of a Southern Baptist seminary he would "welcome an investigation...indeed demand that the denomination set up some sort of committee to take a harder look to determine if there is truth in what I have said."

When asked what his organization is trying to correct among Southern Baptists, Lindsell said seminaries "have not heard" the concerns about liberalism from the people in the pew, and suggested that the way to get recourse is through electing officers who will do something about the situation he described in the seminaries.

In his response to Lindsell, McCall said there are some in the convention who would embark on a witch hunt, if possible.

During his rebuttal, McCall said he was not aware that Lindsell had ever been on the campus of Southern Seminary, although Lindsell told reporters he had visited the seminary library at Louisville.

"If he was there, I never saw him," McCall said.



Rogers Reaction to Charges of Irregularities

HOUSTON, June 14--Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers said Thursday he supports an investigation into alleged registration abuses during the convention in which he was elected president.

"I support it (an investigation) if there has been any misdoing," he said.

"I would hope it would not cast aspersions on any innocent people, but I would be in favor of exposing anyone who has done anything dishonest."

Rogers, who spent most of the morning in a meeting with the state Baptist newspaper editors said late Thursday that he had not heard about the charges of irregularities, nor of the convention-directed investigation into them.

When told of the alleged irregularities, Rogers commented: "If these people knew better, I would doubt their integrity. If they didn't know better, I would doubt their wisdom. But I would have to know more about the cases to know whether it was an error of the head or the heart."

However, Rogers said he "doubts in my own head and heart" that there were widespread abuses in the convention registration and balloting processes.

"I believe there has been no plot or plan or movement to do anything like that and I would be disappointed in anyone who would make such an accusation."

Asked what the motion and the report mean to his election, Rogers said: "I would have to know more about how people voted. But I would not want to be elected by such a method or without proper integrity."

Rogers said he didn't think allegations of voting irregularities will affect his own election as president.

"But I hope if anyone has honest questions, they can have them answered. If the procedure shows any irregularity of a serious nature which casts doubt on my election, then so be it."

Rogers explained he intends to continue as president "until another election is held," and added that he believes that for him to resign would be "for the fellowship, the most disruptive thing that could happen. There would be deep suspicions on both sides and it would be very hurtful to the feelings of some" who might feel they had been disenfranchised.

The new SBC president said he hopes speculation about a resignation and rumors of widespread allegations of irregularities will not become prevalent.

"Such a thing would get things off on the left foot right off the bat. "I hope we go through the process (of investigation) before speculating about what will happen."

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By Dan Martin--6:00 p.m., Thursday



Georgi Vins News Conference

HOUSTON, June 14--The Soviet Secret police (KGB) has attempted to infiltrate Baptist and other Christian churches in Russia, and to blackmail Christian leaders to work for the Communist government within the church, Russian Reform Baptist dissident Georgi Vins charged here Thursday in a news conference.

The KGB planted electronic "bugs" in the homes of Reform Baptist leaders to learn church plans, added Vins, a major speaker at the 122nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Summit.

Ironically, the electronic devices were made in the United States and sold to the $\mathbb{R}\mathbb{G}_{\geq 0}$ he claimed.

Vins, who was freed along with four other Russian dissidents two months ago in exchange for two convicted Soviet spies, also said that he believed the KGB intentional detained his family in Moscow, preventing them from arriving in the United States as scheduled on Thursday, in an effort to prevent him from addressing the convention message.

Vins' entire family, his mother, wife, five children, a niece and even a St. Bernar dog, were scheduled to arrive in New York City from Russia Thursday night. said Olin Robison, president of Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., where Vins and his family are to live temporarily.

Robison reported the Vins family was temporarily detained by Soviet officials in Moscow, causing them to miss their plane and delaying their arrival in the United States by at least 28 hours.

Vins said he spent one hour talking on the telephone to his family when they arriven frankfort, Germany, and his wife told him that he "must be in Houston, for this is more important than meeting your family."

Vins had been in prison for five years, from 1974-79, and had not seen his entire family for almost six years. He spent a year in hiding before he was arrested.

During the 90-minute news conference, translated by Peter Deyneka Jr., of the Slovic Gospel Association in Wheaton, Ill., Vins displayed photographic evidence of torture of Russian Baptists and other Christians in the Soviet Union.

About 40 Russian Baptists are now in prison in Russia for their faith, he said, adclass that in the last 10 years, at least 10 Russian Baptists have become martyrs, tortured to death while in prison for their faith.

Vins said he was not beaten while in prison, but he was interrogated and oppresse psychologically.

The KGB, he explained, is "more subtle today than physical," and use torture only last resort.

"Primarily they (KGB) are trying to get into the church and thereby influence the ... Christian church and oppress the leaders of the church."

Vins disagreed with claims by Baptist World Alliance officials that there is no a smuggling Bibles into Russia, saying "there is an enormous need for Bibles in Russia.

He cited the fact that there are 260 million people in Russia, and many Russians we more Bibles.

"Whoever is involved in getting Bibles into Russia is doing a good job," he said.

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Page 2--Georgi Vins News Conference

Vins, secretary of the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians and Baptists (commonly called the Reform Baptists), was asked about leadership within the government-recognized All Union Council of Evangelical Christians and Baptists (AUCECB), specifically Michael Zhidkov and Alexi Bichkov who have spoken at many BWA meetings.

Answering the question about the integrity of Zhidkov and Bichkov with another question, Vins simply asked if they had ever told about persecution of Baptists in Russia when they spoke at religious gatherings. Then Vins cited statistics, including the fact that between 1929 and 1940, at least 25,000 Baptist preachers were imprisoned in Russia, and 22,000 of them (including Vins' father) died there.

In Moscow, there is only one registered Christian house of worship for a city with δ million people, yet Christians in Moscow are being persecuted by the Russian authorities, Vins added.

'Did they (Bichkov and Zhidkov) tell you of these things? he asked.

"There are two sides to the church in Russia," Vins explained. "One side states there is religious freedom for Christians in Russia, and the other side tells of great persecution of Christians. The Soviet-controlled press and the authorities say there is full religious freedom in Russia, and this is what Bichkov and Zhidkov say. I will let you decide for yourself."

Vins said that Christians in America should be concerned about religious persecution in Russia, "for all of us as Christians make up one body. If one member of the body suffers, we all do. I feel Christians who are suffering in Pussia should receive the prayers and support of Christians in the United States."

Asked what Christians can do to help oppose persecution in Russia, Vins said the most vital question is to strengthen the work of the persecuted Reform Baptist group which stands for the principle of separation of church and state.

He expressed deep appreciation for the human rights stand of President Carter, saying even non-Christians in Russia were grateful for Carter's stand on human rights.

"When Jimmy Carter was elected president of the United States, Baptists in the Soviet Union rejoiced that their brother in the faith had been elected to such a high position," Vins said. "We thanked God for President Carter's stand on human rights."

Asked if his comments publicly about persocution of Christians in Russia might cause Russian authorities to intensify oppression of Christians. Vins claimed it would help rather than hurt.

"The more information we give to the world, the more we pray for Christians in Russia, the better off they will be."

He said that his own situation improved dramatically in prison in 1976 after Congressman John Buchanan, a Baptist pastor and Republican representative from Birmingham, introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives calling for Vins'release.

Asked if he regrets that the BMA recognizes the official All Union Council (of Baptists), Vins said what he would like to see is BMA recognition of the Reform Baptist group as well. "They have already recognized me," he added.

Vins said that the Soviet officials had tried to "seal my lips" but now he thanks God that "I am free to preach the gospel and tell others about my brothers and sisters who are trying to preach the gospel in difficult circumstances in Russia."

Vins attributed his freedom to "an answer to prayer."

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June 14, 1979

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Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship May Change Name

By Dan Martin

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- The Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship may drop use of its controversial name, an executive of the conservative religious organization revealed here.

"We discussed in our board meeting today at noon (June 13) whether to delete the phrase, Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, and to operate under the Southern Baptist Journal," said Bill Powell, executive director of the organization and editor of the magazine. The meeting was closed to the public.

"Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship has become a whipping boy, a scapegoat," he added. "Progress has been made and because of the progress, there seems to be no advantage in continuing with the name."

BFMF has been described as an independent group dedicated to advocacy of biblical inerrancy (without error) and seeking out of Southern Baptist liberals.

Harold Lindsell, president of the group and a former editor of the conservative evangelical magazine, Christianity Today, added: "The function of it (BFMF) has been to improve the situation in the Southern convention. As far as I am concerned, the executives of BFMF should give most serious consideration to the question whether or not the function for which they have been created has been fulfilled. I think that is a very good thing that should happen."

He added: "It is my opinion that the foundation has been laid in such a way that the issues are clear so that it would not trouble me in the least if the BFMF went out of business."

Lindsell, who lit a fire of controversy with a book which names people he thinks are theological liberals within the SBC, added: "I do not think the problem is resolved but the foundation has been laid. BFMF was not created to be a political agency. The issue has been aired and made clear at this point."

He said there are a "substantial number of groups at work on this issue," and names Dallas pastor, W. A. Criswell, Evangelist James Robison of Hurst, Texas, Houston appellate judge Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas as "formidable groups."

During an interview following a news conference for Lindsell, Powell said BFMF has been a "very small organization with between 500 and 2,000 members."

M. O. Owens Jr. of Gastonia, N.C., said membership records are not kept because "the group is a fellowship."

Powell, however, said the group is supported by 50 to 125 churches, "some of which contribute more often than others.

Southern Baptist Journal, he said, had a press run of 10,000 copies on its last issue. Powell did not reveal how many paid subscriptions there are to the publication.

Owens said the group hopes to receive even greater support with the phasing out of the BFMF appelation. "It has become a name which has assumed a great deal of opprobrium (repreach)," he said.

Owens, chairman of the board of BFMF, said that while BFMF "may have served the purpose, we still haven't won the battle...haven't gained any ground. We have our foot in the door."

He claimed conservatives "haven't had a fair shake in the last 10 or 15 years. We

have been trying to call attention to the fact there is a trend away from what Southern Baptists have traditionally believed in. It has not been widespread, but it is there. We have watched this happen to Methodists and Presbyterians and Lutherans. We didn't want it to happen to Southern Baptists. We were just trying to call attention to that fact."

In the news conference, Lindsell also said he was pleased with the election of Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and said many people have been questioning the role BFMF had in the election.

"Any role we (BFMF) may have played in the election of Adrian Rogers would have been tiny indeed. I do not think that I personally, or for the organization, would want to claim we had a significant role in his election."

He again called for a "blue ribbon" committee to investigate his charges of "liberalism" in Southern Baptist seminaries.

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SBC Votes Record \$83 Million Budget

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's 122nd session here unanimously adopted a record breaking \$83 million budget for the denomination's worldwide program of missions in 1979-80.

In other recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee the messengers endorsed a suggestion that state Baptist conventions adopt a total Cooperative Program goal of \$226 million.

The recommendation was in keeping with previous convention action to double Cooperative Program gifts in five years, part of the Bold Mission Thrust campaign to reach every person on earth with the gospel by the year 2000. To put teeth into the effort, the messengers voted a \$12 million Bold Mission allocation.

The new SBC budget is an \$8 million increase over the 1978-79 budget. Receiving the largest share of the budget, \$33.3 million, will be the Foreign Mission Board with nearly 3,000 missionaries in 94 countries and territories.

The second largest amount, \$13.3 million, will go to the Home Mission Board to support the work of more than 2,800 missionaries. Other allocations were approved for the Annuity Board, \$325,000; the Golden Gate Seminary, \$1,279,564; Midwestern Seminary, \$1,324,514; New Orleans Seminary, \$2,342,835; Southeastern Seminary, \$2,317,319; Southern Seminary, \$3,440,372; Southwestern Seminary, \$4,182,883; the Southern Baptist Foundation, \$181,900; American Baptist Theological Seminary, \$160,500; the Brotherhood Commission, \$615,250; the Christian Life Commission, \$449,400; the Education Commission, \$310,300; the Historical Commission, \$235,400; the Radio-Tv Commission, \$3,210,000; the Stewardship Commission, \$294,250; the Public Affairs Committee, \$272,850; the SBC operating budget, \$704,000; and seminary endowment, \$126,000.

Messengers also approved Executive Committee recommendations to hold the 1984 session of the SBC in Kansas City, MO., June 12-14, and the 1985 session in Dallas, Texas, June 11-13.

Executive Committee Chairman Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., presented the committee's new executive secretary-treasurer, Harold Bennett, and his wife, Phyllis.

Bennett presented a Bold Mission challenge noting that Southern Baptists have been given a tremendous challenge to reach every person on earth with the gospel.

. "Phyllis and I have committed our lives and all we have and are to serving God and Southern Baptists," said Bennett who will succeed Porter Routh when Routh retires July 31.

Another recommendation adopted by the messengers calls on SBC agencies to respond in writing on all matters referred by the Convention.

Bylaw 28 was amended to require agencies to respond in writing at the close of their report in the Book of Reports and Annual, giving specific information on (1) how the matter referred was considered; (2) how it was reported to the constituency; and (3) any actions on the matter taken by the agency or action proposed to the Convention.

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SBC 2nd VP In Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship

By Robert Stanley

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Don Touchton, the 40-year-old paster of a small is m . Florida church who was elected second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that he is a member of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship.

But he said that his nomination was not part of any pre-arranged "ticket" of the theologically conservative group, even though he is a personal friend of President-elect Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn.

Touchton, pastor of the 400-member Central Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., said his members call him "Don the Baptist" because of his strong stand for biblical orthodoxy.

A graduate of Houston Baptist University and Luther Rice Seminary, Touchton said he was "surprised" when he was elected over the better-known Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Touchton is a former computer engineer with the Apollo space program who was 30 when he felt God calling him into the ministry. He said he chose Luther Rice over such Southern Baptist theological seminaries as New Orleans, Southwestern and Southern because he felt that it offered a more "practical" curriculum with a greater percentage of hours in Bible courses required.

Now that he's been elected as a Southern Baptist leader, he feels that an impartial committee "that everybody could respect" would be the best way to settle the question of whether unorthdox teaching is taking place in the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Touchton said he would "encourage him (Adrian Rogers) to consider such a committee so this issue can be resolved."

Personally, Touchton said, he is concerned over some of the teaching that he believes is being done at the seminaries.

Although Touchton supports the convention action reaffirming the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement, he said he is not sure that this action will settle the question of whether unorthodox teaching is taking place in the seminaries.

He said he was particularly disturbed by an article entitled "Shall We Call the Bible Infallible?" which was printed in a Southern Baptist publication and by excerpts of materials written by seminary teachers that he has read.

"I'm not on a witchhunt," he said, but I am concerned about the doctrinal orthodoxy of all the agencies and institutions."

He said he is disturbed that some young ministers of his acquaintance have come out of Southern Baptist seminaries "troubled, certainly not solid, and unable to forcefully pursue their ministry."

But he asked to be quoted as saying, "I'm very much a Southern Baptist. I love Southern Baptists. I'm one by choice...I didn't have to be one."

And if there are any who fear that "radicals" have been elected to head the SBC, he added, they should know that "Adrian's not a radical. He loves the SBC and all its work and so do I."

Touchton said his own church designates about 4.5 percent of its budget for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, with another 1.5 percent also being sent through the Cooperative Program. Another 7 percent goes to other mission causes, he said including some to Luther Rice, but none to Mid-America Seminary (which Rogers' church in Memphis helps support).

Some have expressed fear that the new officers will divert the Southern Baptist Convention from its agenda of missions and Bold Mission Thrust, Touchton said, "As far

as I'm personally concerned, my influence will certainly not be in changing the agenda. Missions must be our agenda, but in the context of orthodoxy.

"An agenda of missions without an orthodox message would result in futility," he added. "But if we have an agenda of missions with an orthodox message to preach, then certainly we are going to accomplish our goals.

Touchton said he has heard it said that it is the Cooperative Program that unifies Southern Baptists. "What unifies Southern Baptists," he said, "is doctrine."

Routh, Bennett Disapprove of SBC Political Machines

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press 6/14/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Both the incoming and outgoing chief executive officers of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee said here they hoped the pattern of pre-convention meetings and the "political machine" which organized the campaign to elect a conservative as president of the Southern Baptist Convention would not be followed in the future.

Porter W. Routh, who retires July 31 as executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive 3 ommittee after 28 years in the positon, and Harold C. Bennett, 54, who assumes the position Aug. 1 after 12 years as executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention, made the statement during a news conference at the SBC.

"I am concerned about the methodology of a secular political machine used at the convention this year," Routh said. "I don't believe this is the way God would have us move in the future."

Routh quickly added, however, that he had no problem with the expressions of concern about "liberalism" in the SBC, saying such expressions are healthy.

Routh said in a democratic organization such as the Southern Baptist Convention, "we need to listen to the voice of the minority, for often by listening to the voice of the minority we hear the voice of God."

The only way the denomination can do its work is by following "the voice of the majority," Routh added. He acknowledged that sometimes neither the majority nor the minority represent the will of God.

"We need to most of all listen to the voice of God," Routh said.

Commenting on the election of Adrian Rogers of Memphis as president of the convention, Routh said he felt Rogers would express concern for evangelism, missions and stewardship in the SBC.

Routh pointed out that the office of president of the convention is not a staff position, and that the convention president does not develop a program of his own.

He said the convention has already adopted its program for the years 1982-1985, pointing out that the convention "has got to work four or five years in advance" to plan its programs. The president of the convention, he said, "can provide dynamic leadership to carry out the program the convention has adopted."

SBC President Jimmy Allen has done a "fantastic job" as president of the convention to carry out the Bold Mission Thrust program already adopted, Routh said.

"The service Wednesday night at the Astrodome (attended by 48,000 persons with a dedication service for 1,100 missionaries) was a crowning climax to his term as president."

Bennett, the new executive secretary-treasurer, said he upholds completely the belief in the Bible as described in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted in 1963 which says the Bible "was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man...It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

Bennett added that he believes in the inerrancy (without error) of the original documents, and if "somewhere I find something in the Bible I don't understand, I accept the Bible by faith."

Asked if he had been to lunch with Criswell Center for Biblical Studies President Paige Patterson and Houston Judge Paul Pressler and had led them to believe he agreed completely with their stance on inerrancy of the scriptures, Bennett acknowledged he had lunch with them, but he took no stand for or against their own position and made no commitment to them.

Bennett said he was in Dallas to speak at the commencement at Criswell Institute for Biblical Studies, and went to lunch with Criswell, Patterson and Pressler at the invitation of Criswell, his former pastor.

He explained he had never met Pressler previously, and probably would not have gone to lunch if he had known about the activities of Pressler and Patterson to organize efforts by conservatives to elect a convention president.

Bennett said he had been committed through the years to the ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention and to SBC theological seminaries, and "had never raised any question or problem in my mind' concerning the teaching within our seminaries."

Routh and Bennett praised each other, and commended the work each had done in the past. "I have deep respect for Porter Routh's knowledge, intelligence, and spirit," Bennett said. "He's already forgotten more than I'll ever be able to know."

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Investigation Promised of SBC Voting Irregularities

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press 6/14/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- An intensive investigation into registration procedures was promised by registration secretary Lee Porter following allegations of voter irregularities in the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention.

Porter said that he had already decided to make an exhaustive study of registration and voting at the 1979 convention even before messengers adopted a motion requesting him to do so.

"I feel that a quick preliminary survey (of registration) raised enough questions in my mind that I felt that I must make a detailed study. I had already committed myself to that before the motion was made," Porter said.

James Varner, pastor of Woodhaven Baptist Church in Houston, made the motion to request a full investigation while serving as local registration chairman for the convention.

Neither Varner nor Porter would address the question that widespread voter registration abuse could have affected the outcome of the first ballot victory of Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., as convention president.

Rogers won the post with a vote of 6,129 out of 11,975 cast, a majority margin of 163 votes. In order to win on the first ballot, a candidate must receive 50 percent, plus one, of the vote, or 5,967 votes, in this case.

Porter said he has drawn no conclusions about what his findings of irregularities might mean, but he did say some of the things which raised the questions in his mind were:

"We found some churches which had more than 10 messengers and, we found some people who had double registered.

"We found some pastors or church leaders who had registered for all 10 of their allowed messengers.

"As early as Sunday, we had some pastors or church leaders who brought all 10 cards to the registration desk, and then we had messengers from those churches come by the desk on Tuesday asking for their ballots. We had to tell them to check with their pastors."

Although Porter mentioned only those abuses specifically, other people had other stories.

Varner, for instance, told of registering one man who got ballots for six people: himself, his wife and four children. "When I asked him if the children were attending the convention, he finally admitted that they were out at the KOA campground," Varner said.

Another pastor told of sitting behind a man who marked 11 ballots in the presidential election and turned all of them into the usher.

Varner also noted that after the election they had found booklets of ballots on the convention floor "with only the second ballot removed."

Messengers also questioned the registration of Houston civil appeals court judge Paul Pressler, controversial conservative, as a messenger after it was learned he was only an "honorary" member of the church who named him as a messenger.

"The registration form clearly says that each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is appointed," Varner said, adding there is no provision for "honorary" members to be messengers.

Varner said there is no provision for dual membership, which Pressler cailmed from the podium.

Porter said the investigation will center on churches with more than 10 messengers, persons with double registration or persons with more than one ballot. Porter said no attempt will be made to match ballots with registrations because the task is impossible.

"We have a system which assures a secret ballot. We could not match them even if we wanted to, which we do not." Porter said.

Porter explained that our whole registration process is based on integrity. It is interesting to note that about 10 years ago, we did away with paper ballots and started using computer cards. I am of the opinion that we just went halfway in trying to correct some problems which were appearing at the time.

"We need to modernize our complete registration and balloting process. I plan to make extensive recommendations to the Executive Committee when they meet in September. I am sure we will have hundreds of people in the next few months who will make suggestions. I have already had 20 or 30 today.

"We will try to get the suggestions and make recommendations to the Executive Committee," he said.

Porter stopped short of calling any registration and/or balloting irregularities widespread, but he did comment: "I do know I found enough irregularities to become concerned. I felt it was required for my own personal integrity and for the integrity of the convention."

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SBC Rejects Motion to Eliminate All Charges to Churches Bantist Press 6/14/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--A recommendation explaining Southern Baptist agencies' charges to churches for services rendered drew lengthy debate during a report by the denomination's Executive Committee.

The recommendation, which came in response to a motion at last year's convention by John C. Green of Indialantic, Fla., said most convention agencies receive their funds through the Cooperative Program or designated gifts and make no charges to churches for their services.

The Executive Committee cited some exceptions to the practice such as agencies charging for recovery of reasonable costs for materials and costs from individuals for conferences they conduct.

Green presented a motion to the convention for a 15-person committee to study financial practices of the agencies.

He said he felt that reducing the number of times agencies solicit funds could result in helping the churches reach the goal of doubling Cooperative Program giving.

Objections to Green's motion were raised by Porter Routh of Nashville, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee. Routh said the 65-member Executive Committee already has responsibilities for making such studies, and Green's proposal would result in unnecessary duplication and extra costs of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

A motion by a Huntsville, Texas messenger to postpone the vote until Green's motion could be printed in the Convention Bulleting failed for lack of two-thirds majority.

Messengers then voted down Green's motion.

Seven other Executive Committee recommendations passed without discussion by messengers.

A recommendation in response to a 1978 motion by Jack Gritz, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, said it does not appear that a seventh seminary is feasible.

The recommendation, however, called for the six seminaries to outline "possibilities of extending their ministries for meeting the needs for theological education in the Northeast, the North Central, the West and the Northwest.

Other recommendations adopted by the convention included continuing Bold Mission Thrust for 1982-85 under the themes of reaching people, developing believers and strengthening families, revising the charter of the SBC Sunday School Board and adjusting the program statement for the six seminaries.

In another action, Executive Committee Chairman Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., presented plaques of appreciation to three SBC leaders.

They were Paul M. Stevens, who will retire Oct. 1 after serving as president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission for 26 years; Baker James Cauthen who retires Dec. 31 after serving as executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board for 26 years; and Porter Routh, who retires July 31 after serving as executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee for 28 years.

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Rogers, State Baptist Editors Meet in Houston

By Bracey Campell

Baptist Press 6/14/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BF)--Incoming Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers spent more than two hours attempting to mend fences with the editors of the convention's 34 state newspapers and news magazines.

Rogers discussed everything from his belief that there are "many professors" at the six Southern Baptist seminaries who do not believe in the inerrancy (without error) of the original autographs of the scriptures, to why he has disassociated himself with the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship.

Taking over as the top elected official of the 13.2 million member organization at the conclusion of the convention Thursday night, Rogers said a mark of his term will be "transparency."

"When you want to know something, I'll tell you the truth."

Several of the state Baptist newspapers have been at odds with the "conservative coalition" that helped propel Rogers into office on the first ballot.

Presnall Wood, editor of the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptist weekly newspaper with almost 400,000 circulation, said he felt the marathon session had been helpful in "letting the editors see the new president and letting him see us."

Wood said he felt that Rogers displayed a "healing spirit," which would help heal wounds that may have been opened during Rogers' election.

"I am afraid that Adrian's biggest problem is going to be his association in the past with non-Southern Baptist owned and operated agencies."

Rogers said he will continue to support Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, a non-Southern Baptist Convention-owned school for ministers adjacent to his Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

He said Mid-America differs from Southern Baptist owned seminaries in that every professor believes in the verbal plenary inspiration theory and that every word of scripture is pure. Rogers said his church would continue to support the Memphis school, but that he would not use his office as president to enhance Mid-America.

He said no faculty member or student at Mid-America ever criticizes any of the Southern Baptist seminaries. "A speaker in chapel attempted to do so recently, but he was stopped," Rogers added.

Rogers said he "probably had been guilty" of allowing Luther Rice Seminary, a non-Southern Baptist-owned facility in Florida to use his name when he was appointed a trustee.

"Luther Rice and other institutions like it are a monument to our failures as Southern Baptists. Luther Rice would not have a breath of a chance to exist if the six Southern Baptist seminaries were committed to biblical inerrancy."

Noting that he had only been to one meeting of the trustees, Rogers said he did not object to the Florida school awarding a doctorate to a student who might have come straight from high school. "You pay for what you get."

He said the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship movement came about as the result of an article printed in the Baptist Program, entitled "Shall We Call the Bible Infallible." A request to run an article contradicting the story was denied, resulting in the Baptist Faith and Message movement, he said.

Rogers said he had decided to associate with Bill Powell of Buchanan, Ga., and the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, "just because I thought someone needed to take a stand against the liberals questioning the inerrancy of the Scripture."

Rogers said he had written Powell prior to the convention, disassociating himself. "I love Bill Powell, but he has not articulated what I believe."

On biblical inspiration, Rogers said that the issue of inspiration of the Bible versus the method of inspiration is not what concerns him.

"The result (that the Bible is inspired...that it is inerrant) is what I am concerned about, not terminology (about how it was inspired)," Rogers said.

But Rogers reiterated his belief that the six Southern Bartist seminaries have professors who do not believe the inerrancy of the Bible.

He added you would "open a Pandora's box" with a resolution by the convention that every professor must believe in the inerrancy of the Bible.

"If the rank and file (of Southern Baptists) knew what professors believe, they would already have risen up (against the seminaries)," Rogers contended.

He said only because some professors are so glib ... so good at semantics ... that the rank and file have not yet found out what some professors believe.

Rogers refused to equate differences in interpretation, however, with refusal to believe in inspiration.

He said he would not consider it a test of fellowship if another person believed in, for example, ordination of women, or a different method of inspiration than the verbal plenary position he holds.

A person can believe in the inspiration of the scriptures and can believe in ordination of women and I can fellowship with him unless he gets too far off in his theology," Rogers said.

He added, however, for the record, "I am dead set against ordination of women. The Bible does not teach that."

Although he believes in eternal security of the believer, he also commented that that issue is not a test of fellowship.

Four goals were listed by Rogers for his administration: being heard, listening and helping distill the issues; communicating that a man who believes the Bible is not an ogre; setting the tone of evangelism and missions for Bold Mission Thrust; and not appointing a person to anything who does not believe the Bible is inerrant.

He added that only the original autographs of the Bible are inerrant and that no inerrant manuscripts are now available.

Rogers said he will not appoint anyone to the boards with a meat axe and who has blood in their eye.

"I will not appoint women or blacks or Asians just because they are blacks, Asians or whatever. I will ask for the best person," said Rogers, whose church has 300 black members.

"I have laid my neck on the line for social issues. But don't paint me as a crusader for this issue or that. I am a crusader for Christ."

On the election, Rogers said he was not prepared or happy when W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, endorsed him as "the candidate" for president at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference preceding the convention.

"My heart sank when he did that. It made the Pastors' Conference look like a political caucus. He told me that I was needed prior to doing it, but I replied, 'No, not me.'"

Criswell's endorsement was viewed by some observers as a key in Rogers' triumph.

When asked if he had ever thought about leaving the Southern Baptist Convention, Rogers answered: "I am a Christian first; a Baptist second, and a Southern Baptist third: and I will be a Southern Baptist as long as I can without compromise."

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Rogers Supports SBC Ballot Investigation

Baptist Press 6/14/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers said he supports an investigation into alleged registration abuses during the convention in which he was elected president.

"I support it (an investigation) if there has been any misdoing," he said of a motion messengers adopted asking registration secretary Lee Porter to investigate reported irregularities.

"I would hope it would not cast aspersions on any innocent people, but I would be in favor of exposing anyone who has done anything dishonest."

Rogers said he had not heard about the charges of irregularities, nor of the conventiondirected investigation into them.

When told of the alleged irregularities, Rogers commented: "If these people knew better, I would doubt their integrity. If they didn't know better, I would doubt their wisdom. But I would have to know more about the cases to know whether it was an error of the head or the heart."

However, Rogers said he "doubts in my own head and heart" that there were widespread abuses in the convention registration and balloting processes.

"I believe there has been no plot or plan or movement to do anything like that and I would be disappointed in anyone who would make such an accusation."

Asked what the motion and the report mean to his election, Rogers said: "I would have to know more about how people voted. But I would not want to be elected by such a method or without proper integrity."

Rogers said he didn't think allegations of voting irregularities will affect his own election as president.

"But I hope if anyone has honest questions, they can have them answered. If the procedure shows any irregularity of a serious nature which casts doubt on my election, then so be it."

Rogers explained he intends to continue as president "until another election is held," and added that he believes that for him to resign would be "for the fellowship, the most disruptive thing that could happen. There would be deep suspicions on both sides and it would be very hurtful to the feelings of some" who might feel they had been disenfranchised."

The new SBC president said he hopes speculation about a resignation and rumors of widespread allegations of irregularities will not become prevalent.

"Such a thing would get things off on the left foot right off the bat. I hope we go through the process (of investigation) before speculating about what will happen."

Overt Political Action Angers SBC Messengers

By Dan Martin and Jim Newton

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Anger over doctrinal integrity and convention political organization erupted into charges and countercharges here as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention debated a resolution on overt political action.

The prime controversy centered around Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., and Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, who helped lead a coalition of conservatives to elect Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., as convention president.

The motion, proposed by Ernie White of St. Joseph, Mo., called on the convention to "disavow overt political activity and organization as a method of selection of its officers." Messengers approved the resolution.

In debate on the issue, Dehoney, without mentioning Pressler by name, leveled charges of overt political activity in Pressler's use of the controversial skyboxes (executive suites) at the Summit as political headquarters and referred to Pressler (although not by name) as being an illegal messenger to the convention.

Other chimed in such as Sid Peterson of Bakersfield, Calif., who accused Dehoney of "overt political activity" in past conventions, and especially during Dehoney's presidency of the SBC in 1965-67.

After the short but rancorous debate, outgoing SBC President Jimmy Allen of San Antonio said he was "grieved by the spirit that is now moving in this room."

After messengers approved the resolution disavowing overt political action, Pressler made an impassioned and tearful personal privilege speech to messengers, defending himself on use of the skyboxes and charges he was an illegal messenger, since he came accredited from a church of which he is an "honorary" member.

Pressler, who is highly respected in the Houston legal community, told messengers that for the first time in his life he is being put in the place where people doubt my world. I am a loyal Southern Baptist. I love the convention and I love the Lord, but I don't like remarks being made about my character.

In an interview afterwards, Pressler denied unconfirmed report that he and others had encouraged local churches to bus "messengers" to the convention for the election, and that some churches had more than the permissible maximum of 10 messengers.

"It would be absolutely ridiculous, immoral, unethical and wrong to do this," Pressler said.

"I'm against power politics, but I'm for greater participation of laymen in the convention," Pressler said. "I'm absolutely appalled by the reaction that it is wrong to encourage more participation of laymen in the convention."

"All we did was to inform other Baptists about the problem of parking and transportation, and suggest that some churches might want to form transportation pools and more than one church come in buses or cars," Pressler said. He said he did not know of any specific church which brought messengers to the convention by bus.

Earlier, convention registration secretary Lee Porter said that at least 100 ballots had been turned in voluntarily by messengers from churches which had more than the maximum of 10 elected messengers per church.

Porter acknowledged that Pressler had attempted to turn in his credentials, but said he had no authority to accept them since no challenge had been made against the validity of his credentials.

Porter added that in his personal opinion, there is no provision in the constitution for "dual" membership, but there is strict prohibition against a messenger being named by a church where he is not a member.

"In my opinion," Porter said, "Pressler is not a bonafide messenger to the convention."

The angry exchange on political activity caught most messengers by surprise. It came at the end of a long session on the report of the resolutions committee. When the report of the committee failed to act on the overt political activity resolution, White moved that the convention take action.

However, the eruption was only part of the spillover from the doctrinal integrity debate which has embroiled the entire convention.

Other elements of the dispute which occurred Thursday morning, June 14, included a debate on a resolution expressing gratitude to the seminaries, confusion over a proposed bylaw which would have established a "loyalty oath" to conservative principles by future convention officers, and a motion which implied irregularities have occurred in the registration of messengers.

The resolution, a combination of documents proposed by Charles Inman of Monahans, Texas, and David Medley of Tyronza, Ark., both expressed appreciation to staff and faculty members of seminaries "who have persistently and sacrificially taught the truth with love," and called on persons who question the doctrinal integrity of seminary staffers to follow established procedures.

Kenneth Burnett of Alamogordo, N. M., opposed the resolution, noting there "is a question about some seminary professors," and saying he does not believe in blanket condemnation or exoneration.

Charles Inman, who favored the rewritten proposal, said some men have "criss-crossed this country crying wolf, wolf" about liberals teaching in the seminaries, but have never visited with seminary presidents to discuss their charges.

"It simply calls on them to put up or shut up," he said.

Messengers approved the resolution.

Messengers were braced to debate a motion which would have required establishing a "loyalty oath" for future convention office nominees before messengers balloted on them.

Eli Sheldon, of Oklahoma City, who made the motion, had included a provisor that if it was necessary to become a bylaw, it would take effect in 1982.

By oversight, the motion was not printed in the Convention Bulletin Wednesday, and debate was postponed until Thursday. President Jimmy Allen apologized to Sheldon, noting he did not realize the bylaw provision was included when debate was postponed.

The convention constitution prohibits bylaws from being debated on the final day of ${\tt z}$ convention.

Allen told Sheldon that messengers would be allowed to debate the issue Thursday, but it could not be included as a bylaw. He offered Sheldon the opportunity of withdrawing the motion and entering it again next year.

Sheldon withdrew it.

Reports from BWA, BJCPA

HOUSTON, June 14--The Baptist World Alliance and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs reported on human rights and religious liberty Thursday while Georgi Vins, dissident Russian Baptist pastor, described his prison trials to reporters within ear-shot of the Southern Baptist Convention session.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance in Washington, D. C., reported that"in 1974 I and a delegation of five executive secretaries from Western European Baptist conventions interceded for Georgi Vins when he was on trial in Moscow."

Denny said that he saw "public professions" of Christian faith in the Soviet Union on a visit there last October.

"We have above ground evangelism in the 5,000 officially recognized Baptist churches in the Soviet Union, and we don't see any excuse for underground evangelism," Denny said.

The Baptist World Alliance is a "fellowship" of 111 Baptist conventions, including Southern Baptists and involves 30 million Baptists in countries around the world.

Denny said that on his visit to the Soviet Union "we personally interceded with the government to underscore the request of the Baptists for Bibles and concordances." The request was granted and 25,000 Bibles and 5,000 concordances were delivered in the Soviet Union in January, 1979, Denny said.

"Therefore, smuggling of Bibles is not feasible, not legal, and generally counter-productive," Denny said.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., said his agency worked in 1978 for "the elevation of human rights" in the United States' domestic and foreign policy, and in the United Nations, Soviet Union, Turkey and Israel.

Wood reported there is proposed legislation in the U. S. Congress that "would clearly have a chilling effect on the church's witness in public affairs and the prophetic role of religion in our society." His description applied to legislation that Wood said may require churches and other grames that attempt to influence public policy to report their activities and communications to the federal government.

Wood said his committee is working against "government intrusion into the life of the churches," which he described as the attempt to make tax exemption of churches conditioned on absence of their involvement in public affairs, and denial of tax exemption to churches if enrollment of week-day church schools fails to meet racial guidelines "imposed by the IRS."

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By Debbie Stewart--5:20 p.m., Thursday



Porter Routh Speech

HOUSTON, June 14--Facing a new phase in life, Porter Wroe Routh stood before his last denomination-wide convention as an executive Thursday and charged Southern Baptists with an "indictment that calls for new life."

"Bold Mission Thrust is a clarion call for new life for Southern Baptists, for our nation, and for the world," the retiring executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist's Executive Committee, told messengers at the final day of the 122nd annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston's Summit.

Basing his text on Zephaniah 3 beginning with Jerusalem in an air of doom, corruption, rebellion and lack of reverence for the Lord, Routh told messengers "this sounds like a checklist for Houston, or Atlanta, or Nashville, or San Francisco." He warned that the day for a turning around for a new life is at hand."

The veteran executive encouraged Baptists to move from a "passive patchwork" to "imperatives for a new life" from Zephaniah 3:16-17.

Cautioning them to "not be afraid," Routh drew parallels from his own life in the racially tense years of 1951, 1956 and 1968, and remembered when he and others took a stand for "a Christian spirit in race relations...and, the bitter letters of critical which followed."

Routh reminded messengers that "most of the fears...have failed to materialize... (and) if we follow (the Lord's) path and live in his spirit, then we can face the follow unafraid."

Routh also warned that although the clenched fist signifies aggression, "the limp hand has too often been the symbol of the average Baptist who could not care less." He urged messengers to reach out with sensitivity.

He told them that God's presence and nearness to God is imperative, not only through prayer but "from his (God's) affirming blessings rather than our own self-centered announcement."

Routh specifically called Southern Baptists (not only church staff, but laymen) to conlife in evangelism; stewardship through churches with financial and personal committeer Bible study and prayer; and in caring for "the widows and fatherless...feeding the hungry, in healing humanity's hurts."

The new life, he said, "comes only when immersed in God's love...reflected in a Lyway that brings joy with renewed respect for personhood, regardless of race or class of sex...across the barrier of minds and language...the overflowing language of love."

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By Jennifer Anderson--4:00 p.m. Thursday



State Editors and Adrian Rogers

HOUSTON, June 14--Incoming Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers spent more than two hours Thursday attempting to mend fences with the editors of the convention's 34 state newspapers and news magazines.

Rogers, cancelling another appointment to stay with the editors as long as they had questions, discussed everything from his belief that there are "many professors" at the six Southern Baptist seminaries who do not believe in the inerrancy (without error) of the scriptures to why he has disassociated himself with the Baptist Faith and Message organization.

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He said no faculty member or student at Mid-America ever criticizes any of the Southern Baptist seminaries.

"A speaker in chapel attempted to do so recently, but he was stopped," Rogers added.

Rogers said he "probably had been guilty" of allowing Luther Rice Seminary, a non-Southern Baptist facility in Florida to use his name when he was appointed a trustee.

"Luther Rice and other institutions like it are a monument to our failures as Southern Baptists. Luther Rice would not have a breath of a chance to exist if the six Southern Baptist seminaries were committed to Biblical inerrancy."

Noting that he had only been to one meeting of the trustees, Rogers said he did not object to the Florida school awarding a doctorate to a student who might have come straight from high school. "You pay for what you get."

He said the Baptist Faith and Message movement came about as the result of an article printed in the Baptist Program, questioning the infallability of the Bible. A request to run an article contradicting the story was denied, resulting in the Baptist Faith and Message movement, he said.

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Rogers said he had decided to associate with Bill Powell of Buchanan, Ca., and the Baptist Faith and Message movement, "just because I thought someone needed to take a stand against the liberals questioning the inerrancy of the Scripture."

Rogers said he had written Powell prior to the convention, disassociating himself. I love Bill Powell, but he has not articulated what I believe."

On biblical inspiration, Rogers said that the issue of inspiration of the Bible versus the method--or dynamic--of inspiration is not what concerns him.

"The result (that the Bible is inspired...that it is increant) is what I am concerned about, not terminology (about how it was inspired); Rogers said.

But Rogers reiterated his belief that the six Southern Baptist seminaries have professors who do not believe the inspiration of the Bible.

He added you would "open as Pandora's box" with a resolution by the convention that every professor must believe in the inerrancy of the Bible.

"If the rank and file (of Southern Baptists) knew what professors believe, they would already have risen up (against the seminaries)," Rogers contended.

He said only because some professors are so glib ... so good at semantics ... that the rank and file have not yet found out what some professors believe.

Rogers refused to equate differences in interpretation, however, with refusal to believe in inspiration.

He said he would not consider it a test of fellowship if another person believed in, for example, ordination of women.

"A person can believe in the inspiration of the scriptures and can believe in ordination of women and I can fellowship with him unless he gets too far off in his theology."

Rogers said.

He added, however, for the record, "I am dead set against ordination of women. The Bible does not teach that."

Four goals were listed by Rogers for his administrations being heard, listening and helping distill the issues; communicating that a man who believes the Bible is not an ogressetting the tone of evangelism and missions for Bold Mission Thrust; and not appointing a person to anything who does not believe the Bible is inerrent.

Rogers said he will not appoint anyone to the boards with a meat axe and who has blood in their eye.

He said, "I will not appoint women or blacks or Asians just because they are blacks, Asians or whatever. I will ask for the best person.

"I have laid my neck on the line for social issues. But don't paint me as a crusader for this issue or that. I am a crusader for Christ.

On the election, Rogers said he was not prepared or happy when W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, endorsed him as "the candidate" for president at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference preceding the convention Sunday.

"My heart sank when he did that. It made the Pastors' Conference look like a political caucus. He told me that I was needed prior to doing it, but I replied, 'No, not me.'

Criswell's endorsement was viewed by some observers as a key in Rogers' triumph.

When asked if he had ever thought about leaving the Southern Baptist Convention, Rogers answered: "I am a Christian first; a Baptist second, and a Southern Baptist third; and I will be a Southern Baptist as long as I can without compromise."

CUTLINE #20

THIS IS THE DAY--William M. Hinson, pastor, First Baptist Church of New Orleans, preaches the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention. Photo by Steve Medford

CUTLINE #21--supercedes previous cutline listing only four people

EVANGELISTS' OFFICERS--Southern Baptist evangelists elected as officers of their organization for 1979-80, (1-r) Ron Herrod, First Baptist Church, Kenner, La., and Dick Rial, First Baptist Church, Benton, Ark., pastor advisors; Hyman Appleman, Kansas City, Mo., president; Allison and Connie Ware, Plano, Texas, co-music directors; Jim McNiel, St. Louis, assistant music director. Photo by Tim Fields

CUTLINE #23

PRESIDENT AND MRS ROGERS—While her husband seeks to lead in his role as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Mrs. Adrian Rogers says that maybe the best thing she could do would be to sit by his side and be supportive. Mrs. Rogers stated that both she and her husband were overwhelmed by his election on the first ballot. Photo by Jay Durham

CUTLINE #25

GATEWAY OF FLAGS--Southern Baptist missionaries walked a path marked by flags as they appeared before an estimated crowd of 48,000 attending the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. Photo by Mark Sandlin

CUTLINE #26

FROM GRIDIRON TO SERVICE CORP--Scott Appleton, former professional football player shared his testimony with participants at the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. The former All-American is now a Mission Service Corp volunteer. Photo by Mark Sandlin

CUTLINE #27

DEDICATED TO SERVE--1,100 volunteers for mission service were dedicated at the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. Another 1,100 accompanied them, representing those who support the volunteers financially. Photo by Jay Durham

CUTLINE #28

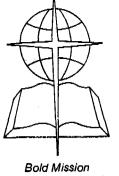
MASS MEDIA MEETING—With a satellite for relay, television cameras for broadcast, and an electrical scoreboard for a hymnal, technological genius helped produce the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. Photo by Mark Sandlin

CUTLINE #31

LARGEST EVER--It was the largest gathering of Southern Baptists ever assembled in the United States as a crowd of 48,000 participated in the dedication of 1,100 missionary volunteers at the Bold Mission Thrust Rally in the Astrodome. Photo by Tim Fields

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While It Is Yet Day!

Doctrine Flap

HOUSTON, June 14--Anger over doctrinal integrity and convention political organization erupted into charges and countercharges here Thursday as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention debated a resolution on overt political action.

The prime controversy centered around Wayne Pehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., and Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, who helped lead a coalition of conservatives Tuesday to elect Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., as convention president.

The motion, proposed by Ernie White of St. Joseph Mo., called on the convention to "disavow overt political activity and organization as a method of selection of its officers."

In debate on the issue, Dehoney, without mentioning Pressler by name, leveled charges of overt political activity in Pressler's use of the controversial slyboxes at the Summit and referred to Pressler (although not by name) as being an illegal messenger to the convention.

Others chimad in such as Sid Paterson of Reharsfiell, Calif., who accused Dehoney of "overt political activity" in mast conventions, and aspecially during Dehoney's presidency of the SDC in 1965-67.

After the short but rancorous debate outgoing 200 President Jimmy Allen of San Antonio said be was "grieved by the spirit that is now moving in this room."

After messencers approved the resolution disavouring event political action. Trassler made an impassioned and tearful personal privilege speech to messencers, defending himself on use of the Shyboxes and charges he was an illegal messencer, since he came accredited from a church of which he is an "hoporary" member.

Pressler told messengers that for the first time in his life he is being out in the place where people doubt my word. I am a loyal Southern Daptist. I love the convention and I love the Lord, but I lon't like remarks being made about my character.

In an interview afterwards, Pressler denied unconfirmed report that he and others had encouraged local churches to bus "messencers" to the convention for the Tuesday afternoon election, and that some churches had more than the permisible maximum of 10 messencers.

"It would be absolutely ridiculous, immoral, unethical and wrong to do this," Pressler said.

"I'm against power politics, but I'm for greater participation of laymen in the convention," Pressler said. "I'm absolutely appalled by the reaction that it is wrong to encourage more participation of laymen in the convention."

"All we did was to inform other Paptists about the problem of parking and transportation, and suggest that some churches might want to form transportation pools and more than one church come in buses or cars, "Pressler said. He said he did not know of any specific church which brought messencers to the convention by bus.

Earlier, convention registration secretary Lee Porter said that at least 100 ballots had been turned in voluntarily by "messengers" from churches which had more than the maximum of 10 elected messengers per church.

Porter acknowledged that Pressler had attempted to turn in his credentials, but said he had no authority to accept them since no challenge had been made against the validity of his credentials.

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Porter added that in his personal opinion, there is no provision in the constitution for "dual" membership, but there is strict prohibition against a messenger being named by a church where he is not a member.

"In my opinion," Porter said, "Pressler is not a bonafide messenger to the convention."

The angry exchange cought most messengers by surprise. It came at the end of a long session on the report of the resolutions committee. When the report of the committee failed to act on the overt political activity resolution, White moved that the convention take action.

However, the eruption was only part of the spillover from the doctrinal integrity debate which has embroiled the entire convention.

Other elements of the dispute which occurred Thursday morning included a debate on the resolution expressing gratitude to the seminaries, confusion over a proposed bylaw which would have established a "loyalty oath" to concervative principles by future convention officers, and a motion which implied irregularities have occurred in the registration of messengers.

The resolution, a combination of documents proposed by Charles Inman of Monahans, Texas, and David Medley of Tyronza, Ark., both expressed appreciation to staff and faculty members of seminaries "who have persistently and sacrificially taught the truth with love," and called on persons who question the doctrinal integrity of seminary staffers to follow established procedures.

Kenneth Burnett of Alam fordo, N. M., opposed the resolution, noting there "is a question about some seminary professors," and saying he does not believe in blanket condemnation or experation.

Charles Inman, who favored the rewritten proposal, said some men have "criss-crossed this country crying wolf, wolf" about liberals teaching in the seminaries, but have never visited with seminary presidents to discuss their charges.

"It simply calls on them to put up or shut up," he said.

Messengers approved the resolution.

Messengers were braced to debate a motion which would have required establishing a "loyalty oath" for future convention office nominees before messengers balloted on them.

Eli Sheldon, of Oklahoma City, who made the motion, had included a proviso that if it was necessary to become a bylaw, it would take effect in 1982.

By oversight, the motion was not printed in the Convention Bulletin Wednesday, and debate was postponed until Thursday. President Jimmy Allen apologized to Sheldon, noting he did not realize the bylaw provision was included when debate was postponed.

The convention constitution prohibits bylaws from being debated on the final day of a convention.

Allen told Sheldon that messengers would be allowed to debate the issue Thursday, but it could not be included as a bylaw. He offered Sheldon the opportunity of withdrawing the motion and entering it again next year.

Sheldon withdrew it.

The third part of the complicated picture was the approval of a motion by James Varner, pastor of Woodhaven Baptist Church in Houston and local registration chairman for the SBC.

The motion, which was adopted without debate, asked that registration secretary Lee Porter of Nashville, Tenn., be "instructed by this convention to study and report to the next Executive Committee meeting (in September) any registration irregularities and that the Executive Committee report or recommend to the annual meeting of the convention . next year any necessary bylaw changes and/or registration procedures to correct irregularities and to maintain the integrity of the balloting system."

Varner's motion struck at reports of unofficial and irreuglar messengers, including some churches which reportedly registered more than their allowed 10 messengers.

"I have been local chairman of registration and I am concerned about some problems which have developed because of the system we use," Varner said. "Perhaps there are some controls the Credentials Committee could initiate," he said.

Page 3--Doctrine Flap

After the motion passed, Varner told Baptist Press that he has been watching registration procedures and has become "concerned about some irregularities such as churches registering more messengers than allowed.

"I am also concerned about messengers registering wives and children who are not present at the registration procedure."

He told of one Texas church which records indicate registered 17 messengers. The official limit for any SBC church, according to the constitution, is 10.

He told of another father who registered six messengers, including himself, his wife and four children. "When I asked him if the children were attending the convention, he finally admitted they were out at the KOA camparound," Varner said.

He also raised questions about Pressler's accreditation as a messenger from a church in which he is only an "honorary member."

"The registration form clearly says that 'each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is appointed'," Varner said, adding there is no provision for "honorary" members to be messengers.

"My concern is that the whole system we use now is based on integrity. I think that is a secondary issue of the whole convention. I think there is something wrong when a church knowingly registers too many messengers, or when a fella registers six children, including four children who probably never came to the convention."

Varner said his suspicions about irregularities in registration procedures were heightened when he found booklets of ballots on the convention floor "with only the second ballot removed." That ballot was the one used to elect Rogers as convention president.

"I am interested in what lies beyond," he said. "If this (political organization) becomes the modus operandi of the convention, then I think we ought to have our house in order," he said.

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By Dan Martin and Jim Newton-1:20, Thursday

Evangelists Fellowship Meeting

HOUSTON, June 14--If Southern Baptists were judged by their evangelists there would be no question of belief in the inspiration of the Bible, the new president of Southern Baptist evangelists said.

Hyman Appleman, an evangelist from Kansas City, Mo., was elected president of the Fellowship of Southern Baptist Evangelists during their annual business meeting at the Holiday Inn Downtown during the Southern Baptist Convention.

To see that Southern Baptists know about evangelists, their campaigns and ideas—as an information piece only—the fellowship decided to begin a newspaper it will distribute free to all Southern Baptist pastors.

Appleman said the evangelists would subsidize the paper which he hopes will begin by December. He quickly insisted evangelists have "no axe to grind."

"The paper will include no attacks on the denomination, not stress theology, no attacks on other people, but will provide information and challenging, inspirational features and news on evangelists." Appleman added.

He said, "the churches leading in baptisms across the convention--all of them, not just the super-churches--use evangelists and have a minimum of two revivals each year.

The more than 200 music and preaching evangelists at the meeting also elected T. D. Hall of Irving, Texas, vice president; Ron Herrod of Kenner, La., and Dick Rial of Benton, Ark., pastor-advisors; Allison and Connie Ware of Plano, Texas, as co-music directors; and Jim McNiel of St. Louis, assistant music director.

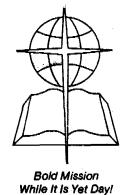
More than 2,000 persons attended a session of inspirational messages and music at Houston First Baptist Church.

-30-

By Judy Touchton--2:35 p.m. Thursday







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Cauthen's Final Address

HOUSTON, June 14-Baker James Cauthen, "Mr. Foreign Missions" among Southern Baptists for the past quarter of a century, told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here Thursday not to lose sight of the destiny of mankind and the task of missions.

Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, preached his final message to the annual meeting before his retirement at the end of the year after 25 years of lealing the missionary sending agency that currently has almost 3,000 missionaries serving in about 90 nations of the world. He received a standing ovation both before and after his address.

There are people all around the world who still don't know the message of God's love through Jesus Christ, Cauthen said, and Southern Baptists owe it to those "caught in the tragedy of a sin-blighted world" to give them hope through God's redemptive plan for man't and.

"They are without hope and without God in the world," Cauthen said, "facing life's sorrows and life's burdens and hunger and homelessness, hatredness and hostilities, pride and tyrannies and the oppression of life without hope. They face war with its terror and death with its despair without hope and without God."

He said a movement is organized to provide the world with hope.

"It is not a cultural movement, though it lifts the culture of everyone it touches," Cauthen said. "It is not a humanitarian movement though it touches everything in the lives of mankind. It is not a socialist movement though it transforms all of the social institutions of man.

"It is a movement of redemption that changes man on the inside and changes all relationships in which man may be involved."

Cauthen said a guarantee of peace cannot be found in the biggest atomic bomb or the most fearful weapon imaginable, but it can be found in Christ who gives us peace with God, with our fellowman and with ourselves.

"If we soothe our consciences and rationalize that it's not necessary to preach to the whole world," Cauthen said, God will find "some other way, some other program or some other denomination."

Cauthen received exuberant applause when he said, "Oh, Southern Baptists, if we're ever lulled to cleep believing that there's any other way to salvation except through Jesus, then we must open the Bible and the Bible will tell us that Jesus Christ alone is the Saviour of mankind."

Cauthen spoke of several persons who lost their lives while serving as foreign missionaries and challenged the crowd to respond to God's call no matter what it may cost.

"If it cost us our lives, I stand before you for my last time as executive director of the Foreign Mission Board to say to you that whatever it costs, let us do it even if it costs you your life or if it costs me my life."

Concluding his challenge, Cauthen said, "Rise up in the strength of the Lord Jesus and let's sing out with it's true meaning, not something with guns and wars, bombs and bayonets but with the glorious message of Jesus, the peace-giving and life-transforming Saviour 'Glory, glory, hallelujah, our God is marching on.'

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"Come Southern Beptists, let's march with him!"

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By Charlie Warren--2:30 p.m., Thursday

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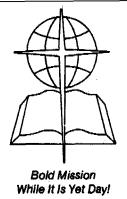
RE: Fletcher Feature moved Thursday noon.

Name and city are Jessie Porter and Long Beach, Calif., not Jesse Fletcher of Long Beach, Fla.

Thanks, News Room Staff

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Fletcher Feature

HOUSTON, June 14--"I'm mad as heck and I'm not going to take it any more!"

Cleaned up a bit for the benefit of all good Baptists, this quotation from the motion picture "Network" serves as a dandy capsule of Mrs. Jesse Fletcher's feelings on parliamentary procedure at the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Why do you twist all these things (debated issues) around so that nobody knows what's going on?" demanded the diminutive messenger from Long Beach, Fla., during Thursday morning's session of the 122nd Convention in the Summit.

After being ruled out of order by outgoing President Jimmy Allen, the riled-up, raven-haired member of Truett Memorial Baptist Church stormed back to her seat.

"It sure is hard to understand what's going on here," she repeated to a Baptist Press reporter. "They ought to make it simple so regular folk can know how to vote."

Mrs. Fletcher, who demurred when asked her age, speaks with authority.

She said she's attended at least 90 separate conventions, ranging from religious gatherings to political rallies.

"I made a big effort to get to this one," she said, "and now I don't even know what they're doing."

Mrs. Fletcher believes she sneaks for a growing group of Southern Baptists who are becoming increasingly dismayed by the complexity of the sprawling annual meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

"Of all the conventions I've attended, this is the most complicated," she insisted.

What got Mrs. Fletcher's dander up was a drawn out discussion about the Internal Revenue Service and an issue which has been a longtime Baptist favorite--separation of church and state.

"Why can't I just say I'm for it or against it?" she demanded.

According to Mrs. Fletcher, she's also ticked off about "the way they word things (resolutions and motions) at the Convention.

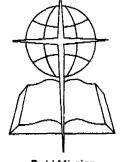
"I don't know whether I'm coming back or not. I've been coming to these conventions since 1941, but if you can't understand what they're talking about, what's the use in being here."

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By Larry Crisman--1:30 p.m., Thursday



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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Don Touchton Interview

HOUSTON, June 14--Don Touchton, the 40-year-old pastor of a small Florida church who was elected second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Thursday that he is a member of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship.

But he said that his nomination was not part of any pre-arranged "ticket" of the theologically conservative group, even though he is a personal friend of President-Elect Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn.

Touchton, pastor of the 400-member Central Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., said his members call him "Don the Baptist" because of his strong stand for biblical orthodoxy.

A graduate of Houston Baptist University and Luther Rice Seminary, Touchton said he was "surprised" when he was elected over the better-known Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Touchton is a former computer engineer with the Apollo space program who was 30 when he felt God calling him into the ministry. He said he chose Luther Rice over such Southern Baptist Theological seminaries as New Orleans, Southwestern and Southern because he felt that it offered a more "practical" curriculum with a greater percentage of hours in Bible courses required.

Now that he's been elected as a Southern Baptist leader, he feels that an impartial committee "that everybody could respect" would be the best way to settle the question of whether unorthdox teaching is taking place in the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Touchton said he would "encourage him (Adrian Rogers) to consider such a committee so this issue can be resolved."

Personally, Touchton said, he is concerned over some of the teaching that he believes is being done at the seminaries.

Although Touchton supports the convention action reaffirming the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement, he said he is not sure that this action will settle the question of whether unorthodox teaching is taking place in the seminaries.

He said he was particularly disturbed by an article entitled "Shall We Call the Bible Infallible?" which was printed in a Southern Baptist publication and by excerpts of materials written by seminary teachers that he has read.

He said he is disturbed that some young ministers of his acquaintance have come out of Southern Baptist seminaries "troubled, certainly not solid, and unable to forcefully pursue their ministry."

But he asked to be quoted as saying, "I'm very much a Southern Baptist. I love Southern Baptists. I'm one by choice... I didn't have to be one."

And if there are any who fear that "radicals" have been elected to head the SBC, he added, they should know that "Adrian's not a radical. He loves the SBC and all its work and so do I."

Touchton s id his own church designates about 4.5 percent of its budget for the Southern Bantist Foreign Mission Board, with another 1.5 percent also being sent through the Cooperative Program. Another 7 percent goes to other mission causes, he said, including some to Luther Rice, but none to Mid-America Seminary (which Rogers' church in Memphis helps support).

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Page 2--Touchton Interview

Some have expressed fear that the new officers will divert the Southern Baptist Convention from its agenda of missions and Bold Mission Thrust, Touchton said, "As far as I'm personally concerned, my influence will certainly not be in changing the agenda. Missions must be our agenda, but in the context of orthodoxy.

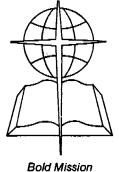
"An agenda of missions without an orthodox message would result in futility," he added. "But if we have an agenda of missions with an orthodox message to preach, then certainly we are going to accomplish our goals."

Touchton said he has heard it said that it is the Cooperative Program that unifies Southern Baptists. "What unifies Southern Baptists," he said, "is doctrine."

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By Bob Stanley--12:30 p.m. Thursday

News



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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Routh, Bennett News Conference

HOUSTON, June 14--Both the incoming and outgoing chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee said here Thursday they hoped the pattern of preconvention meetings and the "political machine" which organized the campaign to elect a conservative as president of the Southern Baptist Convention would not be followed in the future.

Porter W. Routh, who retires July 31 as executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee after 28 years in the position, and Harold C. Bennett, 54, who assumes the position Aug. 1 after 12 years as executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention, made the statement during a news conference at the SBC.

"I am concerned about the methodology of a secular political machine used at the convention this year," Routh said. "I don't believe this is the way God would have us move in the future."

Routh quickly added, however, that he had no problem with the expressions of concern about "liberalism" in the SBC, saying such expressions are healthy.

Routh said in a democratic organization such as the Southern Baptist Convention, "we need to listen to the voice of the minority, for often by listening to the voice of the minority we hear the voice of God."

The only way the denomination can do its work is by following "the voice of the majority," Routh added. He acknowledged that sometimes neither the majority nor the minority represent the will of God.

"We need to most of all listen to the voice of God," Routh said.

Commenting on the election of Adrian Rogers of Memphis as president of the convention, Routh said he felt Rogers would express concern for evangelism, missions and stewardship in the SBC.

Routh pointed out that the office of president of the convention is not a staff position, and that the convention president does not develop a program of his own.

Routh said the convention has already adopted its program for the years 1982-1985, pointing out that the convention "has got to work four or five years in advance" to plan its programs. The president of the convention, he said, "can provide dynamic leadership to carry out the program the convention has adopted."

SBC President Jimmy Allen has done a "fantastic job" as president of the convention to carry out the Bold Mission Thrust program already adopted, Routh said.

"The service Wednesday night at the Astrodome (attended by 49,000 persons with a dedication service for 1,100 missionaries) was a crowning climax to his term as president."

Bennett, the new executive secretary, said he upholds completely the belief in the Bible as described in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted in 1963 which says the Bible "was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man...It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

Bennett added that he believes in the inerrancy (without error) of the original documents, and if "somewhere I find something in the Bible I don't understand, I accept the Bible by faith."

Asked if he had been to lunch with Criswell Center for Biblical Studies President Paige Patterson and Houston Judge Paul Pressler and had led them to believe he agreed completely with their stance on inerrancy of the scriptures, Bennett acknowledged he had lunch with them, but he took no stand for or against their own position and made no commitment to them.

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Page 2--Routh, Bennett News Conference

Bennett said he was in Dallas to speak at the commencement at Criswell Institute for Biblical Studies, and went to lunch with Criswell, Patterson and Pressler at the invitation of Criswell, his former pastor.

Bennett explained he had never met Pressler previously, and probably would not have gone to lunch if he had known about the activities of Pressler and Patterson to organize efforts by conservatives to elect a convention president.

Bennett said he had been committed through the years to the ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention and to SBC theological seminaries, and "had never raised any question or problem in my mind concerning the teaching within our seminaries."

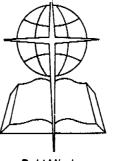
Routh and Bennett praised each other, and commended the work each had done in the γ past.

"I have deep respect for Porter Routh's knowledge, intelligence, and spirit," Bennett said. "He's already forgotten more than I'll ever be able to know."

-30-

Jim Newton 11:00 a.m. Thursday

News



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The Summit, Houston
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Wilmer C. Fields
SBC Press Representative
Robert O'Brien
News Room Manager
Norman Jameson
Photography/Features Manager

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Agency Reports--Education Commission, etc.

HOUSTON, June 14--Calling this a "year of transition," Arthur L. Walker Jr., of Nashville pledged to messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention total missions involvement through the work of the Education Commission.

Walker stepped in Nov. 1, 1973 as executive-treasurer of the Education Commission following the retirement of Ben C. Fisher.

Walker told messengers that 21,774 students prepared for church vocations and 2,742 were prospective home and foreign mission volunteers in 1973-79.

"We need not fear for our mission work with this kind of commitment by our students," Walker said.

Walker noted the "major current issue may well be to use our Baptist institutions as national and international resources for evangelical missions.

Walker outlined commitments made during the National Conference on Bold Christian Education and Bold Missions meeting in Galveston, Texas, preceding the convention. "We reiterated that education and missions have the tradition of going hand in hand...we've committed ourselves to the task of enlisting faculty and students with a missionary challenge."

Earlier he told messengers, "You may be confused with me giving two different reports, but I've been a little confused, too."

Walker, also secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn., reported that during the past year 50 scholarships were provided for black Baptist students enrolled at the black institution and "that will be increased."

American Baptist Seminary encourages persons who, because of financial and social situations, couldn't or wouldn't seek seminary training, Walker explained.

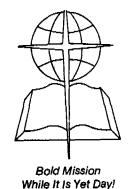
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By Jennifer Anderson--11:30 a.m. Thursday



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SBC News Room The Summit, Houston (713) 850-9127 Wilmer C. Fields SBC Press Representative Robert O'Brien News Room Manager Norman Jameson Photography/Features Manager

BPRA Exhibits

HOUSTON, June 14--Ten exhibits at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in annual session here received awards from the Baptist Public Relations Association.

There were first and second place awards given in each category, and categories are divided according to the amount of money spent on each exhibit. Twenty exhibits entered the competition.

First place winner in exhibits costing up to \$500 was East Texas Baptist College while the second place went to Campbellsville College.

The Radio and Television Commission received the first place award among those exhibits costing from \$501 to \$1000, and Mississippi College received the second place award.

Among exhibits costing \$1001 to \$2000, the Baptist World Alliance won first place and the Foreign Mission Board won second.

The Baptist Sunday School Board received the first place award in the \$2001 and up category while Carson Newman College received the second place.

"This competition is held each year at the Southern Baptist Convention simply to encourage excellence among the exhibitors," said Rick Styles, chairman of the BPRA Exhibit Awards competition.

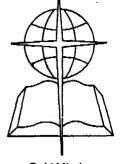
The exhibits are judged on attention command, imaginative design, application of theme, educational value, and achievement of purpose. Judges were advertising, public relations and promotion executives from Houston.

By Jennifer Bryon, 11:00 a.m., Thursday









Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

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Newlyweds

HOUSTON, June 14--Brenda and John Todd seem like a typical couple--until you learn they're honeymooning with 15,000 other people.

Newlyweds, this Myrtle Beach, S.C., couple is floating on wedded bliss at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston.

Sitting in the lobby of the Astro Village Hotel (they have the honeymoon suite) he caresses her hand-diamond solitaire included.

"When I asked Brenda to marry me, Ocean View Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach began talking to me about a job." said the minister of education.

The couple set a date--just after convention time--but John cautioned his fiancee that he couldn't handle the frenzy of the convention and nuptial jimters.

But love (and probably Brenda's hazel eyes) won. Ocean View called John and instead of marrying later they moved the date to June 2—just days before the convention. They decided to give Houston a chance and make their mark as honeymooning conventioneers; John as a messenger and Brenda, an interested observer.

John admits the whole thing may seem strange, but "Brenda is marrying into the ministry and she needs to know how I'm involved, how the Southern Baptist Convetion operates and meet my friends from Southwestern (Baptist Theological) Seminary."

Honeymooners aren't the usual fare for convention agendas and John, 36, and Brenda, 29, have gotten their share of giggles. But as a messenger from his church, he's kept his promise to report on all the meetings—honeymoon or not, they've made it to each one on time.

And who'll pay for honeymoon-er-convention? The church picks up John's tab, but the groom shoulders his bride's expenses.

"We've really lived it up," John said. "The first week we ate at all the best restaurants, went to San Antonic, Galveston and the space center... Now we eat hot dogs and at Wyatt's cafeteria."

Brenda said she "kind of dreads it being over," but admits she'll be glad to get home. John said something about lready running the limit on his credit card.

Things were kind of quiet and John was reminiscing on the five previous conventions he's attended. But he turned to his bride, grasped her around the waist and decided: "This is the best convention yet."

-30-

By Jennifer Anderson



CUTLINE #29

EVERYBODY SING! -- Cliff Barrows, music director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, leads a 4,000 voice choir and 44,000 other participants in singing "Amazing Grace" at the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally in the Astrodome. Photo by David Clanton

CUTLINE #30

GO AND TELL -- Billy Graham, reknowned Southern Baptist evangelist, exhorts 48,000 people at Houston's Astrodome to give their lives to the mission of spreading the gospel to every person alive by the year 2000. Photo by David Clanton

CUTLINE #32

RALLY RESPONSE -- Approximately 3,000 persons responded to the invitation extended by evangelist Billy Graham at the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally. Photo by David Clanton

W

CUTLINE #20

THIS IS THE DAY--William M. Hinson, pastor, First Baptist Church of New Orleans, preaches the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention. Photo by Steve Medford

CUTLINE #21--supercedes previous cutline listing only four people

EVANGELISTS' OFFICERS--Southern Baptist evangelists elected as officers of their organization for 1979-80, (1-r) Ron Herrod, First Baptist Church, Kenner, La., and Dick Rial, First Baptist Church, Benton, Ark., pastor advisors; Hyman Appleman, Kansas City, Mo., president; Allison and Connie Ware, Plano, Texas, co-music directors; Jim McNiel, St. Louis, assistant music director. Photo by Tim Fields

CUTLINE #23

PRESIDENT AND MRS ROGERS--While her husband seeks to lead in his role as a president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Mrs. Adrian Rogers says that maybe the best thing she could do would be to sit by his side and be supportive. Mrs. Rogers stated that both she and her husband were overwhelmed by his election on the first ballot. Photo by Jay Durham

CUTLINE #25

GATEWAY OF FLAGS--Southern Baptist missionaries walked a path marked by flags as they appeared before an estimated crowd of 48,000 attending the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. Photo by Mark Sandlin

CUTLINE #26

FROM GRIDIRON TO SERVICE CORP--Scott Appleton, former professional football player shared his testimony with participants at the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. The former All-American is now a Mission Service Corp volunteer. Photo by Mark Sandlin

CUTLINE #27

DEDICATED TO SERVE--1,100 volunteers for mission service were dedicated at the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. Another 1,100 accompanied them, representing those who support the volunteers financially. Photo by Jay Durham

CUTLINE #28

MASS MEDIA MEETING--With a satellite for relay, television cameras for broadcast, and an electrical scoreboard for a hymnal, technological genius helped produce the Bold Mission Thrust Dedication Rally at the Astrodome. Photo by Mark Sandlin

CUTLINE #31

LARGEST EVER--It was the largest gathering of Southern Baptists ever assembled in the United States as a crowd of 48,000 participated in the dedication of 1,100 missionary volunteers at the Bold Mission Thrust Rally in the Astrodome. Photo by Tim Fields

MD

Registration Investigation

BOUSTON, June 14—An intensive investigation into registration procedures was promised Thursday afternoon by registration secretary Lee Porter following allegations of voter irregularities in the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention.

Porter said that he had already decided to make an exhaustive study of registration and voting at the 1979 convention even before messengers adopted a motion requesting him to do so.

"I feel that a quick preliminary survey (of registration) raised enough questions in my mind that I felt that I must make a detailed study. I had already committed myself to that before the motion was made."

James Varner, pastor of Woodhaven Baptist Church in Houston, made the motion to request a full investigation while serving as local registration chairman for the convention.

Neither Varner nor Porter would address the question that widespread voter registration abuse could have affected the outcome of the first ballot victory of Adrian Rogers of Hemphis, Tenn., as convention president.

Rogers won the post with a vote of 6,129 out of 11,975 cast, a majority margin of 163 votes. In order to win on the first ballot, a candidate must receive 50 percent, plus one, of the vote, or 5,967 votes.

Porter said Thursday he has drawn no conclusions about what his findings of irregularities might mean, but he did say some of the things which raised the questions in his mind were:

We found some churches which had more than 10 messengers and, we found some people who had double registered.

"We found some pastors or church leaders who had registered for all 10 of their allowed messengers.

As early as Sunday, we had some pastors or church leaders who brought all 10 cards to the registration desk, and then we had messengers from those churches come by the desk on Tuesday asking for their ballots. We had to tell them to check with their pastors."

Although Porter mentioned only those abuses specifically, other people had other stories.

Varner, for instance, told of registering one man who got ballots for six people: himself, his wife and four children. "When I asked him if the children were attending the convention, he finally admitted that they were out at the KOA campground," Varner said.

Another postor told of sitting behind a man who marked II ballots in the presidential election and turned all of them into the usher.

Varner also noted that after the election they had found booklats of ballots on the convention floor 'with only the second ballot removed.

Messengers also questioned the registration of Mauston civil appeals court judge Paul Pressler, controversial conservative, as a messenger after it was learned he was only an "honorary" member of the church who named him as a messenger.

The registration form clearly says that each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is appointed, Varner said, adding there is no provision for "honorary members to be messengers.

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Page 2--Registration Investigation

Varner said there is no provision for dual membership, which Pressler claimed from the podium Thursday morning.

Porter said the investigation will center on churches with more than 10 messengers, persons with double registration or persons with more than one ballot. Porter said no attempt will be made to match ballots with registrations because the task is impossible.

"We have a system which assures a secret ballot. We could not match them even if we wanted to, which we do not," Porter said.

Porter explained that our whole registration process is based on integrity. It is interesting to note that about 10 years ago, we did away with paper ballots and started using computer cards. I am of the opinion that we just went halfway in trying to correct some problems which were appearing at the time.

"We need to modernize our complete registration and balloting process. I plan to make extensive recommendations to the Executive Committee when they meet in September. I am sure we will have hundreds of people in the next few months who will make suggestions. I have already had 20 or 30 today.

"We will try to get the suggestions and make recommendations to the Executive Committee."

Porter stopped short of calling any registration and/or balloting irregularities widespread, but he did comment: "I do know I found enough irregularities to become concerned. I felt it was required for my own personal integrity and for the integrity of the convention."

-30-

By Dan Martin--3:50 p.m. Thursday

Photo #33

PAST AND PRESENT -- Porter W. Routh (background), retiring executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and Harold Bennett (foreground), in-coming executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee field questions from reporters at a press conference during the Southern Baptist Convention.

Photo by David Clanton

Reports of Radio-TV--Annuity--WMU

HOUSTON, June 14--Ministries ranging from cartoons for kids, to missions for teens, and retirement for pastors were represented in reports to the Southern Baptist Convention Thursday from the Radio and Television Commission, Woman's Hissionary Union and Annuity Board.

The Radio and Television Commission report was presented on two large overhead screens on the image magnification system operated by the commission special projects staff at all sessions of the convention at the Summit. Part of the report was spoken from the platform by Harold E. Martin, chief executive officer of the commission.

"Our desire and prayer is that the Radio and Television Commission be a viable extension of the ministry of your church," Martin told the convention messengers. He asked them to return a survey form with suggestions on how the commission can assist in "reaching people and putting them in your church where they might be witnessing Christians."

The audio-visual portion of the comission's report began with an excerpt from the Abe Lincoln awards banquet sponsored by the commission for the broadcast industry in February, 1979. The excerpt recorded a presentation by Porter Routh, retiring executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, in appreciation of the career of Paul M. Stevens, who is taking early retirement after 26 years as president of the commission.

John E. Hughes, a commission trustee and messenger to the convention, said in the audiovisual report that the commission is "actively seeking a president" and seeks suggestions from Southern Baptists.

Darold H. Morgan, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, reported 1973 was "one of the best years the Annuity Board has ever had," but said that the board and its annuitants face a "demanding" economy.

"It was a dismay and substantial shock to me," Morgan said, "that a recent survey ranked Southern Baptists fourteenth among fifteen religious organizations in "what we do in our local churches for pastors and church staff."

Morgan said that Southern Baptists should be "number one in all things," including missions, evangelism, and retirement benefits for ministers and denominational employees.

The board's entry in the Book of Reports recorded "significant achievements" of 1973 as the issue of a "13th check" to most annuitants, payment of almost \$23 million in retirement benefits and more than \$3 million in insurance claims, and enlistment of 630 new churches in the Southern Baptist retirement program.

Morgan said that the Annuity Board has received "a barrage of letters" asking why benefits cannot increase when Social Security does. Morgan said that the Annuity Board avoids moves that would cause financial "trouble" and "loss everything we can knowlingly and with Christian consistency to get the most effective investments."

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, WMU rational president, reported for WMU.

"Perhaps a concerned woman in your church will nail 95 statements" in the spirit of Martin Luther on church doors or put the concern "in the hearts" of church members about "ills" of the church and world, Miss Weatherford said.

Woman's Missionary union is committed to "life-changing" missions for the 1980s, Mrs. Gregory said, as "we Southern Baptists are reaching a critical point ahead."

Several women used microphones on the convention floor to speak as a planned part of the WMU report.



Astrodome Telecommunications Followup

HOUSTON, June 14--The Southern Baptist Convention which rode the electronic signal from the Astrodome to homes and churches across the nation Wednesday night brought glowing reports of attendance and commitments Thursday, despite technical problems.

It was the first time persons outside the city hosting the convention have been able to tune into the proceedings.

The 48,000 persons who packed the Astrodome for the Bold Mission Rally and missionary commissioning service were joined by an estimated 15,000 in 10 rally points across the country.

The 1200 who officially registered some form of Christian life decision at the Houston service were joined by an estimated 100 who made similar decisions in the rallies.

The electrified missions message traveled from the Astrodome to a satellite network. Earth stations pulled down the signal to rally points, commercial television stations, and cable systems. Ten television stations and approximately 150 cable TV systems are known to have carried the programming. The number could be greater, however.

Technical problems wiped out portions of audio or video in every broadcast system. Some of the problems originated in satellite connections; others were apparently in local equipment. Birmingham, Ala., and Knoxville, Tenn., reported the biggest problem--40 minutes without audio or video.

"We had an excellent meeting," said Ray Smith, director of education for the Knox County Baptist Association in Tennessee. "It's a tremendous concept. We felt that we were part of it all."

Dale Witt, minister to adults at First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., said that the 2,500 rally attenders "really got involved."

Max Patterson, pastor of the Mabel White Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., reported that 1850 attended the rally in his church. He said that the telecommunications hook-up "has the greatest possibility for keeping Baptists informed" that he has ever known.

Patterson reported 15 persons at his church dedicated their lives to be preachers or missionaries. Others made professions of faith. At least 100 persons came forward at the Macon rally to promise increased financial and prayer support of missions.

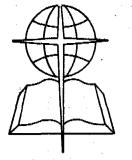
Alexine Gibson of Atlanta, who attended a cable television rally at Rehoboth Baptist Church in Tucker, said, "It was a wonderful privilege to be part of the service. If you can't attend, you can still have an opportunity to be involved."

The session was videotaped for playing two hours later at rallies in Phoenix and Tuscon, Ariz. These tapes will be replayed in several Arizona churches.

-30-

By Catherine Allen--2:50 p.m., Thursday





Bold Mission

Testimony of Georgi Petrovich Vins to While Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, June 7, 1979

Press Summary Provided by Mr. Vins

Pastor Georgi Vins testifies that, according to the Constitution, all power in the Soviet Union belongs to the Party of the Communists, who profess atheism. State atheism makes use of every means, and above all the KG3, in the illegal struggle against religion. The Baptist Union which Pastor Vins represents stands on the principle of the complete separation of the Church from the State, and makes every possible effort to normalise relations between the Baptist Union and the State. However, the KGB is demanding the establishment of total control over, and leadership of, the Church. This is the nub of the conflict.

The report has two main parts. In the first part (pp. 7-23), Pastor Vins details the different forms of persecution by the State being suffered today by the religious centre of the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians and Baptists (Reform Baptists) in the USSR.

In the second part (pp. 23-38), Pastor Vins describes the formation and growth of the Council of Churches (Reform Baptists) and its activity in the defence of the rights of believers.

Pastor Vins believes that Western support helped him and will help others, but needs to be maintained, since his own release does not indicate any softening of Soviet policy on religion.

Atheists have held power in the USSR for 62 years and have used it to persecute Christians. Despite this, the Christian faith is growing. Anti-religious discrimination is built into the Soviet Constitution. Pages 1-5

Facts about persecution of Baptists are based on verified documentary sources. Pages 5-6

Forms of persecution used against Soviet Baptists, with examples taken from the last year: Pages 7-23

Persecution of ministers (pp. 7-9)

Prisoners (pp. 9-10)

Shadowing of believers (pp. 10-11)

Persecution of printing press (pp. 12-14)

Confiscation of religious literature (p. 14)

Persecution of Christian children (pp. 15-17)

Breaking-up of prayer meetings (pp. 17-19)

Attacks on Christian weddings (pp. 19-22)

Fines for worship meetings (p. 22)

Summary (p. 23)

Description of the activity of the two Baptist Unions in the USSR: 1) the officially-recognized All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians and Baptists, and 2) the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians and Baptists (of which Pastor Vins is Secretary). This group is often referred to in the West as Reform Baptists. Pages 23-26

Page 2---Testimony of Georgi Vins to Commission on Security and Co-operation

Reasons for the formation of the Council of Churches in 1961 and its growth since. Pages 27-33

Extract from the report of the Chairman of the Council of Churches (Reform Baptists), Pastor Kryuchkov, on the Council's activity as at May, 1976. Pages 33-38

Extract from a report by Soviet official admitting illegal actions against Soviet believers. Pages 39-42

Summary: Pastor Vins asks for an end to illegal state interference in church life in the USSR. Pages 42-43

Conclusion: Pastor Vins is grateful for Wastern support and believes that it has positive consequences. However, much more needs to be done to bring about religious freedom in the USSR, especially at the next Helsinki follow-up conference in Madrid in 1980. His own release does not indicate a softening of Soviet policy on religion. Pages 44-45

NOTE: A news story on Pastor Vins' testimony was distributed to the news boxes in the Southern Baptist newsroom earlier in the week.



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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Executive Committee Meeting

HOUSTON, June 11—The Southern Baptist Executive Committee closed the first of two scheduled meetings here Monday with expressions of concern over "groups dedicated to dividing" the Southern Baptist Convention.

Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., kicked off the unscheduled discussion at the close of the Committee's session at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the eve of a three-day meeting of the SBC.

"My heart bleeds at the thoughtwe'd come to this Convention and take any action designed to splinter a group I believe God is using to reach out to a lost world," said McCall, in asking the group to pray for God's leadership.

McCall and presidents of five other Southern Baptist seminaries held a news conference in Dallas in May in an effort to put to rest charges of "liberal" teachings levied by a group which says it is contending for biblical inerrancy (without error).

Earlier in May, Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas, and Houston Appeals Court Judge Paul Pressler sounded an alarm over what they called "liberal" teaching in the seminaries. They said the issue prompted meetings in at least 15 states to encourage messengers to elect an SBC president committed to biblical inerrancy.

During the news conference, the presidents said they know of no professors who fail to uphold the Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted by the SBC in Kansas City, Mo., in 1963.

The document says in part that "the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of himself to man... It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter..."

Executive Committee Chairman Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., accented McCall's concern at the Monday meeting.

"I believe God will work through this," he said, "but I also believe Satan is putting forward one of his efforts to blunt the Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptist's effort to present the gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000)."

"The Bible warns us about inadvertently becoming tools of Satan," Wester added.

Outgoing convention President Jimmy Allen of San Antonio, led the group in a prayer for unity of spirit.

He prefaced the prayer by saying he doesn't recall a time in Southern Baptist life more conducive to a spiritual awakening. But he added that he believes "fragmenting the fellowship now is the greatest threat."

In scheduled actions, the Executive Committee honored Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, and their executive secretary-treasurer, Porter W. Routh.

In a resolution of appreciation for Routh, who retires July 31 after nearly 28 years as executive secretary-treasurer, the committee noted that the number of Southern Baptist churches have increased during his tenure from 28,000 to more than 35,000, and total membership has grown from 7.3 million to more than 13.2 million.

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-more-

Page 2--Executive Committee Meeting

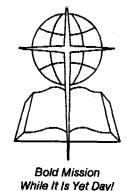
Total mission gifts grew from \$37 million to more than \$318 million, and the Cooperative Program gifts for worldwide missions jumped from \$21 million to \$150 million.

In another resolution, the committee cited Cauthen for 26 years as executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board and for 54 years as pastor, seminary professor, missionary and denominational leader. Cauthen will retire Dec. 31.

Since Cauthen came to his present position 26 years ago, the number of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries has increased from 900 to 3,000.

-30-

By Orville Scott--6:15 p.m. Monday



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WMU Monday Afternoon

HOUSTON, June 11-- Foreign missions executive Charles Bryan challenged the Southern Baptist women at the Civic Center Music Hall here Monday afternoon to turn their hearts and minds to the Creator and begin crossing boundares to reach people in need.

"The 325 missionaries in the 35 countries of Middle America are crossing political, physical and social barriers to spread the gospel," reported Bryan, secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean at the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

A former missionary for 18 years in Costa Rica, Peru and Columbia, Bryan cited recent examples of missionaries crossing traditional boundaries to serve as nutritionists, engineers and farmers in order to respond to specific hurts in people's lives.

"Southern Raptists are beginning to realize that a hungry man must be fed before he is ready to hear the gospel," Fyan said.

Mildred McWhorter, a home missionary here since 1963, shared some of her work experiences in the ghettoes at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"I deal with the underprivileged in Houston, but I believe that regardless of wealth, education or social status, anyone without Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is underprivileged McWhorter said.

Serving as the director of the Baptist Center and Joy Fellowship Center, McWhorter and her two assistants touch more than 5,000 people through the 56 Bible study groups, Vacation Bible Schools, work programs and other activities held weekly.

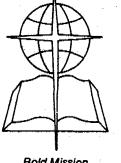
"When I answered the call to become a missionary, I asked the Lord to make each day exciting. He answered that prayer by allowing me to work with teenagers hooked on drugs, fathers spending food money on alcohol and mothers selling daughters into prostitution to pay the bills," McWhorter said.

"The exciting part, though, is that God is sufficient and powerful enough to change any life and he allows me to help."

-30-

By Jerilynn Wood--5:37 p.m. Monday





Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Roundup for Tuesday pms

HOUSTON, June 12--Southern Baptists were urged here Tuesday to resist the temptation of a major debate on orthodoxy and to channel new energies into their plan to communicate the Christian gospel to the entire world by the year 2000.

Jimmy Allen, president of the 13.2 million member Southern Baptist Convention, warned the messengers to the 122nd annual meeting of the denomination at the Summit they were being pressed by "good and sincere people" to change their emphasis from missions to a debate on theology.

"We must resist that temptation," advised Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio. "We must remain a Bible-believing, Bible-sharing, Bible-obeying people committed to the Lordship of Christ."

"When Simon Peter suggested an alternative agenda to Jesus, he said that the voice is the voice of a friend but the message is the message of the enemy."

In a final address closing out a second one-year term as SBC president, Allen said Southern Baptists were standing at a unique moment in history, led by God to become the largest evangelical body in the most powerful nation on earth.

"He (God) is calling us as Southern Baptist Christians to be a flashpoint in spiritual awakening with which he is seeking to sweep our world," Allen said.

While Southern Baptists are a complex and multicultured people stretching across every state in the nation and into 94 other countries, they also are often a flawed people, Allen contended.

"There are times when we are limited in our vision, so wrapped up in our loyalty to our own territory, our own programs, our own egos that we lose sight of the vast purpose and promise of God.

"There are times when we are so colored by our culture and silenced by our surroundings that we fail to speak the truth of God.

"There are times in which our differences in opinion become differences in relationships and we make the Corinthian mistake of gathering our allegiences behind the Apollos, and the Peters and the Pauls, instead of centering it wholly and totally in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Allen told the messengers the bottom line on their plan to evangelize the world during the next 21 years was commitment in terms of faith, priority, and confrontation.

In the context of confrontation, Southern Baptists must take stands for human rights and human survival, Allen explained.

"We must confront our system of political and economic decision making with the call to respond as the world's richest nation to the cries of the hungry in vast areas of our earth.

"The costly and dangerous nuclear arms race must be brought under some kind of orderly limitation," Allen said. "I am personally convinced that the Stragetic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) is a step in the right direction."

But Southern Baptists need to respond immediately to the giant evangelistic opportunity, because time is running out, Allen said.

During the three-day convention ending Thursday, the messengers will consider a 1930-31 budget of \$33 million and hear addresses by former White House aide Charles Colson, evangelist Billy Graham, country comic Jerry Clower and Russian Baptist dissident Georgi Vin

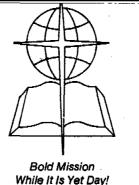
A series of related Baptist groups closed two-day meetings Monday night with the election of officers.

R. Edward Gilstrap of Atlanta was named president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, while Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., was elected to a fifth one-year term as president of the 1.1 million member Woman's Missionary Union.

James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Tex., was chosen president of the Southern Baptist Pastors'Conference and Al Washburn of Mill Valley, Calif., president-elect of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

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By Roy Jennings--4:40 p.m. Monday



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Pastors' Conference on Monday Afternoon

HOUSTON, June 11--Southern Baptist preachers Monday elected James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, as president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Draper, former associate pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, was elected on a standing vote by an estimated two-thirds majority over Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., and preacher for the Baptist Hour radio program and "At Home with the Bible" television program produced by Southern Baptists.

Elected vice president of the conference was Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, Mo. James Miller, pastor of Ridglea West Baptist Church, Fort Worth, was chosen secretary-treasurer.

In an address to the pastors earlier, William Ricketts of Athens, Ga., warned that many ministers have lost the power of God in their sermons because they don't really believe what they are preaching, and don't put their sermons into practice in their own personal lives.

Ricketts, pastor of Prince Avenue Baptist Church, said that when pastors "fail to love Jesus and put him first in their lives, the hand of God is removed" and their power to preach is gone.

Another speaker, Clark G. Hutchinson of Marietta, Ga., challenged pastors "as God's men to lead God's church to reach God's world with God's message."

Hutchinson, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, said that the churches that are winning the world to Christianity are "grounded in the Word of God and controlled by God's spirit."

When the pastors of churches are not grounded in the Bible and controlled by God's spirit, worship degenerates into "the worst kind of carnality" in religious observances that are hollow and meaningless, Hutchinson said.

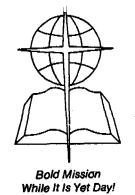
Such religious observances result "in worship services that begin at 11:00 a.m. sharp on Sunday and end at 12 noon dull," Hutchinson said.

In another address, Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., urged the pastors to get excited about the person of Jesus, the program of Jesus, and the power of Jesus.

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By Jim Newton--5:15 p.m. Monday





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Monday Morning Pastors

HOUSTON, June 11--Phoenix Pastor Richard A. Jackson used his spot on the Monday norming session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here to praise one Baptist college while criticizing others.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, lauded Grand Canyon College President Bill Williams for not allowing the school's undefeated baseball team to compete in the NAIA World Series because the team celebrated victory in the area tournament with champagne. The players failed in an attempt to get a state court to force the school to let them participate in the tournament.

The controversy at the college, owned and operated by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, arose after a picture appeared in local Phoenix newspapers of the players celebrating their last victory by pouring champagne over their heads. Rules in the Grand Canyon student handbook prohibit the possession or use of alcoholic beverages by students.

Jackson said other Baptist schools should "stand for what is moral and right' and follow the example set by Grand Canyon College.

Jackson was one of four preachers who addressed the Monday morning session of the paster's conference. Each had advice on how their fellow pasters might improve their effectiveness in the ministry.

Jackson told the pastors that God appoints a man to a particular task not because that man is perfect but because he is perfect for the task. He warned that any man God appoints will be confronted by opposition, but if God has appointed him then he need not defend himself as long as he follows God's leading.

Echaing Jackson's statements, Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, said a pastor must have a call that is certain and stand on that call as a strong "pastor-shepherd." He said one of the reasons for the decline of baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention is the lack of strong pastoral leadership.

"The sheep don't roam around for the shepherd to follow," he said. "The shepherd leads the sheep and it's time for our pastors to lead their people...He must get out among the sheep and love them and care for them."

Ralph Stone, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., encouraged pastors to have a positive attitude "toward their God, their people and their place of service."

"Often times, we allow a negative attitude to develop in our mind toward one of the staff members or toward the church where we are serving...We become discouraged and depressed and as a result, the work of Christ suffers.

"A negative attitude is of the devil," he continued. "A positive attitude is of the Lord...Every problem you face can be an opportunity for God to show His greatness."

James A. Ponder of Jacksonville, director of evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention, contended many pastors have lost the cutting edge of their ministry. The cutting edge can be restored only by going back to the scene of failure and confessing it, he said.

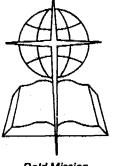
"Once you apply the Cross to the point of defeat in your life, God will restore you."

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- 30 -

By Charlie Warren--2:05 p.m. Monday

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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

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Directors of Missions

HOUSTON, June 11--Seminary President William M. Pinson Jr. challenged Southern Baptist directors of missions Monday to recommit themselves to their basic task of starting hundreds of new churches across the country and not be diverted from their ministry "by a lot of rhetoric."

In an obvious reference to evangelist James Robison's speech to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Pinson said it "troubles me in my gut when I see we could be diverted from our mission in ministry" by such rhetoric.

Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., said this year may mark the most serious crisis in Southern Baptist life since the financial crisis of the Depression.

"Our vital signs are weak," he said. "Our leadership is in transition. Our institutions are under attack from within."

But this instance is unlike the financial crisis in that "this time we seem to be our own worst enemy," Pinson said.

"In a speech to the pastors, Sunday, Robison, a Hurst, Tx., evangelist, aimed much of his attack at professors of Baptist colleges and seminaries who he claims are "sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism."

Pinson did not mention Robison by name, but the seminary president noted that in times of crisis there is a tendency toward "scapegoatism." Pinson acknowledged that the recent statistics showing a 30-year low in baptisms are "sobering if not frightening."

Addressing the 325 directors of missions at their annual meeting in Houston, Pinson said, "Our associational missionaries will play a determining factor in whether we bounce back or sink further."

But he advised against panic. "When things are going badly," he said, "it's time to do the basics—the things we do well."

For Southern Baptists, he said, this means it's time "to be witnesses, to be on mission, and to be at the work God has called us to do."

Citing statistics that last year it took 100 churches to start one new church, Pinson proposed a missions crusade that would call for at least \$100 million to help build the kind of churches that are needed in the urban areas of the country.

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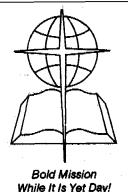
By Bob Stanley--2:30 p.m. Monday

CUTLINE #9

MISSION DIRECTORS' LEADERSHIP--R. Edward Gilstrap (foreground) of Atlanta, Ga., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions for 1979-80 at the group's 18th annual meeting in Houston. Officers behind Gilstrap are (from left): Harold Blackburn of Silverhill, Ala., editor of the conference's newsletter Open Circuit; Larry Rose of Waco, Texas, president-elect; Robert A. Wells of Reno, Nev., treasurer; and Herman Wooten of Orange, Calif., immediate past president. Photo by Tim Fields

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Monday Campus Ministers

HOUSTON, June 11--A Southern Baptist theological seminary administrator told campus ministers here Monday that he is hurt by criticism that he doesn't believe or teach the Bible, after giving his life to defending biblical truth.

John Newport, vice president of academic affairs and provost of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, said "people saying we're not conservative or don't believe the Bible is the thing I resent.

"We could not allow anyone to teach at the seminary who didn't subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message," Newport said. "I don't think I'm teaching heresy and I don't think our faculty is."

In the second of three presentations to the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers, Newport predicted that biblical inerrancy will be a major issue among Southern Baptists for several years and, therefore, needs serious attention.

He said inerrancy is a legitimate issue but criticized those who impose 20th century categories such as technical science "on a book God ordained to be written centuries ago.

"I hope we will allow the Bible to lead us," Newport said. "It constitutes a power-ful book that accomplishes God's purpose."

Newport said that throughout history biblical truth has been misinterpreted both by people on the left and the right.

"The genius of Southern Baptists is that we haven't been caught in either extreme," he said.

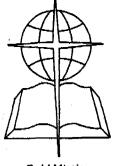
He said the inerrancy debate could raise important questions and have positive results if all concerned would commit themselves to fairness and not building up one group by tearing down another.

"This is a difficult time," Newport said. "We want to meet the need of our constituency without compromising our integrity."

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By Linda Lawson--1:54 p.m. Monday





SBC Missionaries Leave Wicaragua

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, June 11--In the midst of stepped-up civil conflict, all Southern Baptist missionary personnel to Nicaragua have temporarily left the country.

Stephens and Paula Baum Gardner, missionary journeymen, stationed in Managua, were the last Southern Baptist missionaries to leave the country. They flew to the United States on Sunday, June 10. The other missionary couple, Stanley and Glenna Stamps, also stationed in Managua, left Micaragua about two weeks earlier, taking local leave in Monduras. Both couples made their own decisions to evacuate.

Sporadic fighting and political tensions have existed for over a year between the national government of President Anastasio Somoza Jr. and guerrillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The Baumgardners, entering their last year of a two-year term in the Southern Baptist missionary journeyman program, were to have been with the Stamps on local leave status. But because of an anticipated visit by relatives and the country's on again, off again tensions, the journeymen opted to stay in Managua, a Foreign Mission Board spokesman said.

Conflict increased, however, and following declaration of martial law, the Baumgardners, both Florida natives, consulted Foreign Mission Board personnel and made tentative plans to evacuate as soon as possible. Originally they chose to go to Monduras or Guatemala, but because of severe business shutdowns and other obstacles those plans were dismissed and the couple booked a flight to Miami, Fla., and on to their home in Orlando. Sunday was their first opportunity to leave.

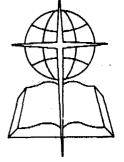
The Stamps, natives of Mississippi and Texas, respectively were in Honduras when martial law was declared and could not reenter the country. They are staying in Tegucigalpa.

As fighting continued in Micaragua, neighboring El Salvador remained under general unrest. Southern Baptist missionaries there have reported that "things are rough, but calm," the spokesman said.

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Jennifer Wall Anderson-1:30 p.m., Monday





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Monday Morning Session of WMU

Bold Mission

While It is Yet Day!
HOUSTON, June 11-Whenever a woman advocates the cause of Christ, her services gain credibility, Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory said Monday morning at the second and final day of the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union.

"I wonder if any of us comprehend the possibilities that are out there just beyond the open door for women taking up the cause of Christ," said Gregory, elected to her fifth one-year term as president of the 1.1 million member missions organization of Southern Baptist women.

She said the potential of women for sharing the gospel has never been as great as today as "we witness the remarkable evolution in the status of women."

"If I tell you one thing, it is that we must remember that Jesus chose his disciples one by one. So as the women of this convention and organization, we must share the gospel with the lost of the world -- on an individual basis."

A Danville, Va. resident, Gregory urged the women to drop their false faces. "We must learn to be real, not talking about the things that we are not."

Porter Routh, retiring executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, spoke to the theme of the 91st gathering of WMU, "Go Quickly and Tell."

"The business of taking the resurrection home with you is the very heart of Bold Mission Thrust (the Southern Baptist plan for sharing the gospel with the world by the year 2000)," said Routh.

"Unless the power of the resurrection makes a difference in lifestyle, unless it makes a difference in the kind of TV programs we watch and the time we spend with television, unless it makes a difference in an attitude toward our neighbor and our concern for our neighbor, unless it makes a difference in the priorities we establish in our homes, then, and only then, will we develop the kind of urgency which confronted the early Christian women as reflected in your theme."

Routh said the denomination had learned during the past 25 years that the organization label is not the end.

"The headquarters staff and building has no value apart from the ultimate goals which need to find their foundations in a clear Biblical mandate."

About 25 executive secretaries of state Baptist conventions shared brief reports about the work in their state with the women as did Dr. David Wong of Hong Kong, president of the Baptist World Alliance.

· Unanimously elected to a fifth term as recording secretary was Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky.

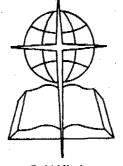
- 30 -

By Bracey Campbell--12:40 p.m. Monday

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Religious Educators

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 11-"As goes the Sunday School, so goes the church."

Peter Wagner, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., gave this advice to Southern Baptist Religious educators here Monday.

Speaking to about 250 persons attending the second session of the 24th Southern Baptist Religious Education Association meeting at First Baptist Church, Wagner said churches need to "rediscover" the importance of Sunday School to church growth.

"The Sunday School is still the most successful structure for growth in Southern Baptist churches," Wagner said.

He advised Southern Baptist churches to focus their efforts on building successful Sunday Schools in order to bring together a two-fold mission of evangelism and growth.

Wagner chose "Religious Education: Its Role in Church Growth" as his speech topic.

"Religious Education: Key to Bold Mission" is the theme of the association meeting, which began Sunday. The two-day session closes Monday night. Highlight of the final session will be a speech by William Pinson, Jr., president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., entitled "The Religious Educator: Agent for Bold Mission."

In his speech, Wagner gave four ways churches can empower Sunday Schools to play larger roles incongregational growth.

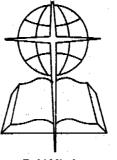
The ways are that Sunday School departments need to be motivated for growth, need to set growth goals and to be held accountable for them, need to start new adult departments especially when their sizes reach 60 to 70 members, and need to ensure that Sunday School enrolment stays in line with overall church membership.

"There is only a three to five year lag between Sunday School membership decline and a decline in church membership," Wagner said.

-30-

By Larry Crisman-12:30 p.m. Monday





Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Biographical Sketch of Adrian P. Rogers

Adrian Rogers is a native of West Palm Beach, Florida. He is married and is the father of four active children. Mrs. Rogers is the former Joyce Gentry of West Palm Beach.

While a student in Palm Beach High School, Adrian was president of his Senior Class and Captain of a championship football team. He was mentioned on the All Southern High School Football Team, and was voted by his classmates as "Most Likely To Succeed."

His educational degrees are as follows:

B.A. Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

Th.M. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.

D.D. Trinity College, Clearwater, Florida

Litt.D. California Graduate School of Theology, Glendale, Ca.

Since September, 1972, he has been pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee. The historic Bellevue Baptist Church is one of the nations' largest churches with more than 11,000 members. The church has a weekly television program that reaches into five states.

Adrian Rogers has been widely used as an evangelist and Bible teacher in the United States and overseas. He has been the keynote speaker to state Baptist Conventions and state Evangelism Conferences. He has spoken in Southern Baptist Convention programs and is past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. This is the largest grouping of evangelical pastors in the world.

He is a trustee of Union University of Jackson, Tennessee, Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida, and serves on the advisory council or board of reference for several other seminaries and institutions of higher learning.



- BAPTIST PRESS

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June 12, 1979

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Wrapup

Religious Educators Pray for Unity

By Larry Crisman

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- William Pinson literally brought his audience to its knees here at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association here.

After delivering a fiery speech in which he called for Baptist unity in a "crisis hour," the president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., asked about 450 persons attending the session in Houston's First Baptist Church to go to their knees in prayer.

"God didn't bring us to Bold Missions to splinter," Pinson declared. "I pray you will be agents of unity this week in Houston."

Pinson, who spoke on "The Religious Educator: Agent for Bold Mission," said since arriving in Houston for the Southern Baptist Convention, he has seen "friends for life at each other's throats."

He referred to the issue of inerrancy of Scripture brewing at the annual convention.

"Let's kneel and pray for unity," he said. "Let's make personal commitments to be agents for change this week."

According to Pinson, because of the possibility of convention division over inerrancy and the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists face "the greatest crisis hour" in their history.

Not since the "financial catastrophe of the 1930's have Baptists faced such pivotal crossroads," he said.

"I'd hate to see it (the convention) tumble into division," he said. "We must believe the whole Bible and not just part of it. It may cost some of you your jobs."

Pinson called on Southern Baptists to "breathe fire" into their churches if they want to ensure the success of Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century.

"When the people of God want to stay in Jerusalem all the time and when they do not want to go out into the uttermost, they get sick spiritually," he remarked. "Until Southern Baptists get serious about the going, we won't grow."

Pinson's speech climaxed a two-day agenda which focused on a theme of "Religious Education: Key to Bold Mission."

Lawrence Klempnauer, minister of education of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, was elected president for 1979-80. President-elect is J. Roger Skelton, professor of religious education/church administration, Golden Gate Seminary.

Other new officers include Roy Lee Williams, Union Baptist Association, Houston, vice-president, field services group; Thelma Williamson, director of childhood education, First Baptist Church, Ferguson, Mo., vice-president, church workers group; F. Marvin Myers, administration consultant, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, secretary-treasurer; and Tim Holcomb, minister of education, Polytechnic Baptist Church, Fort Worth, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Besides Pinson's speech, other highlights of the two-day meeting included addresses by Peter Wagner, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and Jesse C. Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.



"As goes the Sunday School, so goes the church," Wagner said in a speech Monday morning.

"The Sunday School is still the most successful structure for growth in Southern Baptist churches." he said.

Fletcher, who spoke Sunday, called on Southern Baptists to get back to the basics of discipleship to ensure the success of Bold Mission Thrust. "There's no substitute for discipleship and inevitably we come back to it," he noted.

According to Fletcher, Southern Baptists sometime are hard pressed to practice biblically-taught discipleship because they find it hard to articulate.

Fletcher pointed out the Bible presents a formula for discipleship in 2 Timothy 2:2. This passage, he said, provides a multiplication approach to discipleship.

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U.S. House Moves to Support Voluntary Prayer Baptist Press 6/12/79

WASHINGTON (BP) -- The U.S. House of Representatives agreed to language which would permit voluntary prayer and meditation in the nation's public schools.

The 255-122 vote came on an amendment by U.S. Rep. Robert S. Walker, R-Pa., declaring that one of the purposes of the proposed Department of Education would be "to permit in all public schools providing elementary or secondary education a daily opportunity for prayer and meditation, participation in which would be on a voluntary basis."

Although the House has yet to vote on the entire bill itself, the amendment is considered by many observers to be yet another obstacle to a measure whose chances for passage were already questionable.

Conservative members of Congress have argued that the proposed new department would result in further control by Washington bureaucrats over local educational matters.

The House also passed an anti-busing amendment to the measure. It would bar the present Department of Health, Education and Welfare, out of which the new department would be carved, from threatening to cut off federal funds from school districts which do not comply with HEW desegregation guidelines.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, the U. S. Senate passed a bill calling for the new department on April 9, but only after a bitter debate over the voluntary prayer question.

The Senate had passed language similar to that adopted by the house on April 5. Sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N. C., the language was struck from the Senate version four days later and attached to a Supreme Court jurisdictional bill given little chance of passage.

Helms has threatened to introduce his language as often as necessary to force both houses to act on the sensitive prayer issue.

Many congressional observers feel that conservative members are accomplishing a dual objective by sponsoring such language in the debate over the Department of Education. They can go on record in support of prayer in the schools while at the same time opposing what they consider the threat of yet another federal bureaucracy.

Regardless of their reasoning, the prayer amendment to the bill is generally seen as detrimental to its chances of passage.

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Son of Missionary Killed in Crash Baptist Press 6/12/79

ABILENE, Texas (BP) -- Hoke Smith III, son of Southern Baptist missionary Wanda Smith and the late Hoke Smith Jr., died in Abilene, Texas, Sunday, June 10, following a motorcycle-car collision.

Details were unavailable.

Smith, 21, was a musician in Abilene. He attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene during the 1977-78 term.

A June 14 funeral service in Longview, Texas, is pending the arrival of his mother and brother from Cali, Colombia, and a sister from Guatemala. Rader Funeral Home in Longview is handling arrangements.

The victim was born in Belton, Texas, while his missionary parents were on furlough. Since her husband's death in 1970, Mrs. Smith has taught music at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali.

Besides his mother, survivors include a brother, Parker Smith of Cali; two sisters, Arleigh Smith (Nume. Tom) Kennedy, a Peace Corps worker in Guatemala, and Lesesne Smith (Nume. C. A.) Jenkins of Abilene; a maternal grandmother, Mrs. Henry L. Karnes of Longview; and a paternal grandmother, Mrs. Evelyn P. Baker of Charleston, S. C.

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Quick Action Averts Disaster at Glorieta Baptist Press 6/12/79

GLORIETA, N.M. (DP)-A near disaster was averted at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center June 8 because of quick action by the center's fire department following a chlorine gas leak.

A total of 32 persons received emergency treatment, but only eight required overnight hospitalization. All of the persons affected by the gas were conference center employees except two, Neil Jackson and his son, John of Nashville. Jackson is a consultant in the Sunday School department of the Sunday School Board, which owns and operates the conference center.

Several of the persons involved in the incident were hospitalized because of other problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes and allergies, instead of inhalation of chlorine gas.

The chlorine gas escaped from a cylinder picked up in Albuquerque by a conference center employee when regular delivery of cylinders by a chemical company in Albuquerque was late. The chlorine was needed immediately for use in the center's water and waste water systems. Several calls had been made to the chemical company requesting delivery of the chlorine, said Larry Haslam, conference center manager.

Haslam, who first discovered the leak, said treatment was begun immediately on the affected individuals by members of the conference center fire department who had received instruction in dealing with a chlorine leak.

The conference center keeps only enough chlorine on hand to treat water and waste water for a two to three-week period. All chlorine gas cylinders at the conference center are stored in the water and waste water plants in full observance with safety laws and regulations, Haslam explained. The chemical company has assured the conference center that deliveries in the future will be made strictly on schedule to avoid potential recurrence of such problems Haslam added.

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Allen Urges Baptists To Refuse Division Baptist Press 6/12/79

By Larry Crisman

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Refuse to be divided and conquered was the impassioned plea of outgoing Southern Daptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen in his swan-song speech to messengers to the 122nd Southern Daptist Convention here.

"As I perceive it, we are being pressed by good and sincere people right now to alter our agenda from Bold Mission Thrust," he declared. 'We must resist that temptation."

Allen, who will step down as president of the 13.2 million member SBC--the largest Protestant denomination in America--was sometimes eloquent, sometimes bombastic in the annual president's address.

He was sanctioned by applause three times--once during an introduction, once about midway through his speech and, finally, at the end.

Allen, who closes out his presidential tenure after two one-year terms, also illicited a small chorus of cheers from several more exuberant messengers when he bellowed that God has charged Southern Baptists with Bold Mission Thrust.

Bold Mission Thrust is the name of a plan by the convention to project the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world by the year 2000.

Before stepping to the podium to lower the curtain on his presidency, the native Texan struck a poignant profile against the expansive ceiling of the Summit as he lowered his head in prayer.

And when messengers stood and wildly applauded his introduction, Allen periodically sponged his eyes with a handkerchief.

Behind the podium, Allen was a changed man.

"We must remain a Bible-believing, Bible-sharing, Bible-obeying people committed to the Lordship of Christ," the pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, boomed.

Messengers reacted with hearty applause.

"The Bible says, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," Allen reminded messengers.

Allen selected for his powerful speech the title of "Bold Mission Thrust: While It Is Yet Day."

"In His Amazing Grace, He has chosen us...you...and you...and you...and me...to be His conduits of transforming power," Allen preached to sporadic yellings.

"The wonder of it all! We are still, thank God, a movement of the people."

Allen stressed he still considers Southern Baptists God's picked people to evangelize the world, but only if they maintain a "commitment to priorities."

He cautioned messengers against straying into a maze of argument over biblical orthodoxy instead of sticking to Bold Mission Thrust.

"Bold Mission Thrust is the occasion for us to break out of the past patterns of part-time commitment into a new intensity of missions," he said.

According to Allen, the key to whether the vision of Bold Mission Thrust assumes the focus of reality lies in the fact that "time is running out."

"The night cometh," Allan admonished repeatedly.

The spectre of the coming night manifests itself in what he termed darkness in the world. He described this phenomenon as the "malignant darkness of sin."

"The curse of darkness meets its match in Jesus Christ, who is working 'while it is yet day, for night cometh," he said triumphantly.

"The call to us is not for panic reaction. We are not to be paralyzed by fear. We are not to be hyped up by artificial spiritual adrenalin. We are to deal with life one moment at a time. No time should be lost. No energy should be wasted. No task for God should be postponed. He calls us to join Him in harvest; in awakening, in revival, in mission. Night cometh. But it's not here yet. Let us claim His power and victory...while it is yet day."

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Adrian Rogers
Elected SBC President

Baptist Press 6/12/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- In an apparent expression of concern over the issue of biblical inerrancy within the Southern Baptist Convention, messengers elected "conservative" candidate Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of the 10,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, as president of the 13.2 million member body on the first ballot.

Robers swamped five other candidates in garnering 51.36 percent of the votes and avoiding a run-off. Rogers, who had been endorsed by W. A. Criswell, paster of First Baptist Church, Dallas, during the pre-convention Southern Baptist Pasters' Conference, was nominated by Homer Lindsay Sr. paster emeritus of First Baptist Church Jacksonville, Fla.

In a reversal of form, however, Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, defeated T.A. Patterson, retired executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Patterson, supported by those advocating biblical inerrancy as an issue lost, to McCall, 2,905 (54.4 percent) to 2,431 (45.5 percent) in a runoff.

McCall was one of five other candidates defeated by Rogers in the presidential election.

The following day, the convention was scheduled to elect a second vice president from among four nominees. They are Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.: Roy Ladd, pastor of Baptist Temple, Houston; Don Touchton, Tampa Bay, Fla., pastor; and Milton Cunningham, pastor of Westbury Baptist Church, Houston.

During the opening address of the Pastors' Conference, Rogers expressed fear that liberalism was taking over Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries.

Immediately after his election, Rogers said, "I have come not with blood in my eyes but with love in my heart. I've learned in the pastorate that you can do more by affirming something than by tearing it down.

"I'm not so much a crusader as a leader and a helper," he continued. "The presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention does mean that certain people feel certain ways or a certain man would not be elected, but that doesn't mean he has control of the convention."

Rogers pledged "100 percent support" for continuing the emphasis in the denomination on Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC plan to proclaim the gospel to the entire world by the year, 2000.

The Memphis pastor received 6,129 of the 11,933 votes cast.

First runner up in the race for the SBC presidency was Robert Naylor, retired president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Naylor, who was nominated by John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmore Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., received 2,791 of the votes or 23.39 percent.

The remainder of the ballots were cast for William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church Atlanta, Ga., 1,673 votes; McCall, 643 votes; Doug Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., 474 votes; and C. E. Price, vice-president of Westinghouse Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa., 223 votes.

Rogers, 48, was born in West Palm Beach, Fla., and was captain of his high school football team. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.; and a master of theology degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and received the D.D. from Trinity College, Clearwater, Fla., and the Lett. D. from California Graduate School of Theology, Glendale, Calif.

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SBC Messengers React To Adrian Rogers' Election Baptist Press 6/12/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Messenger reaction to the first-ballot election of Adrian Rogers as president of the Southern Daptist Convention was mixed but few felt it signals a shift to ultraconservativism.

Messengers polled by Baptist Press, however, do expect some shift to a more conservative theological stance, a position many believe has been the position of the convention all along.

Most messengers polled expressed satisfaction with Rogers' election as president of the 13.2 million member denomination, the nation's largest protestant denomination.

"I don't attach much significance to it (the first ballot victory)," said Marjorie Harris of Nashville, Tenn. "I just think it is because he is a decent man."

"Well," said Bob Hollingsworth, pastor in Riceville, Tenn., "it looks like the convention is ultraconservative. I know he (Rogers) is ultraconservative. But I don't think you can read too much into it; we have always been a conservative denomination."

One note which was injected into Rogers election which has not been in any recent SBC election was the question of politics. "I hate to say it, but it meant politics," said Howard Taylor, from Greenville, Miss.

Several gave major significance to the endorsement of Rogers by W. A. Criswell, pastor of the denomination's largest church, First Baptist Church of Dallas, and a former president of the convention.

"Dr. Criswell okayed him, so anybody that Criswell says he'd like elected, gets elected," said Charles Bradshaw, 79, from Corpus Christi, Tex.

Gary Boyd of Coleman, Texas, also noted that "Criswell's endorsement carried a lot of weight" among the messengers.

Criswell made a ringing endorsement of Rogers during the opening night of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, an endorsement which drew heavy applause.

But what meant politics to some meant unity to others.

Buddle Gregg, a campus minister from Silver City, N.M., said the election "meant there was a lot of unity behind him."

Paige Bowman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Va., added the election was "a good sign of unity among the messengers."

Messenger Boyd expressed relief that the biblical inerrancy issue did not become divisive. "I came hoping there wouldn't be controversy over the biblical inerrancy issue, as there could have been. The messengers in general wanted to avoid confrontation."

Some felt the conservative element would be stronger, as did Jerry Glisson, pastor of Leawood Baptist, Memphis, Tenn. "This represents a trend to the right after years of moving to the left. However, that doesn't mean the convention is becoming ultraconservative like some people think."

Another, Bill Patterson, pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church in Buffalo, Ky., said: "I think the election means that the messengers want some focus on evangelism while upholding the Bible. But I don't think it will be biblical orthodoxy instead of Bold Mission Thrust.

"I think his election will be unifying. The biblical inerrancy people no longer have a big issue. I think it has taken the steam out of their campaign without blunting Sold Mission Thrust."

A deacon from Gatewood Baptist Church in Houston, Harvey Black, expressed hope that Rogers will be able to "make conservatism more dominant in the convention."

Among the messengers who feel Rogers election is significant for the conservative viewpoint came these comments:

"I think it is a result of something that has been fermenting in our convention for years. People seem to think there needs to be something done. There's a feeling there are some people in our seminaries who don't hold the viewpoint Rogers and others hold. I think the election is a statement of the feeling, 'Let's get on with it...'," said Murray Hardy, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in New Caney, Texas.

"I think it means we're headed upwards. People are saying, 'Let's get back to the basics.' We are going to have to get back to simple unadulterated preaching of Jesus and that's what Adrian does," said Rudy Hernandez, an evangelist from Grand Prairie, Texas.

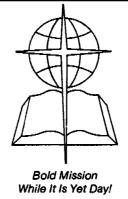
David French of Swartz Creek, Mich., added: "The key to the whole thing is that (Robert) Naylor got defeated. That was like voting against grandma. I think Naylor was picked by the establishment as a popular candidate who could defeat Rogers."

One messenger, Luther Burton, pastor of Chapel by the Sea Baptist Church on Tybee Island, Ga., commented: "I think this is a step in the direction whereby the ultraconservatives would like to get in control of the convention. Especially would they like to get control of the seminaries, but thank goodness we have boards of trustees."

Ignoring the political and theological disputes, other messengers commented they were glad Rogers was elected.

'He's biblically sound and can pick up the gauntlet from Brother (Jimmy) Allen," said Charles Miller of Glenmora, La.

Added Joyn Gamblin of Kevil, Ky.: "I think he is God's man for the hour. I feel there's a sense of division among Southern Baptists and he's the man who can bring us together."



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Seminaries Report

HOUSTON, June 12--Most messengers attending Tuesday night's session of the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention in the Summit applauded the presidents of the denomination's six theological seminaries after they reported to the Convention.

Coupled with a lack of response from the Convention floor to the reports, the applause was noteworthy because it seemingly said most messengers approve of the way the seminaries did business in 1978.

For weeks, the seminaries and faculty have come under fire from several Southern Baptist leaders, including newly-elected president Adrian Rogers.

During Sunday's opening session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Rogers voiced concern over the liberalism he says is afoot in certain Baptist colleges, universities, and seminaries.

In their reports to the Convention, most of the presidents indicated there has been no liberalism and deviation from biblical orthodoxy on their campuses.

William M. Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Vailey, Calif., began the seminary reports by saying the six institutions are committed and responsible to Southern Baptists.

Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, told messengers all his faculty members are "thoroughly screened" before employment.

Among other things, the faculty must confirm their subscription to the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the Convention in 1963, Leavell said.

Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., told nessengers not to worry about the trustees at his institution because "you chose them wisely." He also said they are "men of God."

Asserting "the seminaries belong to you," Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., urged messengers to pray for the seminaries. They should pray "for your sakes and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Randall Lolley, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., reaffirmed the seminaries' commitment to Southern Baptists. "You own the seminaries," he said.

Closing the reports, Russell H. Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, pledged the support of the seminaries to Bold Mission Thrust.

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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Second Vice President

HOUSTON, June 13--In a rum-off election, Don Touchton, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla., was elected second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Touchton, pastor of the 400-member church, was nominated as a "great pastor of a small church" who will represent the majority of Southern Baptist churches which are not large "super churches".

Touchton received 56.89 percent of the run-off votes against Homer G. Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Other nominees in the first election for the second vice-presidency were Roy Ladd, pastor of Baptist Temple, Houston, and Milton Cunningham, pastor of Houston's Westbury Baptist Church and current president of the Texas Baptist Convention.

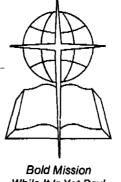
Other new convention officers include Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, president, and Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, first vice president.

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By Charles Warren--12:20 p.m., Wednesday







While It Is Yet Day!

Baptist Faith and Message Affirmation

HOUSTON, June 13 -- Like father, like son,

This adage captures the spirit of action taken by messengers attending Wednesday morning's session of the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention when they approved a motion by a former Convention president.

With minimum discussion in the Summit, the messengers approved the motion of Wayne Dehoney of Louisville, Ky., calling for a reaffirmation of the Scriptures section of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Adopted by the Convention in Kansas City the historical statement amounts to a declaration of the fundamental beliefs held by most Southern Baptists.

The 1963 statement also represents an updated version of a report of a committee which first presented it to the Convention in 1925.

Dehoney's motion, first presented to the Convention on Tuesday, apparently was inspired by a flap on biblical inerrancy (without error) -- an issue which has raged at the Houston meeting.

Dehoney's original motion called for the Convention to reaffirm the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement which he said was adopted to "serve as information to the churches and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention."

A key part of the statement, according to Dehoney, reads that the Bible "has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

Speaking to messengers Wednesday, Dehoney said he just returned from a press conference involving newly-elected Convention President Adrian Rogers, a strong proponent of biblical inerrancy.

Dehoney said Rogers told him he had his permission to tell the Convention body that the two agree on biblical infallibility.

The two agree the Bible's "original autographs" were without error, Dehoney explained.

Exhorting the Convention to lay aside the question of biblical inerrancy after agreeing on scriptural validity, Dehoney drew applause when he asked messengers to arrive at unity.

Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in Ridgeland, Miss., supported Dehoney's motion, saying he "thanks God" Southern Baptists are people who continue to be "of the Book."

Herschel Hobbs, of Oklahoma City, a former Convention president who served as chairman of the committee that drafted the 1963 version of the Baptist Faith and Message statement, supported Dehoney's motion.

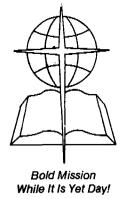
Hobbs said those who served on the committee in the early 1960's accepted the infallibility of the Bible as a matter of course.

There was never a "squeak" of discussion about the inerrancy of scripture, Hobbs said. The only opposition to Dehoney's motion was presented by Bill Brock of Brandenton, Fla., who read a poetic statement in which he described the Bible as being an oasis in the desert of life."

"To accept inerrancy is to deny the grass exists," Brock said

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By Larry Crisman--12:05 p.m. Wednesday



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Graham News Conference

HOUSTON, June 13--Evangelist Billy Graham said in a news conference here Wednesday that the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) does not go far enough, and expressed fears that its adoption will give the world a false sense of security that world peace is eminent.

"But SALT II doesn't even touch on some of the worst weapons," Graham said prior to his appearance at the Convention.

Decrying the fact that the nation spends \$400 billion on defense every year, Graham added, "Just think what that much money could do to feed a hungry world."

Graham said he feared that even with SALT II, dozens of nations not included in the treaty could develop nuclear weapons.

"Someone like Idi Amin will get them and push the button to save himself, and it's likely to start a nuclear chain reaction involving the whole world," Graham said.

Fielding a wide-range of questions, Graham also touched on homosexuality, the so-called fairness doctrine in television broadcasting, commented on the death of John Wayne, gave his beliefs on the Bible as the infallible Word of God, an issue which has caused controversy in the 13.2 million member denomination this year.

Commenting on a current controversy in the SBC over "liberalism" which rejects the Bible as the inerrant Word of God, Graham reaffirmed his own personal belief that the Bible "is the infallible Word of God."

He said he was delighted to be a Baptist and to attend the Southern Baptist Convention for there is no other religious denomination like it in the world. He added that the charge of liberalism comes up during the SBC almost every year, for it is a "world problem" that has existed ever since Adam and Eve.

Graham was highly complementary of Pope John Paul II, saying he is "probably the most able Pope in our generation" and has more charisma than any Pope with the possible exception of Pope John.

He was also complementary of Adrian Rogers, the newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, saying he is "one of the best friends I have."

Asked why he has not given stronger support to Anita Bryant's campaign against homosexuality, Graham repeated his views that homosexuality is a sin, but is one of many sins. "The Lord has not called me to lead a crusade on any particular sin, but has called me to preach the gospel."

Asked about the cancellation of Baptist evangelist James Robison's television program by WFAA-TV in Dallas because of Robison's statements on homosexuality, Graham said he had never had any problems with television stations cancelling his telecasts because of violation of the "fairness doctrine," nor had he felt any restrictions on his preaching "on any subject in the Bible" (including homosexuality) because of the fairness doctrine.

Graham expressed deep personal loss in the death of Actor John Wayne, saying "a part of America died when John Wayne died."

Citing his friendship with Wayne, Graham recalled one incident in which Wayne laughed so hard he spilled champagne all over his head and coat. "Preacher, everybody's going to think you've been drinking," Wayne laughed.

Asked about his relationship as a "religious counselor" to presidents, Graham said he's not sure he's ever been a religious counselor to any president, and that he's never been invited by Baptist President Jimmy Carter to come to the White House, but if invited, he would go.

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He told reporters that the Watergate experience seemed "demonic" to him, but denied that he ever said former President Nixon had demons.

Graham also took issue with some of the things published about him by Marshall Fraidy, but he refused to cite specific inaccuracies in Fraidy's book. He added that Fraidy, author of a biography on Graham, never took any notes or used a tape recorder in their interviews, and questioned "how a man can quote you accurately some days later."

Graham said that the center of Christianity seems to be shifting from America to Asia and Africa, citing predictions that 85 percent of Africa south of the Sahara may someday be Christian. He pointed to tremendous revivals going on in Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore where he recently held crusades.

Graham however refused to get into a detailed discussion of peace initiatives in the Middle East, or Bible prophecies on the Middle East, saying it would take more time than he had and was "too complicated."

He said he was delighted to see "the first steps toward peace," and called for Christians to support efforts for world peace and nuclear disarmament.

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By Jim Newton and Orville Scott, 11:40 a.m., Wednesday



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Porter Routh Resolution

HOUSTON, June 13-Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here honored retiring executive secretary-treasurer of its executive committee Wednesday by adopting a resolution declaring that "Southern Baptists are better people because of his work among them."

Routh, whose retirement takes effect July 31, has served in the chief administrative post for the denomination since 1951.

Before that he served as secretary of survey for the Baptist Sunday School Board, as editor of the <u>Baptist Messenger</u> of Oklahoma, as secretary of Brotherhood and promotion for the <u>Baptist General Convention</u> of Oklahoma, and as instructor in journalism at Oklahoma Baptist University.

The Lockhart, Texas native, who will be 68 on July 14, was cited as leading the denomination in its period of most extensive growth. During his 28 years as executive secretary-treasurer the number of SBC congregations increased from 28,289 to more than 35,000, while church membership grew from 7,373,498 to more than 13 million.

Contributions to the denomination's Cooperative Program method of financing its missionary and educational programs have increased from \$21.5 million to \$150 million and total mission gifts from \$37.2 to \$318.3 million.

The resolution paid tribute to Routh's "personal dedication to Jesus Christ, his personal discipline as an accomplished administrator and leader and his personal loyalty to Baptist ideals and causes."

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By Stan Hastey--12:10 p.m., Wednesday



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Brotherhood Report

HOUSTON, June 13-Baptist Men's organizations in Texas and neighboring states now have a well organized disaster relief program that can respond quickly and effectively to emergency needs, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention were told Wednesday.

Bob Dixon of Dallas, executive director of Texas Baptist Men, said that when tornadoes hit Wichita Falls, Tex., and neighboring areas last April "we had 70 trained men ready to go and help within an hour after we were notified."

Similar units from the Oklahoma and Louisiana men's groups also were on the alert, with those from Oklahoma offering major assistance to tornado victims in Lawton. Other Baptist men's units responded to needs in the Jackson, Miss., floods, he said.

"We went with food, groceries, clothing and with the love of God in our hearts,"
Dixon said, noting that this is just one of the ways in which Baptist men are now sharing
the good news of Christ.

Dixon's report came during the Brotherhood Commission's report to the convention.

Norman Godfrey, director of ministries, said a record 15,868 churches had Brotherhood organizations in 1978 and more than a million persons took part in World Missions Conferences which the Brotherhood helps sponsor.

Jack Deligans, Livermore, Calif., chairman of the commission, recalled the death of Glendon McCullough, the commission's executive director, in August 1978.

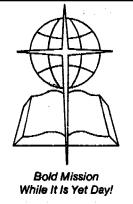
"He led us in a dynamic way," Deligans said. "We covet your prayers for the search committee as they seek God's man for the Brotherhood Commission."

Since McCullough's death a cabinet of four section directors has led the staff.

-30-

By Bob Stanley--12:08 p.m., Wednesday





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Dr. Wana Ann Fort Feature

Dr. Wana Ann Fort is a gutsy lady.

She's outspoken, well-educated, sometimes intimidating. But that's never limited her...not in the United States or in Zimbabwe Rhosdesia.

For 24 years--five terms of service--Dr. Fort and her husband Dr. M. Giles Fort Jr. ministered medically and evangelistically to the Shona people, one of the two main tribes in Rhodesia.

When the Forts arrived in 1953, the Sanyati Baptist Hospital compound, a two-room clinic of mud and poles looked just like other African buildings except for its tin roof.

With their two-year-old son, Giles III, they lived with another missionary couple in a small house. Since then, the clinic has grown to a full functioning hospital, several houses and outer buildings.

Well it was functioning, staffed with missionaries from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board like the Forts, until the murder of missionary Archie Dunaway on June 15, 1978 by guerrilla forces.

Although Dr. Fort was on furlough in the United States when Dunaway was killed, sha says the killers were men known to her, terrorist followers of Joshua Nkomo.

"Mr. Nkomo's men killed Archie and two Catholic priests," Dr. Fort said, unabashed. "They burned and destroyed Sessarie station (a clinic compound across the river) and threatened other pastors and leaders.

"These terrorists have murdered the head man of a village in front of the people to intimidate the villagers.

"Once they even cut off the lip of a man and made his wife cook it and eat it," Dr. Fort said.

"All over Rhodesia, (Robert Mugabe, leader of the eastern faction of the guerrilla alliance, the Patroiotic Front) and Mr. Nkomo have intimidated the people. These two warring factions will never be happy with a part of the government," Dr. Fort maintained. "They want power."

When Dr. Fort share i her story at Woman's Hissionary Union's annual meeting just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, she had only moments to tell what the church meant to her life.

A few moments is not long enough to tell her story.

It began in a small Louisiana town as the oldest of seven daughters of a town lawyer. "Daddy taught us to pray...but he only attended church once a year—of course his old home church only met once a year on Memorial Day," she said.

"Daddy didn't really want me to be a medical missionary. He just couldn't understand why we would leave all the things we would have here."

"Once daddy asked, 'Isn't it a shame Giles took Wana Ann over to Rhodesia?' Momma just answered, 'You'd better be glad she has Giles with her. She'd have gone anyway'!"

On furlough since the end of May 1978, shortly before Dunaway's murder, Dr. Fort has spent the time speaking in churches.

In Sanyati she was always working at something—part—time at the hospital in her speciality pediatrics, full—time in keeping the hospital books, even organizing and serving as co-president of the women's group with an African.

Southern Baptist Convention, Houston, June 12-14, 1979

The Forts were to return to Rhodesia in June, but the male Dr. Fort will not complete a residency in anethesiology until June, 1980.

"Our first priority is Sanyati if we can live and work at the hospital," the female Dr. Fort said. No missionaries have lived at the compound since Dunaway's death, although some doctors commute a few days each week.

The Forts second choice would be to serve as missionaries but on loan to the Salisbury medical school.

Although it may sound as if Dr. Fort's life has been easy—free of the pitfalls often experienced by professional women," it's just notes," she said.

Dr. Fort said she might have been less free to have a career and family in the United States. She reared five sons, four born in the Sanyati hospital. In Rholesia, she explained, she was not constantly bombarded with western culture restrictions.

Dr. Fort is impatient with the political climate which exists in Rhodesia and the attitudes about Rhodesia evident in U.S. policy.

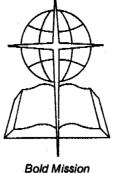
"It seems the U.S. government would rather have a communist rule and a bloodbath than the present government (of Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa, recently elected by the Rhodesian people)," she said.

If the people chose the government and we cooperate with other countries which have never had free elections, just one party elections or military coups, then we should recognize the government there.

"It takes time for changes to take place, but things are on the right track (in Rhodesia).

"If that government could be recognized and trade and imports begun, then maybe they'd be strong enough to bring the government toward what the U.S. government thinks they should be."

Judy Touchton-12:30 p.m. Wednesday



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Baptist Rally at Astrodome

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 13---The Bold Mission Thrust rally of the Southern Baptist Convention Wednesday night was not your ordinary Baptist convention session.

It was the largest gathering of Southern Baptists ever assembled in the United States and the largest missionary dedication service in history.

The building was the Astrodome.

The congregation numbered 48,000 stacked in tiers on site, plus countless television viewers.

The choir had 4,000 voices.

The hymnal was the electronic scoreboard.

The carpet was astroturf.

The colors of stained glass windows were seen in the flags of 50 states and 94 nations.

The order of service listed 5,700 names of home and foreign missionaries, and those names flashed across the scoreboard.

The choir director was Cliff Barrows.

The preacher was Billy Graham.

And the alter call brought forth 3,000 persons.

It was a technological feat unprecedented in church related conventions and gave a glimpse of Southern Baptists' scope for Bold Mission Thrust.

The crux of the service was the dedication of 1,100 persons who had volunteered for mission service since Jan. 1, 1973.

Some are already on the job and were represented by stand-ins.

As they knelt in a cross formation outlined by flags, 1,100 persons representing those who support the volunteers financially, laid hands on their shoulders.

SBC President Jimmy Allen said "these folks represent 13 million Southern Baptists. Missions isn't just the business of missionaries, but the business of all of us."

These and other missionaries will receive financial support in excess of \$100 million dollars this year.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, prayed for those who will cross the barrier to witness and minister as well as for those who will send support.

Executives of the Baptist mission boards whipped up missionary fervor for evangelist Billy Graham's address.

Graham set out to convince the throng to follow God's call to missionary service. It was not his usual evangelistic message.

Graham told reporters he was honored "to call persons to life commitment to missions."

Graham urged his fellow Baptists toward an obsession with worldwide witness that would erupt in radical fervor.



"Go! Go! Go! Tell! Tell! Tell!" he shouted.

Quoting from the Bible and missionary history, he promised that Baptists have authority to go, a message to proclaim, people who need the message, and spiritual power to get the job done.

"God has given to our denomination visibility, acceptance, opportunity, leadership, and resources to take the spiritual initiative," Graham said.

"There is no energy crisis with God," Graham said, suggesting that Baptists rely on God's Holy Spirit rather than on organization in Bold Mission Thrust.

When Graham invited persons to dedicate their lives to missions, an estimated 3,000 flocked to the astroturf.

Kneeling amidst the cross of flags, they filled out commitment cards and prayed with missionaries serving as counselors.

Mission boards personnel will follow up later to enable persons to make formal applications for missions service.

Technical trouble with satellite connections wiped out video in some rally points across the nation.

After the Astrodome was almost empty, choir members and technical staff spontaneously sang the doxology, "Praise God for Thom All Blessings Flow."

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By Catherine Allen-9:45 p.m. Wednesday



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SBC News Room

SBC JOGGER'S JUBILEE

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 13-Clad in a bright red warmup suit and blue track shoes, Eugene Greer wore the contented look of a man in his element.

The mammoth parking lot of Rice University Stadium here served as the site for Greer and six associates to "open" the 122nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and they did it with a brisk jog before most of the Convention messengers got out of bed.

The seven were a few of the participants in the sixth annual SBC Jogger's Jubilee, an event founded by Greer to promote "fitness and fellowship." This year the run was held at four different Houston locations each morning of the three-day convention.

Since its inception at Dallas in 1974 the jubilee has consistently drawn 35 to 40 joggers at the convention and several times that number "running in the spirit" around the nation and overseas. The turnout is about the same this year.

"Physical fitness is a spiritual matter," says Greer, program planning director for Texas Baptists State Missions Commission, Dallas. "God tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that we should present them as living sacrifices to Him. How can fat, sedentary pastors and denominational workers with four chins glorify God in their bodies?"

At 56, Greer is lean and wiry. He began running seriously in 1965 after reading about Billy Graham's use of the exercise for fitness and relaxation.

"I was a heart attack looking for a place to happen," he recalls. "I just got sick of that life. So I started running, not far at first, but slowly increasing my distance."

In the fifteen years since, Greer has logged more than 12,000 miles on the road. His warmup jacket is peppered with patches from various races, jogs and marathons. Each year during his birthday week, he runs the number of miles corresponding to his new age.

A board member of the National Jogging Association, Greer edits The Strider, a monthly newsletter geared for Baptist jogging enthusiasts.

Greer scoffs at recent reports that running may damage muscles and joints and that walking is better exercise. "There is no real medical documentation backing that up," he says. "Sure, running can be a strain, and even dangerous if you're not careful, but it exercises critical parts of the body—your lungs, your heart and your blood vessels."

For Greer, that's what glorifying God in the body is all about.

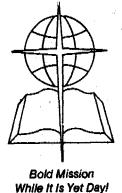
The Church Recreation Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., is co-sponsoring the Jogger's Jubilee this year, and all runners will receive a certificate of participation.

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By Erich Bridges -- 8:15 p.m. Wednesday



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The Summit, Houston (713) 850-9127 Wilmer C. Fields SBC Press Representative Robert O'Brien News Room Manager Norman Jameson Photography/Features Manager

SBC News Room

Home Mission Board Reception

HOUSTON, June 13---Bill Williamson of Minnesota and his nephew Rick Hager of Oklahoma, both Southern Baptist home missionaries, and the man who taught Bill in "juniors" Sunday School before Rick was born, gathered Wednesday at the punch and cookies table at the Home Mission Board reception.

Williamson's wife Sarah knew the refreshments would be good at South Main Baptist Church, sponsor of the reception, because she enjoyed a lot of punch and cookies as a little girl growing up at the Houston church.

The family reunion atmosphere at the reception was created by families and life-time friends with a common involvement in missions in the United States.

William Tanner, executive director of the Home Mission Board, and other Baptists with a career or special interest in home missions, spent their one free afternoon of the Southern Baptist Convention at the reception.

Tanner and Williamson ware students together at Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary before Tanner became leader of a board with more than 2,800 missionaries. Williamson, formerly a hospital chaplain ministering at Mayo Clinic, is a pioneer missions director for 38 counties in Minnesota.

"This reception and the whole convention are good opportunities for those of us directly involved in home missions to relate what is going on in a personal way, Williamson said.

Carl Pogue, who taught Williamson as a young boy at a church in Port Arthur, Tex., now is vice president for retirees of Texas Baptist Men. Pogue leads crews of volunteer workers to assist Williamson in missions in Minnesota.

Another missionary at the reception who learned a few lessons from Pogue was his son, Kenneth Pogue. Kenneth and his wife, Laura are Mission Service Corps volunteers with the Ecme Mission Board in Oklahoma City, Okla.

James Yang, born in Humnan, China, attended the recortion Wednesday as pastor of the Chinese Baptist Mission in Queens Borough of New York City.

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By Debbie Stewart--7:10 p.m. Wednesday



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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Southern Seminary Alumni Meeting

HOUSTON, Texas, June 13--Announcement of the first million-dollar gift in the history of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary highlighted the annual meeting of the school's alumni association here.

More than 1,000 former students of the . Southern Baptist Convention's oldest institution also had a surprise visit from evangelist Billy Graham, honored three ministers as Alumni of the Year, and heard a report from seminary president Duke K. McCall.

Urging the alumni to pray for and work with new SBC president Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., McCall reported that he had invited Rogers to preach at the seminary more than a year ago, and would re-issue that invitation in keeping with the seminary's long tradition of bringing Southern Baptist Convention presidents to the campus.

McCall said the seminary, with 12,000 living alumni, is celebrating its 120th anniversary with an all-time high enrollment of more than 2,800 students on its campus in Louis-ville, Ky. Then he announced that a recent gift of more than \$1 million had boosted to \$6.5 million the amount given and pledged to the seminary's endowment fund drive.

The audience greeted news of the seven-digit gift with a standing ovation as the donors, Col. and Mrs. Marshall A. Sanders of Louisville and their daughter Joyce, were presented. Sanders, a 62-year-old retired Army colonel, challenged the alumni to use their energies to "dissipate ignorance by preaching the Word," and called on other Baptist laymen to help secure the seminary for its mission in the years to come.

Evangelist Graham, in Houston for a Bold Mission rally later in the day, reaffirmed his warm affection and full support of the seminary and its program, and asked the audience to pray for his coming crusade in Nashville, Tenn.

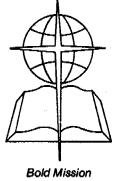
Admiral James W. Kelly, retired chief of Naval chaplains; Chevis Horne, pastor of First Baptist Church in Martinsville, Va.; and Niles Puckett, professor of Bible at Grand Canyon College in Phoenix, Ariz., were honored as Alumni of the Year.

Others presented to the audience were Southern Seminary graduate Harold C. Bennett, newly-elected executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and a delegation from the Baptist World Alliance which included President David Y.K. Wong and General Secretary Robert Denny.

R. Eugene Puckett, outgoing editor of the Maryland Baptist and executive director—elect of Americans United in Washington, D.C., was chosen to lead the alumni association for 1980-81, succeeding Charles Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention in Little Rock, Ark., who becomes alumni president this fall.

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By Pat Pattillo--5:45 p.m., Wednesday



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While It is Yet Day!

Baptist Faith and Message

HOUSTON, June 13--The Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship may drop use of its controversial name, an executive of the conservative religious organization revealed this afternoon.

"We discussed in our board meeting today at noon whether to delete the phrase, Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, and to operate under the Southern Baptist Journal," said Bill Powell, executive director of the organization and editor of the magazine. The meeting was closed to the public.

"Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship has become a whipping boy, a scapegoat," he added. "Progress has been made and because of the progress, there seems to be no advantage in continuing with the name."

BFMF has been described as an independent group dedicated to advocacy of biblical inerrancy (without error) and seeking out of Southern Baptist liberals.

Harold Lindsell, president of the group and a former editor of the conservative evangalical magazine, Christianity Today, added: "The function of it (BFMF) has been to improve the situation in the Southern (sic) convention. As far as I am concerned, the executives of BFMF should give most serious consideration to the question whether or not the function for which they have been created has been fulfilled. I think that is a very good thing that should happen."

he added: "It is my opinion that the foundation has been laid in such a way that the issues are clear so that it would not trouble me in the least if the BFMF went out of business.'

Lindsell, who lit a fire of controversy with a book which names people he thinks are theological liberals within the SBC, added: "I do not think the problem is resolved but the foundation has been laid. BFMF was not created to be a political agency. The issue has been aired and made clear at this point."

He said there are a "substantial number of groups at work on this issue," and names Dallas Baptist pastor, W.A. Criswell, Evangelist James Robison of Hurst, Texas, Houston appellate judge Paul Pressler and Dallas Bible institute director Paige Patterson as "formidable groups."

During an interview following a news conference for Lindsell, Powell said BFMF has been a "very small organization with between 500 and 2,000 members."

M.O. Owens Jr. of Gastonia, N.C., said membership records are not kept because "the group is a fellowship.

Powell, however, said the group is supported by 50 to 125 churches, 'some of which contribute more often than others."

Southern Baptist Journal, he said, had a press run of 10,000 copies on its last issue. Powell did not reveal how many paid subscriptions there are to the publication.

Owens said the group hopes to receive even greater support with the phasing out of the BTNF appelation. "It has become a name which has assumed a great deal of opprobrium (reproach), he said.

Owens, who is chairman of the board of BFMF, said that while BFMF "may have served the purpose, we still haven't won the battle...haven't gained any ground. We have our foot in the door.

He claimed conservatives 'haven't had a fair shake in the last 10 or 15 years. We have been trying to call attention to the fact there is a trend away from what Southern Baptists have traditionally believed in. It has not been widespread, but

it is there. We have watched this happen to Methodists and Presbyterians and Lutherans. We didn't want it to happen t Southern Baptists. We were just trying to call attention to that fact."

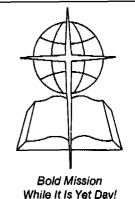
In the news conference, Lindsell also said he was pleased with the election of Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and said many people have been questioning the role BFFF had in the election.

Pany role we (3FMF) may have played in the election of Adrian Rogers would have been tiny indeed. I do not think that I personally, or for the organization, would want to claim we had a significant role in his election."

He again called for a 'blue ribbon' committee to investigate his charges of liberalism in Southern Baptist seminaries.

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By Dan Martin--7:30 p.m., Wednesday



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Southeastern Seminary Luncheon

HOUSTON, June 13--Alumni of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary affirmed their teachers Wednesday as "authentic interpreters of the Gospel," elected officers, adopted a giving program and heard President W. Randall Lolley report on progress at the 28-year old seminary at Wake Forest, N. C.

A resolution adopted by the alumni noted that "there seem to be certain rumblings of discontent concerning the viability of some seminary education capacities for receiving, comprehending and interpreting the content of the Gospel..."

The alumni went on to restate their "faith in our professors as believers in the Gospel of Christ and as authentic interpreters of that Gospel," and to re-affirm their confidence "in the integrity of (President) Randall Lolley..."

Elected president of the 3,700 member group was Jim Baucom, '64, pastor, First Baptist Church, Radford, Va. Other officers elected were Earl Davis, '63, pastor, First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., vice president; Earl Crumpler, '61, pastor, Edwards Road Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C., secretary; and Jack Marcom, '67, pastor, First Baptist Church, Rockville, Md., director.

Southeastern's alumni also voted to join in the seminary's three-year capital and endowments funds campaign now in progress. Their efforts will be under the leadership of out-going alumni president, Dale Steele, pastor, First Baptist Church, Burlington, N. C.

In his report to the alumni, President Lolley said that after five months into the \$3.5 million campaign gifts and pledges are approaching the \$1 million mark. He announced a pledge of \$100,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Vickery of Winter Park, Fla. Vickery, businessman and member of First Baptist Church, Orlando, is on the seminary's 30-member Lay Development Council.

Lolley also announced new faculty members for the 1979-80 year. They included Malcolm Tolbert, New Testament, from Gainesville, Ga.; William Clemmons, Christian Education, from Memphis, Tenn.; Ben Philbeck, Old Testament, from Kansas City, Mo.; and Robert Culpepper, Theology, from Fukuoka, Japan.

To meet the seminary's severe housing need, Lolley reported that construction is well under way on 100 townhouse apartments. He expects half of the units completed by September 1.

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By Rod Byard--7:40 p.m. Wednesday



CUTLINE #18

HERE TO REPRESENT CHRIST--In a news conference on the day after his election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Adrian Rogers told reporters that he is not here to represent any splinter groups, but to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. Photo by Steve Medford

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CUTLINE #19

NOT ENOUGH SALT--Evangelist Billy Graham told reporters at a Wednesday news conference that the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (Salt II) does not go far enough in arms reduction. He was in Houston to speak at the Southern Baptist Convention. Photo by Steve Medford

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Golden Gate Seminary Lunch

HOUSTON, June 13--Three alumni of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif., received alumnus of the year awards, one posthumously, at a luncheon here Wednesday.

Receiving the awards were Jack B. Johnson, newly elected executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Baptist Convention, and Max Kell, pastor of El Camino Baptist Church, Sacramento, Calif.

Dr. Robert D. Hughes, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California accepted an award for his son, John O. Hughes, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Richmond, Calif., who died four months ago.

In other action, James M. Morton was elected president of the alumni association and Arthur Numm, president-elect.

The alumniacocciation named the seminary advance fund as their major fund raising project for the period of Aug. 1, 1979 through Dec. 31, 1984.

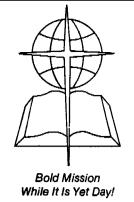
Seminary President William M. Pinson Jr., gave a progress report of seminary activities during the last 12 months and outlined projected programs for the next year.

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By Roy Jennings--8:00 p.m., Wednesday







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Roundup for Thursday pms

HOUSTON, June 14-Baker James Cauthen, retiring executive secretary of the giant Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, called on messengers Thursday morning to keep their priority on the plan to evangelize the world by the year 2000.

"No matter what it costs, this worldwide mission thrust must be our priority items," said the long time Richmond-based missions leader who once served the denomination as a missionary to China.

Speaking on the topic of "The Task and the Destiny," Cauthen reminded the messengers there can be no reasonable doubt "that our Lord has commanded us to take the gospel to the whole wide world.

"So long as there is any person in the whole world who is unaware of Jesus, our task is not complete.

"This is why this convention has done wisely to commit itself to Bold Mission Thrust that before the end of this century every human being on earth may hear and be able to respond to Jesus Christ."

Ornthen, who retires late this year after 26 years as the chief administrative officer of the mission board, keynoted the final morning session of the 122nd annual meeting of the SBC which was also devoted to reports from four agencies and discussion of proposed resolutions and miscellaneous items of business.

In a report to the messengers, Arthur L. Walker Jr. of Nashville, executive secretary of the Education Commission, said 21,774 church vocation volunteers were attending Baptist schools in 1978-79, including 2,742 missions volunteers.

Representatives for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs reminded they had voted to protest an Israeli law restricting Christian missionaries, supported a Catholic position refusing to allow lay teachers in parochial school systems to organize for separation of church and state reasons, and reaffirmed opposition to tuition tax credit and lobby disclosure legislation.

Darold Morgan, president of the Annuity Board, said extreme variations of the stock market, staggering pressures of escalating costs, eroding freedom from governmental regulations and changes in personnel and organization made 1978 a busy year for his agency.

One of the highlights was the provision of a 13th check to most annuitants, Morgan said.

Also reporting to the messengers were representatives of the Radio and Television Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and Baptist World Alliance.

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By Roy Jennings--2:50 p.m., Wednesday



CUTLINE #16

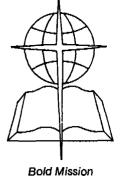
THEY WERE NEWS TO HOUSTON—Covering the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston were these SBC newsroom employees: (forefront from left) Bob O'Brien, News Room Manager; W. C. Fields, SBC Press Representative; Norman Jameson, Photography/Features Manager; and Roy Jennings, Copy Chief; (second row from left) Debbie Stewart, Ramon Nartinez, Jennifer Bryon, Libby Fields, Frankie Hayes, Marye Jennings, Renita Duncan; (third row from left) Craig Bird, Bob Russell, Ken Tonks, Jeff Young, Stan Hastey, Rex Hammock, Pat Starkey; (fourth row from left) Greg French, Sammy Gash, Craig Goff, Gerry Vanderford, Bobbye Hill, Larry Crisman, Shirley O'Brien; (fifth row from left) Stephen Medford, Doug Tonks, Eric Bridges, Kent Matthews, Vern Myers, Janet Kelly, Pat Newton; (sixth row from left) Dan Martin, Ruth Bratloff, Robert Blackburn, Grace Atchley, Gaye Eichler, Doris Kelley and Jim Newton. Photo by Mark Sandlin

CUTLINE #21

EVANGELIST'S OFFICERS--Southern Baptist evangelists elected Dr. Hyman Appleman of Kansas City, Mo. as president of their organization for 1979-80. Other officers are (from left): Allison Ware and Connie Ware (co-music directors) from Plano, Texas and Jim McNiel (assistant music director) from St. Louis. Photo by Tim Fields

CUTLINE #22

NEW SBC OFFICERS--Messengers to the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention elected (from left) Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, president; Abner McCall, president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, first vice president; and Don Touchton, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., second vice president. Photo by Tim Fields



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Bold Mission
While It Is Yet Day!

Pressler Press Conference

HOUSTON, June 13--In a self-initiated explanation of rumors about the campaign of theological conservatives to elect the Southern Baptist Convention president, Houston Judge Paul Pressler Wednesday denied planning, strategizing or implementing any organized effort to elect Adrian Rogers.

"Simply the conservatives are communicating with each other for the first time," Pressler explained.

Rumors to which Pressler responded centered around his use of a "skybox" in the convention meeting hall from which some said he orchestrated the election of a president committed to the accuracy of the Scriptures.

Pressler admitted participating in an open dinner meeting attended by 400 conservatives where an "advisory sampling of opinion," was taken to "reflect to the three individuals under consideration" for possible nomination as president.

The three, he said, were Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile; and Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

At one point in the impromptu explanation, Pressler showed the strains he said have accompanied him during the convention week.

With tears in his voice and a near-trembling in his face, Pressler said after this court term he plans to take an ailing son to Colorado before returning to Houston in September.

Pressler said, when he returns "conservatives will continue to do what others have done: communicate."

When hypothisizing about a possible inquiry into the commitment to biblical inerrancy among Southern Baptist personnel, Pressler said what he would do as president of the convention and as president of a Southern Baptist seminary.

As seminary president he would "welcome" any inquiry out of concern for his institution. As convention president he would "communicate his concerns" to the appropriate persons.

Although he would not refuse appointment to an inquiry panel to search for persons not committed to inerrancy, he reminded, "I have a job."

Pressler was reminded that the six Southern Baptist seminary presidents in a joint news conference in May denied having any faculty members who would call into question the creation accounts in Genesis or the bodily resurrection of Christ as reported in the New Testament.

He responded by saying he is concerned about statements certain seminary professors made in their books and to the press concerning biblical inerrancy.

He was also critical of Baptist Press, the news service of the SEC, which he claimed, labeled him in a pre-convention story as an "ultra-conservative." He said he was not "ultra" anything, but was part of the mainline of the SEC.

During the interview, Pressler received persistent questions from Baptist Standard Editor Pressall Wood of Dallas who questioned whether Pressler was a valid messenger to the convention.



Page 2-Pressler Press Conference

Pressler claimed he was a messenger from First Baptist Church of Bellaire, Tex., a suburb of Houston, where he is an "honorary" member, but not a messenger of First Baptist Church, Houston, where he is a member. Pressler explained that he is actually a member of First Baptist, but has spoken so many times at the Bellaire church that he had been made an "honorary" member there.

When questions arose about the validity of his credentials, Pressler said he went to SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter and offered to turn them in, but Porter said he had no authority to accept them.

Porter later explained that decisions about whether a messenger is bonafide or not must be handled by the convention's credentials committee if any messenger's registration is challenged.

Porter added, however, that in his personal opinion, Pressler was not a valid messenger because Article 3, item 4 of the SBC Constitution states that each messenger must be a member of the church which elects him, and that the convention makes no provision for "dual" membership or "honorary" membership.

Pressler said he offered to turn in his credentials, and charged that the controversy over the validity of his credentials is "a non-issue" being blown up by the Baptist press.

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By Judy Touchton, Orville Scott, Jim Newton, 1:45 p.m. Wednesday



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Hollis Takes SBC Television Resolution to Senate Panel

WASHINGTON, June 13--Word of Southern Baptist Convention action on broadcasting legislation was carried to Congress by a Christian Life Commission spokesman here.

Harry N. Hollis Jr., the commission's associate executive secretary, appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Communications Committee.

He said that messengers to the annual meeting of Southern Baptists in Houston had "unanimously and enthusiastically" passed a motion calling on Congress to include the public interest standard in any communications legislation they write. He also said that the motion included reaffirmation of the idea that the airwaves belong to the American people.

The subcommittee is holding hearings on amendments to the 1934 Communications Act which currently regulates the broadcast industry. Similar hearings are in progress on the House side.

U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., sponsor of one of the measures before the subcommittee, said that "our purpose is to deregulate broadcasting as much as we can." Hollis responded by saying that he "would hope the task would also be to protect the public interest."

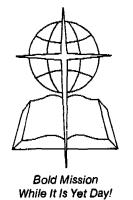
Goldwater said that he also dislikes some television programming but fears violation of First Amendment rights if government continues regulation. "We must depend upon the decency, if there is such a thing, in the programmers' heart," he commented.

Hollis told Baptist Press that his reading of the public mood is concern for the effect of violent exploitative programming. "People don't care if television is deregulated. They care about what's happening to their children."

Hollis also charged that the sponsors of legislation are prepared to do whatever the broadcast industry wants rather than protect the public. "The lines are clearly drawn," he said. "It's deregulate, as the industry requests, or maintain the public interest standard and serve the people of the nation."

Joining Hollis and other raligious spokespersons before the subcommittee in attacking the removal of the public interest standard was Jack Golodner of the AFL-CIO. "We have here a misplaced confidence that marketplace forces can protect the public interest," Golodner said. "If there is one thing we have learned in the American experience, especially in the labor movement, it is that the profit motive is not appropriate in all circumstances and cannot be deified."

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SBC News Room

Roundup for Tuesday ams

HOUSTON, June 11--The United States is headed for extreme socialism unless Christians take the lead in protecting American freedoms, a leading Georgia minister told Southern Baptist pastors Monday at the Coliseum.

The answer is for Christians to adjust their priorities, participate in government, pray, maintain persistence, and proclaim the gospel, said Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Speaking on the theme, "Stand Up America," Stanley described the priorities of Americans as prosperity and pleasure which he asked Southern Baptists to scrap in deference to the protection of freedoms.

Contending the country was about to lose its republic form of government, Stanley charged the Federal government was operating outside its original purpose.

"We need to understand the role of our government," Stanley said. "Our whole welfare system is built on a basic premise that is detrimental to our society.

"We are not a government established to give to everyone all that they need, but rather a government established to protect each individual so he can do his best, have his own vocation, choose where he wants to live, choose how long he wants to work and how much money he wants to make, and live the kind of lifestyle he so desires."

The Southern Baptist preacher also attacked the United Nations, immorality and : forces which threaten private schools and the American home.

"We have a United Nation that has done nothing for America but cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

"We have taken the Bible out of schools and in most schools it is absolutely prohibited to pray in the classes. Look around and notice that now people are talking about removing God's name from the pledge to the flag.

"For a season the Christian schools were ignored. Now they have become a threat to those who would like to remove our form of government and change our nation," Stanley contended.

"A third step on the pathway to socialism is gross immorality in our country. History proves that when a society becomes morally corrupt, when they give themselves over to perversion like homosexuality and lesbianism, the nation will crumble."

Stanley said pornography, drugs and the occult destroy man's resistance and divide his mind and that people become so involved in the gratification of the flesh that they lose their perspective and sense of reality.

The pastors also heard addresses by Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., and Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

The pastors were among five Baptist groups which closed out two-day meetings Monday night in advance of the three-day meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention beginning Tuesday at the Summit.

The 122nd annual meeting of the SBC, expected to attract 18,000 messengers from 50 states, will feature addresses by evangelist Billy Graham, former White House aide Charles Colson, country comedian Jerry Clower and Russian Baptist dissident Georgi Vins.

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Advance Background Story

(Add to "Miscellaneous Stories" section of SBC News Kit)

Total SBC Giving Tops \$87 Million Through May

NASHWILLE, Tenn. -- Southern Baptists contributed \$87,951,588 to national mission causes during the first eight months of the 1978-79 fiscal year, according to figures compiled by the denomination's Executive Committee.

That figure, which is 10.01 percent ahead of the same point last year, includes \$42,024,876 in undesignated contributions to the national Cooperative Program unified budget, and another \$45,926,712 in designated contributions.

The undesignated Cooperative Program portion is 11.05 percent ahead of the same point last year and the designated portion, which includes mainly the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong mission offerings, is 9.08 percent ahead. The Cooperative Program portion is about one-third of the contributions of SBC churches received by state Baptist conventions.

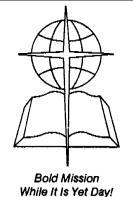
For the month of May, the eighth month in the fiscal year, total giving amounted to \$11,112,077, only 1.35 percent ahead of last May. That breaks down into \$5,107,888 Cooperative Program (7.87 percent ahead) and \$6,004,189 in designated giving (3.61 percent behind last May).

With four months to go in the 1978-79 fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program budget needs \$21,975,124 to reach its \$64 million basic operating and capital needs goal. The total budget is \$75 million, which includes \$11 million in Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds.

Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC's goal to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

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Poll on Issues

HOUSTON, June 11--Will Houston become the scene of a big shootout over biblical inerrancy among Southern Baptists?

Baptist men and women on the street expressed mixed opinions Monday. A random selection of messengers attending the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union preceding the Southern Baptist Convention were asked what they thought would be the key issue at this year's three-day meeting starting Tuesday at the Summit.

Pre-convention ballyhoo had been that this would be the year of a big showdown on the inerrancy of the Scriptures, an issue enhanced by a series of regional meetings aimed at election of a "conservative" president for the convention, and a splinter group charged with attempting to lead a purge of Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries.

Many of the messengers questioned refused to budge from a conviction that the SBC should attend to its main aim: Bold Mission Thrust campaigns of missions and evangelism in the world.

"The key issue has got to be Bold Mission Thrust," said Hugh Peacock, a pastor from West Point, Ga. "All this stuff about biblical orthodoxy is a farce."

Another pastor, Glenn Smith of Sarasota, Fla., commented: "I think this doctrinal thing has been blown out of proportion. I think Southern Baptists are basically sound, even though some individuals may be liberal."

Smith, however, did see the possibility of a schism in the denomination over the doctrinal orthodoxy issue. "I think it (a split) could happen, but I don't really believe it will come to that."

The wife of an associate minister, Mrs. Vola Erwin of Lufkin, Texas said Baptists must remain on the right track. "I think all of this biblical inerrancy issue is just something from people who are trying to stir us up...sidetrack us. As far as I am concerned, I don't have very much patience with them. They are trying to discredit our leaders and our seminaries."

An Acteen from Lake Jackson, Texas, Sandy Henson, 15, said: "Bold Mission Thrust is a far better thing (for us to concentrate on). Inner strife between Baptists does more harm than good. It drives people away. We all have to talk with God and we all have our personal interpretation, and people are going to have different interpretations."

Raymond DeArmond, a retired pastor from Seymour, Tenn., believes Southern Baptists generally are together and unified. "Ninety-five percent of the SBC is together. The other five percent is divided between the ultra liberals and the ultra conservatives who are fighting over the great body of us."

Some of the pastors tend to link the issues of inerrancy and Bold Mission Thrust. "I think that if we are to be honest to Bold Mission Thrust we must have a body which agrees on God's word," said Doug McPherson, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Pasadena, Texas.

One Florida pastor, Paul Faircloth of Dania, expressed what may be the feelings of many messengers: "I would be real pleased if I did not ever hear the words biblical inerrancy again. I don't think that is a test of fellowship. The test of us as Baptists is Bold Mission Thrust, what we are doing, what we will continue to do to win the world."

Richard Jackson of Phoenix, Ariz., a noted preacher who spoke at this year's pastor's conference and is a potential candidate for president of the SBC, said he believes the SBC is basically biblically orthodox: "I think what we need to do is to stand on the word of God and to get moving on the word of God."

Adding he does not believe the convention is "going down the drain," Jackson said the convention needs to emphasize both issues, "but not one at the expense of the other."

Some messengers, hhowever, believe the matter of doctrinal orthodoxy must be dealt with.

R. O. Stone, an evangelist from Mobile, Ala., commented: "I feel that if there is the least doubt about the Bible itself, then we can have no thrust. Evidently--from what I have heard--there is a problem of liberalism in the colleges and seminaries.

 $^{\prime\prime}\text{I}$ hope there will not be a division, but there must be a time for us to stand for truth."

Pastor Stan McGee of Gibland, La., identified himself as a supporter of inerrancy, and said he felt there should be a priority on the word of God. "If we have an inerrant word, we will have Bold Mission Thrust."

Among the Baptist men and women on the street Monday afternoon, the issue is not at all joined.

Some, such as Pastor Gerald Bagwell of Lakeland, Fla., think the battle will be waged: "I think the issue will be biblical inerrancy. I think that will be the central issue. We need to deal with it."

Others, such as Cecil DeLoach, a pastor in Barney, Ga., think the key issue will be continuation of missions and evangelism emphasis. "They have been fussing about all this stuff for 25 years. We have to stay on track. The SBC is big enough to take all in from the most liberal to the most conservative. All the rest of this stuff is just a lot of hot air blowing around."

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By Dan Martin and Debbie Stewart--6:50 p.m. Monday

(BP)

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June 13, 1979

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Colson Urges Prayer To Open Texas Prisons

By Bob Stanley

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Charles Colson, a former Nixon Administration official who has become an unofficial missionary to prisoners, urged some 15,000 Southern Baptists, to pray that Texas' prison gates will be opened to the witness of God's people.

The former Watergate figure who was converted in prison five years ago, received repeated applause and a standing ovation at the close of his speech before the Southern Baptist Convention.

Colson, who has helped to start Christian fellowship groups in 100 prisons, said he has been told that volunteers working with his program will not be allowed to come into the Texas prisons.

He urged united prayer that the gates will be opened. "I don't believe anybody has ever built prison gates big enough or strong enough to keep the Holy Spirit out," he declared.

Emphasizing his membership in Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., Colson won applause frequently as he spoke of his commitment to Christ and his concern that Baptists must speak out against the "moral rot and sickness" flaunted on television today.

He criticized forms of "cheap grace" that fail to make clear the necessity of repentance and had some harsh words for the fast-growing electronic church, which he said is trying to "package the gospel like soap."

"What comes out is not the cross but a glib, sentimental pietism, a prosperous, positive-thinking Johnny Carson who lives happily ever after."

Instead of joining the headlong rush for more media manipulation, he said, "Let us let the world know that we stand foursquare for the integrity of the church of Jesus Christ and its authentic witness in the world today."

He urged Christians to live out their faith. "If our churches are loving and caring communities, the people will flock to them," he said.

At the close of his talk, Colson was thronged with men and their sons seeking his autograph.

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Colson Opposes Capital Punishment

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press 6/13/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Former White House aide and Watergate figure Charles Colson expressed opposition to the death penalty, citing in a press conference four reasons why he opposed the execution of criminals like John Spenkelink recently executed in Florida.

Colson said he opposed capital punishment because he did not feel the state should have the power to take a human life, because capital punishment is not a proven deterrent to crime, because he had met too many men in prison who are innocent, and because "I don't think the state should play God."

In Houston to deliver a major address during the Southern Baptist Convention, Colson acknowledged that his response might be as acceptable to some Baptists attending the convention as throwing a hand grenade into their midst, but he felt deeply about the matter.

"As a lifelong conservative," Colson explained, "I have always been reluctant to give the state the power to take a human life. Give the state the power to take one life, and it will take 20 lives, and then where do you draw the line?" He added he opposed capital punishment even before he became a Christian.

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"As a deterrent to crime, capital punishment just does not work," Colson insisted.

He quoted a hardened criminal and hired killer in one prison who told him capital punishment only makes the cost of paid killings higher, and thus is not a deterrent to organized crime "hits."

Colson observed that 83 percent of American crimes are committed by people under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and capital punishment is certainly not a deterrent to such killing. He also pointed out that crimes of passion will not be deterred by the death penalty.

He claimed that he had met many prison inmates personally who are innocent, and he did not want the guilt of taking the life of an innocent person on the conscience of society.

'Finally, in my reading of the New Testament, I cannot accept the practice of capital punishment if I am to live by the commandments of Jesus," Colson said.

We explained that if the state takes the life of a person "prematurely," it denies that person the right to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ, and "once you execute that man, it's too late. I don't think the state should play God," he declared.

Asked what is an effective deterrent to crime if capital punishment is not, Colson said the greatest deterrent to crime is "a movement of righteousness across the nation" and "when people meet Jesus Christ personally."

He was critical of Christians who fail to live out their faith and convictions, pointing out that one out of every three Americans contend they are "born again," and yet the values in society are hardly "Christian."

"If 13 million Southern Baptists really came alive, and lived out their faith in today's society, it would turn this country upside down," Colson said.

He acknowledged he did not know where or when a "movement of righteousness across the nation" would begin, but said "perhaps it might begin in the prisons and penitentiaries" in 22 states where Colson is involved in a prison fellowship ministry.

Colson said he was disappointed in the response to his movie, "Born Again," which had very poor response in the Bible Belt," perhaps because by the time it came cut the phrase 'Born Again' had worn thin."

He also expressed disappointment in the few segments he saw of the television series "Blind Ambition," on Watergate, and was especially critical of the TV documentary, "Sacred Straight," which he called "a sham" because it made prison inmates look like animals and used X-rated language on TV.

Colson said he had no plans ever to enter politics, pointing out that he is a convicted felon and has no right to vote or hold office in his home state. When the governor offered to reinstate his right to vote and hold office, he declined unless the law were changed to allow every other ex-felon the same privilege.

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Rogers Disavows 'Witch Hunt'

Baptist Press 6/13/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., said in his first full-fledged news conference he would not favor a "witch hunt" investigation of "liberalism" in SBC seminaries, but would support such an investigation if it were carried out by a committee that was "fair and balanced."

Rogers, nominee of what some have described as a "conservative political machine" within the SBC, also said he hoped that the kind of political organization which led to his election would not be a pattern for future elections of SBC presidents.

"I was not a part of this campaign. I never went to a single meeting. I don't belong to Paige Patterson or Judge Paul Pressler, or even to this convention. I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ."

"I'm not here to represent any splinter groups," he declared. "I'm here to represent the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I love Paige Patterson and Judge Paul Pressler, but if I can't be the president of all Southern Baptists, then I have no business being president of the Southern Baptist Convention!" said Rogers, pastor of the 10,000-member Ballevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. The church is the fifth largest in the SBC.

Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, and Pressler, a Houston appellate courts judge, were reported to have been the key organizers in the campaign to elect a convention president who upholds the Bible as "the infallible, inerrant (without error) Word of God."

Amplifying the question of a committee to investigate charges of liberalism in SBC seminaries, Rogers added: "I would not favor any group that came with blood in its eye to go on a witch hunt."

He added, however, that any "liberalism" is too much if it means that Baptist seminaries, agencies, or institutions have employees who doubt the Bible is the authentic, infallible Word of God.

gogers said in an opening statement that his goals as convention president would center on missions, evangelism, faith in God's word, and loving each other.

Declaring he wanted to be positive in his approach, Rogers said, "I am not against anyone or anything except the devil and sin."

"I want to try to be a good, conservative, soul-winning, Bible-believing, church-building pastor and convention president," Rogers said.

He said he did not agree to be nominated for president of the convention until after a 2:30 a.m. prayer meeting with two other men in his hotel room the night before the nomination.

During that prayer meeting, he said, "God so came down that tears of joy" streamed down the faces of those in the room and he was sure God had spoken to him and given him assurance to accept the nomination.

Rogers said any plans he might have for dealing with "liberal" trends are extremely premature.

"I didn't have a plan because I was not a candidate," he said. "Most of what I'll be doing is setting a tone." Rogers said Southern Baptists have processes that will remove anyone who doesn't teach according to the Bible.

"These processes work best when the body is strong and healthy. I would like to help us be strong and healthy. I would rather be giving strong doses of vitamins than amputations."

Concerning a resolution presented earlier by Wayne Dehoney, of Louisville, Ky., asking reaffirmation of the Scriptures section of the 1973 Baptist Faith and Message Statement, Rogers said he wished Dehoney would be more specific in what he means by "the Bible is truth, without any mixture of error..."

"Some mean one thing, some another, and I wish they would clarify what they mean. If they mean the truth of the Bible is true, that's a nonsensical question. The truth of anything is true."

Pressed to name a former SBC president he considered liberal, Rogers cited a reference by former United States Congressman Brooks Hayes of Arkansas in his book, "Is the Bible a Human Book?" Hays served as SBC president, 1958-59.

Asked for an example of what he means by "inerrancy," he cited a message by a seminary professor who indicated that one narrative of God's creation of man in Genesis should take precedent over another.

"Therefore he's saying here's a section of God's word that should be shunted aside. That's more than quibbling over the words. I don't care what you call it as long as you believe God's Word is God's Word."

Rogers said he didn't favor the political efforts of the Patterson-Pressler caucus. But he added: "I think what they did has been done since time immemorial. Their methods are not my methods," he said. "I have never been a candidate."

Rogers was asked what he meant in a pre-convention statement that "if the liberals would come to the cross all Heaven would break loose."

He explained that "a man who doesn't believe in the blood of Jesus Christ isn't a Christian."

Asked if he thought any Baptists might be offended by the political campaign of the Patterson-Pressler group, Rogers said, "I know some people are disgruntled" but repeated, "I did not run for the office, I ran from it." He said rallies held by the group in 15 states were a surprise to him.

Asked to cite similarities between this and other SBC presidential campaigns, Rogers repeated again that he had never sought the office of president. "But I assume there have always been telephone calls and people saying, "I think so and so would make a good president."

At the close of his press conference, Rogers said, "If you will give me a chance and pray for me, you will find me transparent, loving and positive. No man in the world believes more in soul winning and missions, and all you have to do is look at the record."

Rogers said his church gives \$3,000 per month to support Mid America Baptist Seminary in Memphis, an independent Baptist seminary which was organized by conservative Southern Baptists who felt Southern Baptist Convention seminaries were too liberal.

He added the church gives about \$170,000 or six percent of its total budget to support world missions, Christian education, and other benevolent causes through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Rogers said his salary at Bellevue, including all fringe benefits, is just over \$50,000.

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SBC Reaffirms Baptist Faith and Message

By Larry Crisman

Baptist Press 6/13/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)-Like father, like son.

This adage captures the spirit of action taken by messengers attending Wednesday morning's session of the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention when they approved a motion by a former convention president.

With minimum discussion, the messengers approved the motion of Wayne Dehoney of Louisville, Ky., calling for a reaffirmation of the Scriptures section of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Adopted by the convention in Kansas City in 1963, the historical statement amounts to a declaration of the fundamental beliefs held by most Southern Baptists. The statement also represents an updated version of a report of a committee which first presented it to the convention in 1925.

Dehoney's motion, first presented to the convention on the opening day of the convention, apparently was inspired by a flap on biblical inerrancy (without error)--an issue which has raged at the Houston meeting.

Dehoney's original motion called for the convention to reaffirm the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement which he said was adopted to "serve as information to the churches and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention."

A key part of the statement, according to Dehoney, reads that the Bible "has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

Speaking to messengers, Dehoney said he just returned from a press conferencer involving newly-elected convention President Adrian Rogers, a strong proponent of biblical inerrancy. Dehoney said Rogers told him he had his permission to tell the convention body that the two agree on biblical infallibility.

The two agree the Bible's "original autographs" were without error, Dehoney explained.

Exhorting the convention to lay aside the question of biblical inerrancy after agreeing on scriptural validity, Dehoney drew applause when he asked messengers to arrive at unity.

Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in Ridgeland, Miss., supported Dehoney's motion, saying he "thanks God" Southern Baptists are people who continue to be "of the Book."

Herschel Hobbs of Oklahoma City, a former convention president who served as chairman of the committee that drafted the 1963 version of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, supported Dehone's motion.

Hobbs said those who served on the committee in the early 1960's accepted the infallibility of the Bible as a matter of course.

There was never a "squeak" of discussion about the inerrancy of Scripture, Hobbs said.

The only opposition to Dehoney's motion was presented by Bill Brock of Bradenton, Fla., who read a poetic statement in which he described the Bible as being an oasis in the desert of life."

"To accept inerrancy is to deny the grass exists," Brock said.

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SEC Calls For Uniform Retirement

Ey Bracey Campbell

Baptist Press 6/13/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention spent too much time embroiled in discussions about the retirements of top executives during the past year, Baptist pastor Jerry Don Abernathy of Tulsa, Okla., told SBC messengers.

Abernathy's concern over the retirement policies affecting denominational employees prompted him to introduce a motion adopted by the convention without dissent that the trustees of the boards and agencies consult with the Southern Daptist Annuity Board over the development of a uniform retirement program.

Abernathy, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, said the announcement of the retirement benefits for Porter Routh of Nashville, stepping down this year as executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, and Paul Stevens of Ft. Worth, who stepped down this year as president of the Radio and Television Commission, created the bulk of the discussion.

"The adoption of a uniform policy would help us avoid this--and certainly we don't need this type of problem," Abernathy said. He reminded them the Annuity Board has previously recommended the adoption of a uniform policy.

The pastor said all Southern Baptists appreciate and desire that denominational employees be adequately compensated during their years of labor.

"A uniform retirement policy will help insure that they can retire with dignity," he explained.

Approved without discussion, the motion states that a report on the interaction between the Annuity Board and trustees of the agencies, boards and commissions, who have the responsibility for setting retirement guidelines, be presented at the 1930 convention in St. Louis.

The messengers also approved a motion offered by Owen Cooper, a Yazoo City, Miss., business executive and former convention president, that the Christian Life Commission form a consortium of religious bodies that would establish a national committee for the evaluation and labeling of television programs.

"Something needs to be done about it (TV programming), and I think one positive step is a national committee that could help keep Christians informed about what is being broadcast into their homes," he said.

Cooper said the committee would look at television—and possibly other entertainment media programs—in regards to "violence, crime, sexual aberrations, vulgarity and such personally and harmful practices as the consumption of beverage alcohol, smoking and drug use."

An amendment offered by Cooper was accepted by the messengers, asking the convention's Executive Committee to study funding needs of the proposed committee.

Also added to the motion was an amendment, offered by William Whitfield, pastor of the Cypress Shores Daptist Church in Mobile, Ala., stating that the proposed committee would work with "other groups" involved in television program interpretation.

SALT II Doesn't Go Far Enough, Graham Says

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham said in a news conference here that the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) does not go far enough, and expressed fears that its adoption will give the world a false sense of security that world peace is eminent.

"But SALT II doesn't even touch on some of the worst weapons," Graham said prior to his appearance at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Decrying the fact that the nation spends \$400 billion on defense every year, Graham added, "Just think what that much money could do to feed a hungry world."

Graham said he feared that even with SALT II, dozens of nations not included in the treaty could develop nuclear weapons. "Someone like Idi Amin will get them and push the button to save himself; and it's likely to start a nuclear chain reaction involving the whole world," Graham said.

Fielding a wide-range of questions, Graham also touched on homosexuality, the so-called "fairness doctrine" in television broadcasting, commented on the death of John Wayne, gave his beliefs on the Bible as the infallible Word of God, an issue which has caused controversy in the 13.2 million member denomination this year.

Commenting on a current controversy in the SBC over the inerrancy of the Bible, Graham reaffirmed his own personal belief that the Bible "is the infallible Word of God."

He said he was delighted to be a Baptist and to attend the Southern Baptist Convention for "there is no other religious denomination like it in the world." He added that the charge of liberalism comes up during the SBC almost every year, for it is a "world problem" that has existed ever since Adam and Eve.

Graham highly complemented Pope John Paul II, saying he is "probably the most able Pope in our generation" and has more charisms than any Pope with the possible exception of Pope John.

He also complemented Adrian Rogers, the newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, saying he is "one of the best friends I have."

Asked why he has not given stronger support to Anita Bryant's campaign against homosexuality, Graham repeated his views that homosexuality is a sin, but is one of many sins. "The Lord has not called me to lead a crusade on any particular sin, but has called me to preach the gospel."

Asked about the cancellation of Baptist evangelist James Robison's television program by WFAA-TV in Dallas because of Robison's statements on homosexuality, Graham said he had never had any problems with television stations cancelling his telecasts because of violation of the "fairness doctrine" nor had he felt any restrictions on his preaching "on any subject in the Bible" (including homosexuality) because of the fairness doctrine.

Graham expressed deep personal loss in the death of Actor John Wayne, saying "a part of America died when John Wayne died."

Citing his friendship with Wayne, Graham recalled one incident in which Wayne laughed so hard he spilled champagne all over his head and coat. "Preacher, everybody's going to think you've been drinking," Wayne laughed.

Asked about his relationship as a "religious counselor" to presidents, Graham said he's not sure he's ever been a religious counselor to any president, and that he's never been invited by Baptist President Jimmy Carter to come to the White House, but if invited he would go.

He told reporters that the Watergate experience seemed "demonic" to him, but denied that he ever said former President Nixon had demons.

Graham also took issue with some of the things published about him by Marshall Fraidy, but he refuse to cite specific inaccuracies in Fraidy's book. He added that Fraidy, author of a biography on Graham, never took any notes or used a tape recorder in their interviews, and questioned, "How a man can quote you accurately some days later."

He said that the center of Christianity seems to be shifting from America to Asia and Africa, citing predictions that 85 percent of Africa south of the Sahara may someday be Christian. He pointed to tremendous revivals going on in Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore where he recently held crusades.

Graham, however, refused to get into a detailed discussion of peace initiatives in the Middle East, or Bible prophecies on the Middle East, saying it would take more time than he had and was too complicated."

He said he was delighted to see "the first steps toward peace," and called for Christians to support efforts for world peace and nuclear disarmament.

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SEC Honors Porter Routh Baptist Press 6/13/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BF)-Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here honored the retiring executive secretary-treasurer of its Executive Committee by adopting a resolution declaring that "Southern Baptists are better people because of his work among them."

Routh, whose retirement takes effect July 31, has served in the chief administrative post for the denomination since 1951. He will be succeeded by Harold Dennett in the Executive Committee post and as SBC treasurer.

Before that he served as secretary of survey for the Daptist Sunday School Board, as editor of the Baptist Messenger of Oklahoma, as secretary of Brotherhood and promotion for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and as instructor in journalism at Oklahoma Baptist University.

The Lockhart, Texas native, who will be 68 on July 14, was cited as leading the denomination in its period of most extensive growth. During his 28 years as executive secretary-treasurer the number of SBC congregations increased from 28,289 to more than 35,000, while church membership grew from 7,373,490 to more than 13 million.

Contributions to the denomination's Cooperative Program method of financing its missionary and educational programs have increased from \$21.5 million to \$150 million and total mission gifts from \$37.2 to \$318.3 million.

The resolution paid tribute to Routh's "personal dedication to Jesus Christ, his personal discipline as an accomplished administrator and leader and his personal loyalty to Baptist ideals and causes."

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SBC Elects 'Small Church' Pastor as 2nd VP Baptist Press 6/13/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--In a run-off election, Don Touchton, paster of Central Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla., was elected second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Touchton, pastor of the 400-member church, was nominated as a "great pastor of a small church" who will represent the majority of Southern Baptist churches which are not large "super churches."

Earlier, messengers elected Adrian Rogers, pastor, Rellevue Paptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., as president, and Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, as first vice president.

Touchton received 56.89 percent of the .run-off votes against Homer G. Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Other nominees in the first election for the second vice-presidency were Roy Ladd, pastor of Baptist Temple, Houston, and Milton Cunningham, pastor of Houston's Westbury Baptist Church and current president of the Texas Baptist Convention.

Other new convention officers include Harold Bennett, incoming executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn., convention treasurer; Lee Porter, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, convention recording secretary.

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Hollis Takes SBC Television Resolution to State Panel Baptist Press 6/13/79

WASHINGTON (BP) -- Word of Southern Baptist Convention action on broadcasting legislation was carried to Congress by a Christian Life Commission spokesman here.

Harry N. Hollis Jr., the commission's associate executive secretary, appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Communications Committee.

He said that messengers to the annual meeting of Southern Baptists in Houston had "unanimously and enthusiastically" passed a motion calling on Congress to include the public interest standard in any communications legislation they write. He also said that the motion included reaffirmation of the idea that the airwaves belong to the American people.

The subcommittee is holding hearings on amendments to the 1934 Communications Act which currently regulates the broadcast industry. Similar hearings are in progress on the House side.

U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., sponsor of one of the measures before the subcommittee, said that "our purpose is to deregulate broadcasting as much as we can." Hollis responded by saying that he "would hope the task would also be to protect the public interest."

Goldwater said that he also dislikes some television programming but fears violation of First Amendment rights if government continues regulation. "We must depend upon the decency, if there is such a thing, in the programmers' heart," he commented.

Hollis told Baptist Press that his reading of the public mood is concern for the effect of violent exploitative programming. "People don't care if television is deregulated. They care about what's happening to their children."

Hollis also charged that the sponsors of legislation are prepared to do whatever the broadcast industry wants rather than protect the public. "The lines are clearly drawn," he said. "It's deregulate, as the industry requests, or maintain the public interest standard and serve the people of the nation."

Joining Hollis and other religious spokespersons before the subcommittee in attacking the removal of the public interest standard was Jack Golodner of the AFL-CIO. "We have here a misplaced confidence that marketplace forces can protect the public interest," Golodner said. "If there is one thing we have learned in the American experience, especially in the labor movement, it is that the profit motive is not appropriate in all circumstances and cannot be deified."

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Pressler Explains

Baptist Press 6/13/79

By Jim Newton

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--In an impromptu press conference explaining rumors about the campaign of theological conservatives to elect the Southern Baptist Convention president, Houston Judge Paul Pressler denied planning, strategizing or implementing any organized effort to elect Airian Rogers.

"Simply the conservatives are communicating with each other for the first time," Pressler explained.

Rumors to which Pressler responded centered around his use of a "skybox" executive suite in the convention meeting hall from which some said he orchestrated the election of a president committed to the accuracy of the Scriptures.

Pressler admitted participating in an open dinner meeting attended by 400 conservatives where an "advisory sampling of opinion," was taken to "reflect to the three indivisuals under consideration" for possible nomination as president.

The three, he said, were Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile; and Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

At one point in the impromptu explanation, Pressler, highly regarded in the Houston legal circles, showed the strains he said have accompanied him during the convention week.

With tears in his voice and a near-trembling in his face, Pressler said after this court term he plans to take an ailing son to Colorado before returning to Houston in September.

Pressler said, when he returns "conservatives will continue to do what others have done: communicate."

When hypothesizing about a possible inquiry into the commitment to biblical inerrancy among Southern Baptist personnel, Pressler said what he would do if he were president of the convention and a president of a Southern Baptist seminary.

As seminary president he would "welcome" any inquiry out of concern for his institution. As convention president he would "communicate his concerns" to the appropriate persons.

Although he would not refuse appointment to an inquiry panel to search for persons not committed to inerrancy, he reminded, "I have a job."

Pressler was reminded that the six Southern Baptist seminary presidents in a joint news conference in May denied having any faculty members who would call into question the creation accounts in Genesis or the bodily resurrection of Christ as reported in the New Testament.

He responded by saying he is concerned about statements certain seminary professors made in their books and to the press concerning biblical inerrancy.

He also criticized Daptist Press, the news service of the SBC, which he claimed labeled him in a pre-convention story as an bultra-conservative. He said he was not bultra anything, but was part of the mainline of the SBC.

Pre-convention reports indicated that Pressler and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas, had conducted meetings across the country to discuss electing an SBC president committed to biblical inerrancy.

During the interview, Pressler received persistent questions from Baptist Standard Editor Presnall Wood of Dallas who questioned whether Pressler was a valid messenger to the convention.

Pressler claimed he was a messenger from First Daptist Church of Bellaire, Texas, a suburb of Houston, where he is an "honorary" member, but not a messenger of First Baptist Church, Houston, where he is a member. Pressler explained that he is actually a member of First Baptist, but has spoken so many times at the Bellaire church that he had been made an "honorary" member there.

When questions arose about the validity of his credentials, Pressler said he went to SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter and offered to turn them in, but Porter said he had no authority to accept them.

Porter later explained that decisions about whether a messenger is bonafide or not must be handled by the convention's credentials committee if any messenger's registration is challenged.

Porter added, however, that in his personal opinion, Pressler was not a valid messenger because Article 3, item 4 of the SBC Constitution states that each messenger must be a member of the church which elects him, and that the convention makes no provision for "dual" membership or "honorary" membership.

Pressler said he offered to turn in his credentials, and charged that the controversy over the validity of his credentials is "a non-issue" being blown up by the Baptist media. He said he voted during the SBC because his credentials were not withdrawn after he volunteered to relinquish them. He said it was obvious that his one vote did not affect the outcome in an election (in which Adrian Rogers received 51 percent of the vote on the first ballot in competition with five other persons).

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Executive Committee Re-Elects Wester

Baptist Press 6/13/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Brooks Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss., was re-elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in a meeting here.

The committee also expressed appreciation for its outgoing executive secretary-treasurer Porter Routh, who will retire July 31. The committee went through the formality of re-electing Routh to serve until his retirement date and re-electing Harold Bennett to serve as Routh's successor.

Rodney R. Landes, El Dorado, Ark., businessman, was elected vice chairman; Preston H. Callison, attorney from Columbia, S.C., was re-elected secretary.

INSERTION

In story on page 7 of today's Baptist Press mailing, entitled "SBC Elects 'Small Church' Pastor as 2nd VP," please insert the following paragraph after graph number 3:

Touchton contributes regularly to the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, an independent group dedicated to advocacy of biblical inerrancy and seeking out of Southern Baptist "liberals," according to Bill Powell, editor of the fellowship's publication.

CORRECTION

On page 4 of today's Baptist Press mailing, entitled "SBC Reaffirms Baptist Faith and Message," please make the following correction in line one of graph 11: Change Ridgeland, Miss., to St. Louis, Mo.





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News Room Manager
Norman Jameson
Photography/Features Manager

Advance Background Story

Enthusiasm High For Astrodome Extravaganza

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, Texas--Growing enthusiasm points to a record breaking attendance at the Bold Mission Thrust Rally in Houston's Astrodome, June 13, which will travel via two satellites to locations all over the country, according to Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen.

The rally, scheduled as the Wednesday evening session of the 134th SBC annual meeting, will be fed to Western Union's Wester I and RCA's Satcom I "to maximize the number of earth stations which can receive and relay the signal," said Robert Taylor, the SBC Radio and TV Commission vice president coordinating technical arrangements.

Billed by Allen as the first time in history that a convention session of a Christian group has been carried via satellite and electronic media simultaneously to many points across the United States, the rally has attracted growing attention.

Satellite rallies have been scheduled in at least a dozen cities which may attract about 75,000 persons to large screen presentations of the extravaganza in the Astrodome. It will also be screened at numerous churches and on a variety of commercial and cable TV outlets as Southern Baptists dedicate 1,100 missionaries.

Allen, who has spearheaded the effort, hopes to fill the 57,000-seat Astrodome itself with persons who have come to see Southern Baptists focus the eyes and ears of the world on Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC's plan to present the gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000.

Evangelist Billy Graham will close out the meeting with a message and challenge for more than 1,000 persons to dedicate themselves to missions. Challenges will also be issued at satellite rallies. Before Graham speaks, the 1,100 missionaries, appointed for terms ranging from a year to a career, will kneel beside an equal number of persons from a wide range of Southern Baptist leadership and pray. An 8,000-voice choir, led by Graham team member Cliff Barrows, will sing.

Texas Baptists are working hard to develop the 8,000-voice choir and a busing program to fill the Astrodome, said executive director James H. Landes.

The choir will involve the Texas Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Band and church choirs. Sam Prestidge, secretary of the Texas Baptist church music department, said choirs will come from large and small churches in and out of Texas. Out of state churches include First Baptist Church, Valdosta, Ga.; First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky.; and First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

Prestidge said the nine associations surrounding Houston have 18,000 youth and adult choir members. The churches in the area have been asked to aim for a goal of 50 percent of their total choir members.

Ed Laux, director of the Texas Baptist special services division, said more than 600 buses have been committed to bring people to the rally.

Landes said churches are also urged to bring their young people to a youth rally at Astroworld Wednesday afternoon, June 13, and then to the Bold Mission Thrust Rally during the evening.

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Page 2--Enthusiasm High

The program will get underway at 7 p.m., Central Time, and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, with a flag processional of all the 50 states and 94 nations where Southern Baptists have missionaries and feature a program packed with missions.

The evening will feature messages by Baker James Cauthen, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., and William G. Tanner, executive director of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., and testimonies from home and foreign mission personnel.

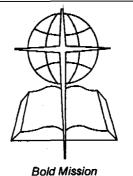
They include Scott Appleton, former professional football player now a Mission Service Corps volunteer; Cherry Chang, church growth consultant to Asians in Los Angeles for the Home Mission Board; John Cheyne, associate consultant on relief ministries for the Foreign Mission Board; and Ronnie Boswell, a furloughing foreign missionary from Brazil working this year with Texas Baptists.

Appleton, a former All-American football player with the University of Texas and winner of the prestigious Outland Trophy for outstanding college lineman, played professionally with the Houston Oilers and the San Diego Chargers.

A recovered alcoholic, Appleton accepted Christ because of the ministry of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, where Allen is pastor. He now serves as a Mission Service Corps volunteer in San Antonio under the sponsorship of the church, operating the church's unique restaurant ministry, the Fourth Street Inn.

Mission Service Corps is the SBC program to send volunteer missionaries for one to two years service to work with career missionaries on home and foreign mission fields.

Just before Graham speaks, Allen will deliver a challenge to the missionaries and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., will lead a dedicatory prayer.



While It Is Yet Day!

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For Your Information

A news conference for Georgi Vins, Russian Baptist pastor recently freed after five years in prison, will be held in the news room at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 14.

The family of Vins will arrive in New York City at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13. Most of the family members will proceed to Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., which is providing a cottage for the Vins family.

Two family members, Vins' wife Nadezhda, and his eldest daughter Natalya, 27, will come with Vins on Thursday morning to attend the Southern Baptist Convention.

Vins is scheduled to bring the closing message during the SBC at $9:00\ p.m.$, Thursday.

Family members who will arrive in New York Wednesday include:

Lydia, Vins' mother;
Nadezhda, his wife;
Natalya, 27;
Peter, 23;
Liza, 18;
Zhenya, 14;
Alexander, 7;
Ludmilla, a neice (age not available);
and a St. Bernard dog.

By Jim Newton -- 11:30 Tuesday morning



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Transportation during the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, will be difficult because of lack of parking. The Local Committee and the Southern Baptist Convention planners, who have been working hard to iron out as many of the difficulties as possible, urge messengers to show a cooperative spirit as we work together under God's leadership to make this a great convention despite the transportation problems.

The Convention meets at the Summit during the morning, afternoon, and evening sessions on Tuesday and Thursday and during the morning session on Wednesday. There is no afternoon session on Wednesday, but the evening session that day will be at the Astrodome.

Here's how you can help IF YOU HAVE A CAR IN HOUSTON:

The glut of Houston traffic allows **absolutely NO PARKING** at the Summit before 6 p.m. Messengers are urged to observe that regulation to avoid being towed away by the city. During the day, please drive your car to the Rice Stadium Parking Lot, located at the intersection of University Boulevard and Greenbriar, and ride one of the shuttle buses (Bus #4) to the Summit. Parking is \$1 per car. The shuttle bus from the parking lot to the Summit is \$1 per person. Messengers may **park free** at the Summit on Tuesday and Thursday evenings after 6 p.m. Parking costs \$2 at the Astrodome on Wednesday night.

Pleas, if you have a car, use it to drive to the Rice Stadium Parking Lot during the day and to the Summit or the Astrodome in the evenings. Seventy percent of the shuttle buses are committed to the park-and-ride part of the transportation system. Help others by asking those without cars to ride with you.

Here's how you can help IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CAR IN HOUSTON:

Buses run Tuesday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. 'til 10:30 p.m., to the Summit or Astrodome from three locations—the Hyatt Regency, Downtown Holiday Inn, and the Rice Stadium Parking Lot (Shamrock Hilton at night). If you are not staying at one of these locations, feeder buses will take you from your hotel to one of the I cations. Total cost from your hotel to the Summit or Astrodome is \$2. Bus tickets may be purchased at the Summit, at various hotels, or when you get on the bus at your hotel. To find out which bus you should take, find your hotel on the list on the back of this page.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? Call the transportation hot line—850-0735. The hot line will be open Monday, 1 p.m.—9 p.m.; Tuesday, 7 a.m.—9 p.m.; Wednesday-Thursday, 8 a.m.—9p.m.

LEAVE EARLY FOR EACH SESSION!

ALBERT PICK MOTOR INN-Bus s rvice only n Wednesday night. Ride Bus #3 from motel.

- *ALLEN PARK INN-Ride Bus #21 from the motel to the Holiday Inn-Downtown. Tak Bus #2 to the Summit or Dome.
- *ASTRO VILLA E HOTEL—Ride Bus #42 to the Rice Stadium Parking Lot. Take Bus #4 to the Summit. Wednesday night walk to the Dome.
- *CENTER CITY MOTEL-Same bus service as Allen Park Inn.
- *CHIEF MOTEL—Ride Bus #43 to the Rice Stadium Parking Lot. Take Bus #4 to the Summit or Dome.

CRESTWOOD MOTEL—Go to Chief Motel for bus service.

*EXECUTIVE RED CARPET INN-Same bus service as Albert Pick Motor Inn.

GRANT MOTEL—Go to Roadrunner Motor Inn for bus service.

- *HOLIDAY INN (Central)—Ride Bus #44 to Rice Stadium Parking Lot. Bus #4 to the Summit or Dome.
- *HOLIDAY INN (Downtown)-Take Bus #2 from motel to Summit or Dome.
- *HOLIDAY INN (Medical Center)—Take Bus #41 from motel to Rice Stadium Parking Lot. Take Bus #4 to Summit. At night go to Shamrock Hilton to get Bus #41.
- *HOLIDAY INN—(West Loop)—Take Bus #3 from motel to Summit or Dome.
- *HYATT REGENCY-Take Bus #1 from hotel to Summit or Dome.

LA QUINTA INN-Same bus service as Albert Pick Motor Inn.

LAMAR HOTEL—Go to Hyatt Regency for bus service.

- *MARRIQTT (Astrodome)—Same bus service as Holiday Inn-Medical Center.
- *MARRIOTT (West Loop)—Same bus service as Holiday Inn-West Loop.
- *MEMORIAL PARK INN—Same bus service as Allen Park Inn.
- *MEMORIAL PLAZA HOLIDAY INN-Same bus service as Allen Park Inn.

RAMADA INN (Dome)-Go to Roadrunner Motor Inn for bus service.

- *RAMADA INN (Civic Center)—Same bus service as Allen Park Inn.
- *REGAL 8-ASTRODOME-Same bus service as Chief Motel.
- *ROADRUNNER MOTOR INN-Same bus service as Chief Motel.

SAVOY HOTEL-Go to Holiday Inn-Downtown for bus service.

*SHAMROCK HILTON—Take Bus #41 to Rice Stadium Parking Lot. Take Bus #4 to the Summit. At night Bus #41 goes fr m the Shamrock Hilton to the Summit or Dome.

SHERATON-HOUSTON-Go to Hyatt Regency for bus service.

ST UFFER'S-Same bus service as Albert Pick Motor Inn.

SUN VALLEY MOTEL—Go to Roadrunner Motor Inn for bus service.

SURREY HOUSE HOTEL-Go to Roadrunner Motor Inn for bus service.

TIDELANDS MOTOR INN-Go to Holiday Inn-Medical Center for bus service.

TIDES II—Go to Holiday Inn-Medical Center for bus service.

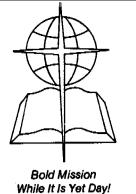
TRAVELODGE—Same bus service as Albert Pick Motor Inn.

- *VILLA INN (formerly Vagabond Inn)—Same bus service as Chief Motel.
- *WARWICK HOTEL—Sam bus service as Holiday Inn-Central.
- *WHITE HOUSE MOTOR HOTEL—Same bus service as Chief Motel.

WHITEHALL HOTEL-Go to Holiday Inn-Downtown for bus rvic .

An asterisk (*) indicates a daytime bus stop.





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Aonday Morning Pastors

HOUSTON, June 11--Phoenix Pastor Richard A. Jackson used his spot on the Monday norming session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here to praise one Baptist college while criticizing others.

Jackson, paster of North Phoenix Baptist Church, lauded Grand Canyon College President Bill Williams for not allowing the school's undefeated baseball team to compete in the NAIA World Series because the team calebrated victory in the area tournament with champagne. The players failed in an attempt to get a state court to force the school to let them participate in the tournament.

The controversy at the college, owned and operated by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, arose after a picture appeared in local Phoenix newspapers of the players celebrating their last victory by pouring champagne over their heads. Rules in the Grand Canyon student handbook prohibit the possession or use of alcoholic beverages by students.

Jackson said other Baptist schools should "stand for what is moral and right' and follow the example set by Grand Canyon College.

Jackson was one of four preachers who addressed the Monday morning session of the pastor's conference. Each had advice on how their fellow pastors might improve their effectiveness in the ministry.

Jackson told the pastors that God appoints a man to a particular task not because that man is perfect but because he is perfect for the task. He warned that any man God appoints will be confronted by opposition, but if God has appointed him then he need not defend himself as long as he follows God's leading.

Echoing Jackson's statements, Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, said a pastor must have a call that is certain and stand on that call as a strong "pastor-shepherd." He said one of the reasons for the decline of baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention is the lack of strong pastoral leadership.

"The sheep don't roam around for the shepherd to follow," he said. "The shepherd leads the sheep and it's time for our pastors to lead their people... He must get out among the sheep and love them and care for them."

Ralph Stone, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., encouraged pastors to have a positive attitude "toward their God, their people and their place of service."

"Often times, we allow a negative attitude to develop in our mind toward one of the staff members or toward the church where we are serving...We become discouraged and depressed and as a result, the work of Christ suffers.

"A negative attitude is of the devil," he continued. "A positive attitude is of the Lord... Every problem you face can be an opportunity for God to show His greatness."

James A. Ponder of Jacksonville, director of evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention, contended many pastors have lost the cutting edge of their ministry. The cutting edge can be restored only by going back to the scene of failure and confessing it, he said.

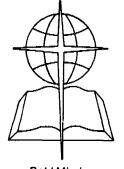
"Once you apply the Cross to the point of defeat in your life, God will restore you."

Sec. 5

3

- 30 -

By Charlie Warren--2:05 p.m. Monday



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WMU Vocational Dinner

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 10-A woman professor in social work education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., called on the Southern Baptist Convention here Sunday night to take steps to make young women aware of the difficulties facing them if they answer God's call to enter denominational work.

Anne Davis told 300 participants at a dinner for women in church-related vocations that too many girls come to Beptist seminaries thinking an education will guarantee them a place in denominational or church life.

"Our denomination in its literature and through other processes must begin earlier to acquaint young woman called of God to what may be in store for them if they answer that call," Davis said.

She said the reality of the difficulty of a woman getting the position she thinks she has been called for--and then trained to fill--often does not strike until late in the seminary process.

"I have a lot of young women in my classes wondering what they are going to do," she said. "The idea that they will be guaranteed placement upon completion of their seminary work just does not work."

Davis said she thinks it is "more difficult--much more difficult" for a woman to pursue a Southern Baptist career today than it was 20 years ago. "It was easier for me when I started, because people weren't looking for me."

The professor characterized today as a difficult time for women in Southern Baptist life.

"But in our denomination to make progress you just about always have to suffer temporary setbacks before you can make any long-range gains."

Davis said one of the major steps confronting women in seeking a religious calling is competence.

"In our society, an incompetent man can be hired to fill a position. A woman has to be competent to get the job."

The dinner meeting was held as part of the annual meeting of the Women's Missionary Union. It grew out of an inter-agency consultation on women in church-related vocations last September in Nashville.

Laura Fry, evangelism consultant with women for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, said women need to become more conscious of the role they can assume in Southern Baptist life.

Too often, women are ruled out of jobs just because they have always been occupied by a man, she contended.

"Just the suggestion that it could be filled by a woman often opens doors.

"In my pilgrimage thus far with God's leading, I have learned that he is constantly preparing up for the next step he wants us to take. We may not understand now why we are experiencing what we are, but we must trust that he is growing us for that next step.

"As a woman in a church-related vocation, I have learned both patience and persistence."

Fry said women must be patient.

"At the came time, we must be sensitive to the appropriate moment for Spirit-led persistence and aggressiveness with human beings that he brings into our lives."



Page 2--WMU Vocational Dinner

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, called the dinner a continuation of the WMU role of helping women find their places in church and denominational life.

"Today we can no longer say, 'here am I, Lord, send my brother '," she said.

Weatherford said she was certainly "open" to exploring the possibility of making similar dinners an annual event at the conventions.

"We hear from women all over the country expressing their desires for help in seeking to follow God's will in their lives."

-30-

By Bracey Campbell--10 p.m., Sunday

GIORIETA, N.M. —A chlorine gas leak at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center a res the paragraphic sent 32 persons to local hospital

A chl rine gas cylinder popped a safety valve at Glorieta Baptist Conference Cheter sending 32 persons to a local hospital for emergency treatment

by Gloriet

GLORIETA, N.M.**A near disaster was averted after a chlorine gas leak at Glorieta action

Baptist Conference Center dure to the quick/of the center's first department and personnel.

the
A near disaster was averted by Glorieta Baptist Conference Center fire department
which was for
following a chlorine gas leak from a cylinder/usem in the water purification
system.

GLORIETA, N.M.—A near disaster was averted by the Glorieta Baptist Conferenc Center fire department following a chlorine gas leak from a cylinder which was for us in the water purification system.

Confer nce center manager Lairy Haslam discovered the leak, when he saw smoke coming out of the mankers trunk of a car in front of New Mexico Hall, the administration changed to building, in the center of the grounds. As he neared the car, the smoke manager green when the safety valve on one of the man chlorine cylinders popped, presumabley from the heat related to the fire in the trunk of the fire.

received emergency treatment
A total of 32 persons were hexpitalization. Resznancezentziones but only

firmitation eight required overnight hospitalization. Resznancezentzionezettikus All

of the zifexzx persons zifeziadingrin affected by the gas were conference center

employees except two, Neil Jackson and his son, John. Jackson is an consultant in

the Sunday School department of the Sounday School Board.



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June 11, 1979

79-95

Baptists Must Reach Ethnics To Increase Baptism Rates

By Roy Jennings

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Southern Baptists need to focus on ethnics if they want to improve their baptismal rate in the 1980s, a research specialist advised.

Addressing the newly organized Southern Baptist Research Fellowship on the subject of the church growth movement, Larry McSwain, associate professor of church and community at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said the simple fact is that ethnic women are having more babies than white women.

McSwain blamed a declining birth rate instead of poor church growth principles for the drop in bartisms among Southern Baptists.

"We can expect a continuing drop in the total number of baptisms of children and youth well into the 1930s because of lower birthrates," he said. Southern Baptist baptisms fell almost 10,000 to 330,050 in 1978, the third consecutive year of decline.

Only a dramatic increase in the proportion of adult baptisms prevented a much more radical decline in total baptisms among Southern Baptists in the early 1970s, McSwain explained.

"If the same proportion of adult to youth baptisms (one to two) had been maintained through the decade, and normal baptisms of the young occurred, these would have been 40,000 fewer total baptisms than was the case. We are doing better at evangelism than our internal critics charge."

Other denominations felt the drop in conversions ahead of Southern Baptists because "infants impact membership much earlier for them," McSwain explained.

Besides the focus on ethnics, McSwain said church growth strategy for Southern Baptists may include more aggressive evangelism of children and youth, an emphasis on young adults, and enticement of over 30-year-olds back to the church as part of family acculturation.

However, the emphasis on young adults and over 30-year-olds has pitfalls, McSwain said.

"Religious defection among young adults appears to be one of the most pronounced trends of the past 25 years and the likelihood of return (to church) after age 30 is somewhat less than in former years."

If significant defection is occurring among the young which is becoming permanent in middle adulthood, radical changes in church life may be required to evangelize these groups to attract them back to the church, McSwain deducted.

Growing churches will need to alter their style of femily emphasis if the over 30 group is to return to the church in large numbers, McSwain indicated.

"The decade of the seventies has been one of assault upon the fabric of American families," McSwain said. He pointed to an increase of almost 300 percent in illegitimate live births during the last 25 years, a 48 percent increase in children living with one parent during the last seven years, 60 percent increase in divorced persons in six years, and 63 percent increase in the number of single persons in the same period.

Southern Baptists need more research in at least six other areas before they adopt church growth principles, the researcher said.

McSwain contended Southern Baptists need (1) data verifying church growth principles, (2) broader criteria for measuring church growth, (3) in depth case studies of growing churches, (4) intensive research on the relationship between age cohort and family life cycle and church growth, (5) studies on the church within a total community, and (6) research on the relationship between community change and church growth and decline.

Home Mission Board Appoints Missionaries to Greeks

ATLANTA (BP)--The first missionaries to the half million Greeks in the United States were appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the June executive committee meeting the board's directors.

Ignatius and Parthena Meimaris of Roslindale, Mass., were named to missionary associate status and assigned as catalytic language missionaries ministering primarily among the estimated 40,000 Greeks in the Boston area.

Two others were named missionaries and 15 pastors were approved to receive financial aid by the directors meeting in Atlanta.

Named missionaries were Robert and Ann Campbell of Rockwood, Tenn. They will serve in the New England Baptist Association where he will be evangelism director from the Northborough, Mass., offices.

According to Jim Lewis, language missions staffer at the Home Mission Board, Meimaris is "to the best of our knowledge the first person appointed to serve among Greeks--- at least in the last 100 years."

Meimaris and his wife are both natives of Katerini, Greece, and still maintain Greek citizenship, although they've been in the states nearly 10 years. Meimaris came to the United States to attend Malone College in Camden, Ohio, where he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics in 1974. He also graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts with a master of religious education degree.

In Greece, Meimaris and his family had belonged to a Protestant church; his grand-father was a lay preacher. Yet, most Greeks have a Greek Orthodox religious background, making a Greek-language Baptist church difficult to establish.

The Meimaris, however will not give up. Through his understanding of the religious backgrounds of his native people and through his commitment to Southern Baptists, Meimaris already has begun several Bible studies, small but growing.

Mrs. Meimaris graduated in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in French and Spanish from Emmanuel College in Boston.

The Campbells are both Tennessee natives. Prior to appointment, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rockwood. He also served churches in Gleason, Tenn., Mounton, Ala., and Paducah, Ky. He is a graduate of Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn., and holds a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

-30-

Fellowship Bible Classes Aid Adult Outreach

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press 6/11/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Howard Halsell believes fellowship Bible classes offer one answer for reaching adults for Bible study who would not respond positively to an invitation to a Southern Baptist church.

Halsell, a growth consultant in the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, said apartments and mobile homes are two prime locations for church-sponsored weektime Bible study groups.

While many complexes and mobile home parks have rules about what kinds of activities may be held, Halsell said in an interview most managers are receptive to fellowship Bible classes being started by residents. "You can get in anywhere if you really want to get people involved," he said.

According to statistics in the 1978 Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter, 209,475 people were involved in 13,894 fellowship Bible classes sponsored by 7,982 Southern Baptist churches. Halsell estimates that at least 75 percent of the participants would not have been reached for Bible study any other way.

While many Baptist churches are actively involved in starting fellowship Bible classes, Halsell admits that others question why they should be reaching people outside the church when there is still room in the building.

Halsell predicts that fellowship Bible classes will increasingly be used as a tool for involving persons in Bible study. "It gets more exciting and more complicated to get the people," he said.

-30-

Top Ten Home Missions Givers Named in Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--South Main Baptist Church of Houston and Sunny Hills Baptist Church of Fullerton, Calif., led the Southern Baptist Convention in gifts to the 1978 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

The top 10 churches in both total and per capita gifts to the offering were announced by William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, during ceremonies at Woman's Missionary Union's annual meeting preceding the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main, received a plaque from Tanner for the church's offering of \$22,951.

G. William Grady, pastor of Sunny Hills, also got a plaque for the church's offering of \$1,624.36 which averaged \$36.09 for each of the 45 resident members.

The mission board compiled the lists of top 10 churches from 1978 SBC Uniform Church Letters on file with the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Nine other churches leading in total gifts received letters of commendation and a book. They were First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, \$19,322; First Baptist Church of Columbus, Miss., \$17,054; First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., \$15,641; First Baptist Church of Houston, \$15,440; First Baptist Church of San Antonio, \$15,104; Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, \$14,902; First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., \$13,962; First Baptist Church of Columbus, Ga., \$13,922; and Wieuca Road Baptist Church of Atlanta, \$13,308.

Leading churches in per capita gifts per resident member also honored were Palmerville Baptist Church of New London, N.C., \$35.55 for each of 29 members; Rifle Southern Baptist Chapel of Rifle, Colo., \$29.46 for each of 28 members; New Zion Baptist Church of Ona, Fla, \$27.89 for each of 85 resident members; Keysville Baptist Church of Keysville, Ga., \$25 for each of seven members; New Concord Baptist Church of Rose Hill, Miss., \$25 for each of six members; Estes Park Baptist Church of Estes Park, Colo., \$23.44 for each of 39 members; Midway Baptist Church of Lamesa, Tex., \$21.03 for each of 68 members; Hart Camp Baptist Church of Littlefield, Tex., \$20.91 for each of the 23 members; and Hill Creek Baptist Church of Richlands, Va., \$20.62 for each of 26 resident members.

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Criswell Endorses Adrian Rogers For SBC Presidency

By Charlie Warren

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)—The opening session of the two-day conference of Southern Baptist pastors was used as a platform here Sunday, June 10, to endorse Adrian Rogers as the Southern Baptist Convention presidential candidate of those advocating biblical inerrancy as an issue.

W.A. Criswell, pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church, Dallas, and former SBC president, made the unqualified endorsement during the opening remarks of his address to the 8,000 preachers.

"We will have a great time here if for no other reason than to elect Adrian Rogers as president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Criswell said, after Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., had addressed the conference.

Criswell's church operates Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, a hotbed of concern about "liberalism" in the 13.2 million member denomination.

In an interview following the address Criswell said he expects Rogers to be Reginated and elected, ev n though he explained there is an "unwritten law" that forbids a former SBC president to nominate a candidate for that ffice.

Criswell also indicated that if Rogers is nominated and agrees to run, two other candidates, Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.: and Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church. Mobile, Ala., will withdraw their names. Rogers and the other two pastors are the three candidates reportedly committed to doctrinal reform within the denomination, primarily over the issue of biblical inerrancy.

Rogers, pastor of the largest Southern Baptist church east of the Mississippi River with more than 10,000 members, said God hadn't spoken to his heart' about offering himself as a candidate but that he should know by Tuesday, June 12, date of the election to choose a successor to President Jimmy Allen of San Antonio.

It was Rogers who fired the opening volley at liberalism in an address kicking off the pastors' conference at the Houson Coliseum. He expressed concern about the liberalism that he claims is taking over Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries. He also attacked Baptist publications for their support of the seminaries and denominational agencies, and stated that every Baptist church with an excellent track record in annual baptisms is a conservative Bible-believing church with pastors who "believe in the inerrant, infallible word of God.

It is not the only ingredient," he said, "but it is the basic ingredient.

I've been reading our Baptist publications. Rogers continued. "They're saying to forget orthodoxy and get on with evangelism and missions. That's ridiculous. What you believe determines what you do. Your zeal is never any greater than your conviction and your conviction comes out of the word of God.

'If those liberals will ever come to the Cross of Christ, all heaven will break loose. he said.

Another speaker at the opening session of the conference of pastors devoted most of his address to an attack on liberalism in the denomination.

James Robison evangelist of Hurst, Texas, said if Southern Baptists tolerate the liberalism of the convention "we will be guilty of the death" of the convention.

Even SBC President Allen didn't escape Robison's criticism.

Robison making an indirect reference to Allen, said he disagreed with his recent statement that "There are those who would like to change the agenda of the convention from missions to orthodoxy, and that "such a shift of emphasis would be tragic because it would make us miss God's initiatives at a time when we are in a unique position to become a flash point in spiritual awakening."

"I don't question the authority of the Bible, Allen said in an earlier interview. My only apprehension is creating an atmosphere at the convention resulting in the erosion of trust in denominational leadership and in shifting the denomination's priorities from evangelism and missions to biblical inerrancy."

In rebuttal, Robison, said that without the Bible you have no message. Without the Bible you have no evangelism. Without the Bible you have no mission . . . and it does matter which Bible you believe."

Most of Robison's attack however was aimed at professors of Baptist colleges and seminaries. He said Satan works most effectively when he influences the minds of those who teach others . . . sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism.

Row many are coming out of our seminaries with a zeal for souls?" Robison asked. There are some, but it's in spite of and not because of our institutions.

Robison also defended Harold Lindsell, editor emeritus of Christianity Today and president of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship who asked liberals to leave the SBC. He said editors of Baptist publications should not have attacked him in their editorials and "it's a shame that a seminary president called him and his book 'poppycock.'

We must elect a president not only dedicated to the inerrancy of the word of

God, but who will stand to remove any seminary professor who doesn't believe in the inerrant word of God," Robinson said.

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SBC Must Inform Women of Difficulties Baptist Press 6/11/79

By Bracey Campbell

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- A woman professor in social work education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., called on the Southern Baptist Convention here to take steps to make young women aware of the difficulties facing them if they answer God's call to enter denominational work.

Anne Davis told 300 participants at a dinner for women in church-related vocations that too many girls come to Baptist seminaries thinking an education will guarantee them a place in denominational or church life.

"Our denomination in its literature and through other processes must begin earlier to acquaint young women called of God to what may be in store for them if they answer that call," Davis said.

She said the reality of the difficulty of a woman getting the position she thinks she has been called for—and then trained to fill—often does not strike until late in the seminary process.

"I have a lot of young women in my classes wondering what they are going to do," she said. "The idea that they will be guaranteed placement upon completion of their seminary work just doss not work."

Pavis said she thinks it is "more difficult—much more difficult" for a woman to pursue a Southern Baptist career today than it was 20 years ago. "It was easier for me when I started, because people weren't looking for me."

The professor characterized today as a difficult time for women in Southern Baptist life.

"But in our denomination to make progress you just about always have to suffer temporary setbacks before you can make any long-range gains."

Davis said one of the major steps confronting women in seeking a religious calling is competence. "In our society, an incompetent man can be hired to fill a position. A woman has to be competent to get the job."

The dinner meeting was held as part of the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union. It grow out of an inter-agency Consultation on Woman in Church-related Vocations last September in Bushville.

Laura Fry, evangelism consultant with women for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, said women need to become more conscious of the role they can assume in Southern Baptist life. Too often, women are ruled out of jobs just because they have always been occupied by a men, she contended.

"Just the suggestion that it could be filled by a woman often opens doors. In my pilgrimage thus far with God's leading, I have learned that he is constantly preparing us for the next step he wants us to take. We may not understand now why we are experiencing what we are, but we must trust that he is growing us for that next step. As a woman in a church-related vocation, I have learned both patience and persistence."

Women must be patient, she said. "At the same time, we must be sensitive to the appropriate moment for Spirit-led persistence and aggressiveness with human beings that he brings into our lives."

Carolyn Weatherford, exacutive director of WMU, called the dinner a continuation of the WMU role of helping women find their places in church and denominational life. "Today we can no longer say, 'here am I, Lord, send my brother'," she said.

Miss Weatherford said she was certainly "open" to exploring the possibility of making similar dinners an annual event at the conventions. "We hear from women all over the country expressing their desires for help in seeking to follow God's will in their lives."

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SBC Missionaries Leave Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP) -- In the midst of stepped-up civil conflict, all Southern Baptist missionary personnel to Nicaragua have temporarily left the country.

Stephens and Paula Baumgardner, missionary journeymen stationed in Managua, were the last Southern Baptist missionaries to leave the country. They flew to the United States on Sunday, June 10. The other missionary couple, Stanley and Glenna Stamps, also stationed in Managua, left Nicaragua about two weeks earlier, taking local leave in Honduras. Both couples made their own decisions to evacuate.

Sporadic fighting and political tensions have existed for over a year between the national algovernment of President Anastasio Somoza Jr. and guerrillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The Baumgardners, entering their last year of a two-year term in the Southern Baptist missionary journeyman program, were to have been with the Stamps on local leave status. But because of an anticipated visit by relatives and the country's "on again, off again" tensions, the journeymen opted to stay in Managua, a Foreign Mission Board spokesman said.

Conflict increased, however, and following declaration of martial law, the Baumgardners, both Florida natives, consulted Foreign Mission Board personnel and made tentative plans to evacuate as soon as possible. Originally they chose to go to Honduras or Guatemala, but because of severe business shutdowns and other obstacles those plans were dismissed and the couple booked a flight to Miami, Fla., and on to their home in Orlando. Sunday was their first opportunity to leave.

The Stamps, natives of Mississippi and Texas, respectively were in Honduras when martial law was declared and could not reenter the country. They are staying in Tegucigalpa.

As fighting continued in Nicaragua, neighboring El Salvador remained under general unrest. Southern Baptist missionaries there have reported that "things are rough, but calm," the spokesman said.

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Lindsell Scores 'Liberals,' McCall Denounces 'Games'

Baptist Press 6/11/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Arch conservative Harold Lindsell defended his view of the Interancy of the Bible in a news conference here and outlined what he claimed were evidences of "liberalism" in Southern Baptist seminaries.

When Lindsell finished his news conference, Dake McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, staged an ad-hoc meeting with media, charging Lindsell was "playing games with words."

Lindsell, president of the independent Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship and former editor of Christianity Today, drew generously from his new book, "The Bible in the Balance," to support his charges that there are liberals within the Southern Baptist Convention who do not believe the Bible is verbally inspired.

Lindsell cited specific names and articles from his book in attempting to prove his point. He cited a news report which quoted him as saying Southern Baptists must face the issue of biblical inerrancy or suffer the consequences, even if it means the loss of 500,000 members.

"That should be put in context," he said. "That represents only about four percent (of the total membership). But I think if we are likely to follow the pattern of other denominations, it would be better to lose the 500,000.

"But I hope we don't lose anybody. It would be better if some of these people whose views are not comparable to those generally held by Southern Baptists would have some kind of conversion experience," he added.

Lindsell, who lives in a suburb of Chicago, Ill., said Southern Baptists actually are creedal people.

"This business of not being creedal is, no matter how thin you slice it, baloney. We are creedal. In Texas (Baptists) threw out a couple of churches because they were speaking in tongues. If that is not creeping creedalism, I don't know what is."

At one point he said if he were president of a Southern Baptist seminary he would "welcome an investigation...indeed demand that the denomination set up some sort of committee to take a harder look to determine if there is truth in what I have said."

When asked what his organization is trying to correct among Southern Baptists, Lindsell said seminaries "have not heard" the concerns about liberalism from the people in the pew, and suggested that the way to get recourse is through electing officers who will do something about the situation he described in the seminaries.

In his response to Lindsell, McCall said there are some in the convention who would embark on a witch hunt, if possible.

During his rebuttal, McCall said he was not aware that Lindsell had ever been on the campus of Southern Seminary, although Lindsell told reporters he had visited the seminary library at Louisville.

"If he was there, I never saw him," McCall said.

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Wrapup Stepchild Associations Are Coming of Age Baptist Press 6/11/79

By Robert Stanley

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--That Southern Baptist stepchild, the local association of churches, at last is beginning to feel like a real member of the family, directors of missions indicated at a two-day conference here.

With the growth of metroplexes and the spread of Baptist work into all 50 states, it's the 1,197 associations that offer the key to continued growth of the Southern Baptist Convention, directors of missions learned at their annual meeting.

These associations, through which local churches cooperate voluntarily for fellowship and joint projects, have been part of Baptist life in this country since the first one was founded in 1707--more than a hundred years before the Southern Baptist Convention itself was formed.

Earlier, seminary President William M. Pinson Jr. challenged Southern Baptist directors of missions to recommit themselves to their basic task of starting hundreds of new churches across the country and not be diverted from their ministry "by a lot of rhetoric."

In an obvious reference to evangelist James Robison's speech to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Pinson said it "troubles me in my gut when I see we could be diverted from our mission in ministry" by such rhetoric.

Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., said this year may mark the most serious crisis in Southern Baptist life since the financial crisis of the Depression.

"Our vital signs are weak," he said. "Our leadership is in transition. Our institutions are under attack from within." But this instance is unlike the financial crisis in that "this time we seem to be our own worst enemy," Pinson said.

In a speech to the pastors, Sunday, Robison, a Hurst, Texas evangelist, aimed much of his attack at professors of Baptist colleges and seminaries who he claims are sowing seeds of doubt and skepticism."

Pinson did not mention Robison by name, but the seminary president noted that in times of crisis there is a tendency toward "scapegoatism."

On the subject of resurgence of associations, James Nelson, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's new director of associational missions, said: "The unprecedented opportunities of the major metropolitan areas can stagger our minds if we look at them in isolation," Nelson said. "However, the association can overcome that."

He believes the 35,000 Southern Baptist churches have no choice but to band together more effectively in their local associations if they're going to meet the challenge of the next two decades.

"Who can develop a strategy for Seattle, Los Angeles, Chicago or Houston but the people who live there and who have heard God's call to be on mission in these places?" he asked.

And Nelson thinks this is beginning to happen. "Baptist leaders across the nation are joining the movement for stronger associations," he said.

Nelson sees strong opportunities for growth not only in the newer Southern Baptist areas like the Northwest and New England, but also in the sunbelt--the string of states that stretches necklace-like from Virginia and North Carolina westward to California.

This sunbelt, which includes some of Southern Baptists' strongest areas of work, recently was described as the most rapidly growing population segment of the nation, Nelson pointed out. "Missions and evangelism there will not require millions of dollars," he said, "but equipped, motivated and functioning associational and church missions committees involving people in Christ."

An example of this active associational outreach was detailed by Ed Onley, director of church-community ministries of Capital Baptist Association, Oklahoma City.

This association's 124 churches have more than 2,400 volunteers actively involved in 27 different activities ranging from free medical and dental clinics to a center for battered women and prostitutes.

Onley's latest project is a permanent Trucker's Chapel that the association hopes to open September 1 at the busy Trucker No. 2 truckstop on Interstate 40 northeast of Oklahoma City. The 6-by-12-foot chapel will be staffed 24 hours a day with volunteers who counsel or just talk with truckdrivers.

Originator of the idea was an independent Oklahoma trucker, Fred Wright, who came to Onley in January saying, "Ed, we've got a problem. Gals in vans are tempting good, moral family men as they cruise the highways. We've got to offer the truckers another place to go."

"With diesel oil prices going up, it's costing a bundle to operate the mobile chapel," Onley said. "But we can put up one of these permanent chapels for \$997, and Christian truckstop owners will furnish the site and the utilities."

If the first one is successful, he believes hundreds of similar chapels could easily be set up and staffed by Baptist volunteers through associations across the country.

In their closing business session, the directors of missions elected R. Edward Gilstrap, executive director of missions for the Atlanta Baptist Association, as president. They named Larry Rose, director of missions in Waco, Texas, as president-elect.

Other officers are George Arthur, Dexter, Mo., re-elected secretary; Robert A. Wells, Reno, Nev., treasurer; and Harold Blackburn, Silverhill, Ala., re-elected editor. Preston Denton of St. Louis will be host director when the group meets in that city next year.

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Concern Expressed Over Groups 'Dividing' SBC

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press 6/11/79

HOUSTON (BP) -- The Southern Baptist Executive Committee closed the first of two scheduled meetings here Monday, June 11, with expressions of concern over "groups dedicated to dividing" the Southern Baptist Convention.

Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., kicked off the unscheduled discussion at the close of the committee's session at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the eve of a three-day meeting of the SBC.

"My heart bleeds at the thought we'd come to this convention and take any action designed to splinter a group I believe God is using to reach out to a lost world," said McCall, in asking the group to pray for God's leadership.

McCall and presidents of five other Southern Baptist seminaries held a news conference in Dallas in May in an effort to put to rest charges of 'liberal' teachings levied by a group which says it is contending for biblical inerrancy (without error).

Earlier in Nay, Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas, and Houston Appeals Court Judge Paul Pressler sounded an alarm over what they called "liberal" teaching in the seminaries. They said the issue prompted meetings in at least 15 states to encourage messengers to elect an SBC president committed to biblical inerrancy.

Executive Committee Chairman Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., accented McCall's concern at the Monday meeting.

"I believe God will work through this," he said, "but I also believe Satan is putting forward one of his efforts to blunt the Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptist's effort to present the gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000).

"The Bible warns us about inadvertently becoming tools of Satan," Wester added.

Outgoing convention President Jimmy Allen of San Antonio led the group in a prayer for unity of spirit.

He prefaced the prayer by saying he doesn't recall a time in Southern Baptist life more conducive to a spiritual awakening. But he added that he believes "fragmenting the fellowship now is the greatest threat."

In scheduled actions, the Executive Committee honored Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, and their executive secretary-treasurer, Porter W. Routh.

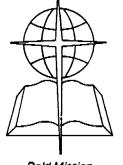
In a resolution of appreciation for Routh, who retires July 31 after nearly 28 years as executive secretary-treasurer, the committee noted that the number of Southern Baptist churches have increased during his tenure from 28,000 to more than 35,000, and total membership has grown from 7.3 million to more than 13.2 million.

Total mission gifts grew from \$37 million to more than \$318 million, and the Cooperative Program gifts for worldwide missions jumped from \$21 million to \$150 million.

In another resolution, the committee cited Cauthen for 26 years as executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board and for 54 years as pastor, seminary professor, missionary and denominational leader. Cauthen will retire Dec. 31.

Since Cauthen came to his present position 26 years ago, the number of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries has increased from 900 to 3,000.





Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

SBC News Room
The Summit, Houston
(713) 850-9127
Wilmer C. Fields
SBC Press Representative
Robert O'Brien
News Room Manager
Norman Jameson
Photography/Features Manager

WMU Roundup

HOUSTON, June 11--Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen called on Woman's Missionary Union members Monday night to unite in prayer that threatened divisions would not splinter the nation's largest evangelical group.

Pulling the curtain on the 91st meeting of the WMU, Allen spoke directly of the possible problems that will confront the convention over the issue of biblical inerrancy.

"Satan is seeking to negate and stop the opportunity that God has given to us to share the gospel with the world by the year 2000?" said Allen, who is stepping down after two years as the top elected official in the SBC.

"If you have ever prayed for anyone or anything, I call on you now to pray that we as Southern Baptists can retain the privilege God has given us."

The San Antonio, Texas, pastor said the temptations for Baptists are division, anger and to become embroiled in the emotions of the hour.

"But the challenge for all of us is not to abandon the moment that God has given us. We cannot ignore the outstretched hands that can be seen around the world."

Allen's message ended two days of sessions for about 2,300 participants from across the convention with an emphasis on missions and the increasing role of women in Southern Baptist life.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Birmingham-based WMU, said the organization is and always has been a missions strategy.

"Some folks want us to be the women's lib movement in Southern Baptist churches. Others think we already are. Some want us to be the PTA of the church, doing all the nice helpful things that somebody ought to do around the church.

"I believe it is essential that we commit ourselves to being a missions education organization, not only through the materials, but in every meeting that is held across the convention."

Weatherford said that it was always easier for women to gather and discuss fashions or a dozen other feminine subjects.

"In our noblest highest hour, we teach missions, thus helping the church to carry out its missions task."

Anne Davis, a professor in social work education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., called on the SBC, to take steps to make young women aware of the difficulties facing them if they answer God's call to enter denominational work.

She said that too many young women arrive at Baptist seminaries thinking a degree will guarantee them a place in denominational life.

"Our denomination in its literature and through other processes must begin earlier to acquaint young women called of God to what may be in store for them if they answer that call."

Davis said it is more difficult for a women to pursue a denominational career today than 20 years ago.

Laura Fry, women's evangelism consultant for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, said some women need to become more conscious of the role they can assume in Southern Baptist life. Too often, women are ruled out of jobs just because they have always been occupied by a man, she contended.

WMJ Roundup--page 2

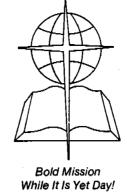
"Just the suggestion that it could be filled by a woman often opens doors," she said.

The gathering of WMU members was replete with biblical dramatizations, interviews with pastors and missionaries and brief messages describing the life-changing results that had come through association with the woman's organization.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., and Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky., were elected to their fifth one-year terms as WMU president and recording secretary, respectively.

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By Bracey Campbell--10:50 pm, Monday



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Photography/Features Manager

Campus Ministers Roundup

HOUSTON, June 11—Southern Baptist campus ministers are going to be pressed to account for their programs, methods and philosophies of student ministry, the newly-elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers said in the closing session of their two-day annual meeting here.

Ron Brown, campus minister at Roanoke, Va., said the challenge to accountability has come because many active BSU students are not continuing their involvement in churches after graduation.

In their third annual meeting, almost 100 members of the association explored the future implications to campus ministry of a wide-ranging list of theological issues.

President Brown said campus ministers should answer the challenge to accountability by being change agents. "We are expected to be creative and innovative in our ministry," said Brown, noting that BSU has been the testing ground for relational Bible study and discussions of issues such as integration and homosexuality.

"The other edge of the sword comes when some think we're too far ahead," he said.

Frown said campus ministers should lead out in opposing highly simplified answers to complex problems such as nuclear disarmament and care of the earth.

"Rather than seeking easy answers, part of our prophetic role is to give time to offering complex answers to complex problems," he said.

Brown also urged the ministers to be sure their methods are consistent with their theology and to continually evaluate their programs for balance. "To emphasize one aspect of the gospel to the neglect of the other is to promote a sub-Christian gospel," he said.

Wendell Belew, director of the missions ministries division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said Southern Baptists' major frontier is the theology of the church.

"The awful truth is that Southern Baptists are sick at church," he said.

Belew predicted that if Baptists don't deal with defining the church that by the end of the century the great mission fields may be in the south and the great sending fields may be the newer convention territories.

In spite of these problems, Belew called Southern Baptists "the greatest evangelical crowd in the world, but only because God has given us the torch for a while."

In three presentations, John Newport, vice president of academic affairs at South-western Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., addressed a variety of theological issues including morality, biblical inerrance and the arts and media.

In addition to Brown, other officers elected were vice president of administration, Russ Arch, University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo; vice president of membership, Sam Caruthers, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn.; and vice president of program, Burt Purvis, University of Houston.

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By Linda Lawson--11:15 pm, Monday



SCAR 375



Bold Mission While It Is Yet Dav!

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SBC News Room

Ruth Routh Feature

HOUSTON, June 11--To Southern Baptists she's known as Mrs. Porter Routh--sort of a stereotyped title in a day of woman's liberation. But Mrs. Porter Routh doesn't see it that way and she'll tell you that--point-blank.

"I'm kind of different...I'm not the stereotype," says Ruth Routh, wife of the retiring executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

To some she might be an easy stereotype--executive's wife who's always stood behind her husband; a woman who gave up a career to be at home; grey hair, pink cheeks, round face, grandmotherly.

She is that, but Ruth Routh is also a woman who's comfortable putting her feet up during an interview; who's not afraid to say what she thinks or admit she doesn't have an answer; who knows who she is and is at ease with herself.

As the 122nd annual convention prepared to get under way here--her husband's 28th and last convention as an SBC executive--she talked about her first convention when Routh became an executive.

"I felt terrible. I felt it should be more like a church--quieter. It disturbed me a lot. I didn't realize there was fellowship as well as worship."

She doesn't remember how many conventions she's attended--she was needed at home. "I had a chance at a career, but someone had to stay at home. And we couldn't afford to take the children. You just don't go and leave children."

Because of her husband's travel commitments, Mrs. Routh shouldered some of the father role to their five children--one who is handicapped.

"It was tough," she says. "My situation was difficult...but life's that way..."

Yet, she's no fatalist: "God's been good--he's poured out more blessings than we could ask for."

Her quietness as an executive's wife doesn't mean she's without opinion.

"I don't think Porter's made an important decision without talking to me...I tell him what I think: good, bad or indifferent, but I don't make his decisions. I'm his sounding board."

She says she's taken "the silent part because that's best for me. I know what's going on, but I'm not a good speaker."

Also because of the need to give special attention to their handicapped daughter, she's stayed at home, out of the spotlight. She believes that others, however, should speak up and she's encouraged her daughters to do so. "I would have, had not my situation been so."

And she has definite opinions about a variety of issues.

--On women's involvement in the SBC: "I think we ought to use women more in the convention and have more women and laymen on the boards."

--On the ERA: "I'm very much for equal rights for all, but I don't know enough about the amendment to make a judgment."

-- On biblical inerrancy: "I believe the whale swallowed Jonah."



SCIAR 375

Page 2--Ruth Routh Feature

--On a teaching career she left behind: "I've had all that I want; now I want to take some courses, like Old Testament."

On most memorable experiences: "Billy Graham's service in Rio...seeing Africa... traveling...many friends."

- --On her husband: "I keep his feet on the ground."
- --On herself: "I feel that if anyone needs me, I'm going to be there."

-30-

By Jennifer L. H. Anderson--5:20 p.m. Monday

CUTLINE #3

WOMEN IN CHURCH RELATED MINISTRIES MEET--300 participants gathered at the Sheraton Hotel, Houston, to dine and discuss the life of women in ministry. Among those leading in the Sunday evening meeting were Carolyn Weatherford (standing), executive director, Woman's Missionary Union; Christine Gregory (seated left), president, Woman's Missionary Union; Anne Davis (seated center), associate professor in social work, Southern Baptist Theogolical Seminary; and Lanelle Doyle, (seated right) foreign missionary, Manaus, Brazil. Photo by Karen Rasmusson

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CUTLINE #4

OFFICERS, AGAIN--At their meeting in Houston, the 1.1 million member Woman's Missionary Union voted to re-elect Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory (left), Danville, Va., as president, and Mrs. William Ellis (center), Shelbyville, Ky., recording secretary. Both women were elected to their fifth year of service. Shown with the officers is Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union. Photo by Debbie Buie

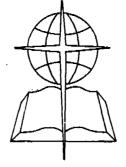
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CUTLINE #5

PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICERS--The Southern Baptist Pastors' 3 onference elected as its president James Draper (center), pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas. Elected as vice president was Larry Lewis (right), pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri. James Miller, (left), pastor of Ridglea West Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, was chosen as secretary-treasurer. Photo by Tim Fields

-30-





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Pastors' Conference Roundup

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 11—Pounding the pulpits and waving their Bibles for emphasis, a parade of preachers urged 8,000 persons attending the two-day Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here to lead out in purging Baptist seminaries and colleges of lib ralism and recommitting the Southern Baptist Convention to the belief that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant word of God.

In the opening address, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, expressed fear that liberalism was taking over Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries. He also attacked Baptist publications for their support of seminaries and denominational agencies.

Rogers argued that every Baptist church with an excellent track record in annual baptisms is "a conservative, Bible-believing church with a pastor who "believes in the inerrant (without error), infallible word of God."

Lashing out at liberalism in the SBC, Rogers claimed that "if those liberals will ever come to the cross of Christ, all heaven will break loose."

Moments after Rogers spoke, W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas, enthusiastically endorsed Rogers as a candidate for the presidency of the 13.2 million member SBC.

"We will have a great time here if for no other reason than to elect Adrian Rogers as president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Criswell told the applauding pastors in the Houston Coliseum.

Although there was no connection between the two elections, the pastors later elected James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, as their conference president. Draper once served under Criswell as associate pastor of First Baptist Church. Dallas.

A Texas Baptist evangelist, James Robison of Hurst, devoted most of his opening night address to an attack on liberalism in the denomination.

If Southern Baptists tolerate liberalism in the convention, "we will be guilty of the death" of the convention, Robison charged.

"We must elect a president (of the SBC) not only dedicated to the inerrancy of the word of God, but who will stand to remove any seminary president who doesn't believe in the inerrant word of God," Robison said.

Robison questioned how many seminary graduates have a zeal for winning people to Christ. "There are some," he noted, "but it's in spite of and not because of our institutions," he claimed.

He decried Baptist publications for editorially attacking Harold Lindsell, editor emeritus of Christianity Today and president of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship who said it would be a small price to pay if 500,000 liberals left the SBC.

Foldson_segred that "without the Bible, you have no message...no evangelism...no mission...and it does matter which Bible you believe."

Although criticism of liberalism and pleas for inerrancy of the Bible grabbed the headlines during the pastors' conference, many of the sermons emphasized the need for strong preaching and for pastors to grapple with problems in the ministry.

William Ricketts, pastor of Price Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Ga., observed that some pastors are defeated and discouraged and feel that if they could just go to some other church as pastor, everything would be all right.

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Page 2--Pastors' Conference Roundup

"A lot of time in the pulpit, we (pastors) are like sounding brass and tinkling cymbals because we don't really believe what we are preaching, and don't really practice it in our lives," Ricketts said.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., attributed a decline in baptisms within the SBC to the lack of strong pastoral leadership.

Preaching on the pastor's role as shepherd, Henry quipped, "some churches want lap dogs, some want yap dogs, and some want lead dogs. God has called us as lead shepherds and you will find, nearly without exception, that the churches that are doing business with God are marked with strong pastoral shepherds."

Another speaker, Clark G. Hutchinson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., pointed out that the churches that are winning the world to Christ are the ones that are "grounded on the word (of God) and controlled by the Spirit."

James A. Ponder of Jacksonville, director of evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention, contended that many pastors have lost the cutting edge of their ministry, and urged the pastors to restore their effectiveness by confessing their failures.

Ralph Stone, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church in Jacksonville, encouraged pastors to have a positive attitude and to face every problem "as an opportunity for God to show his greatness."

Another Florida pastor, Bobby Welch of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, urged the pastors to get excited about the person of Jesus, the program of Jesus, and the power of Jesus.

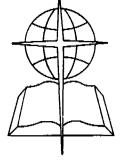
An Alabama pastor, Jimmy Jackson of Huntsville, cautioned the pastors against committing "the sin of quenching the Holy Spirit," adding that "most of us are guilty of it right now."

The pastors' conference closed with a stirring sermon on the glory of God by Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and a patriotic appeal by Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Warning that America is headed down the pathway toward socialism and humanism, Stanley charged that "we are about to lose our republic." Part of the blame, according to Stanley, is liberalism among the nation's churches.

Stanley decried trends toward communism and socialism in America, attacks on the American home, gross immorality and the flood of pornography and drugs in America a welfare system "that promotes laziness and slothfulness," and government red tape leading to the demise of the small business in America.

In addition to the election of Draper as president of the organization, the Pastors' Conference also elected Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, as vice president, and James Miller, pastor of Ridglea West Baptist Church in Fort Worth as secretary-treasurer.



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Music Wrapup

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 11--Missions, energy and hearty singing highlighted the two-day Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at Tallowood Baptist Church here.

Approximately 1000 church musicians and other music enthusiasts attended opening sessions to hear a series of mini concerts by top choirs and individual artists plus an address on bold missions by kussell Pilday Jr., president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Music ranged from classical to traditional throughout the conference, highlighted by a grand finale performance of the 1979 Texas All State Band and the Singing Men of Texas at First Baptist Church.

Dilday told the musicians that the witness of Southern Baptists needs to be person centered. "No matter how advanced we become in the media and mass communications, nothing will ever take the place of one individual sharing with another on a one to one basis. We have to relate to people not as a mass but to each one. That is the kind of Bold Mission Thrust that will reach people in our day."

A person's witness needs to be sensitive, pleasant and pungent, he said. "Leave them with a salty tang of genuine experience that is from the heart, not a professional, memorized echo that you heard comcwhere."

Gwenn McCorwick, director of the Department of Church Planning for the Baptist Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, speke to the denominational divison of musicians' conference about the energy crisis and its effect on Southern Baptist churches and denominational agencies.

"American people are beginning to reluctantly accept the fact that there is an energy crisis," McCormick said. "Even with that admission though, there is still doubt, suspicion and the urge to fire a scapegoat."

"Americans' use of energy must be recognized for what it is--irresponsible and sinful," he said. "We've got to adjust to the fact that saving energy is more important than saving time."

He also said that there is a strong possibility that Southern Baptists would soon have to examine the feasibility of holding annual conventions in light of shortages and high costs of energy.

During the business session, church music conference members voted by a 62-46 margin to increase dues by 50 percent to \$15 per year to offset inflation, higher program costs and increased postage. Opposition to the dues increase was based on a budget balance of more than \$5,000 after 1979 music conference expenses.

Thad Roberts, minister of music of Houston's South Main Baptist Church, began his two-year term as president of the music conference, succeeding James McKinney, dean of the school of church music at Southwestern Seminary.

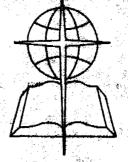
Al Washburn, associate professor of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Hill Valley, Calif., was elected president-elect of the music conference. He will assume the presidency in 1981.

Milburn Price, chairman of the music department at Furman University, wrote the anthem, "O Give Thanks to the Lord," especially for the 1979 music conference. His song is the 14th commissioned anthem written for the conference.

Some of the groups performing for the conference were the youth choir from Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; the church choir from First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla.; the Howard Payne University A Cappella Choir, Brownwood, Texas; Chapel Bells, a handbell group from First Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss.; The Alabama Singing Men; and the Singing Men from Ouachitz Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.

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CUTLINE #3

WOMEN IN CHURCH RELATED MINISTRIES MEET--300 participants gathered at the Sheraton Hotel, Houston, to dine and discuss the life of women in ministry. Among those leading in the Sunday evening meeting were Carolyn Weatherford (standing), executive director, Woman's Missionary Union; Christine Gregory (seated left), president, Woman's Missionary Union; Anne Davis (seated center), associate professor in social work, Southern Baptist Theogolical Seminary; and Lanelle Doyle, (seated right) foreign missionary, Manaus, Brazil. Photo by Karen Rasmusson

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CUTLINE #4

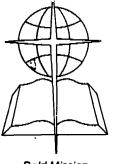
OFFICERS, AGAIN--At their meeting in Houston, the 1.1 million member Woman's Missionary Union voted to re-elect Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory (left), Danville, Va., as president, and Mrs. William Ellis (center), Shelbyville, Ky., recording secretary. Both women were elected to their fifth year of service. Shown with the officers is Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union. Photo by Debbie Buie

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CUTLINE #5

PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICERS--The Southern Baptist Pastors' 2 onference elected as its president James Draper (center), pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas. Elected as vice president was Larry Lewis (right), pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri. James Miller, (left), pastor of Ridglea West Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, was chosen as secretary-treasurer. Photo by Tim Fields

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First Resolutions Report

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 13--Messengers to the 122nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here adopted resolutions Wednesday which endorsed the SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, went on record in support of public schools, reaffirmed earlier statements on abortion, and called for increased U.S. overseas development assistance to combat world hunger.

Other resolutions passed during the business session dealt with domestic violence, television programming, energy, alcohol, the family farm, the American Bible Society, and the role of students in the denomination's missions programs.

The SALT resolution puts the convention on record in support of the arms limitation agreement reached after more than seven years of negotiations with the Soviet Union. The treaty is to be signed next week in Vienna.

In the U.S. Senate, however, debate over ratification of the treaty promises to present President Carter with one of the key foreign affairs tests of his administration.

The SBC resolution calls on the convention to communicate officially with members of the Senate "our strong support for responsible multilateral nuclear arms control and urge ratification of the current treaty as basically a step in the direction of multilateral arms control."

In addition, the resolution urges "future greater strides in multilateral nuclear arms reduction."

Before adopting the resolution, messengers beat back a number of parliamentary maneuvers by opponents to defeat it or to postpone its consideration until a future session. Attendance was sparse during the resolutions debate.

Dillard Wilbanks, minister of education at the First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., failed in a move to have all references to SALT deleted from the resolution, which would have effectively scuttled the measure. He said it would be "presumptuous" of messengers to act when his own Sen. Sam Nur., D-Ga., member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is still undecided on the pact.

Spirited debate also marked consideration of the resolution on "The Crisis in Education." But as in the debate on SALT, the resolutions committee's basic position prevailed.

Originally proposed to the convention by messenger Maurice Smith, paster of the Park Forest Baptist Church, Dallas, the resolution urges Southern Baptists to become more involved in shaping and supporting public schools." It also expressed commitment to "quality education for every child" in America.

During floor debate on the statement, minor amendments were made expressing support for private, church-related schools as well.

After agreeing to the amendment, however, several messengers discussed heatedly the merits of public schools. Larry Smith, of Deer Park, Texas, said the "greatest mistake the church ever made" in America was to "let education get in the hands of the state."

L. C. Trippett, of the 14th Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, echoed that view, referring to the federal government as "that octopus on the Potomac River" which is "trying to take over our lives." He also decried HEW Secretary Joseph Califano's call for a new department of education and the teaching of what he called "socialist" professors in university schools of education.

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On the other side, messenger Ray Spears of Marks, Miss., drew applause when he expressed the view that poor children should not be consigned to the "fate of an inferior and inadequate education."

Orion Bell of Louisville, Ky., disputed the argument of excessive government control of schools by declaring, "We can control our local schools if we are involved in them."

The resolutions committee's proposal on abortion called for a simple reaffirmation of a statement on the subject adopted by the convention in 1976. That same resolution was also reaffirmed last year.

A persistent band of anti-abortion advocates has continued to push for a more blanket condemnation of abortion, however. One of its key objectives is to put the convention on record in support of a constitutional amendment which would bar abortion except in extreme cases when the life of the mother is at stake.

William Hillis, a Maryland physician who teaches at the Johns Hopkins University medical school and served on the resolutions committee, asked messengers not to endorse such an amendment or other restrictive legislation, arguing that physicians should be given room to help patients decide when an abortion should be chosen.

That is essentially the position of the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in 1973 that most restrictive state abortion laws violated a woman's right to privacy and that abortions in the first three months of pregnancy should be available to women in consultation with their physicians.

Opponents of the high court decisions have maintained, however, that the rulings opened the floodgates of "abortion on demand" and have sought to reverse the effect of the rulings by pushing through Congress an anti-abortion amendment to the Constitution.

Bob Posey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bogata, Tex., seemed to express the viewpoint of the large majority of messengers who approved the resolution when he said, "I don't think a layman can make a decision that only a physician can make" on when to perform an abortion.

In a debate on hunger, the convention likewise adopted the resolutions committee's statement urging Congress to appropriate funds for overseas development and calling on Southern Baptists "to engage in strong and active Christian citizenship efforts to alleviate hunger."

Amendments to two phrases in the resolution's text were debated but overwhelmingly rejected. Preston Callison, an attorney from Columbia, S.C., and a member of the SBC executive committee, objected to the call for congressional action "which willhelp those who are hungry and not merely line the coffers of the already privileged elite."

Callison expressed concern that the phrase appeared to put the convention on record against the free enterprise system. When resolutions committee chairman Charles Myers, a Jackson, Miss. pastor, explained that the phrase was designed to refer to the problem of hunger assistance being diverted from the overseas poor to the pockets of foreign bureaucrats, Callison's amendment was easily turned aside.

The resolution also was challenged for declaring that hunger destroys more lives than the total victims claimed by the 1945 U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Hitler's death camps in Europe.

Billy Hickman, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Broken Bow, Okla., told messengers that the references to the Japanese cities leveled by U.S. bombs cast those military actions in a bad light.

When Myers said that the committee chose to use the language merely to express graphically the numbers of persons dying from hunger, the amendment was defeated.

The resolution on domestic violence, referring to both child and spouse abuse, called the problem "one of the serious moral issues of our time," encouraged local churches to help meet the needs of victims, and urged "responsible public policy" to combat violence in the home.

On television programming, the convention urged Congress to defeat a current legislative effort to rewrite the Communications Act of 1934. That revision includes the elimination of the "public interest" provision in the 1934 law. Southern Baptists should also oppose legislation "that removes all restrants from an industry that has proven its unwillingness to restrain itself," the resolution declared.

The resolution on energy spc's of God as "the creator and owner of all energy resources" and called on Southern Baptists "to practice stringent conservation." It also asked government units and utility companies to build new nuclear power plants "only when the safety of their operation and waste disposal processes can be assured."

Another resolution reaffirmed Southern Baptists' traditional opposition to alcoholic beverages and called for a commitment "to minister compassionately to those who develop drinking problems and to relate to their families in redemptive ways."

On the problem of the loss of small farms, the messengers agreed to "support current efforts to preserve the family farm ε_3 a vital part of the food production system" in the nation. The resolution also expresses support for government policies aimed at alleviating the needs of family farmers.

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By Stan Hastey--3:08 p.m. Wednesday





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Second Day Resolutions

HOUSTON, June 14--Southern Baptists attending the 122nd annual session of the convention Thursday adopted overwhelmingly a substitute resolution condeming a proposed Internal Revenue Service procedure which would deny tax exemption to church schools which fail to prove they are racially nondiscriminatory.

The substitute, adopted after lengthy debate, replaced a much milder statement proposed by the convention's resolutions committee which affirmed the principle of separation of church and state but fell short of decrying the IRS proposal.

In other actions, the messengers adopted without debate resolutions on migrant workers, pornography, inflation, and second class mailing costs.

The controversy over appropriate convention response to the proposed revenue procedure by the IRS has been brewing in recent weeks.

The denomination's Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, an agency located in Washington, D. C. and supported jointly by the SBC and seven other U. S. Baptist bodies, has repeatedly expressed strong opposition to the IRS proposal.

First announced by the IRS last August in the Federal Register, the proposed procedure would require all private schools, including those owned and operated by churches, to prove annually that they do not discriminate on the basis of race. The proposal would require church schools to demonstrate to the satisfaction of IRS officials that they discriminate in neither enrollment policy nor in actual student registration.

The Baptist Joint Committee opposed the procedure at IRS hearings in December and again before congressional committees on both sides of Capitol Hill earlier this year.

But last month, William H. Elder, III, director of Christian citizenship development for the SBC Christian Life Commission in Nashville, presented written testimony to IRS Commissioner Jerome Kurtz and to a Senate subcommittee approving the procedure.

Virtually every major religious body, including several Protestant denominations, the U. S. Catholic Conference, and several Jewish groups, has opposed the IRS proposal.

The Christian Life Commission endorsement of the proposed regulation is the only one of its kind from a major denomination. At the same time, major civil rights groups, including the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union, support the guidelines.

The substitute resolution passed by the convention essentially takes the Baptist Joint Committee viewpoint that the basic issue in the IRS proposal is the separation of church and state rather than racism, as contended by the Christian Life Commission.

W. Wayne Allen, pastor of East Park Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., which operates Briarcrest Baptist School, presented the substitute resolution. On Tuesday he had introduced a similar statement condemning the IRS proposal. The resolutions committee had set aside that document to reach its compromise position. The substitute Allen presented was written by Baptist Joint Committee executive director James E. Wood Jr. and director of research services John W. Baker.

The messengers diverted a near-collision on the floor over a phrase in the substitute referring to the Baptist Joint Committee "as this Convention's spokesman to government."

After the Allen substitute had passed, resolutions committee chairman Charles Myers, pastor of Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., moved that it be amended to say that the Washington agency is "one of" several Southern Baptist agencies which speak to government.

Wood argued that the Baptist Joint Committee "is the only agency with the program assignment...to speak to government." $^{\circ}$



Page 2--Second Day Resolutions

But he was countered by John R. Claypool, a prominent paster from Jackson, Miss., and chairman of the Christian Life Commission, who pointed to his agency's program of Christian citizenship development.

SBC president Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, eventually cut off debate over the agency controversy by ruling that all references to both the Baptist Joint Committee and Christian Life Commission be deleted from the resolution because of a convention by-law prohibiting messengers from dealing with the internal affairs of the agencies.

That ruling now sends the controversy back to the two agencies to be worked out by Wood and CLC executive secretary Foy Valentine.

In another action, the messengers adopted without debate a resolution calling attention to problems of poverty, disease, and malnutrition among migrant farm workers and asked Southern Baptist agencies and individual church members to develop "creative ministries" to them.

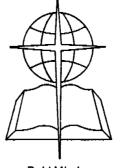
On pornography, the convention called the problem a "moral cancer that continues to threaten the social health of our society: and commended citizens' groups and law enforcement agencies fighting it.

The statement on inflation says the underlying causes of the problem "are human greed and irresponsible spending" and asked both business and labor "to lower their demands for unreasonable price and wage increases." The resolution also asked Southern Baptist congregations "to give renewed emphasis to Christian stewardship as a powerful anti-inflationary force."

The resolution on second class mailing costs, introduced earlier in the convention by Ohio Baptist Messenger editor Theo Sommarkamp calls attention to rapidly escalating postage costs for newspapers, magazines, and other church periodicals and asks President Carter and members of Congress to request the Postal Service Rate Commission to hold future rate increases to the President's cost of living guidelines.

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Story by Stan Hastey--1:50 p.m. Thursday



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For Immediate Release

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 10--Southern Baptists need to focus on ethnics if they want to improve their baptismal rate in the 1980s, a research specialist advised.

Addressing the newly organized Southern Baptist Research Fellowship on the church growth movement, Larry McSwain, associate professor of church and community at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said the simple fact is that ethnic women are having more babies than white women.

McSwain blamed a declining birth rate instead of poor church growth principles for the drop in baptisms among Southern Baptists.

"We can expect a continuing drop in the total number of baptisms of children and youth well into the 1980s because of lower birthrates." Southern Baptist baptisms fell almost 10,000 to 336,050 in 1978, the third consecutive year of decline.

Only a dramatic increase in the proportion of adult baptisms prevented a much more radical decline in total baptisms among Southern Baptists in the early 1970s, McSwain explained.

"If the same proportion of adult to youth baptisms (one to two) had been maintained through the decade, and normal baptisms of the young occurred, these would have been 40,000 fewer total baptisms than was the case. We are doing better at evangelism than our internal critics charge."

Other denominations felt the drop in conversions ahead of Southern Baptists because "infants impact membership much earlier for them," McSwain explained.

Besides the focus on ethnics, McSwain said church growth strategy for Southern Baptists may include more aggressive evangelism of children and youth, an emphasis on young adults, and enticement of over 30-year-olds back to the church as part of family acculturation.

However, the emphasis on young adults and over 30-year-olds have pitfalls, McSwain said.

"Religious defection among young adults appears to be one of the most pronounced trends of the past 25 years and the likelihood of return (to church) after age 30 is somewhat less than in former years."

If significant defection is occurring among the young which is becoming permanent in middle adulthood, radical changes in church life may be required to evangelize these groups to attract them back to the church, McSwain deducted.

Growing churches will need to alter their style of family emphasis if the over 30 group is to return to the church in large numbers, McSwain indicated.

"The decade of the seventies has been one of assault upon the fabric of American families," McSwain said, in pointing to an increase of almost 300 percent in illegitimate live births during the last 25 years, a 48 percent increase in children living with one parent during the last 7 years, 60 percent increase in divorced persons in six years, and 63 percent increase in the number of single persons in the same period.

Southern Baptists need more research in at least six other areas before they adopt church growth principles, the researcher said.

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Page 2--For Immediate Release

McSwain contended Southern Baptists need (1) data verifying church growth principles, (2) broader criteria for measuring church growth, (3) in depth case studies of growing churches, (4) intensive research on the relationship between age cohort and family life cycle and church growth, (5) studies on the church within a total community, and (6) research on the relationship between community change and church growth and decline.

Also addressing the 52-member research fellowship at the celebration of its first birthday was William Kamrath, director of demographic studies at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill.

The fellowship will meet on June 7, 1980 in St. Louis, just before the Southern Baptist Convention.

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By Roy Jennings--1:45 p.m. Sunday



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ROUNDUP FOR MONDAY AMS

While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 10--Southern Baptists have more work with ethnic persons than any other denomination in the world, messengers to the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union learned here Sunday at the Civic Center Music Hall.

William G. Tanner, executive director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said the 13.2 million member denomination has almost 3,000 units of work with ethnic persons and preaches the gospel in 70 languages and dialects.

"It is urgent that we increase our work among the 30 million other 'invisible ethnics' in America as they are rapidly becoming more and more conscious of their ethnicity," Tanner told the Southern Baptist auxiliary.

Tanner, chief administrative officer for the mission board which directs about 2,500 missionaries in 50 states and Puerto Rico, delivered a major address on "Go Quickly and Tell" at the opening session of a two-day meeting of the auxiliary.

The auxiliary was one of five Southern Baptist groups meeting here in advance of the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention which opens a three-day run Tuesday at the Summit. Other groups include pastors, ministers of education and music, and directors of associational missions.

The SBC, expected to attract about 18,000 messengers from throughout the United States, will include a series of addresses by nationally known personalities, election of a new president, and the adoption of a 1979-80 budget of \$83 million, up \$8 million.

Outgoing president Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio will preside at sessions which will include addresses by former White House staff assistant Charles Colson on Tuesday, evangelist Billy Graham on Wednesday, and country comedian Jerry Clower and Soviet Baptist dissident Georgi Vins, Thursday.

In a progress report to the Baptist women, Tanner disclosed his board started evangelism projects in more than 100 underevangelized counties in 1978 and 1ed in organizing 380 new churches and 780 church-type missions.

Looking toward the future, Tanner called for more Southern Baptist activity in the inner cities of America, evangelization of members of cults and old world religions, and the involvement of new seminary graduates in home mission activities.

"The need for more truth tellers, more proclaimers, more withesses, and more volunteers is incarnate in 60 million unevangelized adults in American," Tanner said.

"How long will they wait? Until all of our buildings are built and paid for? Until all of our institutions are expanded and even proliferated? Until God snatches the torch from us and passes it on to someone else who is excited about going and telling?"

At the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference at the Coliseum, W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, preached on the place of blood in Christianity.

Criswell, former president of the SBC, shared the podium with Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Nemphis.

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By Roy Jennings --1:40 p.m. Sunday

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##OAR 375





Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

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Wilmer C. Fields
SBC Press Representative
Robert O'Brien
News Room Manager
Norman Jameson
Photography/Features Manager

MEMO: To SBC Newsroom Staff Covering Advance Meetings

To: SBC Newsroom Staff Covering Advance Meetings

From: Robert O'Brien

Here's your press kit so that you can get yourself backgrounded on the meetings you will cover before the SBC gets underway.

Don't lose it because we won't have enough to issue another one!

Thanks for your willingness to help. Call if you have questions. I will be gone from the office by Friday, June 1, and will be at the Astro Village in Houston by June 3 to do advance setup of the newsroom and media contacts.

Bracey Campbell will cover the WMU; Larry Crisman will cover the RE meeting; Charlie Warren will cover Pastors' Conference, backed up by Dan Martin; Jim Lowry will cover Church Music; Judy Touchton will cover opening day of the Campus Ministers and Linda Lawson the second day; Bob Stanley will cover Directors of Missions.





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Southwestern Seminary Luncheon

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

"NUSTON, June 13--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary successfully completed its \$8 million capital needs campaign a year ahead of schedule, about 1100 slumni learned here Wednesday at their annual luncheon.

The total of the Eight by Eighty campaign was announced as \$8,000,379.76. Of this amount, \$660,271.63 was given by alumni of Southwestern. Almost 85 per cent of the gifts were from Texas.

Another highlight of the luncheon, held at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, included the presentation of awards to Evangelist Billy Graham and former U. S. Postmaster General Marvin Watson. Watson served as chairman of the Eight by Eighty campaign and Graham was honorary chairman.

Recognized as Distinguished Alumni for 1979 were presidents of three Southern Baptist seminaries: Russell H. Dilday, Jr., Southwestern; W. Randall Lolley, Southeastern; and William M. Pinson, Jr., Golden Gate.

President Dilday reiterated his support for his seminary professors:

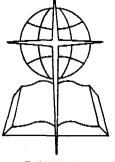
"Over the past year the faculty of Southwestern has impressed me with their dedication to the Scripture and their belief in the Word of God." He added that their Christian beliefs were evidenced in their church membership and involvement and in their spiritual maturity.

"Southern Baptists have a great advantage by being persons with differing viewpoints whose freedom of expressing themselves has always been a hallmark of the denomination," Dilday added.

Ralph Langley, pastor of Willow Meadows Baptist Church introduced the new national alumni officers. They included Richard Jackson, pastor of the North Phoenix Baptist Church, president; D. L. Lowrie, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Tex., president-elect; and John Seelig, vice president for public affairs at the seminary, secretary.

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By Barbara Little--7:50 p.m., Wednesday



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Missions Addresses at Astrodome

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 13---With stirring testimonies and messages, on the need for the church to reach people at home and abroad, two Southern Baptist mission boards gave 48,000 persons a missions progress report at a rally in the Astrodome.

The imperative of the immediacy concerning world evangelization could be the missions ingredient of Bold Mission Thrust," said William Tanner of Atlanta, executive director of the Home Mission Board.

"We have the right objectives and we have the right resources.

"Christ must be loosed in our lives if he is to be loose in the world...For 2,000 years we've known the good news of Jesus Christ, but we failed to propagate it," Tanner continued.

"If our experience with Jesus Christ is not of sufficient importance to recommend him to someone else, then I suggest the whole structure of the Kingdom of God is in jeopardy."

Tanner compared the influence that 13 million communist party members have had on the Soviet Union with that of 13 million Southern Baptists in the United States.

"They have had more effect on their nation than we have on ours, Tanner said, "Not because we are outnumbered, but because we are outcommitted."

Baker James Cauthen of Richmond, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, told the crowd "the time has come for a people called Baptists along with all others who love Jesus to rise up in the strength of the almighty God and tell the last human being on the face of the earth that Jesus saves.

"It doesn't matter what it costs us as individuals, as churches, or as a denomination because we owe our absolute allegiance to the command of our living Lord.

"The basic human right of a person born in this world with all of its sorrow and all of its potential for good and evil is to hear the truth of the love of God in Jesus Christ our Savior and to respond to it for time and eternity," Cauthen said.

The crowd also heard the testimony of Scott Appleton, former Texas University All American and professional football player now serving as a Mission Service Corps volunteer in San Antonio.

Appleton said he once had "fame, fortune and females" but lose it all through a stock market crash and alcoholism before he was "set free" through an experience with Christ.

Also representing the Home Mission Board was Cherry Chang, home missionary to Los Angeles who said the Southern Baptist spirit of Bold Mission Thrust is "catching" among ethnics in California.

She predicted Southern Baptists will see growing numbers of ethnics being used in missionary service.

Representing the Foreign Mission Board, John Cheyne, associate coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response, told of the effective hunger relief efforts of missionaries around the world and challenged the crowd to give their money and their lives in helping to relieve world hunger.

Ronnie Boswell, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, told of the overwhelming response to the gospel in that country and the remarkable growth of churches and of missions concern among the Brazilian Baptists.

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Photo Information

Photo #12

THE NIGHT COMETH--Jimmy Allen said his formal goodbye as president of the 13.2-million member Southern Baptist Convention with an applause-interrupted message to the 122nd annual meeting of the SBC. Allen, who is ending his second one-year term as president of the world's largest protestant denomination, delivered the annual President's Address at the Houston Summit to close out the Tuesday morning session. Photo by Mark Sandlin

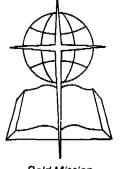
Photo #13

FAMISHED, NOT FAMINE—The shortage of eating facilities close to the 122nd annual Southern Baptist Convention (meeting at the Houston Summit this year) didn't really rate a disaster classification from the Brotherhood Commission of the SBC—but it was a good chance to demonstrate to the more than 12,500 messengers how four disaster relief units operate. Units from Mississippi (pictured above), Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana fed a lunch of beef stew, green beans, peaches, crackers, cookies and tea to almost 5,000. There was no charge for the meals but people were asked to donate a love offering with the amount beyond expenses going to world hunger relief. Photo by Stephen Medford

Photo #14

IMPROMPTU PICNIC--Many of the 12,500 messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention brought children with them which created problems at mealtime. This family just spread their lunch on the grass beside the Houston Summit during the Tuesday noon break and didn't let the U.S. 59 traffic or the Texas sun keep them from offering thanks for their meal. Photo by Stephen Medford

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Rogers Elected President

HOUSTON, June 12--In an expression of concern over the issue of biblical inerrancy within the Southern Baptist Convention, messengers elected "conservative" candidate Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of the 11,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, as president of the 13.2 million member body on the first ballot.

Rogers swamped five other candidates in garnering 51.36 per cent of the votes and avoiding a run-off. Rogers, who had been endorsed by W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, during the pre-convention Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, was nominated by Homer Lindsay Sr., pastor encritus of First Baptist Church, Jackson-ville, Fla.

During the opening address of the Pastors' Conference, Rogers expressed fear that liberalism was taking over Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries.

Immediately after his election, Rogers said, "I have come not with blood in my eyes but with love in my heart. I've learned in the pastorate that you can do more by affirming something than by tearing it down.

"I'm not so much a crusader as a leader and a helper," he continued. "The presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention does mean that certain people feel certain ways or a certain man would not be elected, but that doesn't mean he has control of the convention."

Rogers pledged "100 percent support" for continuing the emphasis in the denomination on Bold Mission Thrust.

The Memphis pastor received 6,129 of the 11,933 votes cast.

First runner up in the race for the SBC presidency was Robert Naylor, retired president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Naylor, who was nominated by John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmore Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., received 2,791 of the votes or 23.39 percent.

The remainder of the ballots were cast for C. E. Price, vice-president of Westing-house Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Doug Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.; William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; and Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Rogers, who is 43, was born in West Palm Beach, Fla., and was captain of his high school football team. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., and a master of theology degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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By Charles Warren--5:35 p.m. Tuesday

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Foundation Report

HOUSTON, June 12--While the Southern Baptist Foundation is a financial agency, it is dedicated to "helping people who help other people who are committed to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world," Executive Secretary Hollis E. Johnson of Nashville told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here Tuesday.

"God owns all and we are merely stewards of what He's entrusted to us," the executive secretary-treasurer said.

According to Johnson, total assets of the Foundation increased 33.1 per cent over the past two years. Total book value of assets climbed to \$23,260,401 at fiscal year end. This reflects a net increase of \$2,171,375 for the year.

"For every \$5 of income in 1977, we produced \$6 in 1978," Johnson reported.

Johnson said total income generated by the Foundation amounted to a record \$1,375,209 in 1978. This was \$235,059 more than during the previous year.

"The continued growth of the assets of Southern Baptist Foundation is testimony to how God can accomplish his work through committed Christians who give a portion of that which he has provided for the support of denominational causes," he said.

-30-

Bob Stanley--5 p.m. Tuesday





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Tuesday Afternoon Doctrine

HOUSTON, June 12--Future convention officers and past, present and future seminary professors were drawn into the controversy over biblical inerrancy during the second business session here Tuesday.

Two resolutions dealt with expressing appreciation to seminary professors, one specifically directing such appreciation to those who have "taught according to the infallible Word of God."

The motion submitted by Eli H. Sheldon, pastor of Crown Heights Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, would ask any future officers of the convention to sign a statement affirming belief in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, and in the "historical and factual" biblical accounts.

Sheldon, who told messengers he believes there have been "misinterpretations and misapplications" of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement approved in 1963, said he thinks proposed convention officers should be asked to reveal their stand on their beliefs.

Messengers who will vote on them should know their positions, he said.

The motion asks that beginning with the 1980 convention "every person nominated...be asked to sign the following statement prior to balloting and election."

The statement asks them to state belief in the principles of the statement and to pledge to "teach and preach in accordance with and not contrary to," the statement.

It also asked each potential officer to sign a statement that he believes "in the historical and factual biblical accounts of the Creation as stated in Genesis chapters 1-11..."

It also asked any potential officer to express belief in the virgin birth of Jesus and the miracles "and in no way consider them as myth, allegory or to be explained away as natural rather than supernatureal events..."

Sheldon's motion said no person nominated for SBC officer should be compelled to sign such a statement, but that messengers should be informed prior to voting about the signing or lack of signing by each nominated person.

The motion asks that such a statement become effective in 1980, but that if the action needs to become part of the bylaws, the effective date become 1982.

The two resolutions approach paying tribute to seminary professors and staff, but with different goals in mind.

One, proposed by Charles Inman, pastor of First Eaptist Church of Monahans, Texas, calls for expressing appreciation to seminary staff, and faculty who have "lived and taught according to the infallible Word of God."

It also calls on responsible pastors, evangelists and interested persons to present accusations of any irregularities to proper authorities.

Inman said the resolution springs from having heard accusations of liberalism among seminary faculty for two days at the Shelby Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"If this issue is important enough to take up the time of the convention, then there ought to be an investigation to see if they are true. There has been a lot of smoke. If there is a fire, let's put it out. If not, we are besmirching the reputations of more than 500 men in the convention," he said.

The other resolution, by David Medley, pastor in Tyronza, Ark., simply calls for commendation of the "vast majority" of seminary professors and teachers, many of whom may have been damaged by allegations of liberalism.

By Dan Martin--4:25 p.m., Tuesday.

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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Tuesday Afternoon Business

HOUSTON, June 12--An attempt aimed at blocking ordained women from being appointed as missionaries was rejected during the opening round of the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention Tuesday.

Gene Anglin, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, asked the convention messengers to amend their constitution to prevent ordained women from serving on the home or foreign mission field.

Requiring a two-thirds vote for consideration, the issue fell eight per cent short. The tally showed 4,822 votes for the controversial amendment; 3,417 against.

The motion read:

"All appointments, endorsements, etc., which come from the convention boards will not recognize the ordination of women as being scriptural truth held by Baptists."

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the convention's Woman's Missionary Union, said she was very pleased by the action. "I think it was a good sign for our convention. I was afraid they would be able to muster the needed votes."

The messengers also turned back a proposed constitutional amendment which would have required that the Sunday School Board include temperance lessons on a regular basis.

Marvin W. Glenn, a retired layman from Ft. Worth, Texas, said he had been told that the Sunday School Board had removed a regular emphasis on the evils of alcohol because of protests from other denominations who purchase Southern Baptist literature.

Grady Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board in Nashville, said Sunday School Board literature is published by and for Southern Baptists. "Our literature is not tailored or cut for any denomination."

The messengers also were asked by Eli H. Shelton, pastor of the Crown Heights Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, to require each person nominated for president, first vice president and second vice president of all future conventions to sign a statement affirming their belief and support of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

The statement would also include an endorsement by the candidates of their belief in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, the Genesis account of the creation and the miracles as recorded in the Old and New Testament.

-30-

By Bracey Campbell--4:50 p.m. Tuesday

CUTLINE #39

NON-FLAGGING INTEREST IN MISSIONS--Southern Baptist missionaries begin to parade underneath flags of the countries where they serve as the congregation sings during the Woman's Missionary Union conference at the Music Hall, one of several conferences held in conjunction with the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston Tuesday through Thursday (June 12-14). Photo by Tim Fields

CUTLINE #11

SBC HOUSTON 1979--Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, stands between first vice president Doug Watterson (left) and second vice president William Self against a backdrop of an estimated 12,500 messengers during the opening session of the annual meeting. Allen is pastor of First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Watterson is pastor of First Baptist Church of Knoxville and Self is pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. Photo by Tim Fields



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Mildred McWhorter feature

HOUSTON, June 12--Mildred McWhorter is a woman who does the extraordinary in an ordinary way.

She bootlegs a Bible rolled up in a plain brown wrapper into some of the worst bars in Houston. She deals daily with drug addicts, prostitutes, and gang leaders.

And she does it all, armed only with an incredible sense of humor and the firm faith that when God wants something done he answers prayers before they're prayed.

That philosophy has been the norm rather than the exception in the more than 20 years she has spent as director of two Southern Baptist missions in Houston--the Baptist Center and Joy Fellowship Center. Her work is chiefly with Mexican-Americans.

"Sure, I get into situations when I think to myself, 'He's going to kill me'," she said after her address to the Woman's Missionary Union Monday.

"But then I figured you have to die some way and at least dying on the streets will be faster than a slow death. Besides, nobody's going to die until God is through using them."

It is a philosophy she did not always have. "When I finally told God I'd do anything he wanted me to, I qualified it," she said. "I told him I would if he'd give me an exciting life. He has kept that promise."

Her "exciting life" has led her to break up gang fights, stand calmly while a drugcrazed kid snipped the buttons off her blouse with his switchblade; beat the police to the center at 3 a.m. to turn off a security alarm only to find herself met by the worst drug addict in the city.

"That was another time I expected to die," she said. "But when I demanded what he wanted he said, 'I want to know how to become a Christian'."

She sat in the pitch black darkness and talked about Jesus. He became a Christian.

Miss McWhorter's faith keeps her going when she sees battered wives, abused children, desperate people without jobs, hungry people, broken families, and thrown-away children.

It was her faith that caused her to stand while the drug addict cut the buttons off her blouse.

"Then he picked them up and handed them to me," she said. "The next thing I knew, my hand was hurting and he was out cold. I was horrified that I had struck another human being. And I was sure he'd kill me when he came to."

All he said was, "Miss McWhorter, you should have hit me twice."

Another time, after she had led a 14-year-old girl to Christ, the child pleaded not to be sent home because she was being sold-by her mother-as a prostitute.

Investigation uncovered several more 14-year-olds with the same problem; she said.

"You know, a job like this has lots of honors," she confided. "I have five illigitimate children named after me. One of them is the homeliest child I have ever seen. And every time I visit that family the grandmother says proudly, 'She looks more like you every day, Miss Mildred.'"

Another honor-being named to receive the Houston Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds (equivalent to being named Woman of the Year)--allowed her to talk about her work before some of the city's top business men.

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Mildred McWhorter feature--page 2

"I didn't ask for a thing," she recalled. "But that afternoon truckload after truckload of needed supplies began to pour into the Center. We had two tons of potatoes and 15,000 pounds of rice just for starters. We had enough supplies for a year and a half. I'm always surprised at how God provides."

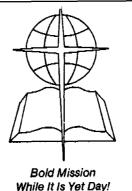
Miss McWhorter's work is primarily with Mexican-Americans but she does not limit it to a race or creed. That sometimes causes confusion.

"We had a black child break an arm at the Center. I sent my Spanish assistant to the emergency room with him until I could get down later to sign the insurance forms.

"When I got there the doctor looked at the black child, the Spanish woman, and me and asked, 'Just what is your relationship to these people?' So I told him, "She's the child's mother. I'm his grandmother'."

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By Bonnie Sparrow--3:50 p.m. Tuesday



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Orlando Choir on Mission

HOUSTON, June 12--A Florida Baptist choir took more than sheet music and 200 voices to the Southern Baptist Convention and paved the way for the establishment of two Baptist churches.

The 200-member choir of First Baptist Church, Orlando, didn't just want to "sing and have fun," says William N. Pratt, pastor of Houston's Memorial Drive Baptist Church. "They wanted to get involved."

When the choir wrapped up its part on the program of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference preceding convention sessions, it went across town to help with community surveys begun by Pratt's church and Braes Baptist Church in southwest Houston. Both churches are looking to form congregations in at least two neighborhoods with 50,000 to 100,000 residents and no Baptist churches.

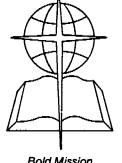
And if that's not enough in Houston's muggy heat, choir members conducted "Evangelism Explosion"—a systemized personal witnessing clinic, attempting to reach people for Christ in their homes.

-30-

By Jennifer L. H. Anderson--4:05 p.m. Tuesday

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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Disaster Relief Vans

HOUSTON, June 12--Although plagued by mild disasters of their own, four Brotherhood disaster relief teams fed lunch to almost 5,000 Southern Baptist Convention messengers in 65 minutes Tuesday at the Summit.

The Brotherhood Commission and state Baptist Men's groups from Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Louisiana prepared a typical disaster relief meal in well equipped disaster relief vans and served it at the close of the morning session of the 122nd annual meeting of the SBC.

No charge was made for the \$1.49 lunch, but messengers were asked to contribute a love offering with the amount beyond expenses going to world relief.

The messengers gave \$6,000.49, an average of \$1.21 per meal served. The Commission agreed in advance to fund any deficit.

Messengers, who lined the sidewalks, street, and the multi-level parking garage across the street while eating, seemed pleased with the beef stew, green beans, peach, crackers, cookie and tea. Responses were positive:

"Delightful! Excellent! Tasty! Anybody could survive on that. Delicious! Sure beats standing in line at a restaurant you don't know where is."

Besides supplying food services in an area where eating facilities are limited, the Baptist Men's groups set up their vans to publicize the disaster programs sponsored in 33 state Baptist conventions.

In addition to the food service, the vehicles--converted 18-wheel moving vans--contain sleeping quarters for a six-man crew, first aid equipment, medical treatment room, clean up tools, water, electrical generators, and communication equipment.

"We hope we don't ever have to use our disaster relief van," said a man from Louisiana standing outside their new van. "But if the statistics are right, this could be the year."

Other vans and crews have gone into areas where tornadoes, floods, hurricares, and ice storms have left people homeless and in need.

"This is more fun and I get more satisfaction out of this than from anything I do," said Elmo Bounds, a Mississippi grocer. "Seeing the look in the eyes of tired, cold, hungry, people is worth all the hard work I do."

Bounds, like the other 30 men participating in the one-day lunch service, used his vacation to serve the messengers. The men, displaying a cooperative, fun-loving attitude throughout the meal preparation, seemed proud of the outcome of their efforts.

Small disasters threatened but did not hamper the food service. Original plans which included blocking off the street for the lunch were shelved when relief workers learned the street wasn't private.

And trash dumpsters, the men ordered did not arrive, but they borrowed a truck from a nearby construction site.

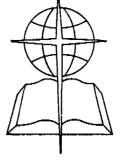
Finally, only 28 of the 78 cases of stew ordered arrived, and cooks had to go into the supply stored on the vans for emergencies.

"The people at the end of the line were as nice as those at the beginning," said one of the servers.

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By Jennifer Bryon--3:40 p.m. Tuesday



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Burma Baptist News Conference

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 12-The first Christians to be allowed to leave the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma in 16 years to attend international religious conventions said here Tuesday they have complete religious freedom in Burma and that a great revival is in progress among the 344,135 Baptists there.

Clifford Kyaw Dwe, general secretary of the Karen Baptist Convention in Rangoon, Burma, and Maran Zan Yaw, national treasurer of the Burma Baptist Convention in Rangoon, made the statements in a news conference during the Southern Baptist Convention. They are enroute to the Baptist World Alliance's General Council meeting in Brighton, England.

Yaw explained that Christians in Burma have not been previously allowed to leave the country to attend international religious conventions due to government restrictions.

Asked why the government would not allow Christians to leave Burma, Yaw explained that the government authorities did not want "the foreign element to come into our country."

All foreign missionaries were expelled from Burma in the mid-1960's, with Baptist missionaries leaving in 1966. Dwe said that foreign missionaries are not welcome in Burma at the present.

"The emphasis is on developing indigenous leadership and doing things the Burma way," Yaw said.

Yaw added that the socialist government in Burma follows what they call "the Burmese way to socialism, which is quite different from socialism in other countries."

Socialism in Burma is different, Yaw said, because it allows and encourages privately-owned small businesses in the private sector of Burmese society, Yaw said.

Religious affairs in Burma are controlled by the government's ministry of religious affairs, which grants government money to the 10 denominations that are members of the Burma Council of Churches. The Burma Baptist Convention is a member of the Council of Churches, but does not accept government funds, he said.

Dwe estimated that about three percent of the Burmese population, about 600,000, is Christian.

Almost 400,000 of the Christians in Burma are Baptists, the long-term result of the work started in 1813 by one of the first Baptist missionaries, Adonarium Judson, Dwe said.

Baptist work grew very slowly through the years, but in the last three years a great revival has been in progress in Burma, Yaw said. Each year for the last three years, baptisms (conversions) have averaged from 8,000 to 10,000, Yaw said.

There are currently 300 young evangelists who preach every day for no salary in the mountain areas of north Burma where response is greatest. They participate in open air preaching, home visitation, and personal evangelism, he said.

In some respects, the government's decision to evict foreign missionaries has strengthened Baptist work in Burma, Yaw said, for the government restrictions prompted national Baptist leaders in Burma to try harder to develop indigenous Baptist churches.

Dwe added that he did not feel the government restrictions on Burma Baptists could be described as "persecution of Christians."

"It is our own way of doing our work," Dwe said. "It is time for us to stand on our own feet. We do not consider this persecution."

Yaw said there are about 2,500 to 3,000 churches affiliated with 13 regional, racial (ethnic) and regional Baptist conventions in Burma.

David Y. K. Wong, Hong Kong architect and president of the Baptist World Alliance, pointed out that Burma ranks fifth in the number of Baptists in countries of the world. The United States, India, the Soviet Union, and Brazil rank above Brazil in the number of Baptists.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH WILLIAM SELF

Senior Minister Wieuca Road Baptist Church Atlanta, Georgia

Born:

January 10, 1932

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Moved to Delray Beach, Florida - 1938

Education:

B.A., Stetson University, Deland, Florida - 1954

B.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary - 1957

Wake Forest, North Carolina

S.T.D., Candler School of Theology, Emory University - 1971

Atlanta, Georgia

A doctoral dissertation for this degree was entitled, "Influence of Media on the Message of Preaching." This work is a detailed theological analysis of communication theory, particularly oral communication, and its impact

upon the message as received.

Vocation:

1952 Ordained Minister, Southern Baptist Convention

1957-60 Pastor, Edgemont Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, N.C.

1960-64 Pastor, West Bradenton Baptist Church, Bradenton, Florida

1964- Pastor, Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

Membership:

4700

1979 Budget:

\$1,370,000

Property

\$6,000,000

Frequent speaker at college, university, and seminary convocations and special assemblies, as well as preaching missions throughout the United States.

Has traveled extensively in North and South America; Europe; Middle East; East Asia; Southeast Asia.

Continuing guest on WSB-TV Atlanta "Today in Georgia" program for past eleven years.

1978 speaker for the Governor's Prayer Breakfast.

Published Works:

Bridging the Generation Gap, Broadman, 1970 Survival Kit for the Stranded, Broadman, 1975*

Saturday Night Special, Word, 1977 Learning To Pray, Word, 1978*

*Co-authored with wife, Carolyn

Numerous articles published in <u>Pulpit Digest</u>, <u>Church Administration</u>, <u>Sunday School Builder</u>, <u>The Baptist Student</u>, <u>The Christian Index</u>, <u>The Biblical Recorder</u>, and <u>Junction</u>.

Honors/Awards:

D.D., Stetson University, Deland, Florida - 1969

D.D., Mercer University, Macon, Georgia - 1970

Litt. D., Han Yang University, Seoul, Korea - 1975
(Only clergyman ever to receive honorary degree from this university.)

Elected vice-president of North Carolina Baptist Convention - 1958

Voted "Church of the Year" - 1958

Included in Outstanding Young Men of America - 1965

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Page 2 Biographical Sketch William L. Self

Member of Executive Committee, Georgia Baptist Convention

Chosen "Outstanding Young Man of Year," Manatee County, Florida - 1963

Trustee, Shorter College, Rome, Georgia - 1970-75

Selected as one of "Five Outstanding Young Men of Atlanta" - 1968

Member, Georgia Bautist Hospital Commission - 1972-74

President, Georgia Baptist Pastors' Conference - 1971-72

Member, Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention - 1975 -

Special guest speaker at School of Evangelism, Billy Graham Crusades, Atlanta, Georgia - 1973; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - 1974; San Diego, California - 1976; Asheville, North Carolina - 1977; Las Vegas, Nevada and Kansas City, Missouri - 1978.

Included in Marquis Who's Who in Religion

Chairman, Georgia Baptist Executive Committee - 1975

Invited for official state visit to Republic of Korea by Prime Minister KIM, Jung Pil - 1974

While in Korea, Dr. Self negotiated the religious liberty issue with the President and visited those on both sides of the religious and political issues.

Appointed Special Ambassador by President Gerald R. Ford for Inauguration of His Excellency William Tolbert, Monrovia, Liberia - 1976 During this special assignment, Dr. Self had three days with Idi Amin of Uganda, who was visiting in Liberia during this time. He was engaged in detailed talks with Amin, relating to his relationship to the United States.

Member of Official Platform Party during visit by President Ford to Atlanta, Georgia - 1975

Served on Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee, Norfolk, Virginia - 1976

Invited by Republic of China to visit Taiwan as special guest of that government - 1976 While in the Republic of China, Dr. Self had an official interview

with the President, as well as the Secretary of State and other prominent governmental leaders.

Preached annual sermon at Southern Baptist Convention, Kansas City - 1977

Chairman, Committee on Committees, Southern Baptist Convention - 1977

Delivered Annual Lectures on Preaching, Erskine Theological Seminary (Associate Reformed Presbyterian) - 1972

Delivered H. I. Hester Lectures on Preaching, Golden Gate Theological Seminary, San Francisco (SBC) - 1978

Elected President, Georgia Baptist Convention - 1976

Elected President, Foreign Mission Board (SBC) - 1977

Elected Second Vice President, Southern Baptist Convention - 1978

Wife: Carolyn Shealy of Ocala, Florida. Married August 2, 1953.

Sons: W. Lee (7/2/58) and Bryan E. (1/30/60)

Family:

Page 3 Biographical Sketch William L. Self

Residence:

609 Old Ivy Rd. NE Atlanta, Georgia 30342

(404) 237-8066 Tel.

Office:

3626 Peachtree Rd. NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30326

(404) 261-4220 Tel.

Wieuca Road Baptist Church Statistics

	1964	<u>1979</u>
Membership	1250	4700
Sunday School Enrolment	1400	3050 (Avg. Attend 1500)
Budget	\$220,000	\$1,370,000
Cooperative Program Gifts to Southern Baptist		
Convention	\$19,564	\$201,000
Professional Staff	4	10
Other Employees	15	80

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A. DOUGLAS WATTERSON, JR.

I. BIOGRAPHICAL

Born October 25, 1927 in Decatur, Alabama (reared and schooled in Birmingham, Alabama).

Married Janet Francine Woolwine (Jan) and has three children:

Debra Lynn 05-04-56 David Charles 12-30-57 Sheri Jan 10-18-60

II. EDUCATIONAL

- D. Min., Southwestern Seminary; Fort Worth, Texas; December, 1976.
- D. D., Stetson University; Deland, Florida; May, 1971.
- B. D., Th. M., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Louisville, Kentucky. University of Louisville, Kentucky through 33 hours of M.A. work.

III. MILITARY SERVICE

U. S. Navy 1945-1948

IV. PASTORATES

First Baptist Church - Knoxville, Tennessee; 1978 - Present Cliff Temple Baptist Church - Dallas, Texas; 1971 - 1978 First Baptist Church - Tallahassee, Florida; 1968 - 1971 First Baptist Church - Vero Beach, Florida; 1964 - 1968 First Baptist Church - Marianna, Florida; 1958 - 1964 First Baptist Church - West Point, Kentucky; 1954 - 1958 Fellowship Baptist Church - Ettrick, Virginia; 1950 - 1954

V. DENOMINATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND SERVICE

First Vice President, Southern Baptist Convention, 1978 - 1979 President, Florida Baptist Convention, 1969 - 1970 Annuity Board Member, Southern Baptist Convention Member of The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention Member of the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions Chairman of the Expension Committee of the Florida Baptist Convention Member of the Nominating Committee for the Florida Baptist Convention Chairman of the Committee on Committees for the Florida Baptist Convention Chairman of the Committee on Camps for Florida Baptists Chairman of the Stetson Nominating Committee Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Bible Institute Member of the Human Welfare Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Spiritual Emphasis Week Speaker to Baptist Campuses Frequent Bible Speaker for Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Assemblies Speaker for Baptist Annual Convention, Evangelism Conferences, State Assemblies, and Pastor's Conferences Who's Who Among Students, 1975 Who's Who in Religion, 1976 - 1977

VI. AUTHOR

Reach Out For Love - Convention Press, 1971

VII. FOREIGN SERVICE

Preaching tour of Jamaica for Home Mission Board Mission Tour of South America, Central America Has toured Europe, Scandanavia, Russia, the Orient, Middle East, and South Pacific

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

ROBERT ERNEST NAYLOR

President Emeritus, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, since 1978

President, 1958 - 78

Chairman, board of trustees, 55 - 58

PASTORATES:

First Baptist, Nashville, Arkansas 32 - 35 First Baptist, Malvern, Arkansas 35 - 37 First Baptist, Arkadelphia, Arkansas 37 - 44 First Baptist, Enid, Oklahoma 44 - 47 First Baptist, Columbia, South Carolina 47 -52 Travis Avenue Baptist, Fort Worth, Texas 52 - 58

EDUCATION:

BA, East Central Okla. State Teachers College, Ada, Okla. 1928 ThM, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary 1932 Doctor of Divinity (honorary, Ouachita Baptist University, 1941 Doctor of Laws (honorary), Texas Christian University, 1965

FAMILY/PERSONAL:

Born Jan. 24, 1909 in Hartshorne, Okla.

married to former Goldia Geneva Dalton

3 children: Rebekah, medical missionary with SBC Foreign Mission Board, Bangalore, India Richard, lawyer in Pecos, Texas
Robert, with DuPont Corp. Wilmington, Delaware

listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in South and Southwest, Who's Who in American Education

has been honored as Distinguished Alumnus of SWBTS

traveled throughout world; written several books and articles

CUTLINE #8

SHUTTLE SCUTTLE--This was the scene at Rice Stadium Tuesday morning as messengers sought transportation to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting at the Summit. Messengers were not allowed to drive cars to the Summit for the day time sessions, so some 70 buses ran on four main routes and three feeder routes in an effort to combat the transportation problem. Photo by Jay Durham

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Biographical Sketch

of

Charles E. Price

Born October 4, 1917 in Barbour County, Alabama.

Educated in Barbour County school system and Auburn University in Alabama -- graduated in 1939.

Employed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1940. Has lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, since 1961. Entire career has been in apparatus repair and field engineering service.

In 1966 he received the highest honor his Corporation bestows on its employees, the Westinghouse Order of Merit.

In April 1972 he was elected a Vice President of the Corporation.

Ed and his wife, Mary, have been active in Southern Baptist life since the early days of their marriage.

They have been members of Second Ponce de Leon in Atlanta and First Baptist of Birmingham. They returned to Atlanta and Second Ponce de Leon in time to participate in founding Wieuca Road Baptist in Atlanta.

Immediately upon arrival in Pittsburgh, they joined the Pittsburgh Baptist Church and actively participated in the expansion of Southern Baptist work in Pennsylvania. They have participated in establishing new missions, new churches, associations, a state fellowship and a state convention.

Ed served as President of the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Convention during the first two years. He now serves on the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Executive Board. He has continued to make a contribution to Southern Baptist life by serving on various committees such as the Direction 84 Committee of the Brotherhood Commission.

He now chairs a committee of laymen working with the Executive Committee of the S.B.C. to suggest ways and means to involve executive and professional men in support of Bold Mission Thrust and particularly the Mission Service Corps.

His wife, Mary, has had the honor of serving as President of Woman's Missionary Union of Ohio (while Western Pennsylvania was affiliated with the Ohio State Convention) and President of Woman's Missionary Union of the new Pennsylvania-South Jersey Convention.

They both continue to help plant new churches in Pennsylvania and presently work with a mission of their church, Lakeside Baptist, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They are active in local church and association work.

They have two children--a son, Charles, lives in Charlotte, North Carolina; and a daughter Kathi, lives in Tallahassee, Florida.





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Wilmer C. Fields
SBC Press Representative
Robert O'Brien
News Room Manager
Norman Jameson
Photography/Features Manager

Bold Mission
While It Is Yet Day!

Tuesday Morning Resolutions

HOUSTON, June 12-Messengers to the 122nd meeting of the Scuthern Baptist Convention were asked here Tuesday morning to take action on 17 separate resolutions during their first business session.

The far-ranging statements, to be considered by the convention's Resolutions Committee, include the proposed taxation of religious schools, the future of public education, abortion, television broadcasting, world hunger, peacemaking, energy, alcoholism, and child abuse.

Another resolution, calling on the convention to avoid political power plays in the election of officers, was an obvious reference to a series of well-publicized meetings prior to the Houston convention in which conservatives have pushed for the election of a new president committed to the "inerrancy" of the Bible.

Two other resolutions on the subject of the Bible were also presented.

Three separate statements decried a proposed Internal Revenue Service rule which would strip tax exemption from private schools, including religious schools, which fail to prove annually that they are racially nondiscriminatory.

Three pastors, W. Wayne Allen of Memphis, Tenn., Wayne W. Oeffler of Tampa, Fla., and Larry R. Smith of Deer Park, Texas, asked messengers to go on record protesting the proposed procedure.

The controversial ruling has been the subject of lengthy hearings by the IRS and by congressional hearings. The denomination's Washington, D. C.-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has repeatedly opposed the ruling as a violation of the separation of church and state, while the SBC Christian Life Commission favors it as a legitimate method of eliminating racism.

A separate resolution aimed at resolving the conflict between the two agencies by putting the convention on record as opposed both to racism and to the denial of the principle of separation of church and state, was presented by Glen H. Stassen, an ethics professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Another resolution asked the messengers to express new support for public education by declaring that although "the American public school system is new facing its most serious crisis, "Baptists should "become more involved in shaping and supporting public schools."

The series of education-related resolutions indicates an area of growing concern among many members of the denomination, some calling for the establishment of church schools by local congregations, with others urging instead a new commitment to the public school system.

On abortion, Gary Tebbets, a staff member of a Kansas City, Mo., church asked messengers to record their support for a constitutional amendment or other legislation which would reverse the effect of the 1973 Supreme Court rulings striking down abortion statutes in most states.

Tebbets, who has become a fixture at meetings of the resolutions committee in recent years, is apparently unsatisfied with repeated convention statements expressing commitment to the sanctity of all human life, including fetuses.

The proposed resolution on television expresses opposition to legislation currently being debated in Congress which would eliminate the "public interest" provision as part of an overall rewrite of the Communications Act of 1934.

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-more-

Page 2--Tuesday Morning Resolutions

Ralph H. Langley, pastor of Houston's Willow Meadows Baptist Church, called on the convention to recognize that hunger kills more humans annually than all the victims of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Hitler's death campus combined. As a result, his resolution declares, Southern Baptists should express "strong support" for increased expenditures by the government for overseas development assistance programs and should seek to combat world hunger through their missions programs.

On the subject of peacemaking, mossenger Earl J. Calvert of Basset, Va., asked the convention to support passage of the SALT treaty with the Soviet Union. President Carter is scheduled to sign the treaty next week in Vienna but the U. S. Senate is embroiled in a bitter debate on the pact.

The resolution on energy, presented by Chevis Forne of Martinsville, former president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, calls on Southern Baptists "to practice s stringent conservation" and asks utility companies and government units to permit construction of new nuclear power plant "only when the safety of their operation and waste disposal processes can be assured."

In another resolution referring to the near disaster earlier this year at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, R. H. Patterson, Sr., a lay member of a Greenville, S. C., church, asked the convention to note that what he called "alcohol exposure" is more deadly than nuclear accidents.

On the subject of child abuse, messenger Wyndell Jones of Alabama urged the convention to endorse "any rational legislation" designed to protect children from various forms of abuse. At the same time, the resolution asked messengers to oppose "any organized movement or legislation" which would "remove from parents authority to discipline their children."

All the resolutions introduced this morning now go to the convention's resolutions committee, which will debate them and report back to the messengers its views on their disposition.

SCHEDULE OF NEWS CONFERENCES FOR SBC NEWS ROOM

Tuesday

Charles Colson, 8 p.m. (or at conclusion of evening business)

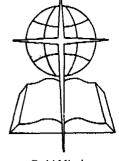
Wednesday

New SBC President, 9 a.m. Billy Graham, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday

Porter Routh, retiring executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee, and Harold Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer-elect, 9 a.m.

Georgi Vins (and wife Nadezhda and daughter, Natalya) 2:30 p.m.



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News Room Manager
Norman Jameson
Photography/Features Manager

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

President Allen's Address

HOUSTON, June 12-Refuse to be divided and conquered was the impassioned plea of outgoing Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen in his swan-song speech to messengers to the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention here Tuesday.

"As I perceive it, we are being pressed by good and sincere people right now to alter our agenda from Bold Mission Thrust," he declared. "We must resist that temptation."

Allen, who steps down as president of the 13.2 million member SBC--the largest protestant denomination in America--when messengers elect a new leader in the Summit this week, was sometimes eloquent, sometimes bombastic in the annual president's address.

He was sanctioned by applause three times--once during an introduction, once about midway through his speech and, finally, at the end.

Allen, who closes out his presidential tenure after two one-year terms, also illicited a small chorus of cheers from several more exuberant messengers when he bellowed that God has charged Southern Baptists with Bold Mission Thrust.

Bold Mission Thrust is the name of a plan by the Convention to project the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world by the year 2000.

Before stepping to the podium to lower the curtain on his two-year presidency, the native Texan struck a poignant profile against the expansive ceiling of the Surmit as he lowered his head in prayer.

And when messengers stood and wildly applauded his introduction, Allen periodically sponged his eyes with a handkerchief.

Behind the podium, Allen was a changed man.

"We must remain a Bible-believing, Bible-sharing, Bible-obeying people committed to the Lordship of Christ," the pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, boomed.

Messengers reacted with hearty applause.

wo...

"The Bible says, 'Go ye into all the world and breach the gospel to every creature," Allen reminded massengers.

Allen selected for his powerful speech the title of "Bold Mission Thrust: While It Is Yet Day."

"In His Amazing Grace, He has chosen us...you...and you...and you...and me...to be His conduits of transforming power," Allen preached to sporadic yelling.

"The wonder of it all! We are still, thank God, a movement of the people."

Allen stressed he still considers Southern Baptists God's picked people to evangelize the world, but only if they maintain a "commitment to priorities."

He cautioned messengers against straying into a maze of argument over biblical orthodoxy instead of sticking to Bold Mission Thrust.

"Bold Mission Thrust is the occasion for us to break out of the past patterns of part-time commitment into a new intensity of missions, he said. "We are going to experience tomorrow night in the Astrodome a unique time of commitment. A record number of lives have been laid on the line by young and old in our Southern Baptist family. Think of it, 1,100 persons giving their lives...from a year to a lifetime...in mission service."

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Page 2--President Allen's Address

According to Allen, the key to whether the vision of Bold Mission Thrust assumes the focus of reality lies in the fact that "time is running out."

"The night cometh," Allen admonished repeatedly.

The spectre of the coming night manifests itself in what he termed darkness in the world. He described this phenomenon as the "malignant darkness of sin."

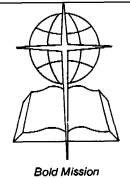
"The curse of darkness meets its match in Jesus Christ, who is working 'while it is yet day, for night cometh,'" he said triumphantly.

"The call to us is not for panic reaction. We are not to be paralyzed by fear. We are not to be hyped up by artificial spiritual adrenalin. We are to deal with life one moment at a time. No time should be lost. No energy should be wasted. No task for God should be postponed. He calls us to join Him in harvest, in awakening, in revival, in mission. Night cometh. But it's not here yet. Let us claim His power and victory... while it is yet day."

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By Larry Crisman--12:50 p.m., Tuesday





SBC News Room The Summit, Houston (713) 850-9127 Wilmer C. Fields SBC Press Representative Robert O'Brien News Room Manager Norman Jameson Photography/Features Manager

Roundup for Wednesday ams

HOUSTON, June 12--Charles W. Colson, one time special counsel to former President Richard Nixon and, a prominent figure in the Watergate scandal, loosened the plug on the electronic church and cautioned against a "stars and stripes" Christianity here Tuesday night before urging Southern Baptists to hold out a cup of cold water in the name of Christ to the thirsty.

While It Is Yet Day!

"Some in the fast growing electronic church today are trying to package the Gospel like soap," Colson told the 13,000 messengers to the 122nd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. "What comes out is not the cross but a glib, sentimental pietism, a prosperous, positive thinking Johnny Carson who lives happily ever after.'

While acknowledging many good church services on television benefit shut-ins and reach out to the unsaved, Colson urged the Southern Baptists to avoid the headlong rush for media manipulation -- telling people about eternity in 20 seconds -- and to speak prophetically against excesses, perversions of the Gospel and against exploitation and manipulation.

"The only way in which the Christian body can be strengthened is through a strengthened church," Colson contended. "Accountability, fellowship, teaching and discipleship are impossible on a 21-inch screen. Television must never become a substitute for the local church."

Sweet sounding choruses of God and country cliches aren't the answer either, Colson continued.

"Wrapping the stars and stripes around the cross of Jesus Christ could be as disastrous to Americans as the state church was to Europe."

Cheap grace and the born again fad also drew sharp criticism from Colson, an Episcopalian turned Southern Baptist who has turned his energies to a national prison fellowship program since his Christian conversion in prison almost five years ago.

Before launching his attack on the multiple threats to Christianity, Colson described for the messengers the progress he is making in bringing men and women out of prison for discipleship training and sending them back "to be ambassadors for Christ inside."

More than 250 inmates have completed this discipling program, Colson recalled.

"Today in prisons all across America are growing Christian fellowships. The ministry has broadened so that now, we are taking teaching teams inside prisons for week-long seminars for immates and community volunteers at the rate of two seminars per week.

Encouraging the Baptists to talk about sin in honest and unmistakable terms, Colson deplored "the cheap grace which sweeps through our churches today.

"(It) breeds other heresies, like the simplistic notion that one accepting Christ is on easy street, that God will shower all manner of blessings and peace and joy on him..."

Ironically, cheap grace blossomed during the year of the evangelicals when the phrase "born again" was bannered across the covers of national magazines and became fashionable conversation, Colson recalled.

"Everytime I picked up a newspaper, something else or someone else was being born again, from antique cars to hostesses at Washington parties, to football teams coming out of slumps. I expected at any time to walk into a store and see 'Born Again' perfume next to 'My Sin'."

Pointing to a George Gallup survey showing church attendance up and morality down, Colson said the only conceivable explanation he could reach was that the church suffered



Page 2--Roundup for Wednesday ams

from a potentially fatal case of superficial grace and easy believism.

The first and most important step of the Christian life is to understand the cross, to be prepared to pay the cost and then enlist for the duration, Colson declared.

"We Christians are called to live as a responsible loving community with the power of Jesus Christ healing and reconciling differences. Learning to build and live as part of that kind of community is a step in Christian growth.

"Though everything about our society tells the individual that he is to win through intimidation, look out for himself, and gratify every desire deep in his heart, the alienation he feels wrenches his spirit and he hungers for the true community.

"If our churches are loving and caring communities, the people will flock into them. If we authentically represent the kind of world God intended this to be, the hungry and lonely masses will overflow our sanctuaries," Colson said.

In an opening business session, messengers asked the convention to take stands on a wide range of issues, including inerrancy of the Bible, abortion, tax exempt status of church-related schools, ordination of women, separation of church and state, and observation of family day.

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By Roy Jennings--12:45 p.m. Tuesday.



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Tuesday Morning Business

HOUSTON, June 12—Southern Baptist Convention messengers rejected a proposed constitutional amendment Tuesday which would prohibit the two mission boards from appointing ordained women as missionaries.

Gene Anglin, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, brought the controversial question dealing with the ordination of women to the floor in the opening round of the 122nd convention of Southern Baptists.

A reliable source said the motion was killed when it failed to receive the two-thirds majority required to discuss the question of amending the convention's constitution.

The motion read:

"All appointments, endorsements, etc., which come from the convention boards will not recognize the ordination of women as being scriptural truth held by Baptists."

The proposed amendment followed on the heels of a two-day meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union, stressing the growing role being played by Southern Baptist women.

Other motions presented, which will be scheduled by the order of business committee for discussion at a later time during the three-day convention included:

--A motion by Jerry Don Abernathy, pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., that the boards of trustees of every convention board, commission, committee and agency make a study of their retirement policies.

The studies would be conducted in consultation with the convention's Annuity Board, Abernathy said, for the purpose of moving into a uniform and adequate retirement program for all convention agencies. He asked that the report be presented to the 1980 convention in St. Louis.

--A motion asking the messengers to reaffirm the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement on the Scriptures by Wayne Dehoney, pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Dehoney said the statement was adopted "to serve as guidelines" to the various agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. It states:

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter."

--A motion by Owen Cooper, a layman from the First Baptist Church of Yazoo City, Hiss., and a former convention president, asking that the Christian Life Commission be requested to establish a consortium of religious bodies to form a national committee for the evaluation and labeling of television programs.

He said the committee would look at television—and possibly other entertainment media programs—in regards to "violence, crime, sexual aberrations, vulgarity and such personally and socially harmful practices as the consumption of beverage alcohol, smoking and drug use."

Under the motion, the commission would bring a report to the 1980 convention concerning the consortium.

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- BAPTIST PRESS

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WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

Wrapup
Allen Urges Unity
Not Division

79-96

By Bracey Campbell

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen called on Woman's Missionary Union members to unite in prayer that threatened divisions would not splinter the nation's largest evangelical group.

Pulling the curtain on the 91st meeting of the WAU, Allen spoke directly of the possible problems that will confront the convention over the issue of biblical inerrancy.

"Satan is seeking to negate and stop the opportunity that God has given to us to share the gospel with the world by the year 2000," said Allen, who is stepping down after two years as the top elected official in the SBC.

"If you have ever prayed for anyone or anything, I call on you now to pray that we as Southern Baptists can retain the privilege God has given us."

The San Antonio, Texas, pastor said the temptations for Baptists are division, anger and to become embroiled in the emotions of the hour. "But the challenge for all of us is not to abandon the moment that God has given us. We cannot ignore the outstretched hands that can be seen around the world."

Allen's message ended two days of sessions for about 2,300 participants from across the convention with an emphasis on missions and the increasing role of women in Southern Baptist life.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Birmingham-based WAU, said the organization is and always has been a missions strategy.

"Some folks want us to be the women's lib movement in Southern Baptist churches.

Others think we already are. Some want us to be the PTA of the church, doing all the nice helpful things that somebody ought to do around the church.

"I believe it is essential that we commit ourselves to being a missions education organization, not only through the materials, but in every meeting that is held across the convention."

Miss Weatherford said that it was always easier for women to gather and discuss fashions or a dozen other feminine subjects. "In our noblest highest hour, we teach missions, thus helping the church to carry out its missions task."

Anne Davis, a professor in social work education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., called on the SBC, to take steps to make young women aware of the difficulties facing them if they answer God's call to enter denominational work.

She said that too many young women arrive at Baptist seminaries thinking a degree will guarantee them a place in denominational life.

"Our denomination in its literature and through other processes must begin earlier to acquaint young women called of God to what may be in store for them if they answer that call."

Miss Davis said it is more difficult for a woman to pursue a denominational career today than 20 years ago.

Laura Fry, women's evangelism consultant for the Home Mission Board in Atlants, said some women need to become more conscious of the role they can assume in Southern Baptist life. Too often, women are ruled out of jobs just because they have always been occupied by a man, she contended.

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"Just the suggestion that it could be filled by a woman often opens doors," she said.

The gathering of WMU members was replete with biblical dramatizations, interviews with pastors and missionaries and brief messages describing the life-changing results that had come through association with the woman's organization.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., and Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky., were elected to their fifth one-year terms as WMU president and recording secretary, respectively.

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Wrapup Pastors Urged

To Purge 'Liberals'

Baptist Press

By Jim Newton and Charlie Warren

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Pounding the pulpits and waving their Bibles for emphasis, a parage of preachers urged 8,000 persons attending the two-day Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here to lead out in purging Baptist seminaries and colleges of "liberalism" and recommitting the Southern Baptist Convention to the belief that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant word of God.

In the opening address, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, expressed fear that liberalism was taking over Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries. He also attacked Baptist publications for their support of seminaries and denominational agencies.

Rogers argued that every Baptist church with an excellent track record in annual baptisms is "a conservative, Bible-believing church with a pastor who "believes in the inerrant (without error), infallible word of God."

Lashing out at liberalism in the SBC, Rogers claimed that "if those liberals will ever come to the cross of Christ, all heaven will break loose."

Moments after Rogers spoke, W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 20,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas, enthusiastically endorsed Rogers as a candidate for the presidency of the 13.2 million member SBC.

"We will have a great time here if for no other reason than to elect Adrian Rogers as president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Criswell told the applauding pastors in the Houston Coliseum.

Although there was no connection between the two elections, the pastors later elected James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, as their conference president. Draper once served under Criswell as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas.

A Texas Baptist evangelist, James Robison of Hurst, devoted most of his opening night address to an attack on liberalism in the denomination.

If Southern Baptists tolerate liberalism in the convention, "we will be guilty of the death" of the convention, Robison charged.

"We must elect a president (of the SBC) not only dedicated to the inerrancy of the word of God, but who will stand to remove any seminary president who doesn't believe in the inerrant word of God," Robison said.

Robison questioned how many seminary graduates have a zeal for winning people to Christ. "There are some," he noted, "but it's in spite of and not because of our institutions," he claimed.

He decried Baptist publications for editorially attacking Harold Lindsell, editor emeritus of <u>Christianity Today</u> and president of the independent Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship who said it would be a small price to pay if 500,000 liberals left the SBC.

Robison argued that "without the Bible, you have no message...no evangelism...no mission...and it does matter which Bible you believe."

Although criticism of liberalism and pleas for inerrancy of the Bible grabbed the headlines during the pastors' conference, many of the sermons emphasized the need for strong preaching and for pastors to grapple with problems in the ministry.

William Ricketts, pastor of Price Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Ga., observed that some pastors are defeated and discouraged and feel that if they could just go to some other church as pastor, everything would be all right.

"A lot of time in the pulpit, we (pastors) are like sounding brass and tinkling cymbals because we don't really believe what we are preaching, and don't really practice it in our lives," Ricketts said.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., attributed a decline in baptisms within the SBC to the lack of strong pastoral leadership.

Preaching on the pastor's role as shepherd, Henry quipped, "Some churches want lap dogs, some want yap dogs, and some want lead dogs. God has called us as lead shepherds and you will find, nearly without exception, that the churches that are doing business with God are marked with strong pastoral shepherds."

Another speaker, Clark G. Hutchinson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., pointed out that the churches that are winning the world to Christ are the ones that are "grounded on the word (of God) and controlled by the Spirit."

James A. Ponder of Jacksonville, director of evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention, contended that many pastors have lost the cutting edge of their ministry, and urged the pastors to restore their effectiveness by confessing their failures.

Ralph Stone, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church in Jacksonville, encouraged pastors to have a positive attitude and to face every problem "as an opportunity for God to show his greatness."

Another Florida pastor, Bobby Welch of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, urged the pastors to get excited about the person of Jesus, the program of Jesus, and the power of Jesus.

An Alabama pastor, Jimmy Jackson of Huntsville, cautioned the pastors against committing "the sin of quenching the Holy Spirit," adding that "most of us are guilty of it right now."

The pastors' conference closed with a stirring sermon on the glory of God by Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and a patriotic appeal by Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Warning that America is headed down the pathway toward socialism and humanism, Stanley charged that "we are about to lose our republic." Part of the blame, according to Stanley, is liberalism among the nation's churches.

Stanley decried trends toward communism and socialism in America, attacks on the American home, gross immorality and the flood of pornography and drugs in America, a welfare system "that promotes laziness and slothfulness," and government red tape leading to the demise of the small business in America.

In addition to the election of Draper as president of the organization, the Pastors' Conference also elected Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, as vice president, and James Miller, pastor of Ridglea West Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, as secretary-treasurer.

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Wrapup Campus Ministers Explore Issues Baptist Press 6/12/79

By Linda Lawson

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Southern Baptist campus ministers are going to be pressed to account for their programs, methods and philosophies of student ministry, the newly-elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers said in the closing session of their two-day annual meeting here.

Ron Brown, campus minister in Roanoke, Va., said the challenge to accountability has come because many active Baptist Student Union members are not continuing their involvement in churches after graduation.

In their third annual meeting, almost 100 members of the association explored the future implications to campus ministry of a wide-ranging list of theological issues.

In three presentations, John Newport, vice president of academic affairs at South-western Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, addressed a variety of theological issues including morality, biblical inerrancy and the arts and media.

He said he is hurt by criticism that he doesn't believe or teach the Bible, after giving his life to defending biblical truth. "People saying we're not conservative or don't believe the Bible is the thing I resent."

"We could not allow anyone to teach at the seminary who didn't subscribe to the (statement of) Baptist Faith and Message," Newport said. "I don't think I'm teaching heresy and I don't think our faculty is."

In the second of three presentations to the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers, Newport predicted that biblical inerrancy will be a major issue among Southern Baptists for several years and, therefore, needs serious attention.

He said inerrancy is a legitimate issue but criticized those who impose 20th century categories; such as technical science "on a book God ordained to be written centuries ago. "I hope we will allow the Bible to lead us," Newport said. "It constitutes a powerful book that accomplishes God's purpose."

Newport said that throughout history biblical truth has been misinterpreted both by people on the left and the right. "The genius of Southern Baptists is that we haven't been caught in either extreme," he said.

He said the inerrancy debate could raise important questions and have positive results if all concerned would commit themselves to fairness and not building up one group by tearing down another.

"This is a difficult time," Newport said. "We want to meet the need of our constituency without compromising our integrity."

President Brown said campus ministers should answer the challenge to accountability by being change agents. "We are expected to be creative and innovative in our ministry," said Brown, noting that BSU has been the testing ground for relational Bible study and discussions of issues such as integration and homosexuality.

"The other edge of the sword comes when some think we're too far ahead," he said.

Brown said campus ministers should lead out in opposing highly simplified answers to complex problems such as nuclear disarmament and care of the earth.

"Rather than seeking easy answers, part of our prophetic role is to give time to offering complex enswers to complex problems," he said.

Brown also urged the ministers to be sure their methods are consistent with their theology and to continually evaluate their programs for balance. "To emphasize one aspect of the gospel to the neglect of the other is to promote a sub-Christian gospel," he said.

Wendell Belew, director of the missions ministries division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said Southern Baptists' major frontier is the theology of the church.

"The awful truth is that Southern Baptists are sick at church," he said.

Belew predicted that if Baptists don't deal with defining the church that by the end of the century the great mission fields may be in the south and the great sending fields may be the newer convention territories.

In spite of these problems, Belew called Southern Baptists "the greatest evangelical crowd in the world, but only because God has given us the torch for awhile."

In addition to Brown, other officers elected were vice president of administration, Russ Arch, University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo; vice president of membership, Sam Caruthers, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn.; and vice president of program, Burt Purvis, University of Houston.

Wrapup Musicians Explore and Display Energy

By Jim Lowry

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) -- Missions, energy and hearty singing highlighted the two-day Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at Tallowood Baptist Church here.

Approximately 1,000 church musicians and other music enthusiasts attended opening sessions to hear a series of mini concerts by top choirs and individual artists plus an address on bold missions by Russell Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Music rangel from classical to traditional throughout the conference, highlighted by a grand finale performance of the 1979 Texas All State Band and the Singing Men of Texas at First Baptist Church.

Dilday told the musicians that the witness of Southern Baptists needs to be person centered. "No matter how advanced we become in the media and mass communications, nothing will ever take the place of one individual sharing with another on a one-to-one basis. We have to relate to people not as a mass but to each one. That is the kind of Bold Mission Thrust that will reach people in our day."

A person's witness needs to be sensitive, pleasant and pungent, he said. "Leave them with a salty tang of genuine experience that is from the heart, not a professional, memorized echo that you heard somewhere."

Gwenn McCormick, director of the Department of Church Planning for the Baptist Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, spoke to the denominational division of musicians' conference about the energy crisis and its effect on Southern Baptist churches and denominational agencies.

"American people are beginning to reluctantly accept the fact that there is an energy crisis," McCormick said. "Even with that admission, though, there is still doubt, suspicion and the urge to find a scapegoat.

"Americans' use of energy must be recognized for what it is—irresponsible and sinful," he said. "We've got to adjust to the fact that saving energy is more important than saving time."

He also said that there is a strong possibility that Southern Baptists would soon have to examine the feasibility of holding annual conventions in light of shortages and high costs of energy.

During the business session, church music conference members voted by a 62-46 margin to increase dues by 50 percent to \$15 per year to offset inflation, higher program costs and increased postage. Opposition to the dues increase was based on a budget balance of more than \$5,000 after 1979 music conference expenses.

Thad Roberts, minister of music of Houston's South Main Baptist Church, began his two-year term as president of the music conference, succeeding James McKinney, dean of the school of church music at Southwestern Seminary.

Al Washburn, associate professor of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., was elected president-elect of the music conference. He will assume the presidency in 1981.

Other officers are Polly Riddle, director of keyboard studies at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., vice president of the education division; Bill J. Pearson, minister of music at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, vice president of the local church division; and Charles Gatwood, director of the church music department of the Baptist State Convention of Worth Carolina, Raleigh, vice president of the denominational division.

Milburn Price, chairman of the music department at Furman University, wrote the anthem, "O Give Thanks to the Lord," especially for the 1979 music conference. His song is the 14th commissioned anthem written for the conference.

Wrapup

Baptist Colleges Challenged To Recommit To Missions

By Dan Martin

GALVESTON, Texas (BP)--Baptist colleges have been challenged to instill a new worldview and mission involvement among students, faculty and supporters.

Appeals for such a revamping were sounded during the National Conference on Bold Christian Education and Bold Missions, held here under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

For three days, more than 300 persons--educators, theologians, missions personnel, laypeople--discussed the implications of education and missions in a religiously pluralistic world.

"What we have attempted to do in this conference is make college administration and faculty more sensitive to the historical mission of the institutions and to communicate to the agencies (of the convention) that there is no rivalry between a missions emphasis and educational interests," said Arthur L. Walker, Jr., executive director-treasurer of the commission.

For three days, the participants heard addresses by educators, theologians, missions strategists and spokesmen from the Third World, pointing out that missions, education and a new view of the religiously pluralistic world is essential if Southern Baptits are to minister and evangelize in the last fifth of the Twentieth Century.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a session in which educators, theologians and representatives of Southern Baptist agencies discussed the implications of bold education and bold missions.

Topics ranged from factors in the contemporary world which influence missions and education to ways of fostering missionary spirit on college campuses to how Baptist schools can help in focusing attention on critical issues in world missions.

Mission strategist Gerald H. Anderson of Ventnor, N. J., said: "Christians have no time to take up our cross and relax in a world with eleven times as many non-Christians as when Jesus Christ preached the Sermon on the Mount."

He added that Christians of North America have much to learn from Christians of other nations who have survived and maintained Christian witness through lifetimes of authoritarian government and religious pluralism.

Participants also heard an address from Orlando E. Costas, an internationally known Third World author and educator, who warned Southern Baptists and other "First World" Christians that they should listen to believers who have "lived and witnessed in lands of the oppressed and persecuted." He said they should try to understand the religious and cultural traditions of Third World Christians.

Participants also heard a presentation from Glenn Ingleheart, director of the Department of Interfaith Witness at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "Southern Baptists must fashion a coherent Christian apologetic for life and witness in this pluralistic world," he said. "Every agency, institution, church and college must give this priority.

"The Baptist college must have teachers with a global view; people from the Third World must be included on the faculty. The students must build global consciousness and competence, but at the same time, Baptist students must be grounded in the elements and distinctives of their own faith."

Jesse Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University, said a Baptist college's priority should be on its output of students with a world awareness, rather than on the input of recruitment and resources.

Fletcher asked, "What kind of church members will our students become? Do they come into our churches with a world view of missions involvement?"

He said that Baptist colleges are facing two tensions which relate to mission awareness: the priority of output or input, and the emphasis on curriculum or context.

"Maybe more than anything else we can develop a philosophy of history which reveals God through Jesus Christ is active in our world," the college president stated.

Another missiologist, Hugo Culpepper of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, told participants that "most people in our churches do not take missions seriously. A church is not regarded as being a mission agency, involving all of its members in the world of missions."

He said three factors make missions go awry: "First is making missions less than our reason for being, both as individuals and as the church. Second is doing missions with unworthy motives and mistaken goals and objectives. Third is falling under a spirit of triumphalism or arrogant pride."

He added: "Missions is not understood as the reason for being by the whole body of Christ. If it were accepted as such, there would be a profound transformation in the pattern of congregational life, of ministry and of Christian action in the world."

A fervent appeal to repair "a great divide between missions and education" which has produced "priests and scribes," was sounded by R. Kirby Godsey, the newest president of a major Baptist university.

Godsey, who was elected president of Mercer University two days before, said: "The vitality of missions is closely linked with the competence of our educational perspective. The two cannot remain foreign territories...education is the foundation of missions; missions is the destiny of education. Without education, mission remains empty; without missions, education remains blind."

He concluded with the affirmation that unless missions and higher education "can walk together, neither of us has anywhere to go."

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Government Regulations
Threaten Baptist Schools

By Rex Hammock

GALVESTON, Texas (BP) -- Baptists must be willing to fight excessive governmental regulation if their colleges and universities are to survive, an expert in education law said.

John Fant, legal counsel at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, told representatives of Southern Baptist state education committees that members of the nation's largest Protestant denomination "should rise up and draw the line" on governmental interference.

The meeting was held in conjunction with a National Conference on Bold Christian Education and Bold Missions sponsored by the SBC Education Commission.

"Bold education," Fant said, "can be totally thwarted by legal matters. Universities have been bombarded with governmental agency regulations of laws passed by Congress."

Fant cited several examples of dramatic increases in agency regulations, claiming that the "government has moved into an adversary role."

Fant admitted most of the laws were needed to protect the rights of students but chided different agencies of the federal government for imposing conflicting regulations.

"We're now in a 'Catch 22' situation in trying to comply with some of these agencies," he said. "There are too many agencies that deal with education. Sometimes they are in direct conflict with each other as to what they require the college to do."

Fant, a former judge, also claimed the cost of complying with agency demands is becoming prohibitive. "Handicap, environmental impact and occupational safey regulations could exceed \$13'billion to the education community," he said. "Soon 50 cents out of every dollar of Federal Student Aid will go to administrative paper work."

Fant did not put all of the blame for the explosion in regulations on Washington, however. "We as Baptists have let this emerge," he said, explaining, "at least in theory the people are the government."

"Baptists," he said, "must become legally intelligent in fighting government interference and must be willing to give up a low profile."

"Would it be appropriate to say that Baptists and other denominations should join in a 'people's revolt' against these regulations?" he asked, comparing such a "revolt" to California's Proposition 13.

"Baptists must be willing to go into a courtroom and get beat, knowing that next time we could win. We can't always wait to be sure that we are going to win. Our faith is not built on being sure."

Fant admitted that Baptist colleges would never get back to the days when the government has a "hands-off education stance," but claimed that "we can get back to a position of sanity."

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O'Hair 'In God We Trust' Suit Fails In High Court

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U. S. Supreme Court announced here it will not hear atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair's challenge to the constitutionality of the motto "In God We Trust" on coins and currency.

The high court's action marks the final defeat of the Austin, Texas-based O'Hair's efforts to remove the slogan.

Mrs. O'Hair filed suit against Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal in January 1978, in a federal district court in Austin. That court ruled against her three months later, holding that she failed to show a "cause of action."

On appeal, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans declined to hear the case last January.

The challenged slogan has appeared on U. S. coins for more than a century and on all currency since 1955, when former President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law a bill requiring that it be used.

Over the past 17 years, Mrs. O'Hair has come to the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of various religious practices in public life.

Her suit challenging mandatory prayer and Bible reading in the public schools resulted in a 1963 decision by the high court outlawing such devotional exercises. The high court had ruled in 1962 that a New York board of regents prayer designed to be read each day in state public schools likewise violated the "no establishment" of religion clause of the First Amendment.

In 1968, Mrs. O'Hair challenged the National Space and Aeronautics Administration for permitting astronauts in space to read from the Bible. She argued then that the famous Christmas Eve 1968 reading of the Christmas story violated the rights of non-believers.

On two separate occasions, however, the nation's high court declined to disturb lower court rulings disallowing her objections.

Since 1975 Mrs. O'Hair has been in the news frequently as the supposed author of a petition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which would ban religious broadcasting from the nation's airwayes.

The actual petition, filed by two California men, asked the powerful regulatory agency to refrain from assigning new educational television channels or radio frequencies to organizations which broadcast religious programs exclusively.

The FCC ruled unanimously on August 1, 1975, that such a policy would violate the free exercise of religion guarantee of the First Amendment.

Rumors linking Mrs. O'Hair to the effort have flourished, nevertheless, causing millions of Americans to sign petitions which have deluged the FCC for the past four years.





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Doctrine Integrity

HOUSTON, June 11-Battle lines on doctrinal integrity were drawn here Tuesday morning in the opening business session of the Southern Baptist Convention when two resolutions and a motion on the matter of biblical inerrancy (without error) were introduced.

The motion, introduced by Wayne Dehoney, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., calls on messengers to reaffirm the position adopted with the 1963 statement of Baptist Faith and Message.

One of the resolutions calls for electing men to the presidency and vice presidency who "stand without apology on the infallible and inerrant word of God." It was introduced by W. Everett Martin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ridgeland, Miss.

The other resolution calls on the "trustees of seminaries.....to faithfully discharge their responsibility to carefully preserve the doctrinal integrity of our institutions..." It was introduced by Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, Mo.

The question of biblical inerrancy and infallibility has been raised as a central issue in the convention by spokesmen from the ultraconservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship and by other groups who seek to elect officers to the convention who believe in the "inerrant Word."

Dehoney, who said he was acting on his own and not as a representative for any group of moderates, asked in his motion that messengers to the 1979 convention reaffirm the 1963 faith and message statement.

Dehoney's motion, however, spoke only to a section of the statement dealing with the scriptures.

"It speaks only to that issue, and asks messengers to reaffirm only that section," Dehoney said. "That has been the issue; that is the flag that has been raised."

In introducing his motion, Dehoney read from the preamble to the Baptist Faith and Message statement, which said such a statement would "serve as information to the churches and which may serve as guidelines to the various agencies...."

Dehoney told Baptist Press the statement had been adopted by an overwhelming vote of the messengers to the 1963 SBC after a year of careful study.

"I think we should reaffirm the statement rather than making radical changes," on such issues as inerrancy, he said.

The statement says, in part, that the Bible was "written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter"

Martin's resolution, which was adopted by the regular business session of First Baptist Church of Ridgeland, urges messengers that "the men we elect to the presidency and vice presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention be men who firmly stand without apology on the infallible and inerrant word of God to be our leaders during these days of opportunity for Southern Baptists."

Lewis, a former denominational worker in the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist Convention, presented a resolution which had been printed and distributed prior to the meeting. It was labeled: "The Doctrinal Integrity Resolution."

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Page 2--Doctrine Integrity

It calls on messengers to "exhort the trustees of seminaries affiliated with or supported by the Southern Baptist Convention to faithfully discharge their responsibility to carefully preserve the doctrinal integrity of our institutions, and to assure that seminaries receiving our support only employ or continue the employment of faculty members who believe in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible, the inerrancy of the original manuscripts, the existence of a personal devil and a literal Hell, the actual existence of a primeval couple named Adam and Eve, the literal occurrence of the miracles as recorded in the Bible, the Virgin Birth, Bodily Resurrection and the personal return of the Lord Jesus."

Lewis told Baptist Press that he was working as in an individual in presenting the resolution, and that he had made contact with some of the organized conservative groups only since the convention and related meetings started.

By Dan Martin -- 12:20 p.m. Tuesday





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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

First SBC Session Intro

HOUSTON, June 12--The 122nd session of the Southern Baptist Convention opened at The Summit here Tuesday with 12,514 registered messengers greeting Baptist guests from Korea, Burma, and Hong Kong.

Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, recognized fraternal messengers from other Baptist groups.

Yong Soon Nam, president of the Korean Baptist Convention, greeted Southern Baptists in Korean, translated by his son-in-law, Yong Hwan Kihl, a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

David Y. K. Wong of Hong Kong, president, and Robert S. Denny, general secretary, Baptist World Alliance, introduced Maran Zau Yaw and Thra Clifford Kyaw Dwe of the Baptist Convention of Burma. Denny said that the visit of the two men was the first of its nature for Burmese Baptist leaders in sixteen years.

Fraternal greetings also were extended personally to Southern Baptists by Mrs. Cora Sparrowk of Ione, Calif., president of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.

The Polish Baptist Association of the United States and Canada extended fraternal greetings through a representative of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"Bold Mission, While It is Yet Day" is the theme of the convention, and the first morning had several references to home and world missions.

Milton Cunningham of Houston, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which includes 2 million of the 13.2 million Southern Baptist church members, said that "what we have in Texas is a resultof the missions involvement of Southern Baptists."

Cunningham, pastor of Westbury Baptist Church, Houston, said that Southern Baptists of other states were pioneer preachers in Texas. He said that Judge REB Baylor of Kentucky, for whom Baylor University is named, came to the Houston area about 150 years ago and founded Union Baptist Association, whose churches are local hosts for this year's convention.

Dan Stringer of Portland, Ore., executive secretary of the Northwest Baptist Convention, responded to Cunningham's welcome on behalf of SBC messengers.

Lee Porter of Nashville, Tenn., registration secretary for the convention, made the motion, which was approved, that officially constituted the messengers from Southern Baptist churches as the convention.

Porter said that when the convention last met in Houston 11 years ago 15,071 messengers registered, making it the eighth largest convention in the denomination's history. The largest number of registered messengers at a convention of the denomination was 22,872 in Atlanta, Ga., in 1978.

Allen, paster of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, used a gavel in the opening session that was a gift from his paster father. Allen completes his second one-year term as denominational president during this year's convention.

T.B. Maston, professor emeritus, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, presented the opening prayer of the morning session. Official leather-bound copies of a book, "An Approach to Christian Ethics," dedicated to Maston by former students, were given to Allen, Maston and William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Johnnie Godwin of Broadman Press, Nashville, coordinated the presentations.



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CUTLINE #7

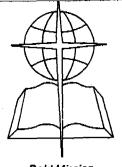
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADERS--Newly elected officers for the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association are (bottom to top), Lawrence Klempnauer, minister of education and administration, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, president; Roy Lee Williams Jr., director of church services division, Union Baptist Association, Houston, vice president; F. Marvin Myers, church management consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, secretary-treasurer; Tim Holcomb, minister of education, Polytechnic Baptist Church, Fort Worth, assistant secretary-treasurer. Photo by Stephen W. Medford

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CUTLINE #11

OPENING SESSION--12,514 messengers registered for the opening session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston. Convention officers whose terms expired this year are A. Douglas Watterson Jr., (left), Knoxville, Tenn., first vice president; Jimmy R. Allen (center), San Antonio, Texas, president; William L. Self (right), Atlanta, Ga., vice president. Photo by Tim Fields

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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Executive Committee: First Report

HOUSTON, June 12--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's 122nd session here Tuesday morning unanimously adopted a record breaking \$83 million budget for the denomination's worldwide program of missions in 1979-80.

In another of eight recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee Tuesday morning, the messengers adopted a total Cooperative Program goal of \$226 million for all of the state conventions of the 13.2 million member denomination.

The recommendation was in keeping with previous Convention action to double Cooperative Program gifts in five years, part of the Bold Mission Thrust campaign to reach every person on earth with the gospel by the year 2000. To put teeth into the effort, the messengers voted a \$12 million Bold Mission allocation.

The new SBC budget is an \$8 million increase over the 1978-79 budget. Receiving the largest share of the budget, \$33.3 million, will be the Foreign Mission Board with nearly 3,000 missionaries in 94 countries and territories.

The second largest amount, \$13.3 million, will go to the Home Mission Board to support the work of more than 2,800 missionaries. Other allocations were approved for the Annuity Board, \$325,000; the Golden Gate Seminary, \$1,279,564; Midwestern Seminary, \$1,324,514; New Orleans Seminary, \$2,342,835; Southeastern Seminary, \$2,317,319; Southern Seminary, \$3,440,372; Southwestern Seminary, \$4,182,888; the Southern Baptist Foundation, \$181,900; American Baptist Theological Seminary, \$160,500; the Brotherhood Commission, \$615,250; the Christian Life Commission, \$449,400; the Education Commission, \$310,300; the Historical Commission, \$235,400; the Radio-TV Commission, \$3,210,000; the Stewardship Commission, \$294,250; the Public Affairs Committee, \$272,850; the SBC operating budget, \$704,000; and seminary endowment, \$126,000.

Messengers also approved Executive Committee recommendations to hold the 1984 session of the SBC in Kansas City, Mo., June 12-14, and the 1985 session in Dallas, Texas, June 11-13.

Committee Chairman Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., presented the committee's new executive secretary-treasurer, Harold Bennett, and his wife, Phyllis.

Bennett presented a Bold Mission challenge noting that Southern Baptists have been given a tremendous challenge to reach every person on earth with the gospel.

"Phyllis and I have committed our lives and all we have and are to serving God and Southern Baptists," said Bennett who will succeed Porter Routh when Routh retires July 31.

Another recommendation adopted by the messengers calls on SBC agencies to respond in writing on all matters referred by the Convention.

Bylaw 28 was amended to require agencies to respond in writing at the close of their report in the Book of Reports and Annual, giving specific information on (1) how the matter referred was considered; (2) how it was reported to the constituency; and (3) any actions on the matter taken by the agency or action proposed to the Convention.

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By Orville Scott--12:15 p.m., Tuesday



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Bold Mission
While It Is Yet Day!

McCall Elected 1st VP

HOUSTON, june 12--Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, was elected first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention Tuesday in a run-off election at the Summit.

T.A. Patterson, who retired in 1973 after 13 years as executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas to become executive vice-president of World Evangelism Foundation, ran against McCall in the run-off.

McCall, nominated by Bill Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, received 2,905 votes on the run-off ballot or 54.44 percent of the votes. Patterson, nominated by John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston, received 2,431 votes or 45.56 percent.

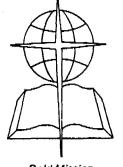
McCall has been Baylor's president since 1961 and was executive vice-president for two years before that. He previously served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas and dean of Baylor's Law School. He has been president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

The other nomination in earlier balloting was Charles Harvey, pastor of Sunset Acres Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.

In early business, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., was elected SBC president over five opponents.

By Charlie Warren--9:00 p.m. Tuesday

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Rogers Reaction by Messengers

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 12-Messenger reaction to the first-ballot election of Adrian Rogers as president of the Southern Baptist Convention was mixed Tuesday, but few felt it signals a shift to ultraconservativism.

Messengers polled by Baptist Press, however, do expect some shift to a more conservative theological stance, a position many believe has been the position of the convention all along.

Most messengers polled expressed satisfaction with Rogers' election as president of the 13.2 million member denomination, the nation's largest protestant denomination.

"I don't attach much significance to it (the first ballot victory)," said Marjorie Harris of Nashville, Tenn. "I just think it is because he is a decent man."

"Well," said Bob Hollingsworth, pastor in Riceville, Tenn., "it looks like the convention is ultraconservative. I know he (Rogers) is ultraconservative. But I don't think you can read too much into it; we have always been a conservative denomination."

One note which was injected into Rogers election which has not been in any recent SBC election was the question of politics. "I hate to say it, but it meant politics," said Howard Taylor, from Greenville, Miss.

Several gave major significance to the endorsement of Rogers by W. A. Criswell, pastor of the denomination's largest church, First Baptist Church of Dallas, and a former president of the convention.

"Dr. Criswell okayed him, so anybody that Criswell says he'd like elected, gets elected," said Charles Bradshaw, 79, from Corpus Christi, Tex.

Gary Boyd of Coleman, Tex., also noted that "Criswell's endorsement carried a lot of weight" among the messengers.

Criswell made a ringing endorsement of Rogers during the opening night of the . . Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, an endorsement which drew heavy applause.

But what meant politics to some meant unity to others.

Buddie Gregg, a campus minister from Silver City, N.M., said the election "meant there was a lot of unity behind him."

Paige Bowman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Va., added the election was "a good sign of unity among the messengers."

Messenger Boyd expressed relief that the biblical inerrancy issue did not become divisive. "I came hoping there wouldn't be controversy over the biblical inerrancy issue, as there could have been. The messengers in general wanted to avoid confrontation."

Some felt the conservative element would be stronger, as did Jerry Glisson, pastor of Leawood Baptist, Memphis, Tenn. "This represents a trend to the right after years of moving to the left. However, that doesn't mean the convention is becoming ultraconservative like some people think."

Another, Bill Patterson, pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church in Buffalo, Ky., said: "I think the election means that the messengers want some focus on evangelism while upholding the Bible. But I don't think it will be biblical orthodoxy instead of Bold Mission Thrust.

"I think his election will be unifying. The biblical innerancy people no longer have a big issue. I think it has taken the steam out of their campaign without blunting Bold Mission Thrust."

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Page 2--Rogers Reaction by Messengers

A deacon from Gatewood Baptist Church in Houston, Harvey Black, expressed hope that Rogers will be able to "make conservatism more dominant in the convention."

Among the messengers who feel Rogers election is significant for the conservative viewpoint came these comments:

"I think it is a result of something that has been fermenting in our convention for years. People seem to think there needs to be something done. There's a feeling there are some people in our seminaries who don't hold the viewpoint Rogers and others hold. I think the election is a statement of the feeling, 'Let's get on with it...'," said Murray Hardy, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in New Caney, Texas.

"I think it means we're headed upwards. People are saying, 'Let's get back to the basics." We are going to have to get back to simple unadulterated preaching of Jesus and that's what Adrian does," said Rudy Hernandez, an evangelist from Grand Prairie, Texas.

David French of Swartz Creek, Mich., added: "The key to the whole thing is that (Robert) Naylor got defeated. That was like voting against grandma. I think Naylor was picked by the establishment as a popular candidate who could defeat Rogers."

One messenger, Luther Burton, pastor of Chapel by the Sea Baptist Church on Tybee Island, Ga., commented: "I think this is a step in the direction whereby the ultraconservatives would like to get in control of the convention. Especially would they like to get control of the seminaries, but thank goodness we have boards of trustees."

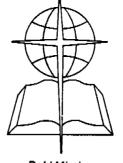
Ignoring the political and theological disputes, other messengers commented they were glad Rogers was elected.

"He's biblically sound and can pick up the gauntlet from Brother (Jimmy) Allen," said Charles Miller of Glenmora, La.

Added Joyn Gamblin of Kevil, Ky.: "I think he is God's man for the hour. I feel there's a sense of division among Southern Baptists and he's the man who can bring us together."

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By Dan Martin, Debbie Stewart, Orville Scott, Jennifer Anderson--8:45 p.m. Tuesday



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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Foreign Mission Board Reception

HOUSTON, June 12--When Baker J. Cauthen took the helm of the Foreign Mission Board 25 years ago, he wanted Baptists to get personally acquainted with foreign missionaries. So he invited all Baptists assembled for the Southern Baptist Convention to a reception for missionaries who were present.

The Foreign Mission Board reception has become an annual tradition at Southern Baptist Conventions. "Southern Baptists love their missionaries," Cauthen explains. "We all like this way of getting together."

This year, Cauthen's last in office, he was detained by convention business and snarled traffic. The host was late arriving at South Main Baptist Church, where the reception was held. The lithe leader bounded from a screeching taxi. Under his arm was the plaque of praise and appreciation just presented by the SBC Executive Committee.

He stopped to thank the taxi driver at length for his services. Then, with white hair flying in the Houston wind, he threaded through a maze of hugs and handshakes from retired missionaries. Traffic stopped as an elderly woman hobbled from a car to be greeted by name.

At last in the reception hall, Cauthen was immediately surrounded by a half-dozen young missionaries who wanted their pictures made with the famed leader. At least 200 of the 2,908 now appointed by the Foreign Mission Board were there, garbed in the colorful clothes of their chosen nations.

It was a family-style party. The usual crowd of 800 was cut by the complexities of transportation and by conflicting events. Yet hundreds crowded around tables of punch and sandwiches served by the members of Woman's Missionary Union at South Main Baptist Church.

Flashbulbs lighted Cauthen's way through the crowd until he found his wife Eloise. In a brief speech, Cauthen asked for prayer for the missionary commissioning service planned for Wednesday night of the SBC. "This ecan set the whole cause of missions forward," he said.

Mrs. Cauthen said, "We not only love the cause of missions, but we love you who are involved in it."

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By Catherine Allen--7:40 p.m. Tuesday

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Tuesday Afternoon Resolutions

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

HOUSTON, June 12--Twenty new resolutions, bringing the day's total to 37, were presented to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention here Tuesday afternoon.

Apart from a pair of statements calling on the convention to express support for seminary and college professors and administrators in Baptist schools, those most likely to generate lively discussion before the resolutions committee include a call to reaffirm the 1978 SBC resolution on abortion and a proposal that the convention go on record against the proposed SALT treaty with the Soviet Union.

Other resolutions dealing with sensitive social issues included alcohol, pornography, domestic violence, the plight of migrant workers, world hunger, the needs of family farms, and escalating second class postal rates.

The proposal to endorse last year's statement on abortion, presented by Bob Mulkey, pastor of Greenlawn Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C., is bound to be debated by the resolutions committee side by side with one introduced earlier in the day by a Kansas City, Mo. clergyman.

That statement seeks to put the convention on record in support of a constitutional amendment or other legislation which would reverse the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision permitting abortions during the first three months of pregnancy, provided a woman reaches her decision for an abortion in consultation with her physician.

The high court also ruled that during the second trimester of pregnancy, states have a limited interest in the regulation of abortions, while during the final three months they may outlaw them outright.

Virtually every session of the SBC since then has witnessed intense debate on the subject. Last year in Atlanta, messengers reaffirmed previous stands calling for a high view of human life, including fetal life, but declaring nonetheless that government should not absolutely forbid abortions.

The resolution against the proposed SALT pact with the Soviet Union directly opposed one presented earlier asking the convention to record its support.

The agreement, seven years in the making, has been negotiated by three U. S. presidents. President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Breshneviare to sign the pact next week in ceremonies in Vienna. Only if the U. S. Senate ratifies the agreement by a two-thirds vote, however, will it take effect.

A pair of resolutions called on Southern Baptists to reaffirm their traditional opposition to alcoholic beverages. One, presented by Charles Clary of Austin, Tex., asked messengers "to adhere to and promote vigorously and positively their commitment to abstinence."

Another called on messengers to support legislation in Congress restricting the advertising of alcoholic beverages and to enact laws requiring warning labels on liquor bottles.

Richard Ivy, pastor of Baptist Temple, Baytown, Tex. describing pornography as a "moral cancer," challenged messengers to reaffirm last year's resolution putting the convention on record as "diametrically opposed to pornography in any form."

The proposal on domestic violence speaks to both child and spouse abuse, calling on local congregations to minister to victims and encouraging "clear and responsible public policy" designed to combat the growing problem at every level of government.

J. Earl Dunn, pastor of the Harris Avenue Baptist Church, San Angelo, Tex., urged messengers to take note of the plight of migrant farm workers, including malnutrition and a high incidence of disease. The statement calls on Southern Baptist agencies and institutions to find ways of sharing "the gospel's concern for the total person" to migrants.



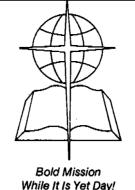
The proposed resolution on world hunger, the second on the subject presented Tuesday, would instruct the Baptist Sunday School Board and other denominational agencies to develop curriculum materials on world hunger and to emphasize world hunger in their publications.

W. L. Stockton, a messenger from Aspermont, Tex., called attention to the shrinking number of single family farms in the nation, calling the trend a "threat to rural communities, traditional values, a family-based food production system, and ultimately food security in this nation and around the world." He called for public policy "which will preserve the family farm."

The resolution on second class postage rates, presented by Ohio Baptist Messenger editor Theo Sommerkamp, points to escalating costs for mailing newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals and asks President Carter and members of Congress to request the Postal Service Rate Commission to hold future increases to the President's cost of living guidelines.

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By Stan Hastey--6 p.m. Tuesday



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Second Report of Executive Committee

HOUSTON, June 12--A recommendation explaining Southern Baptist agencies' charges to churches for services rendered drew lengthy debate during the Tuesday afternoon report by the denomination's Executive Committee.

The recommendation, which came in response to a motion at last year's Convention by John C. Green of Indialantic, Fla., said most convention agencies receive their funds through the Cooperative Program or designated gifts and make no charges to churches for '. their services.

The Executive Committee cited some exceptions to the practice such as agencies charging for recovery of reasonable costs for materials and costs from individuals for conferences they conduct.

Green presented a motion to the convention for a 15-person committee to study financial practices of the agencies.

He said he felt that reducing the number of times agencies solicit funds could result in helping the churches reach the goal of doubling Cooperative Program giving.

Objections to Green's motion were raised by Porter Routh of Nashville, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee.

Routh said the 60-mamber Executive Committee already has responsibilities for making such studies, and Green's proposal would result in unnecessary duplication and extra costs of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

A motion by a Huntsville, Tex. messenger to postpone the vote until Green's motion could be printed in the Convention Bulletin failed for lack of two-thirds majority.

Messengers then voted down Green's motion.

Seven other Executive Committee recommendations passed without discussion by messengers

A recommendation in response to a 1978 motion by Jack Gritz, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, said it does not appear that a seventh seminary is feasible.

The recommendation called for the six seminaries to outline "possibilities of extending their ministries for meeting the needs for theological education in the Northeast, the North Central, the West and the Northwest.

Other recommendations adopted by the Convention Tuesday afternoon included continuing Bold Mission Thrust for 1982-85 under the themes of reaching people, developing believers and strengthening families, revising the charter of the SBC Sunday School Board and adjusting the program statement for the six seminaries.

In another action, Executive Committee Chairman Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., presented plaques of appreciation to three SBC leaders.

They were Paul M. Stevens, who will retire Oct. 1 after serving as president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission for 26 years; Baker James Cauthen who retires Dec. 31 after serving as executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board for 26 years; and Porter Routh, who retires July 31 after serving as executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee for 28 years.

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By Orville Scott--5:45 p.m. Tuesday



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Roundup for Wednesday pms

HOUSTON, June 13--Southern Baptists were encouraged here Wednesday to put aside denominational power plays and the propagation of half truths and to start praying for their missions agencies in a spirit of cooperation.

William M. Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church of New Orleans, told the messengers to the 122nd annual meeting of the 13.2 million member Southern Baptist Convention the only power plays which score for eternity are those involving God's Holy Spirit working through committed Christians.

Keynoting the convention with an address entitled "Accept God's Great Glad Day," Hinson called critics of the denomination without credentials a bore who keep many Christians on the sidelines with their debates instead of sharing their Christian faith.

"Many of them are better known for what they are against, rather than what they are for," Hinson contended. "They are constantly out to denounce something or someone. They organize all of their loyalties around whatever they oppose.

"God's primary demand calls for us to stop talking about our Convention, and start talking about Jesus. God's primary demand urges us to stop classifying Christians and start edifying one another in Him."

Hinson also warned the messengers about becoming enamored with programs instead of Christian commitment.

"Great programs do challenge us, and often stimulate some human-response success," Hinson reminded. "But we will not march to God's positive declaration for his particular day with any sense of real revival without crowning him anew as the Lord of our individual lives.

"For too long, we have been waiting for another program. In reality, we are merely playing church. In an antiseptic kind of way we actually cheat because we have not made a basic commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

While strident voices want to make Christ a past event, Hinson said, record enrolments at Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries are evidence God wants Southern Baptists to expose the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"If we are going to reach our goal of sharing the Gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000, we must decide to take spiritual risks today."

In other action, the messengers heard annual progress reports from two of their 20 agencies, the Brotherhood Commission at Memphis, and the Historical Commission at Nashville.

The Brotherhood Commission reported preparing 325 training specialists to orient church and associational Brotherhood officers, printing Brotherhood materials in Spanish, Korean and Chinese and sponsoring a leader training conference with Woman's Missionary Union which attracted 2,047 Baptists.

The Historical Commission announced the preparation of a 10 pamphlet series on Baptist life and history and a plan for recognizing churches celebrating centennials and other significant historical anniversaries.

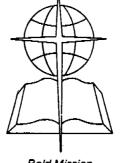
In a series of business sessions, the messengers elected Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis as their next president.

Rogers took a first ballot victory with more than 51 per cent of the vote from five opponents.

The messengers elected Harold Bennett of Nashville as treasurer and re-elected two other Nashville men, Lee Porter as registration secretary and Martin Bradley as recording secretary.

By Roy Jennings--6:30 p.m. Tuesday

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Facilities Feature

HOUSTON, June 12--The daytime parking nightmare at the Summit prompted Southern Baptist Convention messenger Bill Smith of Paris, Tenn., Tuesday to introduce a resolution censuring the arrangements committee.

Bus transportation rates that ran as high as \$16 a day for a family of four caused messengers like Ken Jordan, Meadville, Miss., to express "disappointment with the transportation problem."

Frustrations mounted as the first day wore on to evening and some messengers had scrounged two meals from disaster vans, snack bars and nearby restaurants without going back to their hotels all day.

Those with the lowest tension levels seemed to be people like Ken Sorrell, Wichita, Kans., who had worked out alternative plans.

Sorrell, who had heard before arriving that no daytime parking would be available, had his teenage son drive him and his wife to the convention and then pick them up after the sessions.

Advance publicity in Baptist state papers about facilities problems helped the feelings of some like Roger and Mary Dobbins, Walnut Grove, N.C., who "arrived with bad vibrations" but found "it's not as bad as we expected."

Perhaps the person least surprised that messengers had complaints about parking, transportation and an exhibit hall that held the same number of exhibits in half the usual space was Tim Hedquist, convention coordinator.

Four weeks after Hedquist took his position with the convention's Executive Committee in December 1977, he began making rounds of convention sites already salected. A contract had been signed with the HoustonColiseum which advertised a capacity of 13,000.

"It couldn't hold that many with a shoehorn," Hedquist said. And therein began his search for options in Houston, a site already approved by convention vote.

The Astrodome initially looked most promising, but the cost of installing a sound system adequate for business sessions would have cost more than the entire budget for the convention.

After also exploring holding split sessions at the Coliseum and Music Hall, moving the convention to the Astro Hall (low ceiling, too small) and Astro Coliseum (too small), Hedquist decided the Summit was the only option which met space requirements.

"Daytime parking we knew from the beginning would be the problem" Hedquist said. Several messengers agreed.

"I don't like the parking situation. I'd trade the accoustics for parking," said Gerald Mann, Austin, Tex. "We've never had trouble making ourselves heard."

Medford Hutson, Richfield, Utah, was trying to attend the convention on crutches following an ankle injury and was unable to find parking for the handicapped. He also found little support from fellow messengers who, intentionally or not, knocked his crutches out from under him "at least six times."

The bus transportation system was developed with the aid of Jim Manly on the Houston mayor's staff. Manly, a Baptist currently serving as interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Anahuac, Tex., was assigned by the mayor to help set up a much-needed public transportation for the city.

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Manly put Hedquist in touch with Meet Houston, a shuttle service for conventioneers. Because Houston's metro bus system had no charter buses available, "this was the only hope for us being able to provide transportation," Manly said.

On the positive side, messengers gave the Summit high marks for sight and sound during convention sessions.

For the future, Hedquist said, "We're coming to where we're going to have to pick a limited number of cities and rotate the convention among them." He said Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta, St. Louis and Kansas City currently offer the best possibilities.

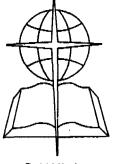
Moving to this system would mean special provisions would need to be made to aid local committees who presently put in a full year of work preparing for the meeting.

Midway through day one of the convention, Hedquist said messengers had minimized the very real problems through their positive attitudes in dealing with them.

The problems are just as serious but people have been so gracious and their spirits are good," Hedquist said.

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By Linda Lawson--8:25 p.m., Tuesday



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Colson News Conference

HOUSTON, June 12--Former White House aide and Watergate figure Charles Colson expressed opposition to the death penalty Tuesday, citing in a press conference four reasons why he opposed the execution of criminals like John Spenkalink recently executed in Florida.

Colson said he opposed capital punishment because he did not feel the state should have the power to take a human life, because capital punishment is not a proven deterrent to crime, because he had met too many men in prison who are innocent, and because "I don't think the state should play God."

In Houston to deliver a major address during the Southern Baptist Convention, Colson acknowledged that his response might be as acceptable to some Baptists attending the convention as throwing a hand grenade into their midst, but he felt deeply about the matter.

"As a lifelong conservative," Colson explained, "I have always been reluctant to give the state the power to take a human life. Give the state the power to take one life, and it will take 20 lives, and then where do you draw the line?" He added he opposed capital punishment even before he became a Christian.

"As a deterrent to crime, capital punishment just does not work," Colson insisted.

He quoted a hardened criminal and hired killer in one prison who told him capital punishment only makes the cost of paid killings higher, and thus is not a deterrent to organized crime "hits."

Colson observed that 83 percent of American crimes are committed by people under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and capital punishment is certainly not a deterrent to such killing. He also pointed out that crimes of passion will not be deterred by the death penalty.

Colson claimed that he had met many prison inmates personally who are innocent, and he did not want the guilt of taking the life of an innocent person on the conscience of society.

"Finally, in my reading of the New Testament, I cannot accept the practice of capital punishment if I am to live by the commandments of Jesus." Colson said.

He explained that if the state takes the life of a person "prematurely," it denies that person the right to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ, and "once you execute that man, it's too late. I don't think the state should play God," he declared.

Asked what is an effective deterrent to crime if capital punishment is not, Colson said the greatest deterrent to crime is "a movement of righteousness across the nation" and "when people meet Jesus Christ personally."

He was critical of Christians who fail to live out their faith and convictions, pointing out that one out of every three Americans contend they are "born again," and yet the values in society are hardly "Christian."

"If 13 million Southern Baptists really came alive, and lived out their faith in today's society, it would turn this country upside down," Colson said.

He acknowledged he did not know where or when a "movement of righteousness across the nation" would begin, but said "perhaps it might begin in the prisons and penitentiaries" in 22 states where Colson is involved in a prison fellowship ministry.

Page 2--Colson News Conference

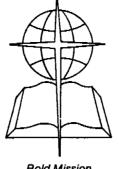
Colson said he was disappointed in the response to his movie, Born Again, which had very poor response in the Bible Belt," perhaps because by the time it came out the phrase 'Born Again' had worn thin."

He also expressed disappointment in the few segments he saw of the television series "Blind Ambition," on Watergate, and was especially critical of the TV documentary, "Sacred Straight," which he called "a sham" because it made prison inmates look like animals and used X-rated language on TV.

Colson said he had no plans ever to enter politics, pointing out that he is a convicted felon and has no right to vote or hold office in his home state. When the governor offered to reinstate his right to vote and hold office, he declined unless the law were changed to allow every other ex-felon the same privilege.

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By Jim Newton, 9:20 p.m., Tuesday



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Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Business, Wednesday Morning

HOUSTON, June 13--The Southern Baptist Convention spent too much time embroiled in discussions about the retirements of top executives during the past year, Baptist pastor Jerry Don Abernathy of Tulsa, Okla., said Wednesday.

Abernathy's concern over the retirement policies affecting denominational employees prompted him to introduce a motion adopted by the convention without dissent that the trustees of the boards and agencies consult with the Southern Baptist Annuity Board over the development of a uniform retirement program.

Abernathy, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, said the announcement of the retirement benefits for Porter Routh of Nashville, stepping down this year as executive secretary treasurer of the convention, and Paul Stevens of Ft. Worth, who retired earlier this year as president of the Radio and Television Commission, created the bulk of the discussion.

"The adoption of a uniform policy would help us avoid this--and certainly we don't need this type of problem," Abernathy said. He reminded them, the Annunity Board has previously recommended the adoption of a uniform policy.

The pastor said all Southern Baptists appreciate and desire that denominational employees be adequately compensated during their years of labor.

"A uniform retirement policy will help insure that they can retire with dignity," he explained.

Approved without discussion, the motion states that a report on the interaction between the Annuity Board and trustees of the agencies, boards and commissions, who have the responsibility for setting retirement guidelines, be presented at the 1980 convention in St. Louis.

The messengers also approved a motion offered by Owen Cooper, a Yazoo City, Miss., business executive and former convention president, that the Christian Life Commission form a consortium of religious bodies that would establish a national committee for the evaluation and labeling of television programs.

"Something needs to be done about it (TV programming), and I think one positive step is a national committee that could help keep Christians informed about what is being broadcast into their homes," he said.

Cooper said the committee would look at television—and possibly other entertainment media programs—in regards to "violence, crime, sexual aberrations, vulgarity and such personally and harmful practices as the consumption of beverage alcohol, smoking and drug use."

An amendment offered by Cooper was accepted by the messengers, asking the convention's executive committee to study funding needs of the proposed committee.

Also added to the motion was an amendment, offered by William Whitfield, pastor of the Cypress Shores Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., stating that the proposed committee would work with "other groups" involved in television program interpretation.

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By Bracey Campbell--11:50 a.m., Wednesday





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While It Is Yet Day!

Committee on Committees

HOUSTON, June 13--The nominations of agency trustees by the Committee on Boards, commissions and standing committees was unanimously approved Wednesday by Southern Baptist Convention messangers without discussion when a rumored alternate conservative slate failed to materialize.

Kenneth L. Chafin of Houston, chairman of the committee, said he wanted the messengers to clearly understand that the purpose of his committee was simply to nominate.

"The messengers clect," Chafin emphasized.

The Committee on Boards, commissions and standing committees nominates members of general boards; trustees, directors or boards of institutions; standing committees; members of commissions; and the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Committee on Boards is composed of two members from each qualified state, including one lay person and one church or denominational employee.

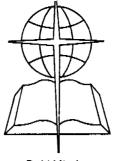
Chafin said that the members of his committee met and prayed together before beginning their work of determining vacancies, and completing the list of nominees published in the convention bulletin.

Chafin said that the laymen nominated are involved in their local church activities, as are the church and denominational staff. He gave the example of two nominees in his report, Dewey Presiey of Dallas, a businessman who is a Sunday School teacher, and Mrs. Minnette (Huber) Drumwright of Fort Worth, a leader in Woman's Missionary Union and wife of a seminary professor.

The raport of the Committee on Committees was approved without discussion after presentation by Luke E. Williams Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, chairman of that committee. The Committee on Committees nominated the new Committee on Boards.

-30-

By Debbie Stewart--11:20 a.m.



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Historical Commission Report

HOUSTON, June 13--Southern Baptists have a story that needs to be shared with their children, who are growing up without denominational awareness, the chairman of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission said Wednesday.

Walter B. Shurden, the commission's chairman, said Southern Baptists' heritage can "inspire us as well as guide us." He joined Lynn E. May Jr., the commission's executive director-treasurer, in calling attention to a Baptist Heritage series of 10 pamphlets that have been released to help Baptists know more of this heritage.

"Remembering our history is a good way to help make some more history," Shurden said in the commission's report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

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By Bob Stanley--11:30 a.m., Wednesday





SBC News Room
The Summit, Houston
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Wilmer C. Fields
SBC Press Representative
Robert O'Brien
News Room Manager
Norman Jameson
Photography/Features Manager

Mrs. Adrian Rogers Interview

HOUSTON, June 13--" aybe the best thing I could do is sit by his side and be supportive," Mrs. Adrian Rogers said Wednesday after her husband and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church at Memphis, Tenn., was elected president of the 13.2 million member denomination.

Mrs. Rogers, an attractive woman with hazel eyes hidden behind large blue-framed glasses, told reporters both she and her husband "have gotten overwhelmed" by Rogers' election on the first ballot.

Mrs. Rogers, the former Joyce Gentry of West Palm Beach, Fla., described herself as a person who has set priorities on being a wife and a homemaker, a role she urges for married women.

"I believe in the traditional role of male leadership, but do not believe women are inferior. Adrian doesn't believe that I am inferior. He has designated lots of responsibility to me. I make mnay decisions because of the responsibility he has delegated to me," she said.

She said she has not traveled extensively with Rogers, believing instead that her role is to be at home with their four children. "Perhaps I will be able to travel more with him, now," she added.

The Rogers have four children, two boys and two girls. Their ages range from 17 to 25.

Mrs. Rogers becomes animated when she talks about the role of women.

"I suppose if I had a chance to speak, it would be to show the error of what the feminists and the Biblical feminists are saying. I have a strong reaction against secular feminism. I am not surprised—grieved, but not surprised—by what they are saying."

She spelled out her position by noting: "I believe we (men and women) have equality in Jesus Christ. The Bible indicates men and women are of equal worth, but they do not have the same functions."

Mrs. Rogers is sponsoring a conference on the role of women in Memphis in May of 1980. It is billed as the "Mid-America Christian Women's Concer-s Conference."

The title of the conference is "A Wise Woman Builds," which is the description a friend applies to Mrs. Rogers. "I would say she is a wise woman who builds," said the friend

The conference, according to the brochure, notes the leaders and participants "believe the Written Word of God is our inerrant guide."

Commenting on rumors that she had sponsored a breakfast meeting prior to her husband's election for the purpose of supporting his candidacy as a conservative, she laughlingly said: "I don't understand how things like that get started.

"I did have a breakfast meeting, but it had no relation to this convention at all. I have had a burden on my heart for a long time about feminism in our country today, but I have not seen a real platform from which to share the Piblical view of woman.

"I just wanted to challenge some of my close friends who I do not get to see except at the convention," she said.

Breakfast for about 30 women dealt with the Wise Woman Builds conference, she explained

Mrs. Rogers, who appears committal to speaking to her view of the biblical role of women, says she "does not consider herself as a "militant, aggressive woman."

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In a question on biblical inerrancy, which has been at issue in this convention, she shares her husband's views about the infallibility of the Bible.

"I share his views; we believe the vast majority of Southern Baptists really love God's word. There is a very small minority who don't."

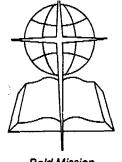
She added she is active in the Woman's Missionary Union organization in her church, serving as special projects chairman. "I am very eager that within that, we can lift up the woman's role," she said.

Mrs. Rogers admitted she is unaccustomed to all of the attention from messengers and the media. "I was interviewed for the first time yesterday (Tuesday)." she said.

-30-

By Dan Martin--10:45 g.m. Wednesday





The Summit, Houston (713) 850-9127 Wilmer C. Fields SBC Press Representative Robert O'Brien News Room Manager Norman Jameson Photography/Features Manager

SBC News Room

Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!

Roundup for Thursday ams

HOUSTON, June 13--Evangelist Billy Graham called on Southern Baptists Wednesday night to carry the Christian gospel to the world with an unparalleled obsession.

Climaxing a giant Bold Mission rally at the Astrodome, Graham urged messengers to the 122nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention to adopt the obsession of missionary predecessors and "dare to believe God for even greater things in the year to come."

"Let us get on with this obsession with a new dedication and fervor that we have never known before," pleaded the Southern Baptist evangelist.

Graham made the plea for more missionaries following a dramatic show of missionary strength by the 13.2 million member denomination.

"In too much of the world the emphasis has already been shifted from the Christians to other religious and ideologies," Graham reminded. "The enthusiasm and the sacrifice they show for their beliefs often puts our half-hearted efforts to shame."

"Would that we could be considered "beside ourselves" so that we might at least demand the world's attention and be as enthusiastic in the pursuit of evangelistic and missionary aims as they are in the pursuit of their ends.

In a call for commitment to the Lordship of Christ, Graham asked the messengers to consider the authority they have, the message they proclaim, the people they are, and the power they have been promised.

Earlier in the day, Southern Baptist messengers received a glowing progress report from their Foreign Mission Board which reported a banner year in missionary appointments and volunteers.

For the fourth straight year, missionary appointments reached a new high with 350, an increase of 25 per cent over 1977.

Some 2,866 persons, including 31 Mission Service Corps persons, went overseas as volunteers to aid in the work of career missionaries, the report added.

Southern Baptists now have 2,906 missionaries under appointment to 94 countries, the report said.

In a business session, the messengers elected Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., as their first vice president, and reaffirmed the Scripture Section of their 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

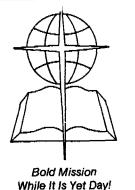
The three-day convention will close Thursday night following addresses by country comic Jerry Clower, Los Angeles paster Emmanuel Scott and Russian Baptist dissident Georgi Vins.

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By Roy Jennings--11:00 a.m. Wednesday

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And the



SBC News Room The Summit, Houston (713) 850-9127 Wilmer C. Fields SBC Press Representative Robert O'Brien News Room Manager Norman Jameson Photography/Features Manager

Adrian Rogers Press Conference

HOUSTON, June 13--Newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., said in his first full-fledged news conference Wednesday he would not favor a "witch hunt" investigation of liberalism in SBC seminaries, but would support such an investigation if it were carried out by a committee that was fair and balanced.

Rogers, nominee of what some have described as a "conservative political machine" within the SBC, also said he hoped that the kind of political organization which led to his election would not be a pattern for future elections of SBC presidents.

"I was not a part of this campaign. I never went to a single meeting. I don't belong to Paige Patterson or Judge Paul Pressler, or even to this convention. I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ."

"I'm not here to represent any splinter groups," he declared. "I'm here to represent the Lord Jesus Christ,

"I love Paige. Patterson and Judge Paul Pressler, but if I can't be the president of all Southern Baptists, then I don't want to be here."

Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, and Pressler, a Houston appellate courts judge, were reported to have been the key organizers in the campaign to elect a convention president who upholds the Bible as "the infallible, inerrant (without error) Word of God."

Amplifying the question of a committee to investigate charges of liberalism in SBC seminaries, Rogers added: "I would not favor any group that came with blood in its eye to go on a witch hunt."

He added, however, that any "liberalism" is too much if it means that Baptist seminaries, agencies, or institutions have employees who doubt the Bible is the authentic, infallible Word of God.

Rogers said in an opening statement that his goals as convention president would center of missions, evangelism, faith in God's word, and loving each other.

Declaring he wanted to be positive in his approach, Rogers said "I am not against anyone or anything except the devil and sin."

"I want to try to be a good, conservative, soul-winning, Bible-believing, church-building pastor and convention president," Rogers said.

He said he did not agree to be nominated for president of the convention until after a 2:30 a.m. prayer meeting with two other men in his hotel room the night before the nomination.

During that prayer meeting, he said, "God so came down that tears of joy" streamed down the faces of these in the room and he was sure God had spoken to him and given him assurance to accept the nomination.

Rogers said any plans he might have for dealing with "liberal" trends are extremely premature.

"I didn't have a plan because I was not a candidate," he said. "Most of what I'll be doing is setting a tone." Rogers said Southern Baptists have processes that will remove a-yone who doesn't teach according to the Bible.

"These processes work best when the body is strong and healthy. I would like to help us be strong and healthy. I would rather be giving strong doses of vitamins than amputations."

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Concerning a resolution presented Tuesday by Wayne Dehoney, of Louisville, Ky., asking reaffirmation of the Scriptures section of the 1973 Baptist Faith and Message Statement, Rogers said he wished Dehoney would be more specific in what he means by "the Bible is truth, without any mixture of error..."

"Some mean one thing, some another, and I wish they would clarify what they mean. If they mean the truth of the Bible is true, that's a nonsensical question."

Pressed to name a former SBC president he considered liberal, Rogers cited a reference by former United States Congressman Brooks Hayes of Arkansas in his book, "Is the Bible a Human Book?"

Asked for an example of what he means by "inerrancy," he cited a message by a seminary professor who indicated that one narrative of God's creation of man in Genesis should take precedent over another.

"Therefore he's saying here's a section of God's word that should be shunted aside. That's more than quibbling over the words. I don't care what you call it as long as you believe God's Word is God Word."

Rogers said he didn't favor the political efforts of the Patterson-Pressler caucus. But he added: "I think what they did has been done since time immemorial."

"Their methods are not my methods," he said. "I have never been a candidate."

Rogers was asked what he meant in a pre-convention statement that "if the liberals would come to the cross all Heaven would break loose."

He explained that "a man who doesn't believe in the blood of Jesus Christ isn't a Christian."

Asked if he thought any Baptists might be offended by the political campaign of the Patterson-Pressler group, Rogers said, "I know some people are disgruntled" but repeated, "I did not run for the office, I ran from it." He said rallies held by the group in 15 states were a surprise to him.

Asked to cite similarities between this and other SBC presidential campaigns, Rogers repeated again that he had never sought the office of president.

"But I assume there have always been telephone calls and people saying, "I . think so and so would make a good president."

At the close of his press conference, Rogers said, "If you will give me a chance and pray for me, you will find me transparent loving and positive. No man in the world believes more in soul winning and missions, and all you have to do is look at the record."

Rogers said his church gives \$3,000 per month to support Mid America Baptist Seminary in Memphis, an independent Baptist seminary which was organized by conservative Southern Baptists who felt Southern Baptist Convention seminaries were too liberal.

He added the church gives about \$170,000 or six percent of its total budget to support world missions, Christian education, and other benevolent causes through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Rogers said his salary at Bellevue, including all fringe benefits, is just over \$50,000.

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By Jim Newton and Orville Scott--10:40 a.m., Wednesday

Photo Information

Photo #10

CAMPUS MINISTERS--Ten 1979-80 officers of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers are (from left) Ron Brown, Roanoke, Va., president; Russ Arch of Pueblo, Colo., administration vice president; Sam Carothers, Clarksville, Tenn., membership vice president; and Burt Purvis, Houston, program vice president. Photo by Tim Fields

Photo #15

MINISTERS' WIVES' PICKS--Elected to office at the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference were (from left) Mrs. Ed Hewlett of Rochester, N.Y., vice president; Mrs. James Coggin of Fort Worth, president; Mrs. Gilbert Barrow of Montgomery, Ala., corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Mims Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, recording secretary/treasurer. Photo by Karen Rasmussen

Photo #17

FOES NO LONGER--Charles Colson, a key figure in the Watergate political scandal, who now operates a christian ministry to prison inmates, held a press conference at the Summit just prior to addressing the Southern Baptist Convention. Photo by Mark Sandlin