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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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79-187

Growth Can Result  
From Marital Conflict

By Linda Lawson

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--When a married couple says they've never had a disagreement, they are lying, have a poor memory or one partner "has been made a zero in the relationship," Clark Hensley told 250 couples attending the first weekend Fall Festival of Marriage.

Hensley, director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, was one of five panelists who answered questions on issues including conflict and church involvement. The questions were submitted by conference participants.

The event, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department, was built around the theme "Celebrate Marriage!" and included a variety of interest conferences on topics such as communication, money management and nurturing a marriage.

"While conflict in marriage is inevitable," Hensley said, "it is a part of growth."

Joe Hinkle, secretary of the family ministry department, said one goal of Christian couples should be to "work out conflict so that everybody wins."

In response to a question on how a wife should handle a husband's demand that she choose between her vocation and her marriage, counseling center president James Kilgore said, that rather than making a choice, "This is a good place to start negotiating. Marriage partners should be tough negotiators."

Kilgore, president of the Northside Counseling Center, Atlanta, and a former Southern Baptist pastor, said a marriage is in trouble when one spouse puts the marriage on the line in a conflict. "The need is to work out the conflict," he said.

On church involvement, panel members said priorities should be God first, family second and church third.

Janice Siler, a pastoral counselor at North Carolina Baptist Hospital's School of Pastoral Care, said her family studies church and family events and places them on a calendar to avoid conflicts.

"If we have a family event on our calendar and another event conflicts with it, we use it as a chance to witness for our family (life)," she said.

In a Saturday morning address, Wallace Denton, professor of marriage and family life at Purdue University, said every couple should give serious attention to marriage enrichment.

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"One hundred percent of us can stand having our relationships improved," said Denton. He said couples who work at appreciating each other, responding, touching, remembering and expressing love will have more successful marriages.

"Sometimes if we were a little more active in expressing our love, it would carry us over some rough times," Denton said.

Kilgore told the group that couples who practice their Christian faith have a much lower divorce rate. "Getting closer in line with God, we get closer in line with each other," he said.

Dick Waggener, consultant in the family ministry department and coordinator of the conference, said he hoped one outcome of the weekend would be that couples realize "It's okay for Christians to go for help in their marriage. Go to someone competent and go to someone Christian," he said.

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MK Flown to Dallas  
After Car Accident

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ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (BP)--The one-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Mr. and Mrs. F. Mitchell Land, has been flown to Dallas, Texas, for medical treatment after being run over by a car.

The extent of injuries is not known, although Mae Elizabeth does have a broken pelvis and cannot walk. Mrs. Land and the child were scheduled to arrive in Dallas Nov. 8, from their missionary home in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Land and the couple's other three children will follow at a later date. The Lands, Texas natives, were scheduled to begin furlough at the end of December.

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West Virginia  
Honors Snedden

Baptist Press  
11/6/79

BECKLEY, W. Va. (BP)--West Virginia Baptists bid farewell to the only executive secretary-treasurer they've had in their nine-year history and planned a major evangelistic thrust for 1980 during the annual meeting of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer John I. Snedden, who will retire Dec. 31, received tribute and a gift check and a scholarship was established in his name to help educate men and women preparing for the gospel ministry.

Convention messengers adopted a \$661,277 budget, including anticipated receipts of \$304,862 from West Virginia churches. Messengers designated 24.5 percent of the state income to world missions causes through the national Cooperative Program, an increase of one-half percent over 1979. The remainder of the budget will be provided through Southern Baptist Convention boards and agencies.

The 1980 evangelism thrust will include lay evangelism schools statewide in the spring, Sunday School growth campaigns in September and simultaneous revivals in most or all of the convention's 101 congregations Oct. 5-12, with a goal of 1,000 baptisms for the year. Many pastors from South Carolina will be enlisted to preach the revivals.

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Fred Morgan, a layman from Parkersburg, was re-elected for a second one-year term as president of the convention.

Messengers adopted resolutions that encouraged each congregation to participate with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to sponsor the relocation of at least one Southeast Asia refugee family; opposed legislation that would open the sale of alcohol to private business instead of being strictly a state-run enterprise; and urged congregations to express concern over immoral, obscene and lewd use of television programming.

The 1980 convention will be Nov. 7-8 and is tentatively set for Bridgeport.

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Penn-S. Jersey Baptists  
Increase Size, Budget

Baptist Press  
11/6/79

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (BP)--Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptists adopted a \$1.18 million budget and elected James E. Ward, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, York, Pa., as president during their ninth annual convention.

The budget, a 15 percent increase over 1979, anticipates income of \$304,175 from convention churches and designates 26 percent of that to world missions causes through the national Cooperative Program, up one percent from last year.

The 200 elected messengers learned there was an increase of nine new churches and chapels in the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey last year, and an increase of more than 10 percent in baptisms, to just over 1,200. Observers said the meeting emphasized reaching the unchurched millions in the two-state convention area.

The 1980 meeting will be Nov. 6-8 in Paoli, Pa.

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Illinois Baptists Adopt  
Hard Hitting Resolutions

Baptist Press  
11/6/79

HERRIN, Ill. (BP)--Illinois Baptists adopted a host of hard hitting resolutions and re-elected their president, Joe Bob Pierce, to a second term at the annual meeting of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Messengers adopted a budget of \$5,413,927, including an anticipated income of \$3,220,000 from Illinois Southern Baptist churches. Forty-one percent of the Illinois income is designated for world missions causes through the national Cooperative Program.

In other action, a collection for hunger was taken from among the 1,158 messengers and visitors that raised over \$1,000. The messengers also granted another year to a special committee to complete its feasibility study of beginning a four-year Baptist college in Illinois.

Resolutions, though they have no legal or binding power, indicate the concerns of a body and Illinois Baptists adopted a half dozen that may have impact on Baptist churches in the state and nation.

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A resolution on inflation asked churches to surrender plans for unnecessary and costly construction and use the financial resources instead to help the poor.

A resolution on aging called on Christians to honor and provide for aged parents and asked the state legislature to review provisions for licensing for homes for the aged.

An energy resolution called on Illinois Baptists to develop a new ethic of energy consumption in which conservation is esteemed and waste is disdained.

Another said many increasing costs of health care are artificially inflated from exorbitant profits, from arbitrary limitations on medical school enrollments and from ill-founded mal-practice suits. It affirmed the right of everyone to basic health care and urged restraint in the use of insurance-covered benefits.

Other resolutions called for greater emphasis on family life and for media to present the biblical idea of family; encouraged Baptists to re-examine their lifestyles and live more simply to help overcome world hunger; and encouraged the governments involved in the political strife and famine in Southeast Asia to allow relief shipments of food.

The 1980 meeting of the convention will be Oct. 28-30 and will be held for the first time in the greater Chicago area, at the Hillcrest Baptist Church of Country Club Hills. The Southern Baptist Convention has met in Chicago twice, in 1950 and 1957, but the state association has never met there.

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Prominent Brazilian Baptist  
Rubens Lopes Dies Nov. 3

Baptist Press  
11/6/79

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP)--Rubens Lopes, former vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance and former president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, died in his office study Nov. 3. He was about 65.

Lopes, a pastor for 40 years at Vila Mariana Baptist Church in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was called "one of the strongest pastors in Brazil." He was president of the Brazilian convention on numerous occasions, vice-president of the BWA from 1970-75, and president of the general coordinating committee of the Crusade of the Americas.

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Ohio Baptists Celebrate  
Quarter Century of Advance

Baptist Press  
11/6/79

DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio celebrated its 25th anniversary and honored the man who has led them throughout the quarter century.

Ray E. Roberts, executive secretary of the convention during its entire history, was honored at a dinner and special program. The churches in Ohio presented a love offering of about \$6,000 to Roberts, who retires April 1, 1980. Tal D. Bonham, evangelism director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has been elected to replace Roberts and will go to Ohio in January to work alongside Roberts for three months before taking administrative direction.

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The 750 elected messengers adopted a \$3 million budget, of which nearly \$2 million is expected in receipts from Ohio churches. Thirty-eight percent of Cooperative Program income, or \$758,435, will go to Southern Baptist Convention world ministries through the Cooperative Program.

The convention adopted resolutions on world physical and spiritual hunger and took up \$1,100 in a spur of the moment offering for hunger. Another resolution urged Baptist families to sponsor families of Vietnamese refugees.

The resolution on hunger criticized the government of Cambodia for policies that have "led to that starvation in their land." It lauded the American government for attempts to provide food for them and called for immediate United Nations action to feed the starving.

There were no resolutions on doctrinal questions, but in the convention sermon, John T. Tollison, area missions director for Cleveland, reaffirmed loyalty to the "inspired, unshakable, infallible" word of God and disputed the claim of Moody Monthly magazine that Southern Baptist unity "seems to be cracking" over what constitutes scriptural truth. Tollison said he perceives no split in the Southern Baptist Convention.

T. J. (Jack) Tichenor, retired pastor living in suburban Cincinnati, was re-elected president.

In 25 years, the convention has grown from 39 churches with almost 10,000 members to 452 churches and 111 missions, with close to 125,000 members.

The 1980 convention will be Oct. 29-31 in Columbus.