

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2555W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041**DALLAS** Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

June 10, 1980

80-94

WrapupPastors Conference Urges
Unity; Jim Henry Elected

First of two mailings today

By David Wilkinson

ST. LOUIS (BP)--A procession of 13 pulpiteers from seven states paraded to the contemporary glass pulpit at the Cervantes Convention Center here to proclaim the gospel before their Southern Baptist brethren.

Sandwiched between rousing renditions of gospel music, the preachers filled the 1980 version of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference with repeated exhortations for unity and a positive spirit within the ranks of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

The conference, which often sets the tone for the three-day meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention which follows, was noticeably devoid of verbal whiplashings of fellow ministers and attacks on alleged liberalism within the denomination's seminaries and other institutions.

Before the meeting, Pastors' Conference president James T. Draper of Euless, Texas, predicted that the sessions would provide "a unifying and strengthening influence on Southern Baptists," and the speakers appeared to make concerted efforts to live up to that billing.

After a closing sermon by W. A. Criswell, dean of Southern Baptist pastors, Draper concluded the conference by expressing his hope that "the spirit of this meeting will be the spirit of the Southern Baptist Convention 1980 in St. Louis."

In the conference's brief business session, Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., was elected president defeating Larry Lewis, pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, and Bob Meade, pastor from Lee Summit, Mo.

Stan Coffey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M., was elected vice president, and Wayne Fields, pastor of First Baptist Church, Grand Bay, Ala., secretary-treasurer.

In his message Monday morning, June 9, Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., denounced disunity and judgmentalism in the convention.

"I didn't say we shouldn't stand on the issues," he said. "I didn't say that we shouldn't stand up for what we believe. But God deliver us from ever judging the heart of another.

"God's people hold no grudges in their hearts toward anybody--especially the anointed of God, our brothers and sisters in Christ," Jackson said.

George Harris, pastor of Castle Hills Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, sounded a similar theme, stressing that "there is a love that binds us and united us that is much stronger than the things which may divide us.

(more)

"We need to come to the place of reconciling the feuding," he added, "so that we might get on with what God has called us to do."

In the conference's opening session, Jack Taylor, director of Christian Living, Fort Worth, Texas, called for "prayer, not politicking," pointing out that "we can disagree and still love each other."

Grady C. Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, recounted his recent successful battle with stomach cancer, declaring that "position, prestige and honor are not important in the face of eternity."

"As you face the long corridor of eternity, there is no sweeter thought than to know you've done your best to live for God."

In the closing message, Criswell also expressed gratitude for renewed health. The 71-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, is still recuperating from a recent heart attack.

Criswell defended diversity of opinion among Southern Baptists, stating that "it is discussion and debate and in the tension of our Baptist life" that faith is forged.

-30-

Missions Won't Wait
On Dawdlers, Parks Says

By Bob Stanley

Baptist Press
6/10/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The president of one of the world's largest missionary-sending organizations declared that "we dawdle and dally as if the mission opportunity will be there forever--and God knows it won't."

R. Keith Parks, who took over in January as head of the 3,000-missionary Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va., said that it's taking 85,000 Southern Baptists to find one who will go as a career missionary.

"And the average Southern Baptist gave only 11 cents a week last year for world missions. That won't even buy a postage stamp!" he exclaimed.

"Unless we as Southern Baptists begin to give more, it won't be five years before decisions will have to be made on where we'll cut back," he predicted.

"Shall we quit appointing missionaries? God forbid!"

!

"Will we cut back on the missionaries already out there--or will we as Southern Baptists decide that we will pay the price of winning the world to Jesus Christ?" he asked.

"And you will be the ones who decide that," he said, speaking to those attending the final session of the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

"You'll be the key in determining whether we're willing to pay the price or not."

Life-changing decisions, the theme of this year's meeting of the women's auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, must not only be made--they must be practiced, he said.

In a fervent conclusion, Parks said, "I believe I can hear the Lord saying to Southern Baptists, 'You came into being as a missionary denomination. You've had good times and you've had hard times. Now the world will be watching what we do in our hard times.' I believe we'll say, we will live by the Gospel we've preached.

"We will be a missionary people. We will preach the Gospel to the whole world."

Earlier, Parks had pulled back the curtain on a discouraging period of his own early missionary experience about 24 years ago.

(more)

In his first full year of mission work after completing language study, he said, illness and furloughs of other missionaries brought him responsibilities far beyond the level of his experience.

He said the joy went out of his service. He tried harder and harder but finally came to a point of desperation beyond anything he'd ever known before.

One day, without knowing what led him, he went to stretch himself at mid-day on a rough-hewn bench on the hillside of the Baptist seminary at Semarang, Indonesia. The Java Sea was beautiful, and he looked through green bamboo leaves at a blue sky above.

Then he was reminded of Isaiah 40, which promises that "those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles, they'll run and not be weary, and they'll walk and not faint."

And he remade a life-changing commitment he'd made on previous occasions--"the exchange of my life for Christ's life," as expressed in Galatians 2:20.

"Something miraculous happened," Parks recalled, "and I made the decision to quit trying to do it on my own."

Then, he added: "I wish I could say that I've been constant ever since. I can't. My life-changing commitments have come in the heat of desperation with a tremendous emotional turmoil--that's who I am."

Such commitments must be guided by biblical convictions, he said. "It's not enough just to decide my life will be different. It must be grounded in and guided by God's Word."

Parks said he believes "God will hold us responsible for the millions who are lost--dying without a saving knowledge of Christ.

"We seem to act as if the Gospel were painted red, white and blue--and that somehow God doesn't care about all the others in the world."

Missionary testimonies earlier in the program emphasized the individual commitments that had led one family to a resort ministry at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y., and another to Bophuthatswana, one of the new tribal homelands granted independence by South Africa.

John David Book, a Home Mission Board missionary, said the year-around work started at Lake Placid before the Olympics now has resulted in a chapel that had 46 for worship services June 8, with 29 in Sunday School.

"The Baptists are there to stay," he said.

During the peak of the Olympics in February, 145 volunteers gave three weeks or more to a variety of ministries ranging from a coffee shop that provided free coffee, soup and sandwiches to 3,500 persons to teams that witnessed on the mall.

"At least six individuals went back home changed--Jesus Christ had transformed their lives," Book said.

Dale and Ann Beighle, who served first in Ethiopia and later transferred to Bophuthatswana, are a Kentucky couple.

"I'm just a plain ole country doctor," Beighle said, "and the Lord gave me the ability to doctor sick animals--that's why he's called me to Africa for his glory."

Now they're in a country with two million animals, and until they came there wasn't a single veterminary doctor in the whole country.

At first, the government insisted that they follow a regulatory role, Beighle said. But as he agonized and as Southern Baptists prayed, on September 12, 1978 (his birthday), he said that God opened the way for him not only to doctor sick animals but also to train others for this work.

Northwest Convention Elects Cecil Sims

PORTLAND, OR--As expected, Cecil Sims, a Northwest pastor for 24 years, was elected executive director-treasurer of the Northwest Baptist Convention in a special convention session June 6 here.

Sims, 52, is presently an associate director of missions with geographical assignment in western Canada. He assumes the convention's chief staff executive post July 1.

With a vote of 209 "yes" and 87 "no" the messengers gave Sims a 71 percent affirmative response to the nominee of the convention's executive board. The board earlier had accepted the recommendation of a special search committee culminating an eight-month search for the vacancy created when Dan C. Stringer, Jr. resigned to take a similar post in Florida.

Although the convention's bylaws apparently required a simple majority to elect the new executive, Sims told the messengers following the election he had a personal goal of 65 percent. He asked those who voted against to work with him, not necessarily agree with him but working together.

An earlier motion by a messenger to provide for a 75 percent majority for election was ruled out of order by convention president Roy Belcher, Kennewick, Wash.

A motion to set aside the bylaws in order to vote on the 75 percent motion failed to secure the needed two-thirds majority, ruled Belcher. Messengers had previously voted to set aside the bylaws to hold a secret ballot when Belcher told them he would ask for a standing vote.

In his acceptance speech, Sims said, "I hope I won't draw too much of your attention, because if I'm doing the work I'm supposed to do you won't notice me. I cherish your prayers....I'll give it my best."

Messengers also approved his salary at \$29,425 which includes a housing allowance. The executive position is the only staff employee elected by the convention. All others are elected by the executive board.

-30-

Wrapup

WMU Challenged To Combat
A World Full Of Troubles

By Orville Scott

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The challenges of hunger, missions and troubled families were issued to more than 1,500 people at the annual session of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Kiel Auditorium.

The WMU honored Southern Baptists' most famous missionary, Lottie Moon, for whom their foreign mission offering is named, and closed with a warning from the president of their Foreign Mission Board.

"We dawdle and dally as if the mission opportunity will be there forever--and God knows it won't," said R. Keith Parks, of Richmond, Va., who took over in January as head of the 3,000-missionary agency.

Parks said the average Southern Baptist gave only 11 cents a week for foreign missions last year and that it's taking 85,000 Southern Baptists to find one who'll go as a career missionary.

-more-

Wrapup

WMU Challenged to Combat
A World Full of Troubles

By Orville Scott

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The challenges of hunger, missions and troubled families were issued to more than 1,500 people at the annual session of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Kiel Auditorium.

The WMU honored Southern Baptists' most famous missionary, Lottie Moon, for whom their foreign mission offering is named, and closed with a warning from the president of their Foreign Mission Board.

"We dawdle and dally as if the mission opportunity will be there forever--and God knows it won't," said R. Keith Parks, of Richmond, Va., who took over in January as head of the 3,000-missionary agency.

Parks said the average Southern Baptist gave only 11 cents a week for foreign missions last year and that it's taking 85,000 Southern Baptists to find one who'll go as a career missionary.

"Will we cut back on the missionaries already out there--or will we as Southern Baptists decide that we will pay the price of winning the world to Jesus Christ," he said.

Parks was one of a series of speakers responding to the theme, "Life Changing Commitments."

Following the announcement that this year's Lottie Moon offering for foreign missions has reached a record-breaking \$40.5 million, the WMU was treated to an interview with a 95-year-old former missionary who served with Miss Moon in China.

Jewell Daniel of Dallas recalled that Lottie Moon said God's Holy Spirit enabled her to do what she did as a pioneer missionary. A tiny Virginia woman, Miss Moon burned herself out for the cause of Christ and died on Christmas Day in 1912. But Miss Moon's influence continues to be felt around the world, said Mrs. Daniel.

Mrs. Daniel was interviewed by Catherine B. Allen, assistant to the executive director of WMU, Birmingham, who wrote The New Lottie Moon Story just published by Broadman Press of Nashville.

Mrs. Allen said she feared that her research of Miss Moon's life might reveal "that something wasn't what we thought and would damage our confidence." But in Lottie Moon's case, truth was more inspiring than fiction, she said.

Several of Miss Moon's relatives spoke, and the audience was treated to a display of artifacts, including Miss Moon's desk built by a Chinese workman, her trunk, cook book, foot-stool and other memorabilia.

A missionary couple to Hong Kong, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Barrett, noted that the Chinese Communists have recently permitted a few churches to open.

The question is, "How can we best share Christ without endangering their new found freedom," said Mrs. Barrett.

In the closing message Parks said that in his first full year of mission work he reached the stage when he couldn't decide whether to resign or ask for a transfer.

In desperation Parks stretched himself on a rough bench. A life-changing commitment he'd made before came flooding back, he recalled. He quit depending on his own strength, he said, and renewal, Bible study and meaningful prayer took place in his life.

A session on the family was climaxed by assurances of a Southern Baptist family life specialist that the family is not going to die.

Harry N. Hollis, Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, said many families are in serious trouble and that society is suffering from a "battered family syndrome."

But he predicted the family will continue to survive because it is part of God's providence for ordering human life.

Hollis said churches should help families in dealing with economic problems, violence in society, problems at home and abroad and sex miseducation on television.

At one session, each WMU participant was given a rice bowl coin bank to emphasize Southern Baptists' goal of raising \$1 million on World Hunger Sunday, Aug. 3.

Alastair Walker, past president of South Carolina Baptists, who spearheaded a drive to distribute 148,000 of the banks in his state, said people are more motivated to give when a specific project is placed before them. He had a well-digging rig erected in his church in Spartanburg, S.C., to emphasize a drive for well drilling rigs in war-torn Uganda.

As a result, the church tripled its Lottie Moon offering of the previous year, Walker reported.

In a business session, Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., was elected to her sixth term as president of WMU.

-30-

Campus Ministers Grapple
With Major Ethical Issues

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
6/10/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Southern Baptist campus ministers grappled with four major ethical problems which will face Americans during the 80s during their fourth annual two-day meeting.

"The sacredness of life is basic," James Dunn, executive director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Dallas, told the campus ministers in their opening session.

Addressing himself to the problem of world hunger, Dunn said all people everywhere deserve the right to food, because God places value on every human life.

"More people are hungry today than ever before," he reported, noting that half the world's hungry are children under five years of age, that 800 million people live in "absolute poverty" and that at least one-eighth of the world's population suffers "debilitating malnutrition."

"Starvation of humans clearly is a moral and ethical issue, because its solution lies well within the capability of nations working alone and together," Dunn said.

"Theological immaturity" and "ethical insensitivity" among Americans are other prime causes of the hunger crisis, Dunn charged.

"Because human society could, if it would, see that no child goes to bed hungry, our failure to do so is morally outrageous," he said. "Our dedication to see that innocent children eat is a basic test of our Christian ethic."

Attention shifted from food to missiles when the student workers heard from Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Stassen claimed man's faith in nuclear arms is nothing short of idolatry.

"We think of idols as statues, but biblically, idolatry is the concept of forsaking Yaweh (God) and putting something else in its place," he said.

-more-

Stassen charged the key to halting arms escalation is to encourage Soviets and Americans to talk about the problem and added that the church should adopt Christ's example of "surprise initiative" and encourage government leaders to seek to talk about arms controls with the Soviet Union.

Paul Simmons, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary, focused on the problem of reconciling medical and ethical issues in the '80s for the campus ministers.

"All of us are touched by these issues," he said. "They call on us who are committed to the ministry to bring the best of our moral understanding and religious perspective to bear in dealing with these critical problems.

"What is needed is for us to think through these problems . . . and do our homework," he said. "Scientists who daily struggle with these problems will welcome dialogue with ministers and persons concerned with moral and religious implications of this issue."

Christians will test the "theological adequacy of our religious perspectives" as medicine introduces "new and fascinating circumstances" into daily life, he said.

Harry Hollis associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, addressed the issue of family life in this decade.

Hollis said the Bible teaches two very significant facts about the family. The first is that the family is "very, very important" and that the Bible takes the family and its place seriously. The second is that the family is not the ultimate value--God is.

The key to successful family living combines the supremacy of God and the importance of the family, he said.

"Campus ministers have a unique opportunity to claim a generation for Southern Baptists . . . at a time when this country needs strong and healthy families to become involved in solving the problems of our day," he said.

The final session featured William M. Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, who wrapped up the ethical examinations with affirmation of the campus ministers' place in the lives of college students.

"You are able to stretch minds and spirits. You are able to bring people to confront truth," he told them.

"If you ever abdicate to the status quo or to the doing of business as usual or to the allowing of people to lie comfortably in their rut, you will have forsaken the special ministry to which God has called you.

"Yours primarily is a people-formation ministry," he said. "We'll be praying for you, because if you affect the generation of students coming through, so will what God has put together as a Southern Baptist Convention function in the next 10, 20 and 30 years."

The student workers elected officers for 1980-81. They are Geneva Metzger, Greensboro, N.C., president; Russ Arch, Pueblo, Colo., vice president for administration; Ned Walsh, St. Louis, Mo., vice president for programs; Joe Cobb, Booneville, Miss., vice president for membership, and Neal Schoaley, Stillwater, Okla., vice president for publications.



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355

W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS _____, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798

RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON Stan L. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

June 10, 1980

80-95

Wrapup

Religious Educators Urged
To Rededicate Themselves

Second of two mailings today

By Linda Lawson

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Southern Baptist religious educators heard a battery of speakers assess current needs and trends in education while celebrating the 25th anniversary of their organization during a two-day meeting here.

In the conference keynote message Keener Pharr of Jacksonville, Fla., called on the 368 educators to rededicate themselves to the role of the Sunday School in growing churches.

While great preaching and attractive music programs "are essential functions in a growing church, they will not alone result in growing churches," said Pharr, director of the education division of the Florida Baptist Convention.

William Hale, associate director of the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, and Findley Edge, professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said Christian educators have majored more on disseminating information about the Bible than in meeting personal needs.

"Too often we like to start our education in the book of Exodus and not where the questions are," Hale said.

Noted Edge: "Value formation is a far more serious and complex undertaking than we have understood. Sometimes people use a study of the Bible to evade the deeper personal needs of people."

Several program features including a luncheon highlighted the history of the Religious Education Association which was started in 1956 in Kansas City, Mo.

Discussing the need for increased efforts in family life education, Joe Hinkle, secretary of the family ministry department of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, said the focus of concern should be on "two basic institutions which in fact determine the nature and quality of life within society--namely the church and the family.

"These two institutions so profoundly affect the quality of life now and in the future that I believe it is worth giving our life's energy to labor together with Christ in helping both to become all they are meant to be."

To cope with the statistical reality that the accomplishment of the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust would require each of the 13.4 million Southern Baptists to win 447 people to Christ by the year 2000, Avery Willis called on the educators to become disciples of Christ and to disciple others.

Willis, supervisor of the adult section of the Sunday School Board's church training department, said a true disciple is one who makes Christ Lord of his life.

In an address on the dynamics of religious education today, John Sisemore, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., urged the educators to adopt a facilitative leadership style.

"This allows the leader to focus on what is happening or needs to happen instead of what he wants to happen," Sisemore said.

Charles Roselle, secretary of National Student Ministries, Sunday School Board, called contemporary university campuses "strategic mission fields." Educators should recognize this and plan accordingly, he said.

The association elected J. Roger Skelton, professor of church administration and religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., as president for 1980-81.

Other officers include Charles Gwaltney, first president and president-elect; Neta Stewart, second vice president; Charles Polston, third vice president; F. Marvin Myers, secretary-treasurer; and Jerry Brumbelow, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Allen Graves, retiring dean of the school of religious education, Southern Seminary, was named the association's first distinguished leader after a constitutional amendment was passed to institute the annual award.

-30-

Wrapup

Musicians Blend
Themes in St. Louis

By Larry Chesser

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Inspirational themes such as acceptance, freedom and success, blending with traditional and new music, caught the ears of 1,300 Southern Baptist musicians during a two-day conference at Third Baptist Church here.

These themes were sounded by Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, and devotional speaker for the conference.

Musical features included the premiering of three Southern Baptist Music Conference-commissioned pieces and the first conference performance of a senior adult choir--the Heart Throbs of Immanuel Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

The 24th annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference was one of seven Baptist meetings held here in advance of the three-day Southern Baptist Convention.

Chafin warned the musicians not to equate a successful career with a successful life.

"It's possible for you to have what is called by everyone a successful career, but to be a failure in your life," he said.

"You need to discover what makes a life, before you lie down to die and it's a great deal more than makes a career."

The Houston pastor said to seek and to know and to do the will of God leads to a successful life.

In earlier sessions, Chafin urged the musicians to accept where they are and who they are as ministers and to learn to become free persons.

Another challenge came from Thad Roberts, Jr., minister of music at South Main and president of the conference.

-more-

In a presidential address, Roberts told the participants that they have a unique opportunity to share the gospel through "the sound of music," and urged them to make the most of that opportunity.

In addition to the inspirational messages, the musicians heard an enlightening account of the contribution of Fanny Crosby to American hymnology from a leading authority on the prolific 19th century hymn writer, C. Bernard Ruffin, a Lutheran minister from Alexandria, Va.

The conference featured several mini-concerts, including a premier performance of the commissioned anthem, "He Is God--The King of Glory" by the sanctuary choir and orchestra of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., under the direction of Earl Holloway. The piece was written by Warren M. Angell, music dean emeritus at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

A second commissioned anthem for children's voices was presented by the Sunshine Choir of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Mo., under the direction of Linda Boyd. The piece, "My Heart Is Ready, O God," was written by Roberta Bitgood, president of the American Guild of Organists.

Don Hustad and Ron Boud of the music faculty at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., arranged a commissioned duet for piano and organ, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come."

The conference also featured the final public performance of the A Cappella Choir from Baylor University under the direction of Euell Porter before his retirement.

The musicians honored four of their peers, including Bill Ichter, a music missionary to Brazil since 1955, who was presented the third Hines Sims Award given since 1971.

Honorary life memberships went to William J. Reynolds of the music faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Gene Bartlett, recently retired music director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; and Ira Prosser, retired minister of music now living in Lexington, Ky.

New council members elected during the conference are Harry Cowan, minister of music, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.; Ken Ragsdale, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Ellisville, Mo.; Harold Price of Harrisburg, Pa., church music secretary, Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey; and David Keith, Southwestern Seminary.

-30-

Editors Commend Standard's
Reporting on Inerrancy

Baptist Press
6/10/80

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Southern Baptist editors expressed "profound respect and gratitude" to the Baptist Standard of Texas for its reporting of the biblical inerrancy dispute.

The expression, in the form of a resolution, was unanimously adopted during a breakfast meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association as the 123rd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention got underway.

Jack Harwell, editor of the Christian Index (Georgia), introduced the resolution because he said the Standard, its editor, Presnall Wood, and associate editor, Toby Druin, "have performed a service for all Southern Baptists in openly dealing with a sensitive issue, researching it thoroughly and presenting a full account."

Harwell said the Standard took the lead in presenting news accounts of persons and issues involved in the inerrancy dispute which erupted in the 1979 Houston SBC and has been visible in preliminaries to the 1980 meeting.

-more-

The resolution noted Southern Baptists "have always insisted on religious liberty, free discussion, open flow of information and priesthood of the believer," and said "certain groups . . . have endangered these inviolate principles with broad charges against other persons within our denomination."

It commended the Standard and its leaders "for the courage, integrity, expertise and creativity they have displayed in researching and printing articles related to undocumented charges of theological liberalism and organized political activity within the SBC."

The press association, which is formed of editors of state Baptist newspapers, also reaffirmed "our belief in the necessity of a free press, an open exchange of opinions and full disclosure of information within the SBC family."

Another resolution adopted by the SBPA called on President Jimmy Carter, members of Congress and the Postal Service Commission to provide relief for the publications, which have an aggregate circulation of slightly more than two million.

It noted the proposed elimination of Saturday mail delivery and curtailment of subsidies for second-class non-profit mailers as problems which confront the papers.

However, in a 12 to 11 vote, the editors voted not to participate or to provide funds for lobbying in Congress for the relief after Harwell pointed out such activities are questionable under Southern Baptists' belief in the separation of church and state.

-30-

Executive Committee Hears
Bold Mission Thrust Report

Baptist Press
6/10/80

By Bonita Sparrow

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, meeting in St. Louis, heard a Bold Mission Thrust report designed not only to confront everyone in the world with the Gospel by the year 2000 but to add 1.5 million baptized believers to church rolls by 1984-85.

The Bold Mission Thrust report listed suggested goals for 1982-85. In addition to the 1.5 million new baptisms, the report called for the organization of 1,500 new churches by 1985, the involvement of 8.5 million people in Bible study through Sunday School, and leading 30,000 churches to increase their percentage of budget giving through the Cooperative Program.

The suggested goals are designed to reach people, develop believers, and strengthen families. They also call for 2,554 newly-appointed missionary personnel and 300,000 short-term mission volunteers, including Mission Service Corps volunteers.

The plan to strengthen families also calls for 500,000 family units to be committed to family worship and Bible study in the home. Every church will be encouraged to provide Christian family enrichment activities that will strengthen family relationships and moral values.

The plan also calls for training 1 million church members to witness; training 3.5 million in discipleship and doctrine through the Church Training program, and involving 1.9 million in missions through the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission. It also calls for involving 20,000 churches in an emphasis to develop Christian standards.

In other action, the committee adopted a recommendation from its finance sub-committee that may enable New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to acquire the 119,000 square foot Maison-Blanche department store for renovation as a student center. The building on 6.57 acres adjoins the seminary.

-more-

In other business the Executive Committee approved a request from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary to borrow against future capital needs allocated for the completion of construction of the new library facilities.

Seminary president William Pinson said the proposal is designed as a "contingency measure to help assure completion of the building in the event of a shortfall of capital funds in 1980." No shortfall is expected, Pinson indicated, calling the request merely a safety precaution.

The Executive Committee honored Albert McClellan, its associate executive secretary and director of program planning. He will retire in December after more than 31 years with the Executive Committee staff.

He has spent a total of 50 years in the ministry and was pastor of 11 Baptist churches in Texas and Oklahoma, editor of the Baptist Messenger, the Oklahoma Baptist state paper, for 4 years, and author of 14 books and more than 500 articles on denominational life.

The resolution lauded him as a "convention statesman" and cited him for "inspiring pastors, church leaders and denominational workers through his careful scholarship, wise leadership, consecrated ability, and loyalty to Christ, his church and the Southern Baptist Convention."

Members of the Executive Committee learned their Administrative Sub-committee named Daniel B. Martin, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., to succeed Robert J. O'Brien as news editor for Baptist Press, the SBC news service. O'Brien is leaving after seven years to join the SBC's Foreign Mission Board as overseas news coordinator to develop a pilot project for overseas news coverage.

Martin, an experienced journalist with years in secular and Southern Baptist journalism, is editor of the news service for the Home Mission Board. He will join the staff August 1.