



BAPTIST PRESS

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Draper Makes Report;
Names Key Committees

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Key committee appointments for the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention were announced by SBC President James T. Draper Jr. during the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

In announcing the appointments nine months early, Draper followed through on a pledge he made following his election as president of the 14-million member convention. He was first elected at the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans, and re-elected without opposition during the 1983 session in Pittsburgh.

"I want to be up front with you," Draper told the 68 members of the Executive Committee, agency staffers, state convention executives and state newspaper editors. "You may not like what I do, but I promise to always be up front with you."

He noted he has met with the two vice presidents--John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., and C.E. (Ed) Price, a layman from Pittsburgh--on two occasions for more than 10 hours to come up with the appointments.

Of the 66 appointments he announced, Draper said it was a "hard job" but said he believes the early announcement was "what you wanted."

The appointments include 10 members of the Resolutions Committee, 52 members of the Committee on Committees, chairmen of the Credentials and Tellers Committees and the two parliamentarians.

"These are not my appointments," Draper said. "They are by all three of us. They may not please everyone, but they sure please us."

Draper added that within three weeks of the Pittsburgh Convention (June 12-14) he "wrote to executive secretaries and state convention presidents" in the 26 state conventions qualified for representation on convention boards and agencies. He said he received responses from all but two executives and nine state convention presidents.

"Not receiving recommendations from 11 of the 52 to whom we wrote created difficulties in some areas," he said, adding he also received recommendations from a number of pastors and from a "large number of laymen," in making the appointments.

The resolutions committee and committee on committees have been at the center of denominational controversy for several years, as has the announcement of their membership. Last year, in his first year in office, Draper announced the chairmen at the September Executive Committee meeting, and revealed the other selections months in advance of the convention.

The resolutions committee studies and reports on recommended resolutions at the annual meeting, and topics in recent years have ranged from abortion to school prayer to black referees in the National Football League.

The committee on committees is regarded as a key committee in that it nominates persons to serve on the powerful committee on boards, which in turns nominates persons to serve as trustees and directors on the 20 agencies of the convention.

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Draper named Bailey Stone, pastor of First Baptist Church of Odessa, Texas, as chairman of the resolutions committee, and Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., as chairman of the committee on committees.

He also named Earl Allen, pastor of Rosen Heights Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, to head the credentials committee, which rules on challenges to messenger qualifications at the annual meeting, and oversees the registration process.

Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., was named to head the tellers committee, which counts ballots in elections.

The two men who served Draper as parliamentarians at the 1983 annual meeting were reappointed. They are James Semple, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paris, Texas, and Jack Johnson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Under convention bylaws, three members of the resolutions committee must be members of the SBC Executive Committee. They are Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala.; Frank Ingraham, a layman from Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., and Otis Testerman, pastor of Bookcliff Baptist Church, Grand Junction, Colo.

Others named include David Simpson, editor of the Indiana Baptist, newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana; Reuel May, an oral surgeon and member of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.; Ed Packwood, a retired member of First Baptist Church of Shawnee, Okla.; Carl F.H. Henry, a theologian and member of Capitol Hill-Metropolitan Baptist Church of Washington, D.C.; George Schroeder, a dentist and member of First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., and Cristobal Dona, pastor of White Road Iglesia Del Sur Baptist Church of San Jose, Calif.

Draper noted the resolutions committee is composed of five laypersons and five church-related persons. Five are from west of the Mississippi and five are from east of the river.

In the Pittsburgh convention, Draper introduced a streamlined process for handling resolutions, which have increased in number in recent years.

The process includes having the resolutions committee meet in advance of the convention, calling on persons to submit proposed resolutions well in advance of the annual meeting and speeding up the process by which they are introduced on the floor of the convention session.

Draper noted several further suggestions were made at the Pittsburgh meeting, which were referred to the Executive Committee for study and action.

"I believe the resolutions process was successful," Draper said, adding while the process for the 1984 meeting will be "dependent on the Executive Committee for counsel, we will proceed on the assumption" the process will be the same as it was last year.

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Committee On Committees
Members Are Appointed

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Members of the 1984 Committee on Committees have been appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr.

Draper announced the appointments during the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, nine months before the 1984 annual meeting in Kansas City.

Chairman will be Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

Members include 29 persons in church related vocations and 23 laypersons, two from each state qualified for representation on SBC boards and agencies. Under SBC bylaws, a state convention must have at least 25,000 members to qualify for representation. Of the 34 state conventions, 26 meet the qualifications.

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The committee on committees names the committee on boards, which in turn nominates persons to serve as trustees and directors for the 20 SBC agencies.

Members include:

ALABAMA--Richard E. Francis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Trussville, and Mary Cathrine Burgence, a member of First Baptist Church of Athens.

ARIZONA--Richard Lopez, pastor of Sunnyside Baptist Church of Tucson, and Ginger Carter, a member of North Phoenix Baptist Church.

ARKANSAS--C.A. Johnson, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church of Jonesboro, and Jim Adams, pastor of Beech Street Baptist Church of Texarkana.

CALIFORNIA--Bill East, associational missionary from Bakersfield, and J.L. Hardin, a member of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church of Riverside.

COLORADO--Eddie Nye, pastor of First Baptist Church of Eads, and Mark Crain, a member of First Baptist Church of Pagosa Springs.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA--Gary Crum, a member of Georgetown Baptist Church, and Clinton Hutton, pastor of Tacoma Park Baptist Church.

FLORIDA--Jim Henry and Jack Graham, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach.

GEORGIA--Clark Hutchinson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church of Marietta, and Dan Cathey, a member of First Baptist Church of Jonesboro.

ILLINOIS--Wayne Stanford, a member of First Baptist Church of Salem, and Ron Hymer, pastor of Westview Baptist Church of Belleville.

INDIANA--Hollie Miller, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church of Brownsburg, and Kenneth Lobb, a member of Calvary Greenfield Baptist Church of Greenfield.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA--Joe Morgan, pastor of South City Southern Baptist Church of Wichita, and Joe Rehberg, pastor of Chandler Acres Baptist Church of Omaha.

KENTUCKY--A.B. Harmon, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church of Louisville, and Bobbie Patray, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church of Lexington.

LOUISIANA--Clifton Tennison, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Monroe and E.A. (Dave) Davis, a member of Ford Park Baptist Church of Shreveport.

MARYLAND--Eunice Emge, a member of Linthicum Baptist Church of Linthicum, and Cortes Davis, pastor of LeDetroit Baptist Church in Oxon Hill.

MICHIGAN--Al Burt, pastor of Baring Cross Baptist Church of Flint, and Floyd Hughes, pastor of First Baptist Church of DeWitt.

MISSISSIPPI--Jimmy McGee, pastor of First Baptist Church of Grenada, and Mrs. Robert Upchurch, a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Tupelo.

MISSOURI--Milton Morales, a member of First Baptist Church of Raytown, and Marvin Nobles, pastor of First Baptist Church of DeSoto.

NEW MEXICO--Mario Samaniego, a member of Premiera Inglesia Baptista Church of Alamagordo, and Milford Misener, pastor of First Baptist Church of Belen.

NORTH CAROLINA--George Huffman, pastor of Brookford Baptist Church in Hickory of Hildebran, and Charles George Jr., a member of Hays-Barton Baptist Church of Raleigh.

NORTHWEST--Leroy Gaston, pastor of Quinault Baptist Church of Kennewick, and Bill Hutton, a member of Pines Baptist Church of Spokane.

OHIO--Roger Roberts, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fairborn, and Rodney Thorpe, a member of Far Hills Baptist Church of Dayton.

OKLAHOMA--Joe Knowles, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sapulpa, and Dan Horton, a member of First Baptist Church of Lawton.

SOUTH CAROLINA--George Dye, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fort Mill, and Guy Sanders Jr., a member of First Baptist Church of Bamberg.

TENNESSEE--Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, and Mrs. Roland Maddox, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis.

TEXAS--Bill Everett, pastor of Fielder Road Baptist Church of Arlington, and Ken Ryan, a member of First Baptist Church of Odem.

VIRGINIA--Guernsey Grant, a member of First Baptist Church of Richmond, and Tommy Tabor, pastor of London Bridge Baptist Church of Virginia Beach.

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Northeast Baptists Called
To Prayer For Evangelism

By Michael Tutterow

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ALLENTOWN, Pa. (BP)--More than 400 pastors, directors of missions and denominational leaders from the Northeast helped launch the Northeast Evangelistic Thrust, an evangelistic effort to reach the Northeast with the gospel, and began preparation for hundreds of simultaneous evangelistic services April 29-May 5, 1984.

During the three-day conference, the group adopted a resolution calling on Southern Baptist churches of the Northeast to set aside one day per month for prayer for spiritual awakening and urging Baptists to seek out leaders of other denominations to enlist them "in a concert of prayer for spiritual awakening."

The resolution also will be recommended to other churches, associations and state conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for consideration during annual convention sessions this fall.

The rally, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Baptist General Association of New England and the Baptist state conventions of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, New York, Maryland and the District of Columbia, was peppered with fiery preaching from a variety of pastors and denominational leaders.

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, warned denominational bickering threatens to undermine Southern Baptists' evangelistic efforts. "There's no need to talk about evangelism unless we have the unity of spirit through which God can move," he explained. Although he reaffirmed his belief in an "inerrant" Bible, Draper conceded, "Maybe we're striving for unity of the faith before we have unity of the spirit."

"We may have an inerrant Word but we are errant," he said. "We may have differences, but Baptists are going to have to say we are brothers, we're family, we have the same Father, the same Lord and we're going to work together. We should never fend for the faith when it alienates a brother."

Draper challenged the group to study to know the truth about God, but warned becoming theologically correct can become an end in itself, also separating one from God. "Orthodoxy kills just as surely as liberalism if it has no heart for God and others," he said.

Draper admitted Baptists aren't the only Christians working to change the world for Christ, but insisted, "God has chosen Southern Baptists to be his instruments in the world." But the denomination does not seem to understand the opportunities before it, he said.

"What are we waiting for?" he questioned.

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"Reaching the world with the good news must not wait on new plans from Nashville," he said. "We must understand the church of Jesus Christ is here today for the purpose of salvation for the lost," said Draper. He advocated Christian responses to areas such as hunger and ministries to the poor, but maintained such acts "are a means of earning the right by compassion to tell about Jesus Christ."

"Everything we do ought to get us to the point of confronting the lost with the gospel," he asserted. "People are lost and hurting and reaching out for someone to care about them. But we don't hear because down the street is a liberal and I'm conservative and we'd rather beat one another over the head."

"Whatever I believe doesn't matter if it does not thrust me out in a hurting, dying world to say Jesus loves you. Any theology that keeps you from witnessing of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is heresy."

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, maintained while he intended to avoid theological debates, "I will fight for direction of the convention that says we believe everyone without Christ is lost and we must tell them they need not die, Jesus died for them."

Noting there are 56 million people living in the Northeast, Draper challenged those present to "dream big" in their plans to win the Northeast to Christ.

But in order for Baptists to reach the region, they must first reach out and acknowledge God as their source of strength to accomplish the task, asserted Frederick Sampson, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Detroit, Mich.

"In times of trouble, the church today calls a meeting to get the vote of the people," he added. "But the early church called a prayer meeting to get the vision of God."

In spite of "all the powers we have, we still cannot solve life's vital issues," charged Sampson. "There's no book in the world with the prescription we need save the Holy Writ."

He claimed the church today has lost power because it has tried to stay popular with the public. "The Christian church has no business being a bed partner with culture because you can't be the conscience of your bed partner," he asserted.

Racism continues to plague the church today, said Sampson, and Baptists must deal openly with the issue if they expect to reach residents of the Northeast.

"We will do damage to Christ if we do not recognize the reality of racism," he said. worship services remain segregated, Sampson noted, adding, "Culture says the cross can't get people to the same communion table, but after the benediction, culture can get them on the same bleachers. You mean to tell me," questioned Sampson, "that money can do what mercy can't?"

Rudy Hernandez, president of the Mexican Baptist Convention in Texas and full-time evangelist, echoed Sampson's sentiments and asserted efforts to win the Northeast to Christ must include outreach to ethnics.

"We're not dealing with peripheral areas when talking about ethnic ministry," he asserted. "We're talking about 50 percent of the population. If our statements to win America to Christ are fact and not cliché, then we must provide 50 percent effort to reach ethnics."

Joe Ford, associate to the vice president of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told the group despite increased tools for communicating the gospel, since the 1950s Baptists still have failed to baptize more than 400,000 people a year.

Yet, questioned Ford, "If there are more of us and more people, why are we not baptizing more people?" The problem, he said, is Southern Baptists generally have ceased to please Christ by sharing his love with others.