



-- **FEATURES**
produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

November 15, 1983

83-175

Race No Barrier
To Iowa Minister

By Gail Rothwell

WATERLOO, Iowa (BP)--To the outside world Verna Quirin's ministry may seem a bit out of the ordinary, but to her and the people with whom she ministers, she is merely fulfilling God's calling in her life.

For the past two years Quirin, who is white, has been associate minister with educational responsibilities at Faith Temple Baptist Church, a black, inner-city congregation.

Prior to moving to Waterloo, Iowa, she was the educational coordinator at University Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa. "When I accepted this position two years ago, being a minister at a black church was the furthest thing from my mind," she said. "But God puts you where you are ne ded."

Quirin's duties are varied and include consulting with the trustees on financial matters, leading a children's mission study, conducting weekly workers' meetings, teaching a young adult Sunday school class and leading midweek Bible study.

"I continually praise God for sending me where the pastor has enough confidence in himself he can turn over many responsibilities to other staff persons," she said.

Quirin credits the support she gets from Eugene Williams, pastor, as the reason she was readily accepted in the church and community.

Quirin also has become very active in the Northeast Baptist Association and is adult coordinator for the Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team (ASSIST). She and other members of the team work with churches to strengthen their Sunday schools and provide training sessions for workers.

Because most churches in Iowa struggle financially, they must rely heavily on volunteer staff. Quirin is no exception. Through a family business "God allows me to have the financial freedom I need to be able to serve this church full time," she explained. "I have discovered that no matter how much you try, you can't outgive God."

Throughout most of her 50 years, Quirin has been an active Southern Baptist with a deep commitment to the local church. However, it was through the pain of a divorce five years ago that she learned to rely totally on God's leading in her life.

"Throughout the divorce I can remember thinking I'd never be able to even work in a church again," she said. "But I needed something to make life worth living so I turned to God when there was nowhere else to go."

Quirin emphasized, "Divorce is a tragedy and I will always feel the marks of being rejected, but God teaches you how to live through these things."

Because she has suffered the trauma of divorce she feels she has been able to minister to many of the women in her congregation. "Our congregation is 50 percent women, many of whom are widowed, divorced or never-married. When they come to me with their hurt I know what they are going through."

Quirin feels, as a woman, she has brought new dimensions to ministry at Faith T mple. "In any situation that you have people with different needs, you need different kinds of leadership to meet those needs," she said. "The women feel free to come to me with what they call their women problems."

--more--

One of those things she enjoys most about Faith Temple is the people's willingness to learn and improve themselves. "Black worship services are moving beyond the traditional, emotionally charged services and they are hungry for deep Bible study," she explained. "I have never been in a church where people are so willing to go to training meetings."

Quirin's four children, who all live away from home, were at first apprehensive about her move to Waterloo. "But since they have seen how happy I am here, they are proud of me and my ministry," she reported.

Quirin said she has been continually overwhelmed by the affirmation of church members. "Their expressions of love and appreciation are the richest part of my ministry," she said. Church members regularly give thanks for Quirin's abilities and talents. Their feelings were summed up during the closing prayer of a recent midweek Bible study... "And thank you for sending us Verna."

--30--

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press

Arkansas State Convention
Reverses Action On College

Baptist Press
11/15/83

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (BP)--By a narrow margin, messengers to the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention reversed themselves and will allow four-year status for Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

Controversy on the convention-owned junior college has been brewing for several months, but when the matter came to the floor of the convention, much of the heat was diffused.

Last year messengers, by a 73 vote margin, declined to allow the school to offer a four-year course of study. Trustees of the school, however, moved toward senior college status anyway, setting off controversy within the state.

This year, heated debate was predicted, but a surprise motion by Paul Sanders, pastor of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, halted debate after only two messengers had spoken; one for, one against. In introducing his call for the question, Sanders said everyone had already made up his or her mind on the issue.

On the vote, messengers voted 617 to 577 to allow the phase-in plan for the four year course of study.

After the secret ballot, Ken Lilly, a Fort Smith physician who has been chairman of the executive board for the past two years, called attention to "some problems down the line" because budget increases have already been submitted for other needs.

Lilly said the approval will require an additional \$102,000 as programs are started in 1987-90, and added he wanted Arkansas Baptists to be aware the Southern College expansion was not the only new commitment of funds which will be required in the next few years.

He cited increased commitment by local churches to annuity programs for staff because of governmental regulation changes and additional needs at the state's four year college -- Ouachita Baptist University--as student population declines.

Veteran convention observers say the heated atmosphere was eased as pleas for unity and caution and warnings against divisive behavior were sounded by Executive Director Don Moore and Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr.

Moore told messengers: "Our preoccupation with things which divide us is costing us." He referred to the heated debate prior to the convention and said: "The most frightening thing that I can see is some of you might win and the Word of the Lord might lose."

Two leaders appealed to Arkansas Baptists to increase their giving after the action on Southern Baptist College. Lilly appealed for each church to increase contributions by one percent per year to make all programs possible.

--more--

Jon M. Stubblefield, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Magnolia, echoed the call. "To do all that we are committed to do, we must increase giving. The messengers are saying something positive in that (Southern College) vote, and that is we can support all our work."

Stubblefield, 37, was elected president of the convention, succeeding Dillard Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mena, who had served two terms.

In another action related to the college issue, messengers reaffirmed the constitution of the convention as "a just, equitable and authoritative" document. Messengers specifically called on trustees of all agencies and institutions to "faithfully abide" by the guidelines of Article 7, Section 4, which notes trustees "are subject to the direction of the convention in all matters pertaining to administering the affairs of the institutions which their trusteeship is concerned...."

Messengers adopted resolutions opposing beverage alcohol, gambling and pornography on television. Another resolution on separation of church and state was adopted without discussion. It asked Arkansas Baptists "to earnestly pray for such agencies as the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and Americans United for Separation of Church and State as leadership is extended in this vital area of American life."

A 1984 budget of \$10,833,333 was adopted, an 8.33 percent increase over last year's budget of \$10 million. Arkansas will contribute \$4.2 million--or 39.16 percent--to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, an increase of 3/4 of a percent. Arkansas previously adopted a goal of moving toward a 50-50 division between state and worldwide causes.

In other action messengers:

Approved on first reading a constitutional amendment to change the name of the state executive from executive secretary to executive director. The final reading must be approved in 1984 to become effective;

Made permanent the agency status, under a convention-elected board of directors, of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, which has operated under a separate board during a three-year trial period, and

Adopted a proposal to cease publishing the salaries of executive board personnel.

The 1984 annual meeting will be Nov. 6-8 at Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith.

--30--

Minnesota-Wisconsin
Becomes 37th Convention

By Louise Winningham

Baptist Press
11/15/83

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (BP)--Thirty years after the first Southern Baptist church was planted in the area, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention was organized Nov. 11-12.

The MWSBC with 11,872 members in 78 churches and 34 chapels is the 37th convention and the third to be organized this fall affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

A \$1,227,000 budget was adopted with 25 percent of all Cooperative Program receipts from the churches going to national SBC causes.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas, which has sponsored Minnesota-Wisconsin since 1956, will continue to subsidize the work through a 10-year, declining-support plan. The BGCT will contribute \$300,000 to the initial budget, member congregations will provide approximately \$200,000 and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will give another \$500,000.

Otha Winningham, who has directed the Minnesota-Wisconsin work for eight and one-half years, was elected executive director of the new convention. Four other staff members also were elected as convention staff. Office for the new convention is in Rochester, Minn.

--more--

Gail Zimmerman, pastor of Parkside Baptist Church, Kenosha, Wis., was elected the first president of the convention. Zimmerman was one of eight Minnesota-Wisconsin pastors and laymen from seven churches requesting affiliation and sponsorship from Texas Baptists in 1956. Frank Hamby, pastor Highland Crest Baptist Church, Green Bay, Wis., was chosen first vice president and Ken Baker, layman from Roseville, Minn., second vice president.

Among many SBC leaders participating in the convention were Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive Committee; Grady Cothen, president, Baptist Sunday School Board; Harold Palmer, vice president, Home Mission Board, and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, the Woman's Missionary Union.

A total of 364 messengers and visitors attended the convention at Southtown Baptist Church, Bloomington, Minn. All sessions were video and audio taped due to the special nature of the meeting.

J. Woodrow Fuller, who was assistant executive director of the Texas convention in 1953-64 and responsible for development for early missions work, spoke during the meeting.

"Double in a Decade," a program to double the number of churches, membership and overall strength of SBC work in Minnesota-Wisconsin, 1983-92, through a partnership with Texas churches, was reaffirmed during the meeting.

Messengers approved a resolution indicating prayer support for the committee considering SBC relationship with the churches of Canada, noting favor of such affiliation. They also decided to place a full page ad in the Baptist Standard to express appreciation to Texas Baptists for 27 years of prayerful support and encouragement.

They voted to meet with the Immanuel Baptist Church, Racine, Wis., for the 1985 meeting, Nov. 1-2. Previous action selected Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis., as site for the 1984 session Nov. 9-10.

--30--

Northwest Baptists Want
Canada Churches In SBC

By Carol Rathbun

Baptist Press
11/15/83

EUGENE, Ore. (BP)--The 36th annual meeting of the Northwest Baptist Convention saw messengers approve a \$2,986,093 budget for 1984, welcome eighteen new churches seeking affiliation with the NWBC and adopt a resolution reaffirming the convention's position in favor of seating Canadian messengers in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 529 messengers registered at the Nov. 8-10 meeting were told the rationale behind the 20 percent increase in the 1984 budget was to restore staff salary cuts and take advantage of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board funds being offered on a matching basis.

Cecil C. Sims, NWBC executive director-treasurer, said, in the last few years staff salaries had fallen approximately 20 percent below conventions of similar size and budget.

He added that to respond to the offer of Home Mission Board money with matching funds would significantly increase the convention's mission outreach.

The 1984 budget upped the amount Northwest sends on to the national Cooperative from 32 to 33 percent. Sims noted by adopting the 1984 budget as proposed the dollar amount of NWBC gifts to the Cooperative Program would be increased 25 percent over 1983.

Not since 1952, when 20 churches sought affiliation with the NWBC, have more churches joined the convention. Among the churches seeking affiliation were nine from Oregon, three from Washington, three from Idaho and three from Canada.

The resolution reaffirming the position to support the seating of Canadian messengers in the Southern Baptist Convention was unanimously approved. A standing vote was taken to emphasize the support of those in attendance of this resolution.

--more--

In other convention business, the new SBC stewardship program, Planned Growth in Giving, was approved and a 16-member task force named to begin implementing the campaign in the Northwest. The SBC Annuity Board's new church retirement plan was adopted.

Frank Barnes, pastor of Pines Baptist Church, Spokane, Wash., was reelected president of the convention while Clint Ashley, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pullman, Wash., was elected first vice president and Lu Walker, laywoman at First Baptist Church, Beaverton, Ore., was elected second vice president.

Next year's annual meeting will be Nov. 13-15, in the Longview/Kelso, Wash., area.

--30--

Non-Profit Postal Rates
To Stay At Current Levels

Baptist Press
11/15/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress has agreed to funding that will preserve current non-profit postal rates through Sept. 30, 1984.

In the continuing resolution passed Nov. 12 to keep most government agencies running at the start of fiscal 1984, both the House and Senate approved a conference report which maintains funding at \$879 million. That is the amount the Postal Service estimates necessary to preserve the subsidy to non-profit mailers through the next fiscal year.

President Reagan signed the bill Nov. 14.

The continuing resolution, a stopgap measure which Congress has repeatedly used in recent years, keeps government programs operating when regular funding bills are not passed in time.

Although a regular appropriations bill could change the amount of funding in this continuing resolution, House Appropriations Committee sources said it is unlikely one will clear Congress before the end of this year's session.

--30--

CORRECTION--In (BP) story "D.C. Convention Stresses Long-Range Objectives" mailed 11/14/83, please delete the next-to-last paragraph and substitute the following:

D legates also approved a 1984 budget of \$928,249, of which \$689,818 is expected to come from D.C. churches. Of that amount, 23 percent will be sent to national and worldwide Southern Baptist Convention programs through the Cooperative Program.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

High Court Will Not Disturb
Ruling Against 'Silence' Law

Baptist Press
11/1/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--New Mexico's 1981 law calling for a moment of silence at the beginning of the public school day will not be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court and thus remains under a lower federal court injunction forbidding its implementation.

U.S. District Judge Juan G. Burciaga ruled last February the law, which easily passed the state legislature, violated the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion. At the same time he issued a permanent injunction forbidding the practice of opening each school day with a moment of silence "for contemplation, meditation or prayer."

--more--

Although the Las Cruces, N.M., school board unanimously refused to appeal Burciaga's decision, a group of local citizens headed by Jean Walsh did appeal to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. But that panel ruled in June Walsh had no legal standing to appeal, leaving Burciaga's order in place.

Walsh and the others persisted, appealing to the nation's high court on grounds "irreparable harm goes on every minute (the) injunction is in effect." The appeal was filed on behalf of the people of New Mexico.

Attorneys for the other side argued Walsh and the others "intentionally deceived" the courts by filing in the name of the state when no state official was a party to the case.

The Las Cruces school board sought to apply the 1981 law last school year but were challenged in Judge Burciaga's court by Jerry Duffy, a local man whose son, John, was enrolled in a Las Cruces school. Duffy's attorneys were two members of the New Mexico chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (83-9, New Mexico v. Burciaga).

--30--

Fowler Elected President
Of Medical/Dental Group

By Edgar Cooper

Baptist Press
11/15/83

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Franklin Fowler, senior medical consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been elected president of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship.

The fellowship, an independent, spiritually-oriented professional organization, spent three days in Bible study, music, seminars, speeches, testimony and business. The group, which began in 1976 with 12 members, works in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union, all Southern Baptist Convention organizations.

Today, the fellowship has 1,200 members of doctors and dentists. Its purpose is to provide Christian professional fellowship among the membership and to strengthen individually and collectively their relationship and commitment through Jesus Christ.

The fellowship cooperates with the Foreign Mission Board in providing funds and assistance in the area of continuing medical education for medical mission personnel, either on the field or on furlough. Hundreds of BMDF members have accepted short-term assignments worldwide each year at their own expense to help alleviate the unmet demands for medical/dental care.

The organization is active in promoting services at medical clinics in depressed areas. It has a tape ministry to aid medical missions and has processed more than 500 tapes for distribution. A scholarship fund assists medical missionaries, which includes assisting the children of any home or foreign missionary to attend medical or dental school.

At last year's meeting, the BMDF voted to form an umbrella organization, the Baptist Health Care Fellowship, which would include autonomous fellowships for nurses, hospital administrators, pharmacists, chaplains and allied health professionals.

This year, at the meeting, the Baptist Nursing Fellowship was started in cooperation with the WMU. Ellen D. Tabor, a doctor of nursing from Winstom-Salem, N.C., was elected president.

The purpose of BNF is to provide nurses and nursing students opportunity for worship, witnessing and ministering through professional association; to provide education and learning experiences through Bible study, theological training, ethical study and evaluation of denominational work and professional education and to provide members opportunities for expanded Christian service and witness through personal involvement in home and foreign missions activities and in disaster relief work.

The BMDF maintains offices at the Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn. Henry Love is executive director.

--30--

(Edgar Cooper is editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.)

New Mexico Baptists
Adopt \$4.6 Million Budget

By J.B. Fowler

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (BP)--Messengers to the 71st annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico reelected their officers and increased Cooperative Program gifts by one percent.

Calvin Partain, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gallup, was reelected president. Dean Mathis, pastor of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church, Hobbs, was reelected vice president and Bennie Romero, pastor of Taos Indian Baptist Mission, was reelected second vice president.

Adopting a total operating budget of \$4,604,152, the convention approved a state Cooperative Program budget of \$2,290,351, including a one percent increase to worldwide causes through the national Cooperative Program. Dollar-wise, this will amount to about \$253,500. The convention divides receipts on a 70-30 basis.

In his annual report, Executive Director Chester O'Brien reported during the first eight months of 1983, Cooperative Program gifts from New Mexico Baptist churches increased \$83,793.79 over the same period in 1982. Since the convention's fiscal year does not end until Dec. 31, the final report is not in.

The Baptist building in Albuquerque has recently been renovated and the upstairs portion is now fully rented, O'Brien said. The downstairs portion of the building is used for convention offices. Proceeds from the rental, O'Brien indicated, should amount to about \$25,000 annually and will be used to help pay costs of renovation.

Following the convention's theme, "Magnifying the Family of God," James T. Draper Jr., president of the SBC, said Baptists will only reach the world by building churches. "When all the evangelistic associations are dead," Draper said, "the church will still be alive and strong" because it is the church God most uses and most blesses. The key to winning the world is the church, he stated.

Lee Black, president of the New Mexico Baptist Foundation and Church Loan Corporation, reported the foundation currently holds \$3.6 million in trusts and \$1 million is held in endowments for scholarships, foreign missions, state missions, etc.

Nine resolutions were presented and adopted without discussion. They ranged from expressing gratitude to the host church to communicating to "our governor and state legislators our desires for stricter laws and enforcement in regard to driving while intoxicated."

The 1984 convention will meet at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. A November date will be set later because national elections fall during the regular convention time.

--30--

Senate Turns Back Move
To Reverse Abortion Rulings

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
11/15/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--Anti-abortion forces suffered a rare defeat in the U.S. Senate Nov. 14 when a leading abortion opponent failed in an effort to attach sweeping anti-abortion language to a bill extending the life of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

The Civil Rights panel, thrown into turmoil because of President Reagan's recent firing of three of its members, faced extinction by Nov. 29 unless Congress extended its life. After defeating the anti-abortion move, the Senate voted the extension, 78-3.

Final obstacle to passage came in the form of an amendment proposed by Sen. Roger W. Jepsen, R-Iowa, one of numerous anti-abortion legislators who in recent years has succeeded in having Congress ban nearly all federal spending for abortions.

This time he sought an outright reversal of the Supreme Court's historic 1973 decision upholding the right of women, in most circumstances, to obtain an abortion.

--more--

In its 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade, the high court held a woman possesses a constitutional right to privacy in making the decision to have an abortion. That privacy right extends to consultation with her physician, the court held.

In addition, the 7-2 majority ruled that during the first three months of her pregnancy, the woman's right to an abortion may not be interfered with by the state. During the second three months the state's interest in the life of the unborn child increases and the state may accordingly restrict abortions in some cases. In the third three-month period, the court concluded, the state's interest in the life of the unborn child is so compelling it may forbid abortion outright.

Jepsen and other anti-abortion legislators have insisted, nevertheless, that the high court ruling amounted to an endorsement of "abortion on demand." In an impassioned speech on the floor of the Senate defending his amendment to the Civil Rights Commission bill, he labeled the decision a "death sentence" and a "repudiation of the essential civil right that distinguishes our society from utter barbarism."

He added that with the decision, "the Court put our country onto a slippery slope toward the annihilation of all rights."

After a threat from Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., to mount a filibuster against the Jepsen proposal, Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., moved to table the Jepsen proposal, a move which prevailed 42-34.

In his likewise impassioned remarks, Packwood said he was unwilling to "trade off one of the major advances in civil liberties and civil rights..., the right of a woman to choose" for passage of the bill reauthorizing the Civil Rights Commission.

--30--

Braswell To Retire
As Colorado Executive

By Don Turner

Baptist Press
11/15/83

COLORADO SPRINGS (BP)--Glen E. Braswell, executive director-treasurer of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, has announced he will retire from the post he has held since 1962 "on or before June 30, 1984."

Braswell, who was 65 in March, surprised many messengers to the annual meeting with the announcement he will retire in mid-year, rather than serve through the end of 1984.

The retirement announcement came during a tense annual meeting in which messengers dealt with an on-going controversy of the relationship between the convention executive board and executive director and two of its institutions.

Braswell has been involved in the controversy which has dealt with the authority and autonomy of the convention's executive board and executive director in their relationships with the Baptist Foundation of Colorado and the Colorado Southern Baptist Church Loan Corporation.

Struggles over the relationship had arisen in the past two years out of internal differences and over how financing for the \$1.1 million Baptist Building was handled. Funds were provided through the loan corporation and obtained in part from the foundation.

Tension apparently was eased as messengers approved without dissent changes in the bylaws and constitutions of the three agencies, which will restrict ongoing supervision of the corporations by the CGBC executive board and executive director.

Under the changes, foundation and church loan corporation directors are accountable to messengers at the annual meeting. Also, the rights of the corporations to function under their own bylaws are protected. The changes to the corporation documents were approved immediately, but changes in the convention constitution will require final action next year.

--more--

Braswell, a native of Oklahoma, was pastor in Billings, Mont., and Denver prior to succeeding Willis J. Ray as Colorado executive secretary in 1962. At the time he took over, the CGBC was a six-state convention. Now, with the creation of the Wyoming Convention in 1983, there are three state convention organizations in that area.

The CGBC is now composed of 60,000 members in 217 congregations.

Messengers reelected the entire slate of officers for a second term. Benny J. King, pastor of Northglenn Baptist Church is president.

In other business, messengers adopted a budget of nearly \$2.5 million, distributed proceeds from the sale of the old office building, considered separate agency status for the state's Baptist newspaper and discussed seating messengers from a church which allegedly practices "alien immersion."

The approved budget of \$2,459,241 anticipates revenue of \$2,455,391, of which \$1,375,015 will come from the 217 congregations of the convention. It reflects an increase of 3.1 percent over the 1983 budget.

Contributions lagged during 1983, falling an average of \$13,072 under anticipated income each month. Giving averaged \$98,000 per month through October while budget requirements were \$111,000 per month. Budget requirement for 1984 is \$114,000 per month.

Messengers distributed \$220,000 remaining from the sale of the former Baptist building to Ponderosa Baptist Assembly, the state office of the convention and student work at Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colo.

Ponderosa Assembly, near Colorado Springs, will receive \$175,000 to complete construction of the activities building and to initiate the first phase of a 40-unit motel and meeting center. The state offices received \$26,000 for a multi-user computer system and computer controlled addressing machine, and allocated \$11,000 for support of student ministry on the Mesa College Campus. Remaining funds were to be applied to the convention indebtedness.

The possibility of an independent board of directors for the Rocky Mountain Baptist was referred to a study committee to be appointed by the convention president. The original motion by Marv McGrew, messenger from Circle Drive Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, was to incorporate Rocky Mountain Baptist, to name the editor, assistant editor, and treasurer the first officers and to have messengers elect not less than five nor more than seven directors.

McGrew noted the editor and staff are convention employees subject to budget recommendations of the executive board and might lack freedom to report objectively on all news relating to the executive director and executive board.

Former editor James Lee Young, when he resigned in protest in June of 1982, charged attempts were made to censor his coverage of the controversy between the executive board and the foundation and church loans corporation.

During the discussion, Craig Lewis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Westcliffe, questioned whether the convention would instruct the "executive board and the executive director to do what is necessary to allow the Rocky Mountain Baptist the freedom to publish more material that is pertinent to the people of Colorado and less national and out-of-state happenings."

Don Turner, current editor, told messengers he had not been suppressed by the executive director or executive board in what he could print but that he came to the office with "preconceived ideas" about how local news could be generated which were not true to the situation.

The issue of seating messengers from Montbello Baptist Church of Montbello arose twice, once when they were excluded by the credentials committee and again when the ruling was questioned.

The credentials committee report, brought by chairman Horton Myers, retired Littleton pastor, recommended seating of messengers of six new churches but excluded the Montbello church in lieu of "more information." The report was adopted, and Montbello messengers were not seated. Later, during a miscellaneous business session, Marv McGrew from Colorado Springs, moved the church be accepted into "full fellowship."

"The chairman of the committee indicated that they had insufficient time to do their homework," McGrew said in speaking to his motion. "I did not think we should penalize the church because the committee was not able to do its homework."

Jack Carroll, a Littleton pastor, who is a member of the Denver Association credentials committee, said the Denver committee had not recommended the church for recognition by the association because of a "doctrinal matter concerning baptism" which the committee was trying to work out with the church.

George Gaskins, Denver association director of missions, specifically noted the church had received into membership a person from an Evangelical Free Church. He said his investigation indicated that denomination will accept into membership persons without any baptism and will on request baptize by either sprinkling or immersion.

Discussion varied from support for the sake of consistency since many churches in the state accept "scriptural baptism by churches other than Baptist" to the charge that to do so would "open the door to liberalism."

The motion to recognize the Montbello messengers failed.

Messengers approved a proposal by Dick Inzer, layman from Littleton, to initiate a fund raising program to retire the debt of the CBGC. After approval of the motion, Don Murray, pastor of Ken Caryl Baptist Church in Littleton, moved that the president of the convention appoint the committee to get the campaign in progress.

The 1984 annual meeting will be at Bookcliff Baptist Church, Grand Junction, Nov. 6-8.

--30--