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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 20, 1984

84-169

Russian Baptist Churches
To Receive 10,000 Bibles

STUTTGART, West Germany (BP)—At the headquarters of the United Bible Societies in Stuttgart, an intensive effort is underway to assure delivery of 10,000 Russian-language Bibles to Baptist congregations in the USSR before the year ends.

More than 500,000 sheets of special thin paper came from Northern England. The Biblia-Druck GmbH of Stuttgart turned over its facilities to the Bible production, since the import license expires by the end of December.

After printing, the Bibles will be shipped from Stuttgart, via a transport agency to the German Democratic Republic, through Poland and on to Moscow. There the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists will undertake distribution. The AUCECB received the import permit in July, according to the European Baptist Press Service.

A UBS spokesman said the major portion of costs of printing and transport will be financed through contributions to the UBS World Service funds but Baptist congregations in western Europe have pledged substantial support, too.

The last large delivery of Bibles for the USSR was in 1978, when 25,000 Bibles were sent from Stuttgart directly to Moscow.

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Kentucky Baptists
Revise 1984-85 Budget

Baptist Press
11/20/84

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Kentucky Baptists passed an \$18.2 million budget for 1985-86, revised the 1984-85 budget downward by \$500,000 and elected Jim Lewis, pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, president at their annual meeting.

Resolutions were tame, the motions were mild and even in the election officers, messengers had little to disagree with. Four of the five newly elected officers—the two vice-presidents, the secretary and the assistant secretary—were the only nominees for that office.

Lewis won a three-way race for the presidency 430-330 in a runoff with Don R. Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

A motion by convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer William Marshall for a seven-member committee to study "relationship documents" of KBC agencies and institutions was adopted without discussion. The committee will study ascending and descending liability among the convention and the agencies and institutions, including ownership and dissolution provisions.

The committee will report to the 1985 meeting, Nov. 12-14, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

The 1984-85 budget as approved last year included a \$14.9 million basic operating budget, a \$1.3 million Bold Mission Challenge budget and an anticipated \$1.3 million from income other than church contributions for a total budget of \$17.5 million.

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Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tenn 37203

Due to budget shortfalls, the budget was trimmed to a base budget of \$14,445,000, the Bold Mission Challenge budget was left at \$1.3 million and anticipated "other income" was reduced to approximately \$1.23 million. The total budget is now just over \$17 million.

The percentage to be sent on to the national Cooperative Program to fund the worldwide mission and education programs of the Southern Baptist Convention during 1984-85 will remain at 36.25 percent for the basic budget and 37 percent in the challenge portion.

For 1985-86, 36.875 percent of \$15,600,600 basic operating budget goes to SBC causes. There is a \$1.3 million bold mission challenge section with 37 percent going to SBC causes. With other estimated income the projection that year is for \$18,200,600.

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Colorado Baptist University
'Given' To Southwest Baptist

Baptist Press
11/20/84

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)—Trustees of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., have accepted the gift of the charter of the Colorado Baptist University. The school, located in the Denver suburb of Aurora, will operate as an extended studies center of SBU.

The institution currently has 51 students enrolled; 20 of them full-time (taking at least 12 hours). Classes are basically offered in late afternoon and evening. Offices and classrooms are in an educational facility also used by Webster University and Aurora Community College. All three institutions use the Central Aurora Library.

According to James Sells, chancellor at Southwest Baptist University, about 16 years ago, a handful of Coloradians, who have their roots in Missouri and the Midwest, formed Colorado Baptist College.

SBU administrators have been working with CBU officials on establishing goals and objectives, developing curriculum, promoting enrollment and soliciting help from concerned individuals and Baptists in Colorado.

In a recent meeting, the CBU Board of Regents (which is elected by SBU trustees) began putting together a \$500,000-plus funding effort for the new center.

"Our feelings are that a strong college center can grow there," Sells said. "The college has no debt, almost no holdings; their major asset is a charter and an opportunity.

"We are convinced a strong Christian witness in higher education is essential to the progress of the work of Baptists in Colorado and the West. We are pleased to be helpful in equipping young people to serve in leadership roles in their churches. We are grateful that so many people in Colorado have held on to the dream of a university. It is now a reality."

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Layman Reelected
In Kansas-Nebraska

Baptist Press
11/20/84

KERNEY, Neb. (BP)—Mahlon Morley, layman from Belle Plaine, Kan., was reelected president of the Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Convention at its annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in Kearney, Neb.

Other convention officers are: John Zobel, pastor from Topeka, Kan., vice-president; Mary Jo Robertson, of Kansas City, Kan., secretary, and Dave Sellers, a pastor from Norfolk, Neb., recording secretary.

The convention adopted a \$2,819,424 budget, a 4.8 percent increase over last year.

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Of that amount \$902,000 will be provided by the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board. The \$1.9 million contributed by local churches will be shared with the worldwide mission and education programs of the Southern Baptist Convention with 27 percent going to the national Cooperative Program. That is a one percent increase over last year.

Resolutions adopted included ones: dealing with legislation against legalized gambling and open saloons; speaking against beer and wine advertisements on radio and television, and encouraging Southern Baptists to openly oppose the appointment of a U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and to join other groups contemplating legal action.

Next year's meeting will be in Wichita, Kan., Nov. 12-14.

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New York Installs Igleheart
As State Missions Director

Baptist Press
11/20/84

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP)--Glenn Igleheart, director of the interfaith witness department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for the past nine years, was installed recently as director of the missions division for the Baptist Convention of New York in Syracuse.

A native of Kentucky, Igleheart had worked with the board's interfaith witness department for 16 years. For seven years before becoming national program leader based in Atlanta, he had been an area director of interfaith witness for 19 states in the eastern part of the country, based in Glen Ridge, N.J.

In an unusual step, Clarkston Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta where the Iglehearts have been members, observed "Glenn and Nancye Igleheart Day" and commissioned the Iglehearts as representatives of Georgia to New York. The Georgia Baptist Convention and the Baptist Convention of New York are linked together as sister state conventions through the HMB.

In his new position in New York, Igleheart will be responsible for coordinating 10 missions programs in New York, northern New Jersey and western Connecticut. During the installation service in Syracuse, symbols of the various aspects of missions division programs were presented to Igleheart by persons with whom he will work.

A graduate of Murray State University, Murray, Ky., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned the doctor of theology degree, Igleheart also has done graduate work at Harvard University's Center for the Study of World Religions. He was pastor and church staff member of several churches in Kentucky during college and seminary.

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Ministers To Get
New Retirement Plan

Baptist Press
11/20/84

DALLAS (BP)--State conventions aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention unanimously approved in their fall meetings the allocation of Cooperative Program funds to a new retirement plan for ministers, but they were divided on the inclusion of church employees.

Thirteen state conventions adopted the version of the new Church Annuity Plan which will channel these funds into the retirement accounts of ministers and employees serving churches which cooperate with the state convention.

Effective Jan. 1, 1988, the plan will contain a matching feature which will allow ministers the possibility of generating three dollars for each dollar they contribute. The church will match the individual's initial contribution on a two-for-one basis, up to 10 percent of pay. After the required contributions are made by the individual and the church, the state convention will match one-half of the church's contributions up to \$35 per month for each participant.

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All contributions made by the member and the church will be chann led to the member's account. The first \$210 contributed each year by the state convention will fund supplemental disability and survivor benefits for the member. All monies exceeding \$210 will be added to the member's retirement income account.

Lay employees will be afforded the same matching feature if they work 20 hours per week and have been employed by the church three years. Those conventions that did not vote to include the lay employees in 1988 will include them no later than 1998.

The new plan is designed to improve retirement benefits for those persons who devote their lives to serving Southern Baptist churches.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the plan is a result of the concern among the Annuity Board trustees, staff and state executive directors over the large numbers of retired ministers, missionaries and their families who are living in poverty. He said the failure of the churches to provide adequate funds for a retirement program has been a major factor in the cause of the situation.

The past chairman of the Annuity Board trustees, Charles L. Holland, appointed the Church Pension Study Committee which conducted a two-year study of retirement needs of Southern Baptist ministers and churches staffs.

Morgan said the unanimous approval of the state conventions is encouraging. "Their approval indicates Baptists are ready to do something to assure their ministers can live with dignity when they retire," he said.

State conventions which voted to include ministers and lay employees in 1988 are: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New England, New York, Northern Plains, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Wyoming.

The conventions which voted to make only ministers eligible for state contributions are: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas-Nebraska, Maryland/Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota/Wisconsin, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Northwest, Ohio, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah/Idaho and West Virginia. The Hawaii convention is expected to complete the state convention adoption process next March.

The adoption of the new retirement plan by the churches is set for 1986 so ministers and eligible employees may enroll by Jan. 1, 1986.

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Barteaux Appreciates
'No Salary' Position

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press
11/20/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Mission Service Corps volunteer David Barteaux feels privileged God has called him to a job which requires him to raise his own financial support.

"These are the less attractive jobs, but the places where God's ministry is most needed," said Barteaux, who has been doing volunteer student work in Vancouver, Canada since 1982.

His position is jointly coordinated by national student ministries of the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board.

Explaining being a volunteer worker is a rewarding experience, Barteaux said, "You learn a lifestyle which requires dependence on God. It's challenging to have to put your faith and trust in God to provide for your family each day."

Not only has Barteaux been blessed from his work but three persons who originally were supporting him are now MSC volunteers themselves.

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"As a result of seeing our journey of faith and how God has blessed our ministry, these friends accepted God's challenge to become volunteer workers," he said.

Barteaux first became aware of the need for Southern Baptist ministry in Canada while he was the campus minister at Kansas State College, Pittsburg. "Our Baptist Student Union group wanted to do mission work on another campus, so we started praying God would help our group find a campus in the northwest part of the country. During that time God started saying to me 'David, I want you go to Vancouver.'"

After moving to Vancouver, Barteaux soon discovered 94 percent of Canada is unchurched. "Canada ranks below six communist countries in the number of Christians," he noted. "We assume Southern Baptist work is being done here because Canada is so accessible to us, but in reality the people have very little knowledge of God, the Bible or church."

Barteaux recently became the interim pastor at Village Hills Baptist Church, Vancouver, but will return to full-time student work when the church calls a pastor.

He is concentrating his efforts to work with students because he feels they are the key to reaching Canada for Christ. "The students who attend school here are highly motivated and will be in places of leadership when they graduate. If we can reach them with the Gospel we can begin planting seeds all over Canada."

Barteaux is the only person charged with the responsibility of ministering to students in the area of Vancouver. The city boasts a population of more than two million persons, but less than 2,000 attend the nine Southern Baptist churches and three missions there.

In addition to the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, which has a student and faculty population of 130,000, there are 21 other colleges and campuses in the city.

"Sometimes my work may seem overwhelming, but I just keep asking myself who is going to reach this particular student for Christ. It helps me to concentrate on individuals instead of the whole scope of work," he said.

Barteaux hopes within the next four years other MSC student workers will be sent to Vancouver. For now, he accomplishes student ministry by helping the churches and missions to adopt a campus and begin a Baptist student work there.

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George Bullard Named
S.C. Missions Director

Baptist Press
11/20/84

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (BP)—George W. Bullard Jr., manager of the Megafocus Cities Program at the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board in Atlanta, has been named director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's missions department, effective Feb. 1, 1985.

Bullard, who also serves as associate director of the Home Mission Board's metropolitan missions department, was elected during a meeting of the state convention's 79-member general board on Nov. 14 in conjunction with the meeting of the South Carolina convention.

Bullard, 34, succeeds N. Larry Bryson who resigned last March after an audit revealed finance discrepancies in excess of \$36,000.

The missions department's assignment spans Christian social ministries, language missions, urban church development, multi-family housing, black church relations, interfaith witness, a missions linkage with Baptists in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, student summer missions, church extension and chaplaincy programs.

Bullard will be responsible for directing a total missions department budget which will exceed \$918,000 in 1985.

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Conley Picked President
Of New England Convention

MANCHESTER, Conn. (BP)—Charles Conley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Manchester, Conn., was elected president of the New England Baptist Convention when it met at First Baptist Church, Manchester, Nov. 1-3.

James Wideman, pastor of Screven Memorial Baptist Church, Portsmouth, N.H., the oldest Southern Baptist church in New England, was elected first vice-president. Mark Smith, pastor of Fairfield Baptist Church, Fairfield, Conn., was reelected second vice-president.

Nine resolutions were adopted, none controversial.

A budget of \$1,567,371 was approved, \$361,612 of which will come from New England convention churches. Of the part of the budget funded by churches, 20 percent, the same percentage as last year, will go to national SBC causes.

In other business, eight new persons were elected to board of directors, and a committee was named to study, along with other conventions in the northeastern area, the need for a Southern Baptist seminary in the Northeast. Messengers also adopted the new Church Annuity Plan.

The 1985 meeting will be Oct.30-Nov.2 at Screven Memorial Baptist Church, Portsmouth, N.H.

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Baptists Struggle To Relieve
Suffering In Mexico Disaster

By Erich Bridges

Baptist Press
11/20/84

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Mexican Baptists and Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico City scrambled Nov. 20 to provide help as the death toll from the previous day's natural gas explosions and fires passed 300.

"We have a Baptist doctor who's in charge of treating 200 burn patients at a Lions Club (in the disaster area)," reported David Daniell, Southern Baptist relief coordinator for Mexico. "We've chosen to work through him in providing medical supplies. The Baptist student center at the national university is providing blankets."

Daniell said Mexican Baptists had issued an appeal for blood donors and Southern Baptist representatives were requesting disaster relief funds from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Representatives who tried to donate blood on the evening of the disaster were turned away because of an overwhelming number of volunteers, he said.

Four Baptist churches and four mission points are located in the vicinity of the disaster, as well as a medical clinic sponsored by First Baptist Church of Mexico City. But all clinic personnel were evacuated along with some 100,000 other people in the working-class neighborhoods around the fuel tanks which exploded Nov. 19. The area was still sealed off Nov. 20 and no reports had been received on Baptist families and churches in the area, Daniell said.

Seventeen Southern Baptist families live in Mexico City, but the closest Southern Baptist residence to the disaster area is about 15 miles away. Southern Baptist representatives James and Jurhee Philpot saw the fires from their window.

"From 6 (a.m.) to almost 8 we were able to see the fire up in the sky burning," Mrs. Philpot said. "The explosion didn't awaken us. We were already awake. But we're on a (earthquake) fault and I thought it was an earthquake because it was so great. So I looked up to see if the light fixtures were moving and they were not.... There must have been at least five (big) explosions that we heard, and a lot of smaller ones."

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African Famine Part
Of Deadly Equation

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The drought-spawned famine in Africa is only "the tip of the iceberg," just one factor in a world hunger equation which has many underdeveloped countries on a deadly spiral downward, according to Art Simon, executive director of Bread for the World.

While news stories about tragic starvation capture public attention for a short time, Simon said, chronic malnutrition keeps millions of Africans on the precipice of hunger and death year-round, making them easy prey to disruptions of weather or even politics.

Simon, who recently appeared on "Life Today," a talk show on the American Christian Television System, said at least two dozen countries have been affected by the current famine, which will likely kill more than 900,000 people before it runs its course.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," he said. "What is needed is not only emergency aid, but long-term solutions."

Years of malnutrition have produced an abnormally high death rate in portions of Africa, which results in a high birth rate as well, since families need to assure that enough children will survive to work the land. Ironically, this form of "social security" further depletes food resources, which worsens malnutrition, Simon said, and the cycle continues.

Inject into this not-so-delicate balance a drought or war, both of which have complicated the African famine, and disaster results.

"Unfortunately, the media consider hunger to be a news event only when it reaches these drastic proportions," Simon said.

His agency and others had been trying to alert the American media and the public to the African crisis since 1983. Only after a news report on British television was replayed on NBC did most Americans learn of the mounting tragedy in Ethiopia and neighboring countries.

Bread for the World, which Simon describes as "a Christian citizens' movement," regularly lobbies the U.S. government in search of hunger aid. While Bread for the World does not provide any direct relief, he said it works closely with the agencies that do.

Rumors of inefficiency and corruption among relief agencies are, for the most part, unfounded, Simon said. "Overwhelmingly, food gets to people who need it. You can't go wrong if you give through your church or through church-related agencies," he said.

Southern Baptists provide relief for world and domestic hunger through the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, 3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230, and at the and Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30367.

Simon became interested in hunger issues while serving as pastor of a Lutheran church in inner-city New York, where he was "emersed in domestic hunger." If anything, the soft-spoken minister carefully understates the magnitude of world hunger. He insists that even one person can make a difference in the battle.

When Christians don't get involve in solving the world's hunger problems, "we are not fulfilling God's purpose for us," Simon said.

"One of the purposes for which God created us is to make our lives count for those who are poor and hungry," he said. "Christians are selling themselves short if they don't see their relationship with suffering people."

In making us part of the hunger solution, Simon said, God is not trying to deprive us from anything, but to help us enjoy life more fully by giving of ourselves.

The major obstacles which keep Christians from getting involved are lack of awareness, feelings of guilt and the enormity of the problem, he said.

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"Guilt immobilizes people. Grace sets us free. We have to get past that immediate feeling of guilt. But if guilt doesn't immobilize us, then the immensity of the problem can."

Simon concedes private agencies alone can't meet the needs of world hunger. Governments must also help. Unfortunately, governments can be one more obstacle in the way, he said, as when congress slowed a hunger relief bill for Africa earlier this year in order to debate an amendment providing military aid to rebels in Nicaragua.

In the case of Ethiopia, the United States was sending hunger relief to a Marxist-controlled country. "But the fact remains there are a lot of people starving there," Simon said. In such situations, private agencies provide a buffer between unfriendly governments, he said. All relief to Ethiopia, for instance, is being channeled through private groups.

Beyond politics, long-term solutions hinge on efforts to break the cycle of chronic malnutrition. Since the world already produces enough food to feed all its people, hunger is basically a problem of distribution, Simon said.

"But I don't want to oversimplify this," he added. "The primary distribution system is a free market. People who are extremely poor can't buy the food they need. We want to enable people to work their way out of poverty and hunger."

In Africa, the only region of the world where per-capita food production has actually decreased over recent years, that won't be easy, Simon said. Nor is Africa the only cause for concern. "Numerically, there are probably more people who are victims of chronic malnutrition in Asia than in Africa and Latin American combined," he said.

"Much depends on what we do about the long-term problem. At the present rate we will see recurring disaster, but it will tend to get worse."

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Louisiana Moderates Studying Options

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
11/20/84

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)—A group of Louisiana Baptists who are concerned about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention met in Pineville, Nov. 13 and decided to study the options for change open to them.

The informal meeting of about 30 persons, mostly pastors, "came into being out of concern...that the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention was not going to change unless someone determined to change it," explained John Harris, pastor of Pineville Park Baptist Church, where the meeting was held.

Although the meeting was held during the annual session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, participants reiterated their feeling that their focus was on the Southern Baptist Convention, not the LBC.

"This is an SBC meeting. This has nothing to do with the Louisiana Baptist Convention," said Joe Blair, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ruston, who affirmed the "diversity and harmony" of the Louisiana convention.

"My heart is split in two over this," added John Robson, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. "As a Louisiana Baptist, I don't think we need this.... Louisiana Baptists will pay a price as a result of organization. But I do agree something needs to be done statewide."

"We do have, it's quite obvious, a schism in our (national) convention," said Pat Harrison, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Monroe, who acted as facilitator for the meeting and led a discussion of the state of affairs within the SBC which focused on control of the convention by the "fundamentalist faction."

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Harrison expressed a desire to see "denominational loyalists...recapture the balance" within the SBC. The group discussed for more than an hour the options available to help lead the SBC back to a more centrist position.

They noted politicized groups, both of fundamentalists and so-called moderates, currently in existence in other states and expressed concern about the ethical validity and schismatic dangers of "ward politics."

However, they affirmed the concept of denominational education such as was demonstrated recently by St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. Led by Pastor Bill Elder, the congregation sponsored a conference on "Baptist Identity," designed to inform Southern Baptists about both their heritage and the modern-day circumstances of the SBC.

They also affirmed the idea of encouraging as many Southern Baptists as possible to attend the SBC in Dallas, next June, so the convention's democratic process can function as it was intended.

With those affirmations in mind, the participants empowered Harrison to appoint a five-member "steering committee" which will explore options of education, information and perhaps organization available.

Earl Guinn of Monroe, president emeritus of Louisiana College and emeritus professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., encouraged the younger ministers in their objective. "None of us here would opt for a struggle. We want peace," he said. "But I see so much at stake that silence would be an evil."

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Pleitz Redefines
'Super Church'

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
11/20/84

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)—James Pleitz redefined the term "super church" for participants at the Louisiana Baptist Convention annual meeting, Nov. 12-14.

"For about the last 10 or 15 years we've been hearing about super churches," noted Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas.

"Usually they're huge congregations with multi-million-dollar budgets and high profiles, where the pastor cannot go through an airport without being recognized two or three times," he said. "Churches can be so puffed up. It's so easy to take pride in our super churches.

"But super does not necessarily mean the number of additions," he insisted. "When we get to heaven, I think we'll be surprised to see some super pastors whose churches never showed numerical growth" because of the situations of the churches they led.

"The size of a congregation doesn't have a thing at all to do with being a super church," he explained, pointing to the first century church at Antioch, mentioned in the 13th chapter of the Book of Acts, as "a super congregation."

Pleitz noted two characteristics which define super churches in his estimation.

First, a super church is "a church which cares about people, where people are loved, and they know it," he said.

"God forbid that we pastor anything but a people church," he warned, pointing to the needs of "people hurting...people searching...people who have made a mess of their lives."

As an example for the church, Pleitz pointed to Jesus Christ.

"Jesus loved people, and they were drawn to him," he said, noting this love offered and continues to offer a "source of hope" for people.

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Second, a super church "has a great world vision," he added.

"We should be concerned about reaching out and establishing new work," he urged.

In that context, he spoke in reference to Southern Baptists' unified convention budget, the Cooperative Program budget, and the potential for damage to the convention's agencies, institutions and mission endeavors caused by churches which do not support or cut back on their Cooperative Program giving.

"In the eyes of God Almighty, it's a sin to bring institutions into being and then slowly starve them to death" because of insufficient funds, Pleitz insisted. "We ought not be cutting back on them in order to build our own kingdoms here on the face of the earth.

"If we're not busy supporting the cause of Christ around the world, the time will come when we'll have to call our missionaries home," he predicted.

Looking to a positive note, Pleitz urged Louisiana Baptists to be more concerned about building God's kingdom than erecting their own kingdoms on earth. He reminded them that if they are faithful to God's kingdom, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against us."

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