



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 12, 1985

85-43

Baptist Layman Identifies Threats To Baptist Heritage

By Bob Allen

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A power play for control of Southern Baptist Convention organization by fundamentalist leaders has eroded vital principles of Baptist heritage, according to Georgia layman Norman Cavender.

That erosion threatens to transform the SBC into "something inferior to all that we have been," said Cavender, a deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church, Claxton, Ga. He made his remarks in a recent chapel service at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he was one of three speakers for Denominational Heritage Week.

"Unless rank-and-file Southern Baptists learn again what it means to be Southern Baptist, and turn back the neo-Baptist, quasi-Baptist, pseudo-Baptist and outright non-Baptist influences among us today, we will see our Southern Baptist heritage destroyed in our own lifetime," Cavender predicted.

Cavender identified himself as "simply a layman in a small town church."

"I am not a crusader by nature," he confessed. "However, things I see and hear in this denomination today have compelled me to get up off the pew and begin speaking out," he said.

Cavender claimed Southern Baptists' "two basic principles of relationship"—religious liberty and voluntary cooperation—have been compromised by recent SBC leaders.

He cited statements by former SBC president James T. Draper Jr., a poor record of Cooperative Program support by current president Charles Stanley and ethical concerns surrounding the behavior of Paul Pressler, whom he said is an architect of the SBC takeover attempt and recently elected member of the SBC Executive Committee, as evidence of the collapse of Baptist principles.

Draper, Cavender said, has stated that in order to be a Baptist, one must believe "the doctrines of plenary verbal inspiration, substitutionary atonement and the hypostatic union."

"I have been a Baptist for 40 years, and didn't even know what it means," Cavender retorted. "In my church in Georgia, when someone walks down the aisle, we do not ask him if he comes forward to profess belief in the doctrine of plenary verbal inspiration. We ask him if he comes to profess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of his life."

Cavender said Stanley, in 11 years at First Baptist Church, Atlanta, prior to becoming SBC president, did not register as a messenger in his state convention. During one state convention he sponsored a cross-town meeting with 50 independent Baptists on the program, and he led his church to reduce its Cooperative Program giving from 16 percent to less than 3 percent.

He cited Pressler's orchestration of a move by Fundamentalists to take over the SBC, an episode at a past SBC involving the use of an allegedly fraudulent messenger card, and admitted use of secret tape recording of telephone calls and an ensuing controversy over Baptist Press coverage of one taping.

He opined Pressler's election to the Executive Committee signals questions about SBC standards of ethical conduct.

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Nashville, Tennessee

"It may be that some of these people simply don't know what a Baptist is," Cavender remarked. "Or it may be that they know what a Baptist is, but don't want to be one. That is their right. They have the freedom to walk a non-Baptist road of creedalism, dictated beliefs and restricted biblical study if that is their personal preference. But they do not have the right to seize this denomination through precinct politics and drag the rest of us down the road with them."

Cavender said fundamentalist attempts at dictating beliefs and taking over theological seminaries reveal an inability "to trust God to work in a climate of liberty." If they succeed in gaining control of the seminaries, Cavender said, "our seminaries will no longer be institutions of theological excellence. They will become little more than fundamentalist Bible schools indoctrinating students with sectarian theologies."

The Georgia businessman criticized Baptist leaders "who know better" for failing to "confront the inerrancy issue head-on." Those advocating inerrancy "claim they are defending the Bible," he said, but in fact "are trying to shackle the Bible with their own opinions."

"That word (inerrancy) is being used to hoodwink a lot of good Baptists," Cavender charged. "In many cases it is being used as a coverup for ignorance, shabby theology, lack of genuine Biblical scholarship and pure old human prejudice."

He challenged other Baptists for trying to remain neutral. "Neutrality is no longer an option. If we do not participate in the defense of Baptist principles, we become party to the surrender of those principles."

Others, he claimed. "They are voting with the fundamentalist takeover group, thinking they are voting for the Bible. In reality, they are voting away their own Baptist heritage."

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Ministers Wives Called
To Prayer For SBC

Baptist Press
4/12/85

ATLANTA (BP)—Ministers' wives across the Southern Baptist Convention have been called to "join together in fervent prayer" for "unity, harmony and God's love to prevail in the hearts of all who come" to the annual SBC meeting in Dallas June 11-13.

The appeal was issued by Mrs. Ellen (William G.) Tanner of Atlanta, wife of the president of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Mrs. Tanner was asked by officers of SBC Ministers' Wives' Conference to be national prayer chairman for the 1985 SBC.

Mrs. Tanner wrote last week: "It is my heartfelt desire for women of our Southern Baptist Convention to pray for harmony, for love and for real unity in our convention. Surely, our Lord is not going to stand and wait for us to settle our differences while thousands are dying without knowledge of him each day."

She added: "It is my conviction that if we will earnestly pay the price in prayer on our knees, he will hear and answer our prayer and heal our convention. Let us pray that Christ our Lord and Saviour will be the victor; that his work of winning and ministering to the world may be carried on; and that we will still be usable in his kingdom work."

Mrs. Tanner has enlisted at least two persons in each state convention to be co-chairpersons for prayer. Each ministers' wife will be encouraged to pray with their husbands, with a prayer partner, with wives of other staff membes and at the convention in Dallas.

Mrs. Earl Kelley of Jackson, Miss., is president of SBC Ministers' Wives Conference. In February, officers of the conference issued a statement asking wives across the nation to pray for "forgiveness, for humility, for unity of purpose and for renewed power to follow the Lord's command to go into all the world and preach the gospel."

Tickets to SBC Ministers' Wives' Conference lunch June 11 at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas are available for \$12.50 from Mrs. Martha Garrison, 432 NW 17th, Oklahoma City 73103.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Georgia Christian Index.

Graham Honored
By Dallas Baptist

DALLAS (BP)—Dallas Baptist University has awarded an honorary doctor of Christianity degree to evangelist Billy Graham.

More than 1,000 persons attended the convocation at the university in west Dallas to witness the degree presentation and 2,400 more sat at a \$1,000 per table dinner that evening to honor the evangelist and the university.

DBU President W. Marvin Watson presented the doctorate to Graham citing his years of service as an evangelist which have won him worldwide acclaim.

At the dinner Graham credited the revival of spiritual interest in the nation to President Dwight Eisenhower. Graham visited Eisenhower in France and later in the United States and gave him a Bible and counseled him about church membership, the evangelist said.

Eisenhower was baptized into the membership of National Presbyterian Church in Washington and told Graham he wanted him to do something to help the United States spiritually to counter the spiritual vacuum he saw developing.

"Now," Graham said, "a president of the U.S. can stand up and talk about Jesus Christ without embarrassment at all. God is at work and that is true in every state and every city."

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Christian High Adventure
Ends 15-Year Ministry

Baptist Press
4/12/85

MONTROSE, Colo. (BP)—Christian High Adventure, a wilderness camping program which combines mountain climbing and spiritual growth, has ended after 15 years.

Christian High Adventure (CHA) faced financial jeopardy this year, especially after cost of liability insurance jumped from \$4,000 to \$15,000 during 1985, according to Chuck Clayton, the organization's executive director.

Clayton, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board national consultant on resort missions, disclosed termination of Christian High Adventure in its newsletter, The Summiteer, and in a letter to the organization's board of directors and supporters.

Clayton founded Christian High Adventure in 1970 when he was pastor in Cody, Wyo. For several years, it was jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Sunday School Board, but in 1983 was incorporated under an autonomous board.

In recent years, Christian High Adventure has provided leadership and training for "Adventure Missions," a program providing wilderness camping and spiritual experiences for inner-city and pre-delinquent youth. About 2,000 such youth have participated, Clayton said.

Clayton estimated another 1,200 youth and young adults have gone through Christian High Adventure's wilderness camping trips, usually lasting five to 10 days.

"Most participants not only discovered they had capabilities beyond what they had imagined, but discovered new dimensions to the adventure of the Christ life," Clayton said.

Asserting that Christian High Adventure has not failed, Clayton noted that 10 participants became US-2 missionaries through the SBC Home Mission Board, two became missionary journeymen through the SBC Foreign Mission Board, and five became career home or foreign missionaries. Numerous others, he said, are in staff positions or in lay ministries through local churches.

Clayton said the organization faced a \$22,000 deficit this year after insurance costs almost quadrupled. The board's executive committee asked Clayton to try to raise \$20,000 in 10 days or close down the ministry. Clayton raised \$12,000 in pledges, but concluded it was best to end operations after a tie vote on the executive committee on whether to continue.

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In a letter to board members and supporters, Clayton outlined plans to liquidate the organization's assets and refund all deposits on 1985 wilderness trips. The letter also offered to repay gifts from donors in 1985.

Clayton compared the decision to close CHA to the death of a close family member, but said his greatest distress was not that the 15-year program has come to an end.

"I grieve that we are in a world and time that wants to constrict the Christian life into regimented and stifling dogmatics," he said. "One more attempt at giving God's spirit the freedom to speak to the hearts and lives of those who do not march to the step of traditional religious programs and activities has been silenced," Clayton concluded.

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Five Companies To Bid
On Baptist Insurance Program

Baptist Press
4/12/85

DALLAS (BP)—Five companies are bidding to become the carrier of insurance programs covering Southern Baptist church and denominational personnel.

The Annuity Board submitted specifications on the Church Agency and Seminary Student Insurance Programs April 4 to Aetna Life and Casualty, Equitable Life Assurance Society, John Hancock Mutual Life, The Prudential Insurance Co. and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., according to John Dudley, vice-president of insurance services.

Dudley said the carriers have six weeks to bid on the programs which have a volume of over \$1 billion of life insurance and generate more than \$50 million in annual premiums.

Every five years the Annuity Board puts the programs up for bid.

In addition to the five companies bidding on the total package, five casualty companies are being invited to bid on the accidental coverage, while five others will submit proposals on cost containment measures.

Dudley noted the Southern Baptist programs are so large that only selected companies can meet the necessary requirements and estimated the carriers could spend in excess of \$100,000 preparing their proposals.

He said the carrier must have at least \$10 billion in assets, insure other large groups and companies, have a computerized claims system, be ranked as one of the top rated companies in the nation and be licensed by the state insurance commission in all 50 states.

Dudley noted five companies also have been asked to bid on a new program for prescription drugs. He said the benefit was a popular request from participants which will allow the patient to present the prescription and a check for a small deductible to the pharmacy for drugs immediately needed. The participant also may mail prescriptions for maintenance medications to a central dispensing organization and receive a supply for several months.

Dudley said the proposals will be reviewed and a company or companies selected by the Annuity Board staff and consulting actuaries from The Wyatt Company by Aug. 1. The program will become effective Jan. 1, 1986.

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Childcare, Bus Routes,
Set For SBC Sessions

Baptist Press
4/12/85

DALLAS (BP)—Free shuttle bus routes and childcare information for messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13 in Dallas has been released.

Shuttle buses will connect all the major hotels not within walking distance and a major parking area with the Dallas Convention Center.

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Preschool childcare will be housed at First Baptist Church in Dallas while the Brotherhood Commission will host a missions day camp for children in grades one through six at a local park.

For \$7 per day (\$20 for all three days), elementary school children will be provided supervised activities which include mission studies, games, crafts, nature study and sports. Children will be taken to a city park by bus, leaving the convention center each day, Tuesday through Thursday, at 8:30 a.m. They will return to the convention center at 5 p.m. on June 11, 12:30 p.m. on June 12 and 4:30 p.m. June 13.

Registration and additional information will be available beginning June 10 at the Brotherhood Commission booth in the convention display area. There is no pre-registration but interested parents are encouraged to sign-up on June 10.

Preschool childcare for messengers who live outside the Dallas-Fort Worth area will be provided at First Baptist Church in Dallas for \$5 a session. The May 24 pre-registration deadline is important. Planning will be based on the number signed up by the deadline.

"Messengers who show up needing preschool childcare without pre-registering them are not guaranteed anything," Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee and convention manager, said. "We will certainly do everything we can to help them but we can't stress enough the importance of contacting the people at First Baptist in Dallas in advance." Messengers from the Dallas-Fort Worth area will not be included in the program.

K. Adele Suddath, director of preschool ministries at the church, is heading up the program. She may be contacted by mail at First Baptist Church, 1707 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas, 75201 or by phone at 214-969-0111. A complete information sheet and registration form will be sent to anyone requesting them.

For the adults, of course, parking and transportation is always a major concern. And this year there are several bits of good news. First there are, "a couple of thousand" parking spaces in the convention center complex, according to Hedquist. Secondly, the shuttle bus system is not only extensive—it will be free.

The shuttle service won't cost users in 1985 because of the generosity of the Dallas Baptist Association and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The national convention budget always heavily subsidizes the bus service to keep the cost low. This year the national budget will contribute \$25,000 but the Dallas association and the BGCT have agreed to make up the difference riders usually have to pay.

Their shared contribution will be approximately \$10,000, Hedquist said.

The shuttles will begin running at 7:30 a.m. each day of the convention. They will run until 9:30 p.m. on June 11 and 12 and until 5:30 p.m. on June 13.

Buses will not stop at each hotel individually but will stop at a central point at clusters of hotels. For schedule information messengers should check with the convention information booth in the Convention Center when they register or at their individual hotels.

Route hotels are: Best Western, Quality Inn, Holiday Inn Market Center, Roadway Inn Market Center, Sheraton Mockingbird, Regent Hotel, Roadway Inn, LaQuinta Central, Twin Sixties, AmFac Hotel, Sheraton Downtown, Plaza of the Americas, Fairmont, Loews Anatole, Marriott, LaQuinta Inn Regal Row, Holiday Inn Regal Row, Ramada Inn, Howard Johnson, Townhouse Hotel, Viscount, Executive Inn, North Park Inn, Doubletree Inn, Tropicana Inn and Expressway Inn.

There will be no service to the immediate downtown hotels: Hilton, Adolphus, Hyatt, Bradford and the Holiday Inn Downtown.

The shuttle also will run from the Reunion Arena parking lot at the corner of Memorial Drive and Hotel Street. This is the lot where buses are supposed to park.

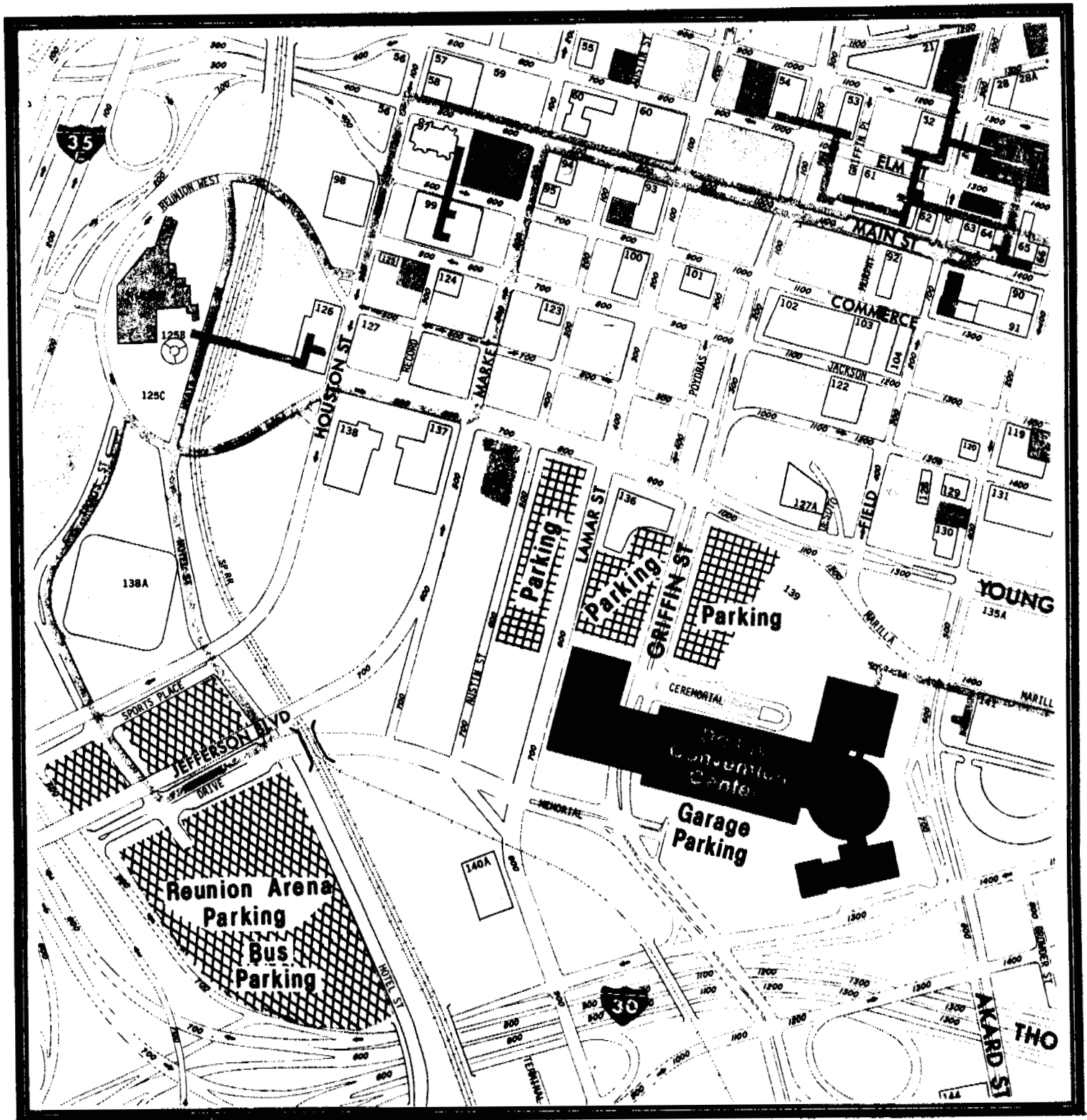
Automobile parking in the Convention Center will be \$4 and \$3 in the Reunion Arena parking areas (no in and out privileges). Bus parking will be \$6.

This year special provisions have been made for handicapped. Special parking passes will be available at the convention information booth in the Convention Center. Persons must have both the special pass and a handicapped licence tag on their vehicle or state identification as a handicapped driver.

The information booth also will have maps of the Convention Center indicating elevator access for wheelchairs, ramps and restrooms and eating facilities which are accessible to the handicapped.

Anyone planning to attend the convention who has not yet made a hotel reservation may call Hedquist's office (615-244-2355) during regular working hours for the names of hotels which still have vacancies and which may be contacted directly by individuals.

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Seminary President Says
 Stanley Shouldn't Lead
 Group He Doesn't Love

By Robert Dilday

SAVANNAH, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley "ought not be president of the group he doesn't love," a seminary president says.

W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., was the keynote speaker at the third of a series of meetings sponsored by Concerned Southern Baptists, a group organized last fall by Georgians worried by what they call a "fundamentalist takeover" of the 14.3 million-member denomination.

Lolley, speaking to about 200 people in Savannah's First Baptist Church, said Stanley told him "personally" that "he had no confidence in the six Southern Baptist seminaries when he became president and therefore had counseled young people, including his own son and daughter not to attend one of the Southern Baptist seminaries."

"That's his business, but he ought not be president of a group that he doesn't love," Lolley said.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, was elected president of the SBC during the 1984 annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo. Under SBC rules, a president serves a one-year term, but is eligible for reelection to a second one-year term. Stanley has announced he will allow himself to be nominated for the second term.

Stanley is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. His son, Andy, 25, and daughter, Becky, 23, are students at Dallas Theological Seminary, a non-SBC-affiliated seminary.

In his address, Lolley asked, "Does it make a person less a Southern Baptist to do missions differently than the way the denomination has determined we'll do it? No. If a Southern Baptist church decides to do missions congregationally, it's their business. But the people who decide that ought not be elevated to the highest position in this denomination."

Lolley also referred to a decision by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees not to renominate a Dallas attorney as a director of the SBC Home Mission Board and said the action will have "an indelible effect on Dallas," where the 1985 annual meeting will be held, June 11-13.

Four recent actions, besides the Committee on Boards report, will determine in Dallas the direction of the SBC, Lolley claimed.

One is, "the paralysis at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary created by an administrative matter becoming a test of President Dilday's leadership," a reference to the Southwestern administration's unsuccessful attempt to fire a professor accused of leading a "profane" lifestyle, he said.

Southwestern trustees voted 19-12 to dismiss Farrar Patterson, associate professor of communications, two votes short of a two-thirds majority. The action was initiated by President Russell W. Dilday Jr., and recommended 8-1 by the trustee academic affairs committee.

"Because of the dynamics of (Southwestern's) board of trustees, virtual paralysis has now set in at the world's largest seminary," Lolley said. "There's every indication that members of that board are designing to fire Dr. Dilday in a very short period of time and have a different type of president from any Southwestern has had in history."

Two is, the appearance on "The 700 Club" television program of three former SBC presidents—Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn.; Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla., and James T. Draper Jr. of Euless, Texas—who "effectively smeared all six of the seminaries."

"Your seminaries are not perfect, Lolley admitted, "but we use the best tools of scholarship in our seminaries and they do not lead us to doubting Scripture; they lead us to loving Scripture as the word of the Lord."

"When the three most recent presidents of the SBC say what they said about the six Southern Baptist seminaries, I think there's at least the possibility they're trying to sell another set of schools."

Three is, Stanley's announcement that he is available for a second term as SBC president. "We Baptists elect presidents one year at a time," Lolley said. "And to talk in terms of absolute commitment without any questions asked...of a president for a second term...is not the way we Baptists usually conduct our affairs."

"It is entirely appropriate for someone else to be nominated. If you go to Dallas, I can guarantee you there are going to be some other nominees," he said. "Baptists are just Baptist enough to say that they want a chance every year to review their leadership."

Four is, Draper's threat to escrow his church's Cooperative Program funds if Stanley loses the presidential election in Dallas. "I believe there are a lot of Southern Baptists who are going to be offended by that," Lolley said.

"The Bible mandates that we who belong to Jesus must walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ," Lolley said. "The theological issue now is: 'Must we walk as twins? And if as twins, then identical twins? And if identical twins, Siamese twins?'"

"Is it enough to be a conservative or must you become a right-wing ideologue to qualify (for acceptance as a Southern Baptist)?" he asked.

Commenting on reports the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees will not recommend the reappointment of former chairman of the HMB Jerry Gilmore, a Dallas attorney, Lolley said: "The rumor I hear is that Jerry Gilmore will not be nominated to a second term. He will be bumped. The reason: his wife is a Methodist minister."

Gilmore, an HMB director since 1981, was chairman 1984-1985. He is eligible for a second four-year term as director. His wife, Martha, was ordained by a Southern Baptist church in 1977 and "transferred her orders" to the United Methodist Church last year, Lolley said.

"We Baptists are not generally known to be held responsible for our wives or husbands," Lolley said. "If...Gilmore is bumped off the HMB because his wife is a Methodist minister, and you let it happen, you'll rue the day you do it."

"If that disqualifies a person from under our roof, priesthood of the believer is gone," he continued.

The Christian Index, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention contacted Bob Eklund, chairman of the committee on boards, who confirmed the rumor. "There doesn't seem to be any secret about that," said Eklund, who is an associate in the evangelism department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"The two of us from Texas (on the committee) renominated Jerry Gilmore and I think the vote was 25-22 to replace him. As chairman, I couldn't vote, but I did everything I could to keep him on."

"I don't think everyone voted against him because of the women's ordination issue," Eklund continued. "At least half a dozen members told me they weren't concerned about the ordination thing, but they wanted to keep the report as non-controversial as possible."

"Of course, I think (the failure to renominate Gilmore) has made it more controversial."

Eklund added "90 percent to 95 percent" of the report will be "right down the middle" of the theological spectrum. "It's going to be tragic if it can't be seen in that light."

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(Dilday is associate editor of the Georgia Christian Index.)

State Convention Leaders
Discuss SBC Controversy

By Bob Terry

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Concern about the controversies engulfing the Southern Baptist Convention brought a together the presidents of 23 state Baptist conventions for prayer and discussion.

The meeting took place April 11-12, and was the first time in the history of the 14.3 million member denomination that state presidents have met at their own initiative to discuss issues facing the national body.

According to convenor Charles Pickering of Mississippi, the presidents agreed that the volatile rhetoric of the controversies "jeopardize the opportunity Southern Baptists have to reach the world with the love of Jesus Christ."

Pickering, an attorney from Laurel, Miss., was one of nine state convention presidents serving on a steering committee for the meeting. The state convention leaders met privately Thursday night and Friday morning prior to inviting the press in for a briefing.

The presidents released a statement and a newsrelease concerning their meeting and spent about an hour answering questions.

In the prepared statement, the presidents declared: "The manner in which the present controversies are being discussed among Southern Baptists, in many instances, diminishes our ability to reflect Christ's love to the world, limits our ability to carry out the Great Commission and diverts our attention from the responsibilities God has given us."

Pickering said the presidents are concerned that Southern Baptists might not be able to seize the opportunities of Good News America, Bold Mission Thrust and other evangelistic opportunities if convention rhetoric is not toned down.

"We believe we reflect the vast majority of Southern Baptists who fear we have been diverted from our major task. We want to get on with our missions and evangelism efforts," Pickering told a Friday morning news conference.

The presidents called the personalities involved in the controversy "sincere people seeking to serve the cause of Christ" but urged all participants to "reflect the character of Christ in their discussions, articles and statements."

"The true evidence that the cause of Christ is being served is in reflecting love," the statement continued.

In an unanimous action, the presidents called on Southern Baptists to set aside May 19 as a day of prayer for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas and offered three suggestions to relieve mounting political pressures.

During the day of prayer, the presidents asked Southern Baptists to pray that revival and spiritual awakening will break out within the denomination, that under the leadership of the Holy Spirit healing and reconciliation will take place and that Southern Baptists might effectively proclaim the Gospel around the world to the glory of God.

Convention resolutions was one sort of political pressure cited by the presidents. In the official statement, messengers were urged to "exercise restraint in filing resolutions."

Pickering said the group was not attempting to stifle discussion. "We only want the messengers to be mindful of the impact their resolutions might have on the convention." While declining to cite examples, the presidents agreed past convention resolutions have been a source of convention differences.

The presidents also called on "those...who make appointments" and "those who carry out programs...to be mindful of involving people from a broad range of our constituency."

Pickering said the presidents believe that in the past political pressures have been brought to bear on those who make appointments and those who administer programs. The political pressures had to do with control of the convention, he observed.

Other presidents said people on all sides of the present controversy feel left out. "We are just asking the responsible parties to be as inclusive as possible," Pickering added. "If we are mindful of balancing our appointments and programs, that will help relieve the political pressures."

The presidents also asked Southern Baptists to remember the convention was created to promote missions, education, benevolent enterprises and other social services. A correct view of the convention will help alleviate false expectations, one president told Word and Way.

Repeatedly, the presidents denied they came together as a political group. "This group represents men of different perspectives," one participant noted. "We agreed to sublimate our differences and come together where unity can be found."

Pickering denied any discussion about candidates had taken place. "That was never on the agenda and we haven't discussed the first word about it. We came together to pray and discuss the problems. We didn't defend or attack anyone."

When asked about the seriousness of the SBC controversies, Pickering said the fact that the presidents took the unprecedented action of meeting together indicates they believe the problem is serious. "I hope there won't be a split. We came together to promote healing so we can get about our tasks of missions and evangelism."

While agreeing the controversies are widespread, the presidents noted the emotions seem to run higher in some parts of the country than in others.

Participating in the two-day meeting were:

Wallace Henley, Alabama; Neil Thompson, Alaska; Jon M. Stubblefield, Arkansas; Norman Taylor, District of Columbia; Bill Hickem, Florida; David Sapp, vice-president, Georgia; Charles Chandler, Illinois; Robert Latham, Indiana;

Ed Gregory, Iowa; Mahlon Morley, Kansas-Nebraska; Jim Lewis, Kentucky; Raymond Boswell, Louisiana; Ralph Ehren, Maryland-Delaware; Frank Hamby, Minnesota-Wisconsin; Pickering; John Gilbert, Missouri; Ed Hewlett, New York;

Norman Wiggins, North Carolina; John Miller, Northern Plains; Wendell Estep, Oklahoma; Earl Crumpler, South Carolina; John May, Tennessee, Earl Scott, Virginia.

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(Bob Terry is editor of Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.)



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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION