



BAPTIST PRESS

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85-66

Kentuckian Will Be
Nominated For SBC VP

By Jack Sanford

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Henry B. Huff, Louisville attorney and prominent Kentucky Baptist layman, will be nominated for first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention when the convention meets in Dallas June 11-13.

T.L. McSwain, pastor of Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville, said he will nominate Huff because "laymen need to be involved in SBC life at the highest level," and because Huff "has given of himself in service to Christ through the Kentucky Baptist Convention as well as significant service through the SBC."

Huff is presently teaching a men's Bible class at Crescent Hill Baptist Church where he is an active member. He is a member of the finance committee at Crescent Hill and chairman-elect of the deacons.

His activities in Kentucky Baptist life are extensive. He is chairman of the finance committee of the executive board of Long Run Association. He is also a member of the executive board of the KBC, chairman of the administrative committee of the KBC and a member of the KBC finance committee.

Huff is also chairman of the board of trustees of Campbellsville College and on the board of trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In years past Huff has been moderator of Long Run Association, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, member of the Committee on Committees of the SBC, member of the Committee on Boards of the SBC and a member of the Denominational Calendar Committee.

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FMB Votes To Affirm Parks,
Cooperate With SBC Officers

By Robert O'Brien

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Foreign Mission Board trustees resolved with only one dissenting vote at their May meeting to affirm the leadership of FMB President R. Keith Parks and the right of the board's trustees and staff to speak as individuals.

But they also voted 29 to 19 in a separate action to table a second resolution which would have affirmed Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley by name "for his commitment to leadership as president of the SBC" and pledged him prayer support.

The first resolution followed the FMB president's public statement a month earlier opposing Stanley's reelection as SBC president because he felt it would negatively affect Southern Baptists' cooperative approach to missions. The statement has caused widespread reaction, pro and con. Parks said two-thirds of more than 300 personal calls and letters favor his stand.

The resolution affirmed Parks' "calling, leadership and total commitment to the cause of missions," but it also said the board will "continue working cooperatively with all elected convention officers" and pointed out personal views don't reflect official board action.

Parks, a 31-year veteran of foreign missions and missions administration, has said he realizes personal statements don't reflect official board action but believes he has the responsibility as FMB president to project trends he perceives will affect missions.

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Trustees seemed to feel the first resolution sufficiently covered their intention to cooperate with all elected SBC officers. In tabling the motion on Stanley, they declined to deal with an action which would list any of those officers by name.

Their first resolution also said the FMB will serve all Southern Baptists in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world and urged "all Southern Baptists and their churches to continue increased giving through the Cooperative Program as the best method for growth in world missions and Bold Mission Thrust."

Additionally, they commended the FMB staff, president and missionaries for "their commitment to the priority of evangelism that results in churches."

They also encouraged "all Southern Baptists to thank God for his providence in calling and preparing a great missionary force for serving in 106 countries" and called on "all Southern Baptists to pray earnestly for the blessing of God upon our convention meeting in Dallas and commit ourselves to pray sincerely and urgently for great spiritual awakening among Southern Baptists everywhere."

Ron Herrod, trustee from Louisiana who made the motion to affirm Stanley by name, said the board shouldn't affirm Parks by name unless they did the same for Stanley, who serves as an ex officio FMB trustee by virtue of his SBC presidency.

"I can't imagine because two of our brothers have had a difference of opinion that we would affirm one without affirming the other," Herrod said in explaining why he favored his resolution.

Mary Strauss, trustee from Maryland, supporting the motion to table Herrod's resolution, said, "There's a big difference between our affirmation of Dr. Parks as president of this board and a motion which, let's not be naive, could be misconstrued as an affirmation of the reelection of Dr. Stanley. Dr. Parks isn't running for reelection. Dr. Stanley is. We will continue to work with all convention officers. That means Dr. Stanley also."

Parks, asked to comment by board chairman Harrell Cushing of Alabama, explained this wasn't a situation which called for mediation "between two Christians who are mad at each other."

"I've heard it said that this is personal between me and Charles Stanley and that I've attacked him," Parks said. "I have not done that. It's not a personal vendetta. I don't have anything against him or any of you who disagree with me."

Parks issued his earlier statement on April 19, urging election of convention officers who support both the Bible and the SBC's cooperative convention approach to missions. Parks, responding to a reporter's question, agreed his statement meant he opposed Stanley's reelection to the SBC presidency in Dallas in June.

Parks' April 19 statement outlined a number of factors in the current SBC controversy which he said would "undermine and destroy the mission force that has characterized Southern Baptists."

The FMB president told board members at the May meeting he disagrees more with the model of missions Stanley's church (First Baptist, Atlanta) presents to the convention than with his "minimal support of the SBC Cooperative Program." That model, Parks said, emphasizes heavy support of non-Southern Baptist causes and independent missionaries financed directly by the church outside the SBC cooperative approach.

"I've told him (Stanley) personally that I respect his right to do it differently but that the model of missions his church provides is contrary to what our convention is committed to," Parks said. "My whole point (in releasing the earlier statement) was to project what I perceive to be happening to missions."

"I believe this type of model will erode and compete with the present model we follow as a convention," Parks said.

Parks and board chairman Cushing called a special two-hour session on the first day of the three-day board meeting to allow Parks to explain his reasons for speaking out and board members to react.

The session generated spirited give and take among board members, pro and con, on Parks' point of view. One trustee, who identified himself as a friend of fundamentalist leader Judge Paul Pressler of Houston, heatedly declared Parks had overreacted and said fundamentalists support the cooperative approach as strongly as anyone else. Another declared Parks had not overreacted.

A sizable minority of trustees seemed to disagree more with Parks' decision to use Stanley's name publicly than with his freedom to make a general statement of his views.

The two-hour session resulted in Cushing's appointing a seven-person committee to bring a resolution to the final business session of the May meeting. The committee, comprised almost equally of people representing moderate and fundamentalist points of view in the current SBC inerrancy crisis, unanimously brought back the resolution passed by the board.

Parks reiterated his personal conviction during the two-hour session that the Bible is the "authoritative, inspired Word of God," and expressed chagrin that some have charged him with "liberalism" simply because he spoke his views on dangers to missions.

He said he had "prayed and agonized for a long time" how he could express his concern to help Southern Baptists evaluate the situation. He explained again how attending the April 18 funeral of Baker James Cauthen caused him to realize he must speak out more specifically because he remembered "how this spiritual giant had given 40 years to calling us to our central task (of missions)."

Later, in an emotional moment at the board meeting, Eloise Glass Cauthen, widow of the executive director emeritus, recounted how an SBC institution had flown its flag at half-staff when Cauthen died.

"But he raised a flag (of missions) with his life," she said tearfully. "Keep it up at the top of the mast."

Parks summarized for board members: "In a word, I'm a missionary. My perspective comes from the perspective as a missionary and a missions administrator. If you feel the cause of cooperative missions is being strengthened or weakened, you have the responsibility to assess that and act accordingly. That's what I did."

Since the New Orleans SBC meeting in 1982, he said, he has become more and more concerned that trends were leading toward erosion of Southern Baptists' cooperative missions approach and destruction of trust among Southern Baptists.

"We live or die on trust," he said. "Trust is a fragile flower. Once it's crushed, I'm not sure it can be revived. Growing suspicion of (SBC) agencies, agency heads, the cooperative way and missionaries is moving us along the path toward erosion."

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Church Disfellowshipped
Over Alien Immersion

By Jack Sanford

Baptist Press
5/23/85

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—The Lincoln County Kentucky Association executive board has terminated fellowship with Stanford Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Moreland.

Thirty-six percent of the association's receipts of \$19,234 in the last fiscal year was provided by the two churches now disfellowshipped by Lincoln County Association. There are 25 other congregations in the association which contribute the remaining 64 percent of the budget.

The two congregations in question have a combined membership of 1,032. The Stanford church is the largest congregation in the association and the Moreland church is 15th.

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Controversy arose in the association when the Stanford church changed the church's by-laws to receive into membership persons who "have experienced believers baptism by immersion in other than Baptist churches."

At the March meeting of the association's executive board after Larry S. Burcham, pastor of Stanford church, explained the new policy, a motion was made to withdraw fellowship from the Stanford church.

Following lengthy discussion of the motion, the executive board was asked to grant the Stanford church 30 days to change its policy. This was debated and the executive board withdrew the motion to grant 30 days and decided to communicate with the churches in the association with regard to the matter and to pray about this matter until the April meeting.

At the April meeting the Stanford church was given 30 days to rescind the policy or face expulsion.

The deacons of the Stanford church discussed the executive board's action and recommended to the church that the new policy not be changed. The church supported the deacon's decision.

Thus, the executive board, after the 30-day waiting period expired, met the first week of May and withdrew fellowship.

Meanwhile George Darnell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Moreland, advised the executive board the Moreland church had followed this practice off and on for more than a dozen years. When this information was made known the executive board included the Moreland church in the motion to withdraw fellowship.

Thus Stanford Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Moreland, were excluded from fellowship in the Lincoln County Association by action of the associational executive board.

Both Burcham and Darnell wrote to the association expressing a willingness to explore a restoration of fellowship if the association should have a change of heart in the future.

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Golden Gate Trustees Adopt
Resolutions, Elect Officers

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5/23/85

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--During their spring meeting, trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary adopted several significant resolutions, approved an increased operating budget, and elected new board officers.

Trustees passed a resolution requesting the Southern Baptist Convention to allocate Cooperative Program funding based on total full-time equivalent students at all three of Golden Gate's locations in Mill Valley, southern California, and Portland, Ore. This action recognizes the unique mission and vast area served by the seminary which includes many smaller or mission churches whose pastors are still attending school.

In addition, trustees adopted a policy whereby entering students agree to pay back the cost of their tuition paid by the Cooperative Program if they do not pursue a ministry vocation for a period of at least five years following graduation.

The trustees also approved a housing policy which will enable new students to easily obtain on-campus housing during their first year while adjusting to the academic program. Students will then be housed both on campus and in various locations near their ministry field, in coordination with the seminary's supervised ministry program.

In other action, the board approved the appointment of Elsie M. McCall as dean of students. She is an assistant professor of religious education. Additionally, a budget of \$4,976,442 was approved for fiscal year 1985-86. Golden Gate's development program is expected to contribute over \$500,000 to the funding of this budget.

Elected were: Dick Quick, chairman of the board for Picadilly Cafeterias, Inc., Baton Rouge, La., chairman; Barbara Floyd, an interior designer from Dallas, vice-chairman and Cecil Pearson, executive director emeritus of the California Baptist Foundation, Fresno, secretary.

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New Intercessory Prayer
Line Director Named

ATLANTA (BP)—Conrad L. Keil of Morgan City, La., has been named national director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Intercessory Prayer Line Ministry.

Before coming to this position Keil was a volunteer pastor at Bayou L'Ourse Baptist Mission, Morgan City.

Keil will head the prayer line ministry as a Mission Service Corps volunteer. Mission Service Corps allows Southern Baptists to spend one to two years in mission efforts at their own expense or with the support of a sponsoring church or individual(s).

The "prayer line" is a national incoming WATS telephone line which enables Baptists to call the HMB toll-free to learn of home mission needs and requests for prayer, and for missionaries of the board to call to request prayer for their work and concerns.

Keil, a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will be responsible for recruiting other volunteers in the Atlanta area to answer the HMB's national prayer line. Volunteers will work four-hour daily shifts Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern time.

Keil plans to encourage more Southern Baptists to call in and receive prayer requests. He also hopes to improve communications so more missionaries will telephone in their prayer requests.

The nation-wide telephone number for the prayer line is 1-800-554-PRAY, or 1-800-282-SEEK for calls within the state of Georgia.

Phillip Bruce, who became ministry director last fall, resigned to become associate pastor of Guss Road in Durham, N.C.

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Brotherhood Lists
Staff Changes

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Cameron Byler, Mike Davis, Dick Jensen and Kenny Rains have joined the Brotherhood Commission staff.

Byler, former executive director of Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors for the Alaska Baptist Convention, is now director of Baptist Men and Senior Baptist Men at the Brotherhood Commission. A graduate of Howard Payne University in Texas, he earlier had been Royal Ambassador director in Texas where he helped build the first disaster relief mobile unit in the Southern Baptist Convention. Byler and his wife have two grown children.

Davis, a 15-year veteran of the Brotherhood Commission, moved to the newly created staff position of director of audio-visual services from marketing services on May 1. The University of Georgia graduate will coordinate the agency's television production and will oversee the general audio-visual operation. Davis and his wife are parents of three children.

Jensen, a graduate of Maryville College in Tennessee, has more than 25 years experience in broadcasting, marketing and public relations. The Florida native became director of marketing services on May 1 after similar work in South Carolina. Jensen returns to Memphis where his career began 28 years ago with Youth for Christ. Jensen's wife is Memphis native and they have two children.

Rains is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in his home state of Tennessee. He assumed responsibility May 1 as director of Pioneer Royal Ambassadors and High School Baptist Young Men after serving as Royal Ambassador director for the Tennessee Baptist State Convention. Rains also served as youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Ridge. He and his wife have two young sons.

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