



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 15, 1985

85-145

**South Carolina Holds  
'Most Peaceful' Convention**

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)-- In what was hailed by its president as "the most peaceful convention we have ever attended," South Carolina Baptists meeting in annual session Nov. 12-13 adopted a record \$20.1 million budget, elected a Fort Mill pastor president, opposed a state-operated lottery and promoted its 1986 simultaneous revivals.

The convention, in Greenville, attracted 2,443 messengers.

Earl Crumpler, pastor of Edwards Road Baptist Church, Greenville, who presided over the convention, said the quiet meeting was "God's answer to our prayers." The new president, George Dye, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, echoed that feeling, saying, "Some of us prayed for a non-eventful meeting."

The 1986 budget will support a wide variety of ministries in both the state and Southern Baptist conventions. It represents a \$1.1 million increase over last year's figure. The national unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program, will receive 37.25 percent, an increase of .25 percent. The goal is to reach a 50-50 split by the year 2000.

Other officers are Flynn Harrell, a Columbia layman, first vice-president, and D.B. Webber, a retired pastor from Simpsonville, second vice-president.

A resolution asking the South Carolina General Assembly "to defeat again in the 1986 session any effort to establish a lottery in this state" was adopted by the messengers. The resolution also expressed "appreciation to the General Assembly...for having resisted for several years efforts to legalize a lottery."

The 1986 session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention will be Nov. 15-16, in Columbia.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

Moderates Sweep  
North Carolina Vote

Baptist Press  
11/15/85

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--While other state Southern Baptist conventions continued to function with little or none of the political warfare characteristic of the national SBC meetings, the familiar battlelines were clearly drawn in North Carolina.

Prior to the Nov. 11-13 meeting in Charlotte, N.C., two slates of officers were promoted throughout the state--one by "Friends of Missions," an organization which assumes a moderate posture on theology and full support and cooperation with the denomination, and another by the element which has been critical of the denomination, charging a drift toward liberalism.

"Friends of Missions" made a clean sweep of all three major offices.

William Poe, a Charlotte attorney and a member of the SBC Peace Committee, was elected president over Ned Matthews, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia; Leon Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, was elected first vice-president over Ken Ridings, pastor of Grassy Branch Baptist Church, Asheville, and Betty Gilreath, a layperson from Charlotte and recording secretary for the national Woman's Missionary Union, was elected second vice-president over Sam Currin of Raleigh, U.S. Attorney for Eastern North Carolina and a trustee of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

## Messengers also:

- approved a budget of \$26.12 million for 1986, of which 35.45 percent (the same as last year) will go to Southern Baptist worldwide causes;
- took action on a motion by J.D. Grant, Franklin, instructing the general board and its executive committee to "reconsider" the employment of John Bunn as executive director at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute;
- approved the report of the committee on committees without debate, and
- approved Greensboro as the permanent site of the annual meeting (the 1986 session will be Nov. 10-12).

An attempt to make changes in the state convention's covenant relationship with Wake Forest University produced two conflicting vote results which left the covenant unchanged.

The provisions of the covenant were modified by a simple majority vote to let the university elect one-third of the trustees, rather than the convention electing these trustees upon nomination by the university. Two-thirds of the trustees must be Baptists who are members of North Carolina churches but the other one-third can be non-North Carolinians and non-Baptist but they must be Christians who are members of evangelical churches.

However, changes in the the covenant necessitated a minor change in the language of the constitution--and constitutional changes require a two-thirds vote for two consecutive years. That ballot vote fell short of the required two-thirds majority about three percent which means the covenant relationship will remain as it has been for the past five years.

The annual convention came to a close with an address by Charles Fuller, pastor of First church, Roanoke, Va., and chairman of the SBC Peace Committee. Fuller pled for a ministry in the name of Christ rather than conflict and division among Southern Baptists.

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Maryland/Delaware Baptists  
Begin 150th Anniversary

Baptist Press  
11/15/85

SUITLAND, Md. (BP)--With little controversy messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware Nov. 11-13 kicked off a year long 150th anniversary celebration.

Ralph Ehren, pastor of Colesville Baptist Church, Silver Spring, was elected to a second one-year term as president. Messengers named Vaughan Pippen, a Baltimore architect, as first vice-president and reelected Randy Hyde second vice-president. Hyde is pastor of Middle River Baptist Church in Baltimore.

Highlighting the three-day meeting at First Baptist Church, Suitland, Md., were programs and speeches pointing toward a sesquicentennial celebration next November.

Messengers numbered 522 from 168 of the convention's 300 churches.

The convention adopted, with mild dissent, a two-year study from its constitution and bylaws revision committee. The main change states that the president "in consultation with the two vice-presidents will appoint three major committees." Previously this was solely the responsibility of the president. Another change specifies that most convention and executive board committees shall consist of one member from each of the 12 associations.

The constitution was approved on a vital first time vote last year but the bylaws portion was turned back to the committee for further study. The affirmative vote this year on both portions gives the convention a new constitution and bylaws document.

Next year's meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10-12 at Temple Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.

A \$2,357,000 Cooperative Program operating budget (an increase of \$206,000) was approved. Forty percent will be spent for Southern Baptist Convention causes with 60 percent staying in Maryland and Delaware, the same level as 1985.

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The convention approved routine resolutions of gratitude and made three additional statements through resolutions:

- expressed support for the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee;
- took an offering for relief of flood victims in Maryland and surrounding states which resulted from a resolution;
- and stressed a need for Baptists to wage peace and to pray and work for peace in areas such as the Middle East, South Africa, Central America and Afghanistan.

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Kentucky Baptists  
Practice Cooperation

Baptist Press  
11/15/85

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)—"Cooperation: The Baptist Way to a Lost World" was its theme and by the time it ended, it appeared most of the messengers attending the 148th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention believed it.

Evidence of that attitude was seen in the election of the new president. Fifteen seconds after the vote count was announced, run-off contenders embraced in the center aisle of Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church.

With a vote of 436-431, Don R. Mathis, pastor of Corbin's Central Baptist Church, was declared the victor. His opponent, Malcolm G. Lunceford, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Frankfort, had faced Mathis in the runoff after eliminating John Wallace, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington, in a three-way decision.

The messengers adopted a \$19 million budget for the convention's 1986-87 fiscal year. Of that amount, 62.5 percent is designated for in-state work and 37.5 percent for SBC causes, an increase from the current 36.875 percent for worldwide SBC causes. The convention is on schedule to reach a previously adopted goal of reaching 40 percent for SBC work by 1990.

The convention agreed to continue a special committee assigned the task of studying ascending and descending liability for its agencies and institutions another year. It is expected the committee will complete its work and bring any recommendations to the 1986 annual meeting of the convention at Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church on Nov. 11-13.

For the first time in the memory of long-time observers of the convention, no resolutions were offered from the floor. That didn't thwart the resolutions committee, however, which offered five of its own. None were controversial, and all were unanimously approved.

In one, on cooperation, theme of the convention, it was suggested that messengers "call all Kentucky Baptists to pray for our beloved Southern Baptist Convention, particularly for the Peace Committee, that God will heal us and lead us beyond controversy to his marvelous future."

Much of the spirit of cooperation of this meeting, and its success, was attributed in hallway conversations to the "fairness" and "levity" of presiding officer James B. Lewis. Lewis, pastor of Louisville's Westport Road Baptist Church, completed the maximum one-year term accorded Kentucky Baptist Convention presidents.

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Mission Board Names Two  
To Communications Posts

Baptist Press  
11/15/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Irma Duke and Mary Jane Welch have been given new responsibilities in the Foreign Mission Board's new Office of Communications and Public Relations, effective Jan. 1.

Duke will become director of a new print department and Welch will replace her as information coordinator and assistant director of the news and information services department.

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The print department, one of two being created from the present product development department, will be responsible for the board's printed products such as brochures, maps and mission study books.

Duke came to the board in 1976 as a staff writer and assumed her present post in 1980. The former Irma Coleman, is a native of Henry County, Va., and grew up there and in Lakeland, Fla. She is a graduate of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, where she also worked as a staff writer for The Ledger.

An award winner for news and feature stories and news photography, she wrote the 1983 Foreign Mission Study tabloid for youth, Global Gazette. She is completing a three-year term as placement coordinator for the Baptist Public Relations Association. She is married to Jim Duke and they have two sons, Jonathan and Jason.

Welch, a staff writer at the Foreign Mission Board since 1978, will be primarily responsible for providing foreign missions information to a variety of Southern Baptist publications.

She grew up in Aberdeen, Miss., was graduated from Mississippi College, Clinton, and also attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She was an editorial assistant for the Commercial Appeal in Memphis, where she also worked for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Welch has won awards for news and interpretative stories, photography and editing Focus, a Foreign Mission Board newsletter for volunteers. She also wrote the 1983 Foreign Mission Study for older children, Trailblazer. She is married to Timothy S. Turner.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

Kansas-Nebraska Baptists  
Increase CP Percentage

Baptist Press  
11/15/85

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)—Messengers to the 40th annual meeting of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists adopted an official goal to increase the convention's giving to the national unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention to 32 percent by 1990.

In keeping with that spirit action at the Nov. 12-13 meeting in Wichita, Kan., increased the percentage of funds received by the state convention from local churches that will be sent on to the national programs during 1986 to 28 percent, a one percent increase over 1985.

The two-day event attracted 376 registered messengers and alternates. Visitors joined the messengers on the final evening for "World Missions Celebration" increasing the number to nearly 800 persons.

Messengers elected John Click, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, as the convention's 23rd president. Overton Park businessman Harold Finch was elected vice-president. Although both men faced opposition each won a first ballot victory.

Messengers adopted a record budget of \$3,023,037. This represents a seven percent increase over the 1985 budget.

Resolutions dealing with opposition to alcoholic consumption and the taxation of parsonages were adopted.

The main focus for the event was the worldwide mission causes with a major emphasis being placed on personal involvement in a variety of mission projects as well as affirming the Cooperative Program as the primary funding concept.

The 1986 meeting is scheduled for Kansas City, Kan., Nov. 11-12.

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Baptists Prepare  
For Saturn Growth

By Charlie Warren

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)—As General Motors executives, government officials, and developers try to sort out just what impact the General Motors' Saturn plant in Spring Hill, Tenn., will have, Southern Baptists are planning to make an impact of their own.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with the cooperation of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and six Tennessee Baptist associations, sponsored a planning meeting Nov. 13.

Three government planners who spoke at the meeting all emphasized that there is a lack of hard data about what Saturn's impact will be, but each offered to provide the information to Baptists as soon as it becomes available.

Phil Maples, regional director of the middle Tennessee planning office of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, predicted 4,000 short-term construction workers will flood the area during early development. He anticipates 6,000 permanent employees once the plant is opened—1,000 white collar and 5,000 blue collar workers.

In addition, "spin-off industries will provide great ministry opportunities," said Maples, a Southern Baptist layman. He noted since General Motors will not stockpile equipment and supplies, suppliers will try to locate close enough to offer quick delivery to the Saturn plant.

Maples said the early influx of construction workers will offer "a challenge" in terms of ministry, noting construction workers, knowing they will be temporary, will come from great distances, leaving their families behind, and will seek short-term housing.

Judy Langsdon, director of community development for Maury County (where Saturn will be located), commended Baptists for their vision in trying to plan for Saturn.

Agreeing with Maples' assessment of 4,000 construction workers and 6,000 permanent Saturn employee Langsdon predicted there will be three spin-off jobs for every plant employee—12,000-18,000 spin-off jobs within a 250-mile radius of Spring Hill.

Baptist church members will have to deal with fears, according to Langsdon—fear of the unknown, fear of new people, and fear of change. Instead of reacting with fear, however, she urged Baptists to welcome newcomers.

"The church has a responsibility and a wonderful opportunity to make them feel that here is a group of people that can reach out to me and help me assimilate into this community." She pointed out that as people experience transition, a new job, and a new community, they "do a little soul searching, think seriously about their values and their relationship with the Lord."

Several directors of missions shared ways their associations are preparing to meet the challenge. Two noted "miracles" which occurred even before General Motors announced its plans.

Three years ago the Nashville Baptist Association helped purchase eight acres for a new work at Thompson Station, about four miles from the Saturn site. Another 15-acre site was purchased about 10 miles away and plans are already underway for that young congregation's first building.

First Baptist Church of Spring Hill decided several years ago to relocate from their overcrowded downtown building to a site north of town. The new building was dedicated in May.

Home Mission Board employees at the Nov. 13 meeting offered the resources of the board in helping reach people, including:

- help in pinpointing areas where development will take place from the HMB church starting department;
- help in developing strategies for reaching people from cultural backgrounds different from most members of area Southern Baptist churches from the HMB evangelism section;
- help in developing approaches for reaching black families which move into the area from the HMB black church relations department, and
- financial help for obtaining building sites, building first unit buildings and expanding existing property from the HMB church loans division.

**(BP)**

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION