

AUG 4 1986



BAPTIST PRESS

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August 1, 1986

86-110

SBC Peace Committee
Plans Agency Parleys

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee began its second year of deliberations by planning two meetings, one with seminary presidents and the other with leaders of all 20 national agencies of the SBC.

The committee, according to chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., began its new year by "looking forward" to presenting recommendations about how to solve the seven-year controversy in the 14.4-million-member denomination "rather than backward to the history of the controversy itself."

The 22-member group approved a plan to meet with agency and seminary leaders to seek input from the institutions on possible solutions to the controversy in the denomination.

Five members of the committee will meet in mid-September with the presidents of the six SBC-related seminaries.

Peace Committee members scheduled to meet with seminary leaders include committee Chairman Fuller; Vice Chairman Charles Pickering, an attorney from Laurel, Miss., and chairmen of the three subcommittees which visited the seminaries last spring; Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.; Harmon Born, an Atlanta automobile dealer, and William Crews, pastor of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif.

The full Peace Committee will meet in mid-October with leaders of all 20 national agencies at a prayer retreat at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"We are putting a lot of hope into the input and response we will receive at these upcoming meetings with agency leaders and seminary presidents," Fuller said.

"We are looking forward to what they will have to say to us that is fresh and promising as we seek to fulfill the assignment the convention in Dallas gave to us," Fuller added.

The committee was appointed at the 1985 annual meeting of the convention in Dallas and charged with the responsibility of finding the causes of controversy in the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination and recommending ways to heal the breach between those who feel the denomination has been drifting toward liberalism and those who are satisfied with the seminaries and other institutions as they have been.

The committee made an interim report to the 1986 annual meeting in Atlanta and asked for another year in which to complete its work. The committee must make a final report at the 1987 convention in St. Louis.

The preliminary report, in addition to asking for another year, also reported the group had found "significant theological diversity" in the six seminaries and the convention at large and decried the current level of political activity in the convention as detrimental.

In a series of recommendations, the committee asked that 1986-87 be a year of intercessory prayer and that warring factions declare a moratorium on political/theological position meetings for one year to allow the committee to work without distraction.

—more— SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Fuller told Baptist Press the first meeting of the second year was marked by a "forward thrust rather than a backward glance" on the part of committee members, all of whom were present except immediate past SBC president Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, who reported he was unable to attend because of an illness in his family.

"In my mind the most significant thing that occurred was the disposition and mood of committee members to move off rehashing and discussing of old issues that was so often repeated last year," Fuller said. "The disposition was to get on with decision making.

"They seemed to be saying in many ways, 'Let's get on with it.'"

Fuller said that while there appeared to be no disposition to "cycle back and rehash old debates, the meeting featured more frequent candor and confrontation than there has been in previous meetings."

He said the committee has voted to present a preliminary report of the findings and recommendations at the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, and to have the report released for publication in the Book of Reports and for general distribution to Southern Baptists by early March.

"We will make a preliminary report at the February meeting and then with that input, will complete the final report by the first of March, so that the convention at large will have time to reflect on it and what it means. We want messengers to come to the convention informed and ready to act on it," Fuller said.

"We want messengers to know what the report says rather than what somebody else says it says," the chairman added.

Fuller said he believes the committee will make a report of "substance" to the St. Louis meeting, but warned it "may not be as encompassing as some people may have thought it would be when we were first conceived."

"There are many things people would like for the Peace Committee to speak to. But I do not think the Peace Committee can deal with as many matters as some would like. I think the report will deal with those issues which we believe we can deal and those likely will not be as extensive as some people might want. So, some people may be a bit disappointed with us."

Fuller said he believes it "has become apparent we are going to have to focus our attention on primary matters that are at the base of our controversy."

He said the basic focus will be the "theological parameters under which we have fellowship and can work together to do missions and evangelism. Those basically deal with the Baptist Faith and Message statement, its interpretation and what that means to our agencies."

Fuller previously had said the question which must be addressed is how broad the theological diversity can be without deteriorating fellowship and ability to work together as a denomination.

He added those who are looking for some sort of definitive statement on subjects like abortion or women's ordination will be disappointed because the report of the committee probably will not deal with them.

"Of course, committee members have very definite feelings on these sorts of matters, but we do not believe that is to be the work of the committee. So, we are focusing our efforts on what we believe to be very much more basic matters," Fuller concluded.

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Texas Baptists Top July
Budget With \$5 Million

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
8/1/86

DALLAS (BP)—Texas Baptist churches gave \$5,057,986 for missions through the Cooperative Program in July, exceeding the monthly budget by \$16,319 or 0.3 percent.

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Gifts for June, in the wake of a Texas economy hit hard by the oil and agribusiness crises, fell \$1 million short for the month, leaving the budget \$420,977 short for the year. The 1986 basic budget goal is \$60.5 million, of which 36.5 percent is allocated for Southern Baptist Convention worldwide causes.

In mid-July, William M. Pinson, Jr., executive director of the 2.3-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas, announced that the BGCT executive board staff would adjust its budget expenditures for the remainder of the year to conform to income.

While reaffirming the state convention's commitment to living within its income, Pinson applauded "the faithful giving of Texas Baptists," noting Cooperative Program receipts for the year are up, and encouraged everyone to recognize the opportunities for ministry represented by tough economic times. He expressed hope that the Cooperative Program budget for the year will be met in spite of the economy.

Receipts for July 1986, were 6.2 percent less than the \$5,391,812 received for July 1985. Year to date receipts are ahead of the same period last year by 0.4 percent.

"The ongoing commitment of Texas Baptists to missions support during difficult times is encouraging. Knowing that many of our churches are giving sacrificially, we are endeavoring to use these resources carefully and live within the resources available," noted Roger Hall, treasurer.

Texas Baptists continue to show faithfulness, said Hall, as they join hands with other Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program in supporting more than 7,000 missionaries, six seminaries and other worldwide causes, plus 23 institutions and many other state missions causes.

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Americans Can Defeat
Obscenity, Sears Says

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
8/1/86

WASHINGTON (BP)—Americans can wipe out obscenity in two years, the Southern Baptist who headed up the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography contends.

"Over-the-counter sales and large multi-state distribution of obscene material can be eliminated from this country in the next two years," says Alan Sears, executive director of the commission, which released its 1,960-page report this summer. He insists his "incredibly realistic" prediction can become reality if officials vigorously enforce present laws.

"We could make a substantial attack" on the pornography industry, Sears notes. "When you drive (an illegal activity) underground, you don't get rid of it, but you sure do make it smaller. Anybody who wants to use the analogy that driving something underground doesn't reduce its business doesn't know much about the heroin business and some of these other businesses that criminal enterprises engage in."

A member of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., Sears was an assistant U.S. attorney with a reputation for prosecuting producers and peddlers of obscenity when he accepted the job with the pornography commission in March of 1985.

Sears first came in contact with obscenity because it was part of his job. "As a prosecutor and as an attorney, we swear an oath to uphold the laws of the Constitution of the United States," he says. "Consistent with my Christian beliefs, I believe that whenever you take a job, it's important that you keep your word. In this case, part of your duty is to enforce the law.

"I became familiar with this industry and what it did to people—the way it kind of chewed up people," he says of his days as a prosecutor. Turning to his work with the commission, he notes: "I had some understanding of the harm pornography caused, but to be honest, I had no idea when I set out on this task what I would find or where the commission would head up. I was amazed and really shocked to find out just exactly how much harm does occur, both in the production and as a result of the dissemination of a lot of the kinds of pornography in America today."

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The commission determined sexually violent, degrading, humiliating and subordinating material produce "certain demonstrable negative effects and that there was some evidence of linkage between consumption of that type of material and aggression against women, certain criminal activities and other anti-social things," he reports. "We found there were very strongly demonstrated attitude and belief changes, especially in terms of the way people view women. There were negative impacts on family and on society."

In dealing with child pornography, commissioners discovered "not only do you have injury to the child while the photograph is being taken, because you cannot make child pornography without molesting children sexually, but then you have a lasting injury, a permanent record of the abuse that's going to haunt that child for the rest of its life."

The commission had two assignments—to determine if pornography produces antisocial effects and to recommend actions for reducing pornography. It "found that certain types of pornography were indeed harmful" and offered 92 recommendations for action which involve state, federal and local prosecutors, judges, legislators and citizens at large.

Sears says Southern Baptists can do several things to reduce pornography in America. A first step is to understand terms.

"When we're talking about pornography, we're talking about a very broad class of material," he explains. "Inside that class, there is a smaller class called 'obscene' material. That's material that can be prosecuted. It meets the three-part test from the Supreme Court case, Miller v. California: Does the material appeal to the prurient (lustful) interest? Does the material depict certain types of sexual activity in a patently offensive way? Does the material lack serious scientific, literary, artistic or political value? If the material meets those three parts of the test, it can be prosecuted under laws of most states and the federal government.

"As to obscene material, I would encourage Southern Baptists to get with their local prosecutors, educate them on this issue and the concern that they have and encourage them to enforce the law," he says. "Let the community, through its jury system, set the community standards and not let the prosecutors set the standards for them.

"As to the material that is not unlawful but is a concern to Southern Baptists, I suggest they read the commission's recommendations as to what they can and cannot lawfully do under the First Amendment to express their concern about this and act to see the material diminished in distribution," he adds. "It's so important that people be educated about what their rights are. We always hear about the rights of the criminal, but we don't hear about the rights of the people. The commission tried to get both sides of the story.

"The commission is very realistic," he notes. "It doesn't believe the elimination of pornography would create a perfect world, but it believes it would create a better one—one in which fewer children are molested, fewer women are raped and many other negative social aspects are minimized."

He blames criticism of the report and "a very mixed response and a very narrow understanding by many people" on failure to read the report. "I think that (much of the criticism and misunderstanding) basically boils down to one cause, and that's failure to read the report itself and not simply what critics say about the report."

Although currently available through the government, the commission's report will be available through a private publisher this fall. The paperback report will cost about \$8, compared to the current \$35 pricetag, he notes.

Response from the religious community has been gratifying, Sears says. He points specifically to a national gathering of religious leaders July 25, which included Harold C. Bennett, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, several Roman Catholic cardinals and leaders from other Jewish and Protestant groups across the country.

"This has been called the most cross-sectioned ecumenical meeting to ever take place in America, gathering for the sole purpose of developing a statement of concern on the issue of pornography. That pretty well expresses what's going on now in the religious community," he says.

Adds Sears, now an assistant solicitor general with the Interior Department: "I would recommend that every church get involved.... Wherever they can, they ought to get involved."

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ADDITION: Please insert the following as the third graf of the 7/30/86 story entitled "Banks Elected President Of University of Richmond":

Twenty percent of the university's self-perpetuating board of trustees are nominated by the Virginia Baptist General Board, and a majority of the trustees are Virginia Baptists. The Baptist General Association of Virginia supplies about 1.1 percent of the university's budget. That allocation is \$477,880 for the current year.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Volunteer Service Overseas
Leads To Journeyman Work

By Eric Miller

Baptist Press
8/1/86

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Winning eight Brazilians to Christ on a mission trip sparked a volunteer's interest in the journeyman program, he said during a journeyman commissioning service.

Kurt Bryant, 23, of Fort Smith, Ark., was one of 57 young men and women commissioned July 25 in Richmond. As a journeyman, he will spend two years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board program as a student worker in the Baptist Center in San Jose, Costa Rica.

His interest in the program came as a result of a last-minute decision to go on a partnership mission trip to Brazil. Bryant, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bryant, was chosen to go in his mother's place after she became ill.

He and other volunteers walked door to door with an interpreter and shared the gospel with Brazilians in the summer of 1985. About 500 people accepted Christ in a week.

"The Lord used me and gave me the opportunity to lead eight people to Christ in one afternoon," Bryant recalled. "I was able to lead more people to Christ in two hours than I had been able to in my entire Christian life of nine years."

Another journeyman and former volunteer who spoke during the commissioning service was Phil Nelson, a Rockwood, Tenn., native. He will work as an English teacher in a student center in Bangkok, Thailand.

Nelson, 25, became a Christian at 17. He said his Christian life had been "business as usual" until 18 months ago when he learned of a request from the board for volunteers to Hong Kong.

He spent two weeks of vacation in a mission camp in Hong Kong. Talking to missionaries throughout the trip, "I realized that you didn't necessarily have to be a pastor to serve on the mission field," he said. "God can use ordinary people."

The accountant looked at the journeyman program and wondered if it would take away two years of his career. He decided he would be investing in his career. "I would grow, stretch my horizons and have a new perspective on the world," he said.

He thought of a passage in Acts 8 in which the disciple Philip had developed a good ministry in Samaria. Crowds were there and miracles were happening. Yet God told Philip to take the desert road, he said. There, God had prepared the heart of the Ethiopian eunuch to receive the gospel.

Nelson had a nice job, benefits and good hours. "Yet, I knew the Lord was calling me to take that desert road," he explained.

"What started out as me giving up two weeks of my vacation has since resulted in me giving up my vocation. But it's a new vocation, and it's to do his will," Nelson said. "That's all that matters in this life—to do God's will—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."

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Audit Shows \$1.2 Million Loss
For Colorado Baptist Foundation

By Marv Knox

DENVER (BP)—Losses incurred by the struggling Colorado Baptist Foundation total \$1.2 million, according to a Colorado Baptist General Convention audit released this summer.

The audit examined financial records of the foundation and the Colorado Baptist Loan Corporation, separate corporations jointly operated by Colorado Southern Baptists for the purpose of raising money and loaning it to Southern Baptist churches in the state.

All losses—originally estimated at up to \$2 million—were incurred by the foundation, said Charles E. Sharp, executive director of the convention, who announced the audit results.

The audit was conducted by the Denver accounting firm of Oppenheim, Appel, Dixon and Co.

Foundation losses began as early as 1981 and occurred until they became apparent in February of 1985, when the foundation's assets were frozen, Sharp told Baptist Press.

The losses were the result of poor return on "over-the-counter" stock investments, Sharp said. Over-the-counter stocks are those not listed by the major stock exchanges.

Investments in over-the-counter stocks were part of a two-pronged money-raising effort on the part of the foundation, he explained: "The first approach was investments by individuals in 'demand loan' accounts. These accounts paid interest to the investors and then the monies were loaned to churches in Colorado at a slightly higher interest rate.

"The second approach was investments in stocks and bonds, including over-the-counter stocks," he added. The foundation invested money from the demand loan accounts in the over-the-counter stocks in an effort to produce a high return.

"It has been these over-the-counter stocks that have created the most severe losses in the Baptist Foundation," Sharp told Colorado Baptists in an article in their weekly newsjournal, the Rocky Mountain Baptist. "The market for these stocks, if there even is a market, has been extremely low. For example, one issue...was bought at a total price of approximately \$7,000, and when it sold it brought less than \$100. Some of these over-the-counter stocks have gone into bankruptcy and have no value."

Colorado leaders worked with officials of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and Home Mission Board to correct the situation. Included in the procedure is a payback plan designed to secure the investments of all who participated in demand loan accounts.

"No one has lost any funds in the Baptist Foundation," Sharp said, promising, all demand loan investors will have their investments returned, with interest. Some individuals, churches and associations of churches which had demand loan accounts have forgiven those accounts.

The Home Mission Board's church loan division also has granted a \$600,000 loan "to meet the initial obligations from demand loan account holders," he said, adding the loan is being repaid with funds from the liquidated foundation assets.

In another move, the board has renegotiated its cooperative agreement with the state convention, allowing Colorado Baptists to decrease their contribution to board projects in the state by 10 percent, he said, "thus freeing up monies from the Colorado Baptist General Convention budget to help with the recovery" of the loan corporation and foundation.

"The next crisis that must be met in the recovery of these two organizations" is a bond issue of about \$400,000 that is due in October, Sharp reported. Trustees from both the loan corporation and the foundation are working on options for making that payment, he said, noting the convention may sell a piece of property it owns in Denver to come up with the funds.

"Assets have been liquidated, operations of these two organizations have been stopped, payments are being made to demand loan account holders and work is being done to meet obligations on the bond issues in the Church Loan Corporation," he said. "The final suggestion made by the Home Mission Board and the Executive Committee...is a major fund-raising campaign."

Sharp insisted budgetary problems which have plagued the Colorado convention have "had nothing to do with the foundation and loan corporation." Action taken by the convention's executive board last fall was designed to "reduce spending to the level of income."

But problems generated by the foundation and loan corporation will continue to have an indirect effect on the convention, he said.

"How it impacts us is that for a period of about two or three years, we're going to have to hold the line on new convention programs, not add any new staff and hold programs at the current level of spending," he explained.

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Mission-Minded Church
Commissions Seven Members

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
8/1/86

GRAHAM, Texas (BP)—First Baptist Church of Graham, Texas, one of the state's most mission-minded congregations, reached a new pinnacle in mid-July when it commissioned seven members as foreign missionaries and Mission Service Corps volunteers.

The church's minister of youth, Ron Capps, and his wife, Joan, will be missionaries to Japan under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The pastor of the church's Hispanic mission in Graham, Paul Tinley, and his wife, Robin, will be Southern Baptist missionaries to Venezuela.

The Mission Service Corps volunteers and their fields of service are Linda Smith, Massachusetts; Mildred Hubbell, Hawaii; and Bertha Taylor, Samoa.

First Baptist Church gives about 25 percent of its undesignated church offerings for missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program of mission support.

The church, which averages about 600 in Sunday school, has outgrown its facilities and voted to enter a long-range building program to provide more education space, a larger sanctuary and a family life center.

But first it wanted to ensure that its two missions had adequate facilities. So it helped build a \$100,000 building for its Spanish-speaking mission, Iglesia Bautista Jerusalem. With the aid of volunteer builders from the church and other churches, the facility was constructed for about \$60,000.

Many Texas Baptists shared in purchasing building materials through a \$10,000 construction gift provided by the Cooperative Program and the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions.

Also, the church recently built a \$63,000 addition for its Westlake Chapel on nearby Possum Kingdom Lake.

Both of the new buildings were completed debt free.

Besides giving for missions, First Baptist has had members serving in partnership missions in Brazil and Mexico and along the Rio Grande River. Several times a year, Wesley Lasater, a dentist, coordinates medical mission teams who conduct Bible schools and worship services while providing medical aid for people along the river.

During the commissioning service, Pastor Ronnie Armstrong confided he and his wife had felt called to do foreign missions in Venezuela, but "God in his wisdom saw fit to have us serve here," he added.

In Venezuela Tinley will be a church planter/church developer, starting churches and Bible studies and training lay leaders and pastors. "In many ways I will be a rolling seminary class," he said. He added Venezuela Baptists have a goal to increase their number of churches from 190 to 2,000 by the year 2000.

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Robin Tinley will teach the couple's three children, Megan, 7; Alyssa, 5; and Matthew, 3.

The Capps have been assigned to Nagoya, Japan, where they will be in language school for two years preparing for youth ministries among the city's seven universities and many junior and senior high schools. "Less than 1 percent of the people there are Christian," Capps said.

The couple has two children, Alicia, 8, and Jordan, 6.

Joan Capps said she felt the call to missions while serving in a Fort Worth, Texas, housing project through the Baptist Student Union at the University of Texas at Arlington.

She had been dating Capps and knew she wanted to marry him, but she thought she might have to go to the field as a single missionary before he confided he had been called to missions at almost the same time as she.

Bertha Taylor, who had retired after 42 years of public school teaching, said she initially fought God's call to teach in Pago Pago, American Samoa, which she noted is about 2,500 miles beyond Hawaii. She cautioned her fellow church members not to sing words of hymns such as "Here Am I Lord, Send Me" unless they mean it.

She returned from a trip to find the church had voted to pay her way to Samoa. She wanted to teach reading and thought the need in Pago Pago was for a first grade teacher, only to discover what they needed was a reading teacher.

"I need your faithfulness in Jerusalem," Taylor told her fellow church members at the commissioning service. "I intreat you to pray for me as I go to Samoa with my kerosene lamp in my hand."

Mildred Hubbell, a member of First Baptist for 25 years, will be a secretary in the office of the Hawaii Baptist Convention in Honolulu.

She said while she was struggling with a decision concerning the assignment, "I called up my prayer friends and asked them to pray that the Lord would either close the door or open it up in such a way there was no mistaking it. They did, and the Lord did."

Linda Smith will work with a Southern Baptist church in a suburb of Boston, where more than 70 percent of the population is unchurched.

"The most important thing is for me to be a Christian role model," she told fellow church members. "I'm excited that you're going to be here praying for me and the others."

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Eight Honored During
Home Missions Week

Baptist Press
8/1/86

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Eight individuals from across the nation were honored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during Home Missions Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

An associate professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Missouri church are recipients of this year's PACT awards for the western United States.

PACT is a program which offers assistance to metropolitan churches in transitional communities. The ministry is designed to help 2,930 urban Southern Baptist congregations which are struggling due to racial, ethnic, socio-economic, population density or changing lifestyle factors, explained Jere Allen, director of the board's Metropolitan Missions Department.

The PACT awards were presented to Don Hammer of Kansas City, Mo., and Jeff Barnes, pastor of Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Mo.

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Hammer, director of field education and an associate professor of ministries studies at the seminary, was named PACT Consultant of the Year for his work with struggling urban congregations. Instrumental in PACT's formulative years, Hammer wrote the major resource pieces and trained the program's first consultants. He strengthened the program even further when he joined the Atlanta-based missions agency in 1977.

Concord Baptist Church was a struggling urban congregation when it commissioned a PACT study in 1982. The following year, under the direction of new pastor Barnes, the church began to implement PACT suggestions to help it revitalize its ministry in the state capitol.

In the following three years the 15-year-old congregation increased its Sunday school attendance by 60 percent and its worship attendance by 100 percent, built a new sanctuary and added a second worship service. It now averages about 700 in worship attendance.

William R. Wehmeyer of Portageville, Mo., director of missions for New Madrid Baptist Association, was honored as director of missions for rural-urban areas in the western United States. W.T. Updike of Stone Mountain, Ga., director of missions for Lawrenceville Baptist Association, was chosen best director of missions for metropolitan areas in the eastern part of the nation. Wehmeyer, a Kansas City native, was pastor of churches in Missouri and Kansas before he became director of missions for Linn-Livingston Baptist Association in 1970. Four years later he accepted the New Madrid post.

Updike, a former Texas and California pastor, also was vice president for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California and a metropolitan missionary for the state. He was associate director of the church loans division of the Home Mission Board for 14 years prior to joining the Lawrenceville association in 1981.

Two recipients also received the first annual Ken Prickett Award.

Marilynn Prickett, widow of the late home missionary, was given the first award in recognition of her work as director of Christian social ministries for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention and director of the city's Johanning Baptist Center. She and her son, Seth, then presented the second award to Pete Petty of Little Rock, Ark., state director of special mission ministries.

The award will be given annually to individuals who demonstrate creative approaches to ministry.

Prickett died in 1983 after a decade of service as national consultant in experimental ministries for the board. He had pioneered resort ministries across the nation, including launching ministries at the various Olympic Games, World's Fairs and other special events.

Texas pastor David Guel, an American Hispanic, was named Language Missions Pastor of the Year. In 1980 the Houston resident launched a ministry to residents who, although distinctively Hispanic, considered English to be their primary language. At his own expense, he began holding services at a rented motel conference room which first attracted a dozen individuals.

After six years, his ministry has grown to include an average attendance of 250 members in morning worship services. The congregation, now in its own building and sponsor of two additional missions, is known as Manchester Baptist Church.

The final honor, the Second Mile Award, was presented to 81-year-old David C. Bandy of Longview, Wash. Although retired, Bandy has served for the past eight years as director of missions for the Southwest Baptist Association in Washington.

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McCarty Not Yet On Board
For 1987, Rogers Reports

Baptist Press
8/1/86

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers would like to have C. Barry McCarty as his parliamentarian for the 1987 meeting in St. Louis, but contrary to a published report, he has not yet issued him an invitation.

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McCarty, the Church of Christ minister and college professor from Elizabeth City, N.C., was hired as a professional parliamentarian for the 1986 convention in Atlanta by then SBC President Charles Stanley, whose rulings in 1985 were the subject of a federal court lawsuit. The suit was dismissed on jurisdictional grounds.

The 33-year-old McCarty, who was paid almost \$5,000 in salary and expenses for his efforts at the SBC, generally was given high marks for his performance.

The July 1986 issue of The Christian Chronicle, international newspaper for members of Churches of Christ, reported McCarty's participation in the SBC annual meeting and said Rogers already has asked him to serve as parliamentarian in 1987.

"No, that is not true," Rogers told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The SBC president said he and McCarty had a friendly conversation following the Atlanta meeting and McCarty had said he enjoyed the SBC experience and would like to do it again.

Rogers said he told McCarty he probably would like to have him serve again, that he had done a "marvelous job."

But he said he "wants to consult with the brethren" before issuing a formal invitation.

Rogers said that Stanley's securing of McCarty for the 1986 convention was the result of discussion among the SBC Peace Committee. The committee received many letters asking for a professional parliamentarian, Rogers said, and a subcommittee of the peace panel recommended one or more be used.

Rogers noted that when he presided, at the 1980 convention, also in St. Louis, his parliamentarian was First Vice President Abner B. McCall, then chancellor of Baylor University.

Rogers said that since his election in Atlanta he has had an "avalanche" of mail, "99 percent positive."

"I have gotten probably about five ugly letters and maybe a dozen letters of admonishment, but they weren't ugly," he said. "They just said to please be fair, don't do so-and-so, but were written in Christian love.

"People write to me and say, 'I didn't vote for you, but I will pray for you.' I write and say, 'I would rather have your prayer than your vote.' And that's the truth."

The pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., said he knows his task as president of the troubled denomination will not be easy. "I will not minimize the thing," he said, "But I think I have more of a grasp this time of what is necessary.

"Last time I was like a piece of red meat in a pack of wild dogs. I really did not know all that was involved and had to learn. I am much more savant this time than I was last time."

He plans to attend important meetings such as those of the SBC Executive Committee, the Sunday School Board and mission boards and will speak at two or three seminaries, he said, but "will lean quite heavily" on the two vice presidents, Jack Stanton of Bolivar, Mo., and Ray Roberts of Asheville, N.C., to go to meetings he cannot attend.

He said he is "open to advice from every area" about how to bring healing to the SBC.

"I think our great job now--my great job," he said, "is to reach out and embrace that great middle part of Baptists and to see what we can do to really depoliticize the thing without compromising who basically we are as Baptists."

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION