

## - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

11-10

SBC Executive Committee 901 Commerce #750 Nashville, Tennessee 37203 (615) 244-2355 Alvin C. Shackleford, Director Dan Martin, News Editor Mary Knox, Feature Editor

NATIONAL OFFICE

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N. Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300

RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 29, 1988

88-71

SBC president appoints 'Salt-of-earth' Baptists

By Dan Martin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers has announced his appointments to four key committees that will serve during the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC, June 14-16 in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

"These are good, solid Southern Baptists, what I would call 'salt-of-the-earth' Baptists," Rogers said as he named 136 people to the SBC Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee.

Members of the four committees are appointed by the president of the SBC to serve only during the three-day run of the annual meeting. They do not require election by messengers.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., said the appointees "are not highly identified with political activity, but are the people out there in the trenches doing the work. I think they are representative of who we are historically."

The president, who was first elected president in 1979 and again in 1986 and 1987, said he had asked for recommendations "from every quarter of Southern Baptist life. We received many hundreds of recommendations.

"From these, we sent out information forms asking for certain statistical information, things such as a person's longevity in his or her particular station, the Cooperative Program percentage of the church, the baptisms in the church, their adherence to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on Scripture and their general commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention."

From the list, Rogers said, he met with the two SBC vice presidents, Jack Stanton of Bolivar, Mo., and Victor Kaneubbe of Phoenix, Ariz., March 2 in Memphis to go over the recommendations. He also said he met with SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville to discuss the Tellers Committee and the Credentials Committee.

The SBC Constitution requires the president of the convention to appoint the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in conference with" the vice presidents and the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice presidents. The president appoints the Tellers Committee "in consultation with" the SBC registration secretary.

After the list was narrowed, Rogers said, he or one of his staff members "tried to call all of these people personally to ask about their availability and whether they could and would serve."

Following that process, he had a telephone conference call with Stanton and Kaneubbe to go over the names finally selected. "I asked them if they had any suggestions or recommendations and whether they concurred with the list. There was complete unanimity," he said.

Rogers said he appointed "grassroots Southern Baptists" who subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement article on Scripture, but "never queried anyone as to how they have voted (at annual meetings) or whether they voted for me."

"Included among the 136 appointees are pastors, church staff members, directors of missions, state convention presidents, state Woman's Missionary Union presidents, businessmen and women, school teachers and homemakers. The appointees are 60 percent from the pastoral category and 40 percent from the lay categories.

"Among the four committees are 28 women, including 17 on the Committee on Committees," Rogers said.

He added: "The average of all Cooperative Program (unified budget) percentages from the churches represented is 11.6 percent. The appointees' average tenure in the state is 13.1 years and in the church 8.6 years. The average tenure in the church among those in the pastoral category is approximately 8.5 years.

"I believe these facts clearly indicate these appointments represent long-standing Southern Baptists and that the respective churches are involved solidly in the Cooperative Program. I am further convinced that these appointees will carry out their prescribed functions with a spirit of love and commitment to our Lord.

"If anybody opposes these appointees, they will be opposing good, solid Southern Baptists."

Rogers concluded: "My prayer and desire for our Southern Baptist Convention is that we will unite together with a love for the Lord, a love for the lost and an uncompromising stand on the word of God."

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

For the second year, the Committee on Committees has 66 members, reflecting representation from six state or regional conventions granted membership in a revision of Bylaw 32 in 1987. The new state conventions represented are Alaska, Nevada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and Utah-Idaho.

All have more than 15,000 members required for representation but less than the 25,000 required under the bylaw for full representation on all committees.

Bylaw 21 on the Committee on Committees says the committee "shall nominate all special committees authorized during sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." However, the committee's key responsibility is nominating members for the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the 24 national entities affiliated with the SBC.

Rogers has appointed William A. Smith, pastor of Sherwood church, Albany, Ga., as chairman of the 1988 Committee on Committees.

ALABAMA - Warren Culver, pastor of Central church, Phenix City, and Tom Wilbanks, a pharmacist and member of Woodley church, Montgomery.

ALASKA - John R. McClung, pastor of Calvary church, Anchorage, and Wayne Bolt, businessman and member of Faith church, Anchorage.

ARIZONA - Arnold Sorrells, pastor of West Phoenix church, and Tom Allen, a real estate appraiser and member of First Southern church, Avondale.

ARKANSAS - Bill H. Lewis, director of missions and member of Watson Chapel church, Pine Bluff, and Kirk Thompson, businessman and member of First church, Springdale.

CALIFORNIA - E. Dale Brister, pastor of First Southern church, El Monte, and Doug Harrison, general manager of a business and member of First Southern, Fresno.

COLORADO - Fenton Moorhead, pastor of Applewood church, Wheat Ridge, and Lucille Mitchell, a retired school teacher and member of Rifle Southern church, Rifle.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Jim Sims, associate pastor of Capitol Hill Metropolitan church, Washington, and Joann Britton, a training instructor with a U.S. government agency, and member of Hillcrest church, Hillcrest Heights, Md.

FLORIDA - Joe E. Boatwright, pastor of Aloma church, Winter Park, and Donna Strickland, a homemaker and member of Parkway church, Orlando.

GEORGIA - Smith, chairman, and Denise Speir, a school teacher and member of Central church, Warner Robbins.

ILLINOIS - Timothy Lewis, pastor of Bethel Southern church, Troy, and Deborah Pearle, a homemaker and member of First church, Clarendon Hills.

INDIANA -- John E. Greever, pastor of Pleasant Heights church, Indianapolis, and Carol Morrison, an office manager and member of Sunnycrest church, Marion.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA - Thomas D. Thorne, pastor of First Southern church, Arkansas City, Kan., and Barbara L. Spradley, manager of a business and member of Westview church, Chanute, Kan.

KENTUCKY - L.C. Gray, pastor of Parrish Avenue church, Owensboro, and Glenda Copass, a homemaker and member of Farmdale church, Louisville.

LOUISIANA - Mike Walker, pastor of East Bayou church, Lafayette, and Edward P. McDaniel, a retired military man and member of Greenlaw church, Kentwood.

MARYLAND-DELAWARE - Russ Priddy, pastor of Colonial church, Baltimore, and Maxine Devine, a homemaker and member of Conowingo church, Conowingo, Md.

MICHIGAN - Gary Tarver, pastor of First church, St. Clair Shores, and Robert L. Shafer, a school teacher and member of Agape church, Petoskey.

MISSISSIPPI - Ken Alford, pastor of Morrison Heights church, Clinton, and Sam Simmons Sr., a marketing representative and member of First church, Florence.

MISSOURI - C. Dennis Newkirk, pastor of First church of Ferguson, St. Louis, and Kathie Reimer, a homemaker and member of Second church, Springfield.

NEVADA - Robert Walker, pastor of Parkdale church, Las Vegas, and Janice K. Stephan, a homemaker and member of College Park church, Las Vegas.

NEW ENGLAND - J.V. Davis, pastor of Rice Memorial church, Northborough, Mass., and C. Richard Risas, director of missions and member of First church, Shrewsbury, Mass.

NEW MEXICO - L.J. Goodwin, pastor of Parkview church, Albuquerque, and J.B. Taylor, a fire captain and member of First church, Texico.

NEW YORK - James M. Guenther, pastor of Trinity church, Schenectady, and Mary Knapton, a homemaker and member of Lincoln Avenue church, Endicott.

NORTH CAROLINA - Claude R. Walker, pastor of Wake Cross Roads church, Raleigh, and Brenda Hicks, a secretary and member of Edgewood church, Winston-Salem.

NORTHWEST - Kent Berry, pastor of New Hope church, Creswell, Ore., and Darrell Evenson, director of missions and member of Hall Boulevard church, Tigard, Ore.

OHIO - Doug Alexander, pastor of Sharon Woods church, Columbus, and Margaret Tatsak, a homemaker and member of Northside church, Newark.

OKLAHOMA - Michael T. Hailey, pastor of First church, Hobart, and Jack C. Humphreys, a businessman and member of Northwest church, Oklahoma City.

PENNSYLVANIA-SOUTH JERSEY - Charles Teague, pastor of Country and Town church, Mechanicsburg, and Sandra Eldeen, a homemaker and member of First church, Hanover.

THE PARTY OF THE

SOUTH CAROLINA - Stephen M. Cloud, pastor of Northside church, Columbia, and L. Duvall Williams, an auditor and member of First church, Mullins.

TENNESSEE - Ray Newcomb, pastor of First church, Millington, and Johnny P. Forester, a nuclear researcher and member of Central church, Oak Ridge.

TEXAS - Jerry Fortune, pastor of Mother Holmes Memorial church, Sheffield, and Mildred Wilkes, a homemaker and member of Second church, Houston.

UTAH-IDAHO - James A. Myers, pastor of Priest River Southern church, Priest River, Idaho, and Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast church, Salt Lake City.

VIRGINIA - Bob R. Melvin, pastor of Spotswood church, Fredericksburg, and Jimmy Hallcom, pastor of Woodlawn church, Hopewell.

WEST VIRGINIA - James A. McCullen, pastor of Grace church, Parkersburg, and Sandra Hypes, homemaker and member of Cross Lanes church, Cross Lanes.

--30--

Resolutions, credentials Tellers groups appointed



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) -- The resolutions, credentials and tellers committees have been appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.

All three will serve during the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 14-16, in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is made up of 10 members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee. The committee has the "duty ... to prepare and submit to the convention resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption and to report on all matters submitted to it by the convention, with or without recommendation or amendments."

Rogers told Baptist Press he has given the Resolutions Committee no instructions, but "would hope that we would keep intensely controversial issues out of our resolutions process until we can coalesce as a convention around our major purposes."

Bylaw 22 requests proposed resolutions be sent to the committee 30 days in advance of the convention. It adds "resolutions, including those previously sent to the committee, shall be submitted to the convention not later than the evening session of the first day. Titles of proposed resolutions shall be read into the record by an officer of the convention. ..."

Rogers has asked Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers church of Nashville to be chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

Executive Committee members appointed include Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill church, Mobile, Ala.; Eldridge Miller, pastor of First church, Sallisaw, Okla., and Steve Brumbelow, pastor of Cross Lanes church, Cross Lanes, W.Va.

Other members include Bettye Atchison, a homemaker and member of First church, Rogers, Ark.; John Yeats, pastor of Shawnee Heights church, Topeka, Kan.; Rhonda H. Kelley, a speech pathologist and member of First church, New Orleans;

Betty Worrell, an interior decorator and member of First church, Jefferson City, Mo.; Ray Long, pastor of Rock Hill church, Inman, S.C.; and Jewell Davis, a physician and member of First church, Lubbock, Texas.

### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee, which works with the registration secretary, is charged by Bylaw 8 to "review and rule upon any question which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers. Any such ruling may be appealed to the convention during business session. Any contention arising on the floor concerning seating of messengers shall be referred to the committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the convention."

Rod Masteller, pastor of Putnam City church, Oklahoma City, has been named chairman.

Members include Steve McVey, pastor of Bemiston church, Talladega, Ala.; Bill Parr, director of missions and member of Emmanuel church, Tucson, Ariz.; Tom Harris, pastor of Park Place church, Hot Springs, Ark.; Ronald A. Fullerton, an evangelist and member of First church, El Sobrante, Calif.; Randy McWhorter, pastor of First Southern church, Fountain Valley, Calif.; Jerry Allen Johnson, associate pastor of Central church, Aurora, Colo.; Earl Lambert, retired and a member of Immanuel church, Tallahassee, Fla.;

Arnold Wooden, communications system manager and member of Abilene church, Martinez, Ga.; June Braund, a school teacher and member of Eastside church, Marietta, Ga.; Neil Knierim, pastor of First church, Vandalia, Ill.; Carver Tinsley, director of missions and member of State Street church, Hammond, Ind.; Trueman Davis, pastor of Second church, Madisonville, Ky.; James Albert Wolfe, pastor of Cedar church, Archibald, La.;

William R. Bradley, executive director of a government agency and member of Kidron church, Harrisonburg, La.; Randy W. Turner, pastor of Parkway church, Natchez, Miss.; R. Davis Odom, pastor of Crossgates church, Brandon, Miss.; Eric Ertle, pastor of First church, Hagerman, N.M.; Ric Cox, a general manager and member of Taylor Memorial church, Hobbs, N.M.; Tony Crisp, pastor of Allen's Creek church, Waynesville, N.C., Wade Thomas, pastor of Calvary church, Vancouver, Wash.

Carolyn Varns, a bookstore employee and member of Westgate church, Columbus, Ohio; Chris Tecmire, pastor of First church, Drumright, Okla.; Jamie L. Fannin, homemaker and part-time teacher and member of Central church, Lawton, Okla.; Jerry Lethco, pastor of Brushy Creek church, Taylors, S.C.; Thomas M. Knotts, director of missions and member of First church, Belvedere, S.C.; Ken Story, pastor of Germantown church, Germantown, Tenn.; T.H. Harding, pastor of First church, Portland, Texas; Dorsey Schad, a farmer and member of First church, Gruver, Texas; and Phyllis C. Jett, a church secretary and member of First church, Pound, Va.

### TELLERS COMMITTEE

The Tellers Committee, working under the supervision of the registration secretary, tabulates any vote taken during the annual meeting.

Clayton Spriggs, associate pastor of First church, Fort Smith, Ark., is chairman.

Members include Jack Millwood, pastor of First church, Chickasaw, Ala.; Emerson E. Falls, pastor of First Indian church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Thomas M. Hodge, pastor of First Southern church, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Daniel Sotelo, pastor of Templo Bautista church, Fresno, Calif.; Jose Luis Cano, pastor of Redeemer church, Avondale, Colo.; Harold C. Epperson, pastor of First church, Kissimmee, Fla.; W.V. Prince, businessman and member of Rehoboth church, Tucker, Ga.; Al Johnson, pastor of First church, Boling Brook, Ill.; Bill Groover, pastor of Oak Park church, Jeffersonville, Ind.;

Harold Manahan, director of missions and member of First church, Papillion, Neb.; Ellery Finch, retired and a member of Highview church, Louisville, Ky.; Leigh Lowery, homemaker and member of First church, Bossier City, La.; Gary Glanville, pastor of Northwest church, Reisterstown, Md.; Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place church, Brandon, Miss.; Ray Cathcart, a weather forecaster and member of First church, Arnold, Mo.;

Randy Carter, pastor of Immanuel church, Hannibal, Mo.; Donna J. Savage, a homemaker and member of Foothills mission of First Southern church of Las Vegas, Nev.; Robert H. Wilson III, area sales manager and member of Sandia church, Albuquerque, N.M.: George Johnson Jr., attorney and member of Merrimon Avenue church, Asheville, N.C.; Sandy Gambrell, homemaker and member of Highland Chapel church, Grove City, Ohio.; Ernie Perkins, director of missions and member of First Southern church, Del City, Okla.;

Leroy Killer, retired farmer and member of First church, Dill City, Okla.; F.E. Hobeika Jr., retired and member of First church, Dillon, S.C.; Dan Greer, pastor of Tusculum church, Greeneville, Tenn.; Sandra Page, homemaker and member of First church, Nashville, Tenn.; Ben Smith, pastor of Lakeland church, Lewisville, Texas; Rick Ingle, evangelist and member of First church, Denton, Texas; Terry L. Harper, pastor of Colonial Heights church, Colonial Heights, Va.; and E.C. Hooper, retired military and member of Northside church, Charlottesville, Va.



# 

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee 901 Commerce #75C Nashville, Tennessee 37202 (615) 244-235E Alvin C. Shackleford, Director Dan Martin, News Editor Mary Knox, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300

RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 29, 1988

88-71

SBC president appoints 'Salt-of-earth' Baptists

By Dan Martin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers has announced his appointments to four key committees that will serve during the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC, June 14-16 in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

"These are good, solid Southern Baptists, what I would call 'salt-of-the-earth' Baptists," Rogers said as he named 136 people to the SBC Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee.

Members of the four committees are appointed by the president of the SBC to serve only during the three-day run of the annual meeting. They do not require election by messengers.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., said the appointees "are not highly identified with political activity, but are the people out there in the trenches doing the work. I think they are representative of who we are historically."

The president, who was first elected president in 1979 and again in 1986 and 1987, said he had asked for recommendations "from every quarter of Southern Baptist life. We received many hundreds of recommendations.

"From these, we sent out information forms asking for certain statistical information, things such as a person's longevity in his or her particular station, the Cooperative Program percentage of the church, the baptisms in the church, their adherence to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on Scripture and their general commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention."

From the list, Rogers said, he met with the two SBC vice presidents, Jack Stanton of Bolivar, Mo., and Victor Kaneubbe of Phoenix, Ariz., March 2 in Memphis to go over the recommendations. He also said he met with SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville to discuss the Tellers Committee and the Credentials Committee.

The SBC Constitution requires the president of the convention to appoint the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in conference with" the vice presidents and the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice presidents. The president appoints the Tellers Committee "in consultation with" the SBC registration secretary.

After the list was narrowed, Rogers said, he or one of his staff members "tried to call all of these people personally to ask about their availability and whether they could and would serve."

Following that process, he had a telephone conference call with Stanton and Kaneubbe to go over the names finally selected. "I asked them if they had any suggestions or recommendations and whether they concurred with the list. There was complete unanimity," he said.

Rogers said he appointed "grassroots Southern Baptists" who subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement article on Scripture, but "never queried anyone as to how they have voted (at annual meetings) or whether they voted for me."

"Included among the 136 appointees are pastors, church staff members, directors of missions, state convention presidents, state Woman's Missionary Union presidents, businessmen and women, school teachers and homemakers. The appointees are 60 percent from the pastoral category and 40 percent from the lay categories.

"Among the four committees are 28 women, including 17 on the Committee on Committees," Rogers said.

He added: "The average of all Cooperative Program (unified budget) percentages from the churches represented is 11.6 percent. The appointees' average tenure in the state is 13.1 years and in the church 8.6 years. The average tenure in the church among those in the pastoral category is approximately 8.5 years.

"I believe these facts clearly indicate these appointments represent long-standing Southern Baptists and that the respective churches are involved solidly in the Cooperative Program. I am further convinced that these appointees will carry out their prescribed functions with a spirit of love and commitment to our Lord.

"If anybody opposes these appointees, they will be opposing good, solid Southern Baptists."

Rogers concluded: "My prayer and desire for our Southern Baptist Convention is that we will unite together with a love for the Lord, a love for the lost and an uncompromising stand on the word of God."

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

For the second year, the Committee on Committees has 66 members, reflecting representation from six state or regional conventions granted membership in a revision of Bylaw 32 in 1987. The new state conventions represented are Alaska, Nevada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and Utah-Idaho.

All have more than 15,000 members required for representation but less than the 25,000 required under the bylaw for full representation on all committees.

Bylaw 21 on the Committee on Committees says the committee "shall nominate all special committees authorized during sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." However, the committee's key responsibility is nominating members for the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the 24 national entities affiliated with the SBC.

Rogers has appointed William A. Smith, pastor of Sherwood church, Albany, Ga., as chairman of the 1988 Committee on Committees.

ALABAMA - Warren Culver, pastor of Central church, Phenix City, and Tom Wilbanks, a pharmacist and member of Woodley church, Montgomery.

ALASKA - John R. McClung, pastor of Calvary church, Anchorage, and Wayne Bolt, businessman and member of Faith church, Anchorage.

ARIZONA - Arnold Sorrells, pastor of West Phoenix church, and Tom Allen, a real estate appraiser and member of First Southern church, Avondale.

ARKANSAS - Bill H. Lewis, director of missions and member of Watson Chapel church, Pine Bluff, and Kirk Thompson, businessman and member of First church, Springdale.

CALIFORNIA - E. Dale Brister, pastor of First Southern church, El Monte, and Doug Harrison, general manager of a business and member of First Southern, Fresno.

COLORADO - Fenton Moorhead, pastor of Applewood church, Wheat Ridge, and Lucille Mitchell, a retired school teacher and member of Rifle Southern church, Rifle.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Jim Sims, associate pastor of Capitol Hill Metropolitan church, Washington, and Joann Britton, a training instructor with a U.S. government agency, and member of Hillcrest church, Hillcrest Heights, Md.

FLORIDA - Joe E. Boatwright, pastor of Aloma church, Winter Park, and Donna Strickland, a homemaker and member of Parkway church, Orlando.

**1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.** 

- GEORGIA Smith, chairman, and Denise Speir, a school teacher and member of Central church, Warner Robbins.
- ILLINOIS Timothy Lewis, pastor of Bethel Southern church, Troy, and Deborah Pearle, a homemaker and member of First church, Clarendon Hills.
- INDIANA -- John E. Greever, pastor of Pleasant Heights church, Indianapolis, and Carol Morrison, an office manager and member of Sunnycrest church, Marion.
- KANSAS-NEBRASKA Thomas D. Thorne, pastor of First Southern church, Arkansas City, Kan., and Barbara L. Spradley, manager of a business and member of Westview church, Chanute, Kan.
- KENTUCKY L.C. Gray, pastor of Parrish Avenue church, Owensboro, and Glenda Copass, a homemaker and member of Farmdale church, Louisville.
- LOUISIANA Mike Walker, pastor of East Bayou church, Lafayette, and Edward P. McDaniel, a retired military man and member of Greenlaw church, Kentwood.
- MARYLAND-DELAWARE Russ Priddy, pastor of Colonial church, Baltimore, and Maxine Devine, a homemaker and member of Conowingo church, Conowingo, Md.
- MICHIGAN Gary Tarver, pastor of First church, St. Clair Shores, and Robert L. Shafer, a school teacher and member of Agape church, Petoskey.
- MISSISSIPPI Ken Alford, pastor of Morrison Heights church, Clinton, and Sam Simmons Sr., a marketing representative and member of First church, Florence.
- MISSOURI C. Dennis Newkirk, pastor of First church of Ferguson, St. Louis, and Kathie Reimer, a homemaker and member of Second church, Springfield.
- NEVADA Robert Walker, pastor of Parkdale church, Las Vegas, and Janice K. Stephan, a homemaker and member of College Park church, Las Vegas.
- NEW ENGLAND J.V. Davis, pastor of Rice Memorial church, Northborough, Mass., and C. Richard Risas, director of missions and member of First church, Shrewsbury, Mass.
- NEW MEXICO L.J. Goodwin, pastor of Parkview church, Albuquerque, and J.B. Taylor, a fire captain and member of First church, Texico.
- NEW YORK James M. Guenther, pastor of Trinity church, Schenectady, and Mary Knapton, a homemaker and member of Lincoln Avenue church, Endicott.
- NORTH CAROLINA Claude R. Walker, pastor of Wake Cross Roads church, Raleigh, and Brenda Hicks, a secretary and member of Edgewood church, Winston-Salem.
- NORTHWEST Kent Berry, pastor of New Hope church, Creswell, Ore., and Darrell Evenson, director of missions and member of Hall Boulevard church, Tigard, Ore.
- OHIO Doug Alexander, pastor of Sharon Woods church, Columbus, and Margaret Tatsak, a homemaker and member of Northside church, Newark.
- OKLAHOMA Michael T. Hailey, pastor of First church, Hobart, and Jack C. Humphreys, a businessman and member of Northwest church, Oklahoma City.
- PENNSYLVANIA-SOUTH JERSEY Charles Teague, pastor of Country and Town church, Mechanicsburg, and Sandra Eldeen, a homemaker and member of First church, Hanover.
- SOUTH CAROLINA Stephen M. Cloud, pastor of Northside church, Columbia, and L. Duvall Williams, an auditor and member of First church, Mullins.
- TENNESSEE Ray Newcomb, pastor of First church, Millington, and Johnny P. Forester, a nuclear researcher and member of Central church, Oak Ridge.

TEXAS - Jerry Fortune, pastor of Mother Holmes Memorial church, Sheffield, and Mildred Wilkes, a homemaker and member of Second church, Houston.

UTAH-IDAHO - James A. Myers, pastor of Priest River Southern church, Priest River, Idaho, and Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast church, Salt Lake City.

VIRGINIA - Bob R. Melvin, pastor of Spotswood church, Fredericksburg, and Jimmy Hallcom, pastor of Woodlawn church, Hopewell.

WEST VIRGINIA - James A. McCullen, pastor of Grace church, Parkersburg, and Sandra Hypes, homemaker and member of Cross Lanes church, Cross Lanes.

--30--

Resolutions, credentials Tellers groups appointed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) -- The resolutions, credentials and tellers committees have been appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.

All three will serve during the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 14-16, in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is made up of 10 members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee. The committee has the "duty ... to prepare and submit to the convention resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption and to report on all matters submitted to it by the convention, with or without recommendation or amendments."

Rogers told Baptist Press he has given the Resolutions Committee no instructions, but "would hope that we would keep intensely controversial issues out of our resolutions process until we can coalesce as a convention around our major purposes."

Bylaw 22 requests proposed resolutions be sent to the committee 30 days in advance of the convention. It adds "resolutions, including those previously sent to the committee, shall be submitted to the convention not later than the evening session of the first day. Titles of proposed resolutions shall be read into the record by an officer of the convention..."

Rogers has asked Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers church of Nashville to be chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

Executive Committee members appointed include Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill church, Mobile, Ala.; Eldridge Miller, pastor of First church, Sallisaw, Okla., and Steve Brumbelow, pastor of Cross Lanes church, Cross Lanes, W.Va.

Other members include Bettye Atchison, a homemaker and member of First church, Rogers, Ark.; John Yeats, pastor of Shawnee Heights church, Topeka, Kan.; Rhonda H. Kelley, a speech pathologist and member of First church, New Orleans;

Betty Worrell, an interior decorator and member of First church, Jefferson City, Mo.; Ray Long, pastor of Rock Hill church, Inman, S.C.; and Jewell Davis, a physician and member of First church, Lubbock, Texas.

### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee, which works with the registration secretary, is charged by Bylaw 8 to "review and rule upon any question which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers. Any such ruling may be appealed to the convention during business session. Any contention arising on the floor concerning seating of messengers shall be referred to the committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the convention."

Rod Masteller, pastor of Putnam City church, Oklahoma City, has been named chairman.

Members include Steve McVey, pastor of Bemiston church, Talladega, Ala.; Bill Parr, director of missions and member of Emmanuel church, Tucson, Ariz.; Tom Harris, pastor of Park Place church, Hot Springs, Ark.; Ronald A. Fullerton, an evangelist and member of First church, El Sobrante, Calif.; Randy McWhorter, pastor of First Southern church, Fountain Valley, Calif.; Jerry Allen Johnson, associate pastor of Central church, Aurora, Colo.; Earl Lambert, retired and a member of Immanuel church, Tallahassee, Fla.;

Arnold Wooden, communications system manager and member of Abilene church, Martinez, Ga.; June Braund, a school teacher and member of Eastside church, Marietta, Ga.; Neil Knierim, pastor of First church, Vandalia, Ill.; Carver Tinsley, director of missions and member of State Street church, Hammond, Ind.; Trueman Davis, pastor of Second church, Madisonville, Ky.; James Albert Wolfe, pastor of Cedar church, Archibald, La.;

William R. Bradley, executive director of a government agency and member of Kidron church, Harrisonburg, La.; Randy W. Turner, pastor of Parkway church, Natchez, Miss.; R. Davis Odom, pastor of Crossgates church, Brandon, Miss.; Eric Ertle, pastor of First church, Hagerman, N.M.; Ric Cox, a general manager and member of Taylor Memorial church, Hobbs, N.M.; Tony Crisp, pastor of Allen's Creek church, Waynesville, N.C., Wade Thomas, pastor of Calvary church, Vancouver, Wash.

Carolyn Varns, a bookstore employee and member of Westgate church, Columbus, Ohio; Chris Tecmire, pastor of First church, Drumright, Okla.; Jamie L. Fannin, homemaker and part-time teacher and member of Central church, Lawton, Okla.; Jerry Lethco, pastor of Brushy Creek church, Taylors, S.C.; Thomas M. Knotts, director of missions and member of First church, Belvedere, S.C.; Ken Story, pastor of Germantown church, Germantown, Tenn.; T.H. Harding, pastor of First church, Portland, Texas; Dorsey Schad, a farmer and member of First church, Gruver, Texas; and Phyllis C. Jett, a church secretary and member of First church, Pound, Va.

#### TELLERS COMMITTEE

The Tellers Committee, working under the supervision of the registration secretary, tabulates any vote taken during the annual meeting.

Clayton Spriggs, associate pastor of First church, Fort Smith, Ark., is chairman.

Members include Jack Millwood, pastor of First church, Chickasaw, Ala.; Emerson E. Falls, pastor of First Indian church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Thomas M. Hodge, pastor of First Southern church, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Daniel Sotelo, pastor of Templo Bautista church, Fresno, Calif.; Jose Luis Cano, pastor of Redeemer church, Avondale, Colo.; Harold C. Epperson, pastor of First church, Kissimmee, Fla.; W.V. Prince, businessman and member of Rehoboth church, Tucker, Ga.; Al Johnson, pastor of First church, Boling Brook, Ill.; Bill Groover, pastor of Oak Park church, Jeffersonville, Ind.;

Harold Manahan, director of missions and member of First church, Papillion, Neb.; Ellery Finch, retired and a member of Highview church, Louisville, Ky.; Leigh Lowery, homemaker and member of First church, Bossier City, La.; Gary Glanville, pastor of Northwest church, Reisterstown, Md.; Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place church, Brandon, Miss.; Ray Cathcart, a weather forecaster and member of First church, Arnold, Mo.;

Randy Carter, pastor of Immanuel church, Hannibal, Mo.; Donna J. Savage, a homemaker and member of Foothills mission of First Southern church of Las Vegas, Nev.; Robert H. Wilson III, area sales manager and member of Sandia church, Albuquerque, N.M.: George Johnson Jr., attorney and member of Merrimon Avenue church, Asheville, N.C.; Sandy Gambrell, homemaker and member of Highland Chapel church, Grove City, Ohio.; Ernie Perkins, director of missions and member of First Southern church, Del City, Okla.;

Leroy Killer, retired farmer and member of First church, Dill City, Okla.; F.E. Hobeika Jr., retired and member of First church, Dillon, S.C.; Dan Greer, pastor of Tusculum church, Greeneville, Tenn.; Sandra Page, homemaker and member of First church, Nashville, Tenn.; Ben Smith, pastor of Lakeland church, Lewisville, Texas; Rick Ingle, evangelist and member of First church, Denton, Texas; Terry L. Harper, pastor of Colonial Heights church, Colonial Heights, Va.; and E.C. Hooper, retired military and member of Northside church, Charlottesville, Va.

### **HOUSE MAIL**



901 Commerce #750 Nashville, Tennessee 37203

**HOUSE MAIL** 

SO.BAPT. LIB. & ARCH. QOI COMMERCE SUITE 400 NASHVILLE, TN. 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

18 6 8



### - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

SBC Executive Committee 901 Commerce #750 Nashville, Tennessee 37203 (615) 244-2355 Alvin C. Shackleford, Directo-Dan Martin, News Editor Mary Knox, Feature Editor

NATIONAL OFFICE

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300

RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 29, 1988

88-71

SBC president appoints
'Salt-of-earth' Baptists

By Dan Martin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers has announced his appointments to four key committees that will serve during the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC, June 14-16 in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

"These are good, solid Southern Baptists, what I would call 'salt-of-the-earth' Baptists," Rogers said as he named 136 people to the SBC Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee.

Members of the four committees are appointed by the president of the SBC to serve only during the three-day run of the annual meeting. They do not require election by messengers.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., said the appointees "are not highly identified with political activity, but are the people out there in the trenches doing the work. I think they are representative of who we are historically."

The president, who was first elected president in 1979 and again in 1986 and 1987, said he had asked for recommendations "from every quarter of Southern Baptist life. We received many hundreds of recommendations.

"From these, we sent out information forms asking for certain statistical information, things such as a person's longevity in his or her particular station, the Cooperative Program percentage of the church, the baptisms in the church, their adherence to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on Scripture and their general commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention."

From the list, Rogers said, he met with the two SBC vice presidents, Jack Stanton of Bolivar, Mo., and Victor Kaneubbe of Phoenix, Ariz., March 2 in Memphis to go over the recommendations. He also said he met with SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville to discuss the Tellers Committee and the Credentials Committee.

The SBC Constitution requires the president of the convention to appoint the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in conference with" the vice presidents and the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice presidents. The president appoints the Tellers Committee "in consultation with" the SBC registration secretary.

After the list was narrowed, Rogers said, he or one of his staff members "tried to call all of these people personally to ask about their availability and whether they could and would serve."

Following that process, he had a telephone conference call with Stanton and Kaneubbe to go over the names finally selected. "I asked them if they had any suggestions or recommendations and whether they concurred with the list. There was complete unanimity," he said.

Rogers said he appointed "grassroots Southern Baptists" who subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement article on Scripture, but "never queried anyone as to how they have voted (at annual meetings) or whether they voted for me."

"Included among the 136 appointees are pastors, church staff members, directors of missions, state convention presidents, state Woman's Missionary Union presidents, businessmen and women, school teachers and homemakers. The appointees are 60 percent from the pastoral category and 40 percent from the lay categories.

"Among the four committees are 28 women, including 17 on the Committee on Committees," Rogers said.

He added: "The average of all Cooperative Program (unified budget) percentages from the churches represented is 11.6 percent. The appointees' average tenure in the state is 13.1 years and in the church 8.6 years. The average tenure in the church among those in the pastoral category is approximately 8.5 years.

"I believe these facts clearly indicate these appointments represent long-standing Southern Baptists and that the respective churches are involved solidly in the Cooperative Program. I am further convinced that these appointees will carry out their prescribed functions with a spirit of love and commitment to our Lord.

"If anybody opposes these appointees, they will be opposing good, solid Southern Baptists."

Rogers concluded: "My prayer and desire for our Southern Baptist Convention is that we will unite together with a love for the Lord, a love for the lost and an uncompromising stand on the word of God."

### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

For the second year, the Committee on Committees has 66 members, reflecting representation from six state or regional conventions granted membership in a revision of Bylaw 32 in 1987. The new state conventions represented are Alaska, Nevada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and Utah-Idaho.

All have more than 15,000 members required for representation but less than the 25,000 required under the bylaw for full representation on all committees.

Bylaw 21 on the Committee on Committees says the committee "shall nominate all special committees authorized during sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." However, the committee's key responsibility is nominating members for the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the 24 national entities affiliated with the SBC.

Rogers has appointed William A. Smith, pastor of Sherwood church, Albany, Ga., as chairman of the 1988 Committee on Committees.

ALABAMA - Warren Culver, pastor of Central church, Phenix City, and Tom Wilbanks, a pharmacist and member of Woodley church, Montgomery.

ALASKA - John R. McClung, pastor of Calvary church, Anchorage, and Wayne Bolt, businessman and member of Faith church, Anchorage.

ARIZONA - Arnold Sorrells, pastor of West Phoenix church, and Tom Allen, a real estate appraiser and member of First Southern church, Avondale.

ARKANSAS - Bill H. Lewis, director of missions and member of Watson Chapel church, Pine Bluff, and Kirk Thompson, businessman and member of First church, Springdale.

CALIFORNIA - E. Dale Brister, pastor of First Southern church, El Monte, and Doug Harrison, general manager of a business and member of First Southern, Fresno.

COLORADO - Fenton Moorhead, pastor of Applewood church, Wheat Ridge, and Lucille Mitchell, a retired school teacher and member of Rifle Southern church, Rifle.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Jim Sims, associate pastor of Capitol Hill Metropolitan church, Washington, and Joann Britton, a training instructor with a U.S. government agency, and member of Hillerest church, Hillerest Heights, Md.

FLORIDA - Joe E. Boatwright, pastor of Aloma church, Winter Park, and Donna Strickland, a homemaker and member of Parkway church, Orlando.

STATE OF THE

GEORGIA - Smith, chairman, and Denise Speir, a school teacher and member of Central church, Warner Robbins.

ILLINOIS - Timothy Lewis, pastor of Bethel Southern church, Troy, and Deborah Pearle, a homemaker and member of First church, Clarendon Hills.

INDIANA -- John E. Greever, pastor of Pleasant Heights church, Indianapolis, and Carol Morrison, an office manager and member of Sunnycrest church, Marion.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA - Thomas D. Thorne, pastor of First Southern church, Arkansas City, Kan., and Barbara L. Spradley, manager of a business and member of Westview church, Chanute, Kan.

KENTUCKY - L.C. Gray, pastor of Parrish Avenue church, Owensboro, and Glenda Copass, a homemaker and member of Farmdale church, Louisville.

LOUISIANA - Mike Walker, pastor of East Bayou church, Lafayette, and Edward P. McDaniel, a retired military man and member of Greenlaw church, Kentwood.

MARYLAND-DELAWARE - Russ Priddy, pastor of Colonial church, Baltimore, and Maxine Devine, a homemaker and member of Conowingo church, Conowingo, Md.

MICHIGAN - Gary Tarver, pastor of First church, St. Clair Shores, and Robert L. Shafer, a school teacher and member of Agape church, Petoskey.

MISSISSIPPI - Ken Alford, pastor of Morrison Heights church, Clinton, and Sam Simmons Sr., a marketing representative and member of First church, Florence.

MISSOURI - C. Dennis Newkirk, pastor of First church of Ferguson, St. Louis, and Kathie Reimer, a homemaker and member of Second church, Springfield.

NEVADA - Robert Walker, pastor of Parkdale church, Las Vegas, and Janice K. Stephan, a homemaker and member of College Park church, Las Vegas.

NEW ENGLAND - J.V. Davis, pastor of Rice Memorial church, Northborough, Mass., and C. Richard Risas, director of missions and member of First church, Shrewsbury, Mass.

NEW MEXICO - L.J. Goodwin, pastor of Parkview church, Albuquerque, and J.B. Taylor, a fire captain and member of First church, Texico.

NEW YORK - James M. Guenther, pastor of Trinity church, Schenectady, and Mary Knapton, a homemaker and member of Lincoln Avenue church. Endicott.

NORTH CAROLINA - Claude R. Walker, pastor of Wake Cross Roads church, Raleigh, and Brenda Hicks, a secretary and member of Edgewood church, Winston-Salem.

NORTHWEST - Kent Berry, pastor of New Hope church, Creswell, Ore., and Darrell Evenson, director of missions and member of Hall Boulevard church, Tigard, Ore.

OHIO - Doug Alexander, pastor of Sharon Woods church, Columbus, and Margaret Tatsak, a homemaker and member of Northside church, Newark.

OKLAHOMA - Michael T. Hailey, pastor of First church, Hobart, and Jack C. Humphreys, a businessman and member of Northwest church, Oklahoma City.

PENNSYLVANIA-SOUTH JERSEY - Charles Teague, pastor of Country and Town church, Mechanicsburg, and Sandra Eldeen, a homemaker and member of First church, Hanover.

SOUTH CAROLINA - Stephen M. Cloud, pastor of Northside church, Columbia, and L. Duvall Williams, an auditor and member of First church, Mullins.

TENNESSEE - Ray Newcomb, pastor of First church, Millington, and Johnny P. Forester, a nuclear researcher and member of Central church, Oak Ridge.

TEXAS - Jerry Fortune, pastor of Mother Holmes Memorial church, Sheffield, and Mildred Wilkes, a homemaker and member of Second church, Houston.

UTAH-IDAHO - James A. Myers, pastor of Priest River Southern church, Priest River, Idaho, and Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast church, Salt Lake City.

VIRGINIA - Bob R. Melvin, pastor of Spotswood church, Fredericksburg, and Jimmy Hallcom, pastor of Woodlawn church, Hopewell.

WEST VIRGINIA - James A. McCullen, pastor of Grace church, Parkersburg, and Sandra Hypes, ... homemaker and member of Cross Lanes church, Cross Lanes.

--30~--

Resolutions, credentials Tellers groups appointed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) -- The resolutions, credentials and tellers committees have been appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.

All three will serve during the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 14-16, in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

#### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is made up of 10 members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee. The committee has the "duty ... to prepare and submit to the convention resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption and to report on all matters submitted to it by the convention, with or without recommendation or amendments."

Rogers told Baptist Press he has given the Resolutions Committee no instructions, but "would hope that we would keep intensely controversial issues out of our resolutions process until we can coalesce as a convention around our major purposes."

Bylaw 22 requests proposed resolutions be sent to the committee 30 days in advance of the convention. It adds "resolutions, including those previously sent to the committee, shall be submitted to the convention not later than the evening session of the first day. Titles of proposed resolutions shall be read into the record by an officer of the convention. ..."

Rogers has asked Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers church of Nashville to be chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

Executive Committee members appointed include Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill church, Mobile, Ala.; Eldridge Miller, pastor of First church, Sallisaw, Okla., and Steve Brumbelow, pastor of Cross Lanes church, Cross Lanes, W.Va.

Other members include Bettye Atchison, a homemaker and member of First church, Rogers, Ark.; John Yeats, pastor of Shawnee Heights church, Topeka, Kan.; Rhonda H. Kelley, a speech pathologist and member of First church, New Orleans;

Betty Worrell, an interior decorator and member of First church, Jefferson City, Mo.; Ray Long, pastor of Rock Hill church, Inman, S.C.; and Jewell Davis, a physician and member of First church, Lubbock, Texas.

### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee, which works with the registration secretary, is charged by Bylaw 8 to "review and rule upon any question which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers. Any such ruling may be appealed to the convention during business session. Any contention arising on the floor concerning seating of messengers shall be referred to the committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the convention."

Rod Masteller, pastor of Putnam City church, Oklahoma City, has been named chairman.

Members include Steve McVey, pastor of Bemiston church, Talladega, Ala.; Bill Parr, director of missions and member of Emmanuel church, Tucson, Ariz.; Tom Harris, pastor of Park Place church, Hot Springs, Ark.; Ronald A. Fullerton, an evangelist and member of First church, El Sobrante, Calif.; Randy McWhorter, pastor of First Southern church, Fountain Valley, Calif.; Jerry Allen Johnson, associate pastor of Central church, Aurora, Colo.; Earl Lambert, retired and a member of Immanuel church, Tallahassee, Fla.;

Arnold Wooden, communications system manager and member of Abilene church, Martinez, Ga.; June Braund, a school teacher and member of Eastside church, Marietta, Ga.; Neil Knierim, pastor of First church, Vandalia, Ill.; Carver Tinsley, director of missions and member of State Street church, Hammond, Ind.; Trueman Davis, pastor of Second church, Madisonville, Ky.; James Albert Wolfe, pastor of Cedar church, Archibald, La.;

William R. Bradley, executive director of a government agency and member of Kidron church, Harrisonburg, La.; Randy W. Turner, pastor of Parkway church, Natchez, Miss.; R. Davis Odom, pastor of Crossgates church, Brandon, Miss.; Eric Ertle, pastor of First church, Hagerman, N.M.; Ric Cox, a general manager and member of Taylor Memorial church, Hobbs, N.M.; Tony Crisp, pastor of Allen's Creek church, Waynesville, N.C., Wade Thomas, pastor of Calvary church, Vancouver, Wash.

Carolyn Varns, a bookstore employee and member of Westgate church, Columbus, Ohio; Chris Tecmire, pastor of First church, Drumright, Okla.; Jamie L. Fannin, homemaker and part-time teacher and member of Central church, Lawton, Okla.; Jerry Lethco, pastor of Brushy Creek church, Taylors, S.C.; Thomas M. Knotts, director of missions and member of First church, Belvedere, S.C.; Ken Story, pastor of Germantown church, Germantown, Tenn.; T.H. Harding, pastor of First church, Portland, Texas; Dorsey Schad, a farmer and member of First church, Gruver, Texas; and Phyllis C. Jett, a church secretary and member of First church, Pound, Va.

#### TELLERS COMMITTEE

The Tellers Committee, working under the supervision of the registration secretary, tabulates any vote taken during the annual meeting.

Clayton Spriggs, associate pastor of First church, Fort Smith, Ark., is chairman.

Members include Jack Millwood, pastor of First church, Chickasaw, Ala.; Emerson E. Falls, pastor of First Indian church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Thomas M. Hodge, pastor of First Southern church, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Daniel Sotelo, pastor of Templo Bautista church, Fresno, Calif.; Jose Luis Cano, pastor of Redeemer church, Avondale, Colo.; Harold C. Epperson, pastor of First church, Kissimmee, Fla.; W.V. Prince, businessman and member of Rehoboth church, Tucker, Ga.; Al Johnson, pastor of First church, Boling Brook, Ill.; Bill Groover, pastor of Oak Park church, Jeffersonville, Ind.;

Harold Manahan, director of missions and member of First church, Papillion, Neb.; Ellery Finch, retired and a member of Highview church, Louisville, Ky.; Leigh Lowery, homemaker and member of First church, Bossier City, La.; Gary Glanville, pastor of Northwest church, Reisterstown, Md.; Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place church, Brandon, Miss.; Ray Cathcart, a weather forecaster and member of First church, Arnold, Mo.;

Randy Carter, pastor of Immanuel church, Hannibal, Mo.; Donna J. Savage, a homemaker and member of Foothills mission of First Southern church of Las Vegas, Nev.; Robert H. Wilson III, area sales manager and member of Sandia church, Albuquerque, N.M.: George Johnson Jr., attorney and member of Merrimon Avenue church, Asheville, N.C.; Sandy Gambrell, homemaker and member of Highland Chapel church, Grove City, Ohio.; Ernie Perkins, director of missions and member of First Southern church, Del City, Okla.;

Leroy Killer, retired farmer and member of First church, Dill City, Okla.; F.E. Hobeika Jr., retired and member of First church, Dillon, S.C.; Dan Greer, pastor of Tusculum church, Greeneville, Tenn.; Sandra Page, homemaker and member of First church, Nashville, Tenn.; Ben Smith, pastor of Lakeland church, Lewisville, Texas; Rick Ingle, evangelist and member of First church, Denton, Texas; Terry L. Harper, pastor of Colonial Heights church, Colonial Heights, Va.; and E.C. Hooper, retired military and member of Northside church, Charlottesville, Va.



### BAPTIST

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE SBC Executive Committee 901 Commerce #750 Nashville, Tennessee 37200 (615) 244-2355 Atvin C. Shackleford, Directo Dan Martin, News Edito Mary Knox, Feature Edito

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041 DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550 NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300 RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151 WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 29, 1988

Robinson to be nominated For SBC 1st vice presidency N-(O (Texas 5td.)

By Toby Druin

88-72

EULESS, Texas (BP) -- Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

Evangelist Freddie Gage of Euless, Texas, made the announcement of Robinson's plans, calling Robinson "one of the greatest friends vocational evangelists have ever had."

Robinson's churches have been among the top 20 in total baptisms in the SBC for the past 15 years, Gage noted, and Robinson makes frequent use of vocational evangelists in revivals and has an evangelist on his church staff.

Robinson will be nominated by Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, who currently is president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

In a telephone interview with the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal, Robinson confirmed he will permit his nomination.

"If the people elect me as first vice president, my reason in serving would be to do my utmost for the cause of Jesus, to promote evangelism and missions and help create a spirit that will uplift the name of Jesus and reach our country and world with the gospel," he said.

He noted he feels "tremendous things" are happening in the denomination and praised the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home mission boards for "moving us forward in church planting and evangelization."

"I feel we need a real spirit of revival that will cause us to be Jesus-centered. Any time we have revival, three things happen: There is unity among the people of God, joy and obedience to him. I long to see revival among us and would do the things to help," Robinson added.

He described himself as a "fundamental-conservative and an inerrantist, but not a Fundamentalist. I am not a politician."

Robinson currently is vice chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. He has been pastor of Dauphin Way Church since 1982. Other recent pastorates include First Baptist Church of Pasadena, Texas, 1973-81, and First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, Texas, 1969-73.

He is a native of Big Spring, Texas, and is a graduate of Baylor University. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, before getting a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in 1983. He was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Houston Baptist University in 1982.

He has had many denominational roles in addition to his service on the Executive Committee. He was vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1980-81, and currently is on the Alabama Baptist Convention executive committee.

Robinson is the only publicly announced candidate for first vice president. In April, a news story announced W. Randall Lolley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., and immediate past president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., would be nominated by John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C.

However, recent public statements indicate Lolley may not allow his nomination. Baptist Press attempted to contact Lolley, but was unable to do so.

Hewett, however, told Baptist Press: "Dr. Lolley has withheld final permission to nominate him. I still want him to run. I still want to nominate him, but that is a decision he has to make. The last conversations we had was that we were going to wait to make a final decision on the basis of other people we were aware were being considered for first vice president." --30--

Church historians examine Practice of ordination

By Lonnie Wilkey

N (1. (1. Baptist Press 4/29/88

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Tradition, rather than strong biblical evidence, provides basis for the practice of ordination in Southern Baptist churches today, a group of historians meeting in Nashville agreed.

More than 200 people gathered April 25-27 for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society. The meeting addressed ordination in Baptist history.

Although ordination in general was the focus, attention was given to the issue of ordination of women.

Bill Stancil, a design editor for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, noted the reasons why the ordination of women has become an issue in the Southern Baptist Convention: More women are prepared to minister, concepts of ministry have been expanded and the women's movement has drawn response from society, he said.

Two other reasons also are evident, he added: "First, the general move of the convention toward a more conservative theology in recent years has caused women's ordination to be identified as one of the issues by which political and theological loyalty is to be gauged. Secondly, Southern Baptist scholars have begun to address more carefully the relationship between the Bible, tradition and culture."

Culture has an influence on theology, Stancil said: "Arguably, culture's influence over theology should be minimal compared to Scripture and tradition. Practically, however, culture in every era has challenged theology, helped to shape it, nudged it in new directions, and even, in some cases, changed it radically."

Stancil pointed out discussion over what the Bible says about ordination "inexorably breaks down at the question of which teachings are eternal truths and which are temporary and peripheral matters trapped in the cultural matrix of the Bible."

"The bottom line, as in so many matters of faith and order, is not whether you believe the Bible, but how you interpret it," he added.

Stancil observed Southern Baptists have debated the role of women in almost every convention since 1973, and many matters are still to be considered. He said, however, the convention has yet to address two important issues: the relationship between the local church and the denomination and an ethical matter concerning ordination.

"Although ordination has often been cited as the prime example of local church autonomy, in the current discussion on women's ordination the local church/denominational lines have become blurred," Stancil said.

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta approved a policy that would deny HMB financial support to any local church that employs a woman as pastor, he illustrated. Another example of blurred lines, he said, was the action of Shelby County Baptist Association in Memphis, Tenn. Last fall the association disfellowshiped Prescott Memorial Baptist Church because it called a woman pastor.

"Do the actions of either the Shelby County Association or the Home Mission Board violate the autonomy and freedom of the local church? Some think so," Stancil said.

Two women presented differing views on women's ordination. Jann Clanton, a Southern Baptist who is associate pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in Waco, Texas, said the question is not whether "ordination is necessary for ministry, but whether ordination is used to exclude women from certain ministry and leadership roles in the church."

"It is Baptist tradition to ordain pastors and deacons. Thus, if women are denied ordination, they are denied the opportunity to minister in these roles," she said.

Dorothy Patterson, wife of conservative leader Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, said that although "practices of God's people through the years deserve careful attention, tradition without scriptural authority is not binding."

Mrs. Patterson, a homemaker and seminar leader, added, "Nowhere in Baptist history, except perhaps in this generation, has religious freedom come to mean that one can be a Baptist and believe and teach anything he or she personally believes."

Other program personnel spoke to various views on ordination throughout Baptist history. C. Penrose St. Amant, retired president of Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, said biblical teaching on the subject of ordination is "fragmentary."

"No procedure is given, and there is no specific command to ordain. This stands in sharp contrast to the explicit command to baptize and to observe the Lord's Supper," St. Amant said.

Lee N. Allen, dean of Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., observed many people "found biblical precedents for it (ordination), although there was some divergence as to what these were."

- G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., noted the practice of ordination appeared among English Baptists by the mid-17th century and "has remained a common practice among Baptists, with variations in the procedure."
- G. Thomas Halbrooks, professor of church history at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., noted Southern Baptists from 1845 to 1945 dealt with ordination similar to Baptists in other periods. "They struggled with it," he said.

During the meeting officers of the Southern Baptist Historical Society were elected for the coming year. They are William L. Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., president; Halbrooks, vice president; and Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the Historical Commission, Nashville, secretary-treasurer.

--30--

Wrapup
Doctrines, detour
Dominate conference

By Mary Knox

N~ (0

Baptist Press 4/29/88

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Three controversial doctrines and a detour dominated the Southern Baptist Convention's second national Bible conference.

The Conference on Biblical Interpretation attracted 301 participants to Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center April 25-27. It was sponsored by the six SBC-affiliated seminaries in an effort to bring about resolution to the convention's ongoing theological/political controversy.

World-class scholars who embrace the concept of biblical inerrancy -- the doctrine that the Bible is without errors -- led the participants in discussions of issues that have stirred passions for decades: creation, the role of women in ministry and the end of time.

But they took a detour through convention controversy when former SBC President James T. Draper Jr. departed from his assigned topic. On the program to respond to Canadian theologian James I. Packer's paper on women in ministry, Draper said he basically agreed with Packer and had not had time to prepare a response.

Instead, he spoke to what he called the "central dilemma" among Southern Baptists: How much diversity in biblical interpretation can be accommodated?

"What do we do when someone's 'interpretation of the Bible' begins to strike at the very heart of Christian faith?" asked Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas. "It is crucially important for us to understand that ... interpretational autonomy was always assumed to be within the parameters of the historic Christian faith. Beyond those parameters, autonomous interpretations become denials of the faith."

The convention needs "some minimum theological parameters within which we operate," Draper said. He asked the seminary presidents to continue such conferences, to offer "a forum where we can get at these issues and find out where we are and map strategy for moving on together. ... The controversy will not go away until we make this investigation and come to some conclusions."

At a later press conference, five of the six seminary presidents -- only Lewis A. Drummond of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was absent -- said their meeting was exactly what Draper requested. In addition to the interpretation conference, the seminaries hosted a conference on biblical inerrancy in 1987 and will sponsor a meeting on biblical imperatives April 24-26, 1989. Each of the conferences features keynote speeches on major topics, followed by small-group discussion sessions.

A joint statement, read by Milton Ferguson of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., noted Draper did not attend the 1987 inerrancy conference and only attended the session at which he spoke this year.

Draper "was present for the kind of forum that he was calling for," added Roy Honeycutt of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "We feel we're doing what he called on us to do."

Packer spoke to the issues of inerrancy and interpretation during a panel discussion. Inerrancy has been "unfruitfully linked" to biblical interpretation by many Southern Baptists in ways that are "less than scholarly," said the professor of historical and systematic theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In the Southern Baptist situation, "the people who have insisted most strongly that they stand for the inerrancy of Scripture have also been standing for a particular way of interpreting Scripture that in certain respects would seem to others of us to be less than scholarly," he said.

These people have linked inerrancy to interpretation in such a way "that they won't believe that anyone who doesn't handle the Bible in the same way they do really believes in the total trustworthiness of Scripture."

Packer himself delved into the Bible, presenting keynote addresses on the three doctrines under question.

While the idea of women clergy is divisive, "not a wise course" and a trend he hopes will "die away," Packer said the Bible should not be interpreted to forbid ordination of women as ministers.

"Under ordinary circumstances, she should not be sole or chief pastor," he said. But his interpretation does not forbid women from teaching, leading in prayer or serving as deacons in the church, he said.

The doctrine of eschatology is the key to understanding the Bible, which is a "book of hope," and the Christian life, which is a "life of hope," Packer added.

"We have to ask continually, 'What's the main thought?'" he advised regarding the study of end-times prophecy. And the end times holds two certainties, he added -- believers have a "prospect of glory," while unbelievers face a "fearsome prospect."

Of creation, he said the events described in the Bible's book of Genesis actually occurred in time and space, although their locations, dates and "visual aspects" are veiled from modern readers.

Interpreters should attempt to understand the poetic nature of biblical writings, he urged: "We want the prose of the Bible to be unimaginative facts, because that's what we're used to. Our scientific mindset predisposes us to assume that any account of the natural order must be written to answer our scientific questions about it."

Three other inerrantist biblical scholars also provided insights into interpreting the Bible:

-- Robert Johnson, dean of North Park College and Seminary in Chicago, said: "The church needs to speak in a language more attuned to where modern men and women live. If mission is our goal, communication must begin with where people are."

Most successful evangelism has interpreted basic biblical themes in modern terms, he said.

-- Walter Kaiser, dean at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., drew a distinction between the meaning and significance of Old Testament passages. Meaning is determined by the author's intention, and significance involves the reader's perspective, he said.

Failure to interpret the Bible in light of both the author's intention and modern culture will result in "the loss of meaning in the house of God," he noted.

-- Grant Osborne, professor at Trinity, added interpretation is incomplete until put in a modern context. Consequently, an interpreter must understand both modern and ancient culture.

"The New Testament author shared certain assumptions with his readers, and the interpreter needs to discover these underlying 'givens' in order to understand the text properly," he said. On the modern side, "every exegetical (interpretive) decision has political ramifications" in the Southern Baptist controversy, and the ramifications should be classified as tolerable or intolerable only on the basis of whether they are "cardinal doctrines," he added.

Attendance at the conference was less than one-third of the 1,000 participants in the 1987 inerrancy conference.

The seminary presidents "don't think this indicates a lack of interest or a bad crowd," said Russell Dilday of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. However, the absence of leaders of the moderate and conservative factions in the controversy "almost implies to me that theology is not the issue."

--30--

(Also contributing to this story were Linda Lawson, Norman Jameson and Mark Wingfield.)

Inerrancy 'unfruitfully linked' To interpretation, Packer says

By Norman Jameson

N-(0

Baptist Press 4/29/88

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Inerrancy has been "unfruitfully linked" to biblical interpretation by many Southern Baptists in ways that are "less than scholarly," theologian J.I. Packer said in his closing statement to 200 Southern Baptist ministers attending the second national conference on the Bible.

Packer called himself and three other theologians who delivered plenary addresses "a team of visiting firemen" as they sat in a panel and answered questions from participants.

As a final question, moderator John Newport, dean and provost of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, asked each panelist to give "an outsider's" view of Southern Baptist life.

Packer, an internationally renowned theologian and avowed inerrantist, observed that in the Southern Baptist situation, "the people who have insisted most strongly that they stand for the inerrancy of Scripture have also been standing for a particular way of interpreting Scripture that in certain respects would seem to others of us to be less than scholarly."

He said they have linked inerrancy to interpretation in such a way "that they won't believe that anyone who doesn't handle the Bible in the same way they do really believes in the total trustworthiness of Scripture."

"More work needs to be done on this," he said of the linkage. "I would hope for a more scholarly and disciplined way of handling the Bible."

Packer acknowleged it would take years of discussion to correct because "intellectual habits of years are not dealt with in five minutes."

Panelists handled just eight questions in the hour given to response. Participants did not ask for clarification of earlier statements but wanted comment on issues not addressed.

Walter Kaiser, dean of Old Testament at Trinity Evangelical Seminary in Deerfield, Ill., said the only creation-dating process he would wrestle to the death for is, "In the beginning." He has "no problem" with an earth 5 billion to 15 billion years old, and the current "young earth" move among evangelicals is "not rightly pitched and aimed," he said, noting, "It's becoming a test for inerrancy, and that's not fair."

On abortion, Robert Johnston, dean of North Park College and Theological Seminary in Chicago, said if the Old Testament absolutely declared life begins at conception, there would be no debate. Anything after conception would be murder.

"The fact there is discussion indicates there is no certainty," he said. If it's not certain life begins at conception, then Christians need to move together on the bigger issue of abortion to slow down its misuse, he added.

Kaiser was more adamant, saying if God judged the Third Reich for murdering 6 million Jews, he does not see what keeps God from judging America, which has killed four times that many babies through abortion.

Concerning women, Packer, who earlier said women have a secondary role due to creation order, noted no New Testament passage can be quoted as forbidding the people of God from putting women in an ecclesiastical role. It is more a question of gifts than rights, he said.

Recognizing all gifts of God are meant to be used, he suggested ministry be structured to utilize women in "maternal" ministry roles for which they are even better suited then men, such as counceling and caring ministries.

Johnston, who said he currently is looking for a female theology professor for his school, pointed out that in the second creation story in Genesis, "the man shall leave his mother" and cleave to his wife. He surmised the author may have said it that way to keep readers from misinterpreting the importance of creation order where the man came first.

Kaiser said in his closing remarks he is concerned about what happens to Southern Baptists in their controversy because "what happens to you is going to affect all of American church life."

Johnston contrasted the 1,000 people who attended last year's conference on biblical inerrancy with the 300 who came to the conference on interpretation. The dramatic drop illustrated the problem seminaries face, he said.

"When you get down in the trenches and do the hard, interpretive work ... people become suspicious and bail out," he said.

He warned that in controversies like that embroiling Southern Baptists since 1979, "evangelicals run the risk of losing our mission to the secular world to the extent we concentrate on our internecine warfare."

--30--

Seminary presidents Tout conferences

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Three national conferences sponsored by the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries represent an excellent opportunity for Baptists to discuss their views on critical issues and determine areas of agreement and difference, five seminary presidents agreed.

During a news conference held at the Conference on Biblical Interpretation at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, the presidents responded to a call by former SBC President James T. Draper Jr. for Southern Baptists to "sit down together and talk seriously about theology."

Draper had been on the conference program to respond to a presentation on the doctrine of women by Canadian theologian James I. Packer. However, he addressed broader issues, listing questions he said Baptists should address in determining how much diversity in biblical interpretation can be accommodated.

A statement read by Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., on behalf of the five presidents said:

"Dr. Jimmy Draper was invited to respond to the issue of women in ministry. We were surprised when he chose to ignore the topic under consideration and present a personal statement about our current controversy. Nevertheless, we are ready and eager to listen to his concerns and respond to his requests and interests.

"We regret that Dr. Draper was not present at the 1987 Conference on Biblical Inerrancy and that he was present this year for only one session. We invite and encourage him to share fully in the 1989 Conference on Biblical Imperatives," the statement continued. That conference is set for April 24-26 at Ridgecrest.

The five presidents said the purpose of all three conferences has been "to listen to and therefore understand each other better. Therefore, we will continue to enlist representatives of all Southern Baptist viewpoints in these conferences."

Lewis Drummond, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., since April 1, did not attend a private meeting where the other five presidents discussed their response to Draper. He also was not present at the news conference.

Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said Draper "was present for the kind of forum that he was calling for. We feel we're doing what he called on us to do."

Honeycutt said he regrets Draper's statements drew attention from the overall purpose of the conference. "To let one of four respondents characterize the whole conference is lamentable." he said. "Until that juncture, the conference was more apolitical than last year."

Despite the fact about 300 people attended the biblical interpretation conference in contrast to the 1,000 who participated in the 1987 inerrancy conference, Russell Dilday said, "We don't think this indicates a lack of interest or a bad crowd."

Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said the impact of the conferences "is not only in the number attending but in the reports and documents from the meeting." A book of the proceedings of the conference will be released by Broadman Press in June before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

At the same time, Dilday said, the absence in the conference of leaders of the moderate and conservative factions in the current convention controversy "almost implies to me that theology is not the issue."

The presidents said they believe their charters spell out clearly their purpose for existence, and the statements of faith signed by their faculties provide clear parameters and guidelines for teaching.

"Our charter spells out clearly that we are to prepare God-called men and women for church-related vocation in the churches and the denomination," said Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dilday said a "spotlight" has been on the seminaries for 10 years. "There are still less than eight or 10 specific persons on our faculties that have been accused of teaching outside the general parameters of what Baptists would expect. ... We do have people that drift outside the parameter even though it is indefinable. We will always have to discipline and correct and bring us back. We have the clearest statement, these six schools, as to what our teaching is to be in terms of its doctrinal orthodoxy and we abide by that Baptist Faith and Message as our guideline."

Ferguson said the presidents are considering the possibility of continuing to sponsor national conferences beyond 1989.

However, he noted the conferences require a heavy investment of personnel and money. Each of the six seminaries contributed about \$6,000 toward paying expenses of the 1987 conference.

CORRECTION: Please make two changes in the 4/28/88 Baptist Press story titled "Historical Commission adopts peace response."

The beginning of the first graf should read: Nashville (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission approved ...

And the award recipient mentioned in the last graf is G. Hugh Wamble.

Thanks, Baptist Press

Former SBC second VP Dies in Asheville, N.C.

4-(0,c)

Baptist Press 4/29/88

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Ray E. Roberts, 72, retired executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Ohio and former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died April 25 in an Asheville, N.C., hospital. Roberts apparently suffered a heart attack.

A native of Madison County, N.C., Roberts was executive secretary in Ohio from July 1952 until his retirement in March 1980. He was elected second vice president of the SBC during the convention's Atlanta meeting in June 1986.

Roberts was a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and attended Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. During his ministry, Roberts was pastor of churches in Kentucky. Ohio and North Carolina.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret Mooneyham Roberts; three sons, Ray E. Roberts Jr. of Livingston, N.J., Roger Roberts of Wichita, Kan., and Phillip Roberts of Brussels, Belgium; a daughter, Rebecca R. Craft of Dallas, two sisters, Mary Kathryn Harrison and Margie Pepple of Asheville; and seven grandchildren.

At the time of his death, Roberts was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Asheville. Funeral services were conducted at the church April 28. The church's pastor, Aubrey Folk, was assisted in the service by Roberts' three sons, all of whom are ordained ministers.

The family has requested memorials be made to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, 1350. Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367; or to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

--30--

RTVC board members mean Business on development

NCO Baptist Press 4/29/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission board members proved they meant business when they asked the staff to show them how they conduct fund-raising dinners.

Nineteen members who attended the April board meeting pledged gifts to support the commission's work of preaching the gospel via radio and television. The total amount pledged and given by trustees and commission administrators was \$34,280.

Last January the board instructed the commission's development department to stage a demonstration of a typical fund-raising activity during the April meeting.

Trustee Chairman Jewel Morris, a Fort Smith, Ark., layman, expressed his appreciation for the participation and said, "Some of those who could not attend have requested commitment cards so they, too, can participate."

Commission President Jimmy R. Allen said: "This demonstration of support is clear evidence that our trustees believe in the unique mission ministry of the Radio and Television Commission. Their affimation should be an encouragement to all Southern Baptists as they consider the opportunities God is giving us to reach America with the gospel."

Development committee chairman and Georgia trustee Jimmy Waters predicted the trustee response would be an encouragement to both individuals and foundations who might consider giving to the work of the commission in the future.

--30--

Congregation witnesses Double murder, suicide

By Herb Hollinger

N- (0)(F)

Baptist Press

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Apparently upset over a troubled marriage, a Hmong man walked into a Sunday afternoon worship service April 24 at Baptist Temple in Fresno, Calif., and shot his wife and 3-year-old daughter before an astonished congregation.

Pong Lor, believed to be about 45, then turned the .38-caliber revolver on himself as worshippers frantically sought refuge on the floor.

Lor and his 38-year-old wife, Ma Lee, were both dead when police and medics arrived. The daughter died later in a Fresno hospital.

Lonnie Chavez, California Baptist language missions director, was the guest speaker for Hmong mission sponsored by Baptist Temple which holds services at 3 p.m. Sundays.

Chavez was facing the congregation seated on the platform with Pastor Patoua Vang, in front of a choir of about 20 teenagers.

Chavez said he noticed the man coming into the service about 3:30 while a couple was singing special music just prior to his sermon. Since the Hmong service often has people coming in and out. Chavez said he did not pay much attention at the time.

"He came down the center aisle about five rows, faced right, bent down and the next thing I heard was a shot," Chavez said. "I yelled, 'Get down,' and for a split moment thought about charging the man but knew I couldn't stop a bullet."

Chavez heard three shots and then bolted out a side door intent on calling the police. He found a phone booth across the street from the church and called the 911 emergency number. Police and medics arrived on the scene in about 15 minutes, he said.

When he got back to the auditorium, people were milling about the room obviously distraught. About 120 people atttended the service, Chavez said, almost all Hmong, Laotian immigrants who came to the United States following the Viet Nam war.

Five other children are in the family, ranging in age from 11 years to 11 months. They were not in the auditorium at the time of the shooting, Chavez said, but relatives of the husband said he probably came to the church intent on killing the entire family.

Although the motive behind the shooting was still unclear, police theorized the couple had been having marital problems, and reportedly the woman had asked the man to leave the house. Witnesses later told the police the man had been evicted from the home for about two weeks.

One member of the congregation, Cheng Cha, told police the gunman yelled, "You die now," in Hmong just before firing.

"She kicked him out and he was angry," said Cha. "A woman (in Hmong culture) doesn't usually do that."

Fresno County juvenile authorities reportedly have placed the surviving children with a cousin who was at the service. The wife and children were regular attenders at the mission, while the gunman attended sporadically.

The Hmong congregation is one of the larger Laotian groups in California and often has 200 people for worship, said Elmer Gray, retired state worker who is interim pastor of Baptist Temple. The parent church has been without a regular pastor for about a year, he said. The church also sponsors a Korean mission that meets in another building at the same time as the Anglo congregation.

--30--

Carlyle Hayes named development Director at Southwestern Seminary N- (GWB13)

Baptist Press 4/29/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Carlyle Hayes, assistant vice president of development for Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, has been named director of development at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Hayes, 62, will assume his duties at Southwestern May 15.

He previously worked at Cargill Associates as director of the fund raising firm's capital campaigns for five years.

For 23 years, Hayes was with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission where he was director of development. In 1974 he was named senior vice president for the commission's management services division.

As Southwestern's director of development, Hayes will coordinate the seminary's \$50 million Upward 90 campaign, a strategic plan for ministry in the 1990s.

Hayes replaces James Holcomb who resigned to become vice president for advancement at Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth.

--30--

NOTE TO EDITORS: In BP 4/27/88, in listing of nominees for trustee of the Home Mission Board, those who picked up the computer version have the correct list. However, in the BP which was mailed, there is an error.

On Page 5, eighth paragraph, please delete the name of Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue church, Fort Worth, Texas, as a nominee to the Home Mission Board. Add a paragraph -- suggested placement, new 13th paragraph -- which says: "The subcommittee also will nominate a replacement for Lawanna McIver, Dallas, who is ineligible for renomination."

BP is working on a story about Joel Gregory declining to accept nomination to the HMB. However, the inclusion of his name on the mailed list was inadvertent and in error.

Thanks, Baptist Press



### BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Beptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE SBC Executive Committee 901 Commerce #750 Nashville, Tennessee 37200 (615) 244-2355 Alvin C. Shackleford, Directo Dan Martin, News Edito Mary Knox, Feature Edito

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041 DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550 NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300 RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151 WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 29, 1988

88-72

Robinson to be nominated For SBC 1st vice presidency

By Toby Druin

EULESS, Texas (BP) -- Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

Evangelist Freddie Gage of Euless, Texas, made the announcement of Robinson's plans, calling Robinson "one of the greatest friends vocational evangelists have ever had."

Robinson's churches have been among the top 20 in total baptisms in the SBC for the past 15 years, Gage noted, and Robinson makes frequent use of vocational evangelists in revivals and has an evangelist on his church staff.

Robinson will be nominated by Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, who currently is president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

In a telephone interview with the Baptist Standard Robinson confirmed he will permit his nomination. In a telephone interview with the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal,

"If the people elect me as first vice president, my reason in serving would be to do my utmost for the cause of Jesus, to promote evangelism and missions and help create a spirit that will uplift the name of Jesus and reach our country and world with the gospel," he said.

He noted he feels "tremendous things" are happening in the denomination and praised the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home mission boards for "moving us forward in church planting and evangelization."

"I feel we need a real spirit of revival that will cause us to be Jesus-centered. Any time we have revival, three things happen: There is unity among the people of God, joy and obedience to him. I long to see revival among us and would do the things to help," Robinson added.

He described himself as a "fundamental-conservative and an inerrantist, but not a Fundamentalist. I am not a politician."

Robinson currently is vice chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. He has been pastor of Dauphin Way Church since 1982. Other recent pastorates include First Baptist Church of Pasadena, Texas, 1973-81, and First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, Texas, 1969-73.

He is a native of Big Spring, Texas, and is a graduate of Baylor University. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, before getting a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in 1983. He was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Houston Baptist University in 1982.

He has had many denominational roles in addition to his service on the Executive Committee. He was vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1980-81, and currently is on the Alabama Baptist Convention executive committee.

Robinson is the only publicly announced candidate for first vice president. In April, a news story announced W. Randall Lolley, paster of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., and immediate past president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., would be nominated by John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C.

However, recent public statements indicate Lolley may not allow his nomination. Baptist Press attempted to contact Lolley, but was unable to do so.

Hewett, however, told Baptist Press: "Dr. Lolley has withheld final permission to nominate him. I still want him to run. I still want to nominate him, but that is a decision he has to make. The last conversations we had was that we were going to wait to make a final decision on the basis of other people we were aware were being considered for first vice president."

--30--

Church historians examine Practice of ordination

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press 4/29/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--Tradition, rather than strong biblical evidence, provides basis for the practice of ordination in Southern Baptist churches today, a group of historians meeting in Nashville agreed.

More than 200 people gathered April 25-27 for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society. The meeting addressed ordination in Baptist history.

Although ordination in general was the focus, attention was given to the issue of ordination of women.

Bill Stancil, a design editor for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, noted the reasons why the ordination of women has become an issue in the Southern Baptist Convention: More women are prepared to minister, concepts of ministry have been expanded and the women's movement has drawn response from society, he said.

Two other reasons also are evident, he added: "First, the general move of the convention toward a more conservative theology in recent years has caused women's ordination to be identified as one of the issues by which political and theological loyalty is to be gauged. Secondly, Southern Baptist scholars have begun to address more carefully the relationship between the Bible, tradition and culture."

Culture has an influence on theology, Stancil said: "Arguably, culture's influence over theology should be minimal compared to Scripture and tradition. Practically, however, culture in every era has challenged theology, helped to shape it, nudged it in new directions, and even, in some cases, changed it radically."

Stancil pointed out discussion over what the Bible says about ordination "inexorably breaks down at the question of which teachings are eternal truths and which are temporary and peripheral matters trapped in the cultural matrix of the Bible."

"The bottom line, as in so many matters of faith and order, is not whether you believe the Bible, but how you interpret it," he added.

Stancil observed Southern Baptists have debated the role of women in almost every convention since 1973, and many matters are still to be considered. He said, however, the convention has yet to address two important issues: the relationship between the local church and the denomination and an ethical matter concerning ordination.

"Although ordination has often been cited as the prime example of local church autonomy, in the current discussion on women's ordination the local church/denominational lines have become blurred," Stancil said.

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta approved a policy that would deny HMB financial support to any local church that employs a woman as pastor, he illustrated. Another example of blurred lines, he said, was the action of Shelby County Baptist Association in Memphis, Tenn. Last fall the association disfellowshiped Prescott Memorial Baptist Church because it called a woman pastor.

"Do the actions of either the Shelby County Association or the Home Mission Board violate the autonomy and freedom of the local church? Some think so," Stancil said.

Two women presented differing views on women's ordination. Jann Clanton, a Southern Baptist who is associate pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in Waco, Texas, said the question is not whether "ordination is necessary for ministry, but whether ordination is used to exclude women from certain ministry and leadership roles in the church."

"It is Baptist tradition to ordain pastors and deacons. Thus, if women are denied ordination, they are denied the opportunity to minister in these roles," she said.

Dorothy Patterson, wife of conservative leader Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, said that although "practices of God's people through the years deserve careful attention, tradition without scriptural authority is not binding."

Mrs. Patterson, a homemaker and seminar leader, added, "Nowhere in Baptist history, except perhaps in this generation, has religious freedom come to mean that one can be a Baptist and believe and teach anything he or she personally believes."

Other program personnel spoke to various views on ordination throughout Baptist history. C. Penrose St. Amant, retired president of Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, said biblical teaching on the subject of ordination is "fragmentary."

"No procedure is given, and there is no specific command to ordain. This stands in sharp contrast to the explicit command to baptize and to observe the Lord's Supper," St. Amant said.

- Lee N. Allen, dean of Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., observed many people "found biblical precedents for it (ordination), although there was some divergence as to what these were."
- G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., noted the practice of ordination appeared among English Baptists by the mid-17th century and "has remained a common practice among Baptists, with variations in the procedure."
- G. Thomas Halbrooks, professor of church history at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., noted Southern Baptists from 1845 to 1945 dealt with ordination similar to Baptists in other periods. "They struggled with it." he said.

During the meeting officers of the Southern Baptist Historical Society were elected for the coming year. They are William L. Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., president; Halbrooks, vice president; and Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the Historical Commission, Nashville, secretary-treasurer.

--30--

Wrapup
Doctrines, detour
Dominate conference

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press 4/29/88

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Three controversial doctrines and a detour dominated the Southern Baptist Convention's second national Bible conference.

The Conference on Biblical Interpretation attracted 301 participants to Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center April 25-27. It was sponsored by the six SBC-affiliated seminaries in an effort to bring about resolution to the convention's ongoing theological/political controversy.

World-class scholars who embrace the concept of biblical inerrancy -- the doctrine that the Bible is without errors -- led the participants in discussions of issues that have stirred passions for decades: creation, the role of women in ministry and the end of time.

But they took a detour through convention controversy when former SBC President James T. Draper Jr. departed from his assigned topic. On the program to respond to Canadian theologian James I. Packer's paper on women in ministry, Draper said he basically agreed with Packer and had not had time to prepare a response.

Instead, he spoke to what he called the "central dilemma" among Southern Baptists: How much diversity in biblical interpretation can be accommodated?

"What do we do when someone's 'interpretation of the Bible' begins to strike at the very heart of Christian faith?" asked Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas. "It is crucially important for us to understand that ... interpretational autonomy was always assumed to be within the parameters of the historic Christian faith. Beyond those parameters, autonomous interpretations become denials of the faith."

The convention needs "some minimum theological parameters within which we operate," Draper said. He asked the seminary presidents to continue such conferences, to offer "a forum where we can get at these issues and find out where we are and map strategy for moving on together. ... The controversy will not go away until we make this investigation and come to some conclusions."

At a later press conference, five of the six seminary presidents -- only Lewis A. Drummond of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was absent -- said their meeting was exactly what Draper requested. In addition to the interpretation conference, the seminaries hosted a conference on biblical inerrancy in 1987 and will sponsor a meeting on biblical imperatives April 24-26, 1989. Each of the conferences features keynote speeches on major topics, followed by small-group discussion sessions.

A joint statement, read by Milton Ferguson of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., noted Draper did not attend the 1987 inerrancy conference and only attended the session at which he spoke this year.

Draper "was present for the kind of forum that he was calling for," added Roy Honeycutt of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "We feel we're doing what he called on us to do."

Packer spoke to the issues of inerrancy and interpretation during a panel discussion. Inerrancy has been "unfruitfully linked" to biblical interpretation by many Southern Baptists in ways that are "less than scholarly," said the professor of historical and systematic theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In the Southern Baptist situation, "the people who have insisted most strongly that they stand for the inerrancy of Scripture have also been standing for a particular way of interpreting Scripture that in certain respects would seem to others of us to be less than scholarly," he said.

These people have linked inerrancy to interpretation in such a way "that they won't believe that anyone who doesn't handle the Bible in the same way they do really believes in the total trustworthiness of Scripture."

Packer himself delved into the Bible, presenting keynote addresses on the three doctrines under question.

While the idea of women clergy is divisive, "not a wise course" and a trend he hopes will "die away," Packer said the Bible should not be interpreted to forbid ordination of women as ministers.

"Under ordinary circumstances, she should not be sole or chief pastor," he said. But his interpretation does not forbid women from teaching, leading in prayer or serving as deacons in the church, he said.

The doctrine of eschatology is the key to understanding the Bible, which is a "book of hope," and the Christian life, which is a "life of hope," Packer added.

"We have to ask continually, 'What's the main thought?'" he advised regarding the study of end-times prophecy. And the end times holds two certainties, he added -- believers have a "prospect of glory," while unbelievers face a "fearsome prospect."

Of creation, he said the events described in the Bible's book of Genesis actually occurred in time and space, although their locations, dates and "visual aspects" are veiled from modern readers.

Interpreters should attempt to understand the poetic nature of biblical writings, he urged: "We want the prose of the Bible to be unimaginative facts, because that's what we're used to. Our scientific mindset predisposes us to assume that any account of the natural order must be written to answer our scientific questions about it."

Three other inerrantist biblical scholars also provided insights into interpreting the Bible:

-- Robert Johnson, dean of North Park College and Seminary in Chicago, said: "The church needs to speak in a language more attuned to where modern men and women live. If mission is our goal, communication must begin with where people are."

Most successful evangelism has interpreted basic biblical themes in modern terms, he said.

-- Walter Kaiser, dean at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., drew a distinction between the meaning and significance of Old Testament passages. Meaning is determined by the author's intention, and significance involves the reader's perspective, he said.

Failure to interpret the Bible in light of both the author's intention and modern culture will result in "the loss of meaning in the house of God," he noted.

-- Grant Osborne, professor at Trinity, added interpretation is incomplete until put in a modern context. Consequently, an interpreter must understand both modern and ancient culture.

"The New Testament author shared certain assumptions with his readers, and the interpreter needs to discover these underlying 'givens' in order to understand the text properly," he said. On the modern side, "every exegetical (interpretive) decision has political ramifications" in the Southern Baptist controversy, and the ramifications should be classified as tolerable or intolerable only on the basis of whether they are "cardinal doctrines," he added.

Attendance at the conference was less than one-third of the 1,000 participants in the 1987 inerrancy conference.

The seminary presidents "don't think this indicates a lack of interest or a bad crowd," said Russell Dilday of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. However, the absence of leaders of the moderate and conservative factions in the controversy "almost implies to me that theology is not the issue."

--30--

(Also contributing to this story were Linda Lawson, Norman Jameson and Mark Wingfield.)

Inerrancy 'unfruitfully linked'
To interpretation, Packer says

By Norman Jameson

Baptist Press 4/29/88

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Inerrancy has been "unfruitfully linked" to biblical interpretation by many Southern Baptists in ways that are "less than scholarly," theologian J.I. Packer said in his closing statement to 200 Southern Baptist ministers attending the second national conference on the Bible.

Packer called himself and three other theologians who delivered plenary addresses "a team of visiting firemen" as they sat in a panel and answered questions from participants.

As a final question, moderator John Newport, dean and provost of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, asked each panelist to give "an outsider's" view of Southern Baptist life.

Packer, an internationally renowned theologian and avowed inerrantist, observed that in the Southern Baptist situation, "the people who have insisted most strongly that they stand for the inerrancy of Scripture have also been standing for a particular way of interpreting Scripture that in certain respects would seem to others of us to be less than scholarly."

He said they have linked inerrancy to interpretation in such a way "that they won't believe that anyone who doesn't handle the Bible in the same way they do really believes in the total trustworthiness of Scripture."

"More work needs to be done on this," he said of the linkage. "I would hope for a more scholarly and disciplined way of handling the Bible."

Packer acknowleged it would take years of discussion to correct because "intellectual habits of years are not dealt with in five minutes."

Panelists handled just eight questions in the hour given to response. Participants did not ask for clarification of earlier statements but wanted comment on issues not addressed.

Walter Kaiser, dean of Old Testament at Trinity Evangelical Seminary in Deerfield, Ill., said the only creation-dating process he would wrestle to the death for is, "In the beginning." He has "no problem" with an earth 5 billion to 15 billion years old, and the current "young earth" move among evangelicals is "not rightly pitched and aimed," he said, noting, "It's becoming a test for inerrancy, and that's not fair."

On abortion, Robert Johnston, dean of North Park College and Theological Seminary in Chicago, said if the Old Testament absolutely declared life begins at conception, there would be no debate. Anything after conception would be murder.

"The fact there is discussion indicates there is no certainty," he said. If it's not certain life begins at conception, then Christians need to move together on the bigger issue of abortion to slow down its misuse, he added.

Kaiser was more adamant, saying if God judged the Third Reich for murdering 6 million Jews, he does not see what keeps God from judging America, which has killed four times that many babies through abortion.

Concerning women, Packer, who earlier said women have a secondary role due to creation order, noted no New Testament passage can be quoted as forbidding the people of God from putting women in an ecclesiastical role. It is more a question of gifts than rights, he said.

Recognizing all gifts of God are meant to be used, he suggested ministry be structured to utilize women in "maternal" ministry roles for which they are even better suited then men, such as counceling and caring ministries.

Johnston, who said he currently is looking for a female theology professor for his school, pointed out that in the second creation story in Genesis, "the man shall leave his mother" and cleave to his wife. He surmised the author may have said it that way to keep readers from misinterpreting the importance of creation order where the man came first.

Kaiser said in his closing remarks he is concerned about what happens to Southern Baptists in their controversy because "what happens to you is going to affect all of American church life."

Johnston contrasted the 1,000 people who attended last year's conference on biblical inerrancy with the 300 who came to the conference on interpretation. The dramatic drop illustrated the problem seminaries face, he said.

"When you get down in the trenches and do the hard, interpretive work ... people become suspicious and bail out." he said.

He warned that in controversies like that embroiling Southern Baptists since 1979, "evangelicals run the risk of losing our mission to the secular world to the extent we concentrate on our internecine warfare."

--30--

Seminary presidents Tout conferences

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press 4/29/88

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Three national conferences sponsored by the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries represent an excellent opportunity for Baptists to discuss their views on critical issues and determine areas of agreement and difference, five seminary presidents agreed.

During a news conference held at the Conference on Biblical Interpretation at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, the presidents responded to a call by former SBC President James T. Draper Jr. for Southern Baptists to "sit down together and talk seriously about theology."

Draper had been on the conference program to respond to a presentation on the doctrine of women by Canadian theologian James I. Packer. However, he addressed broader issues, listing questions he said Baptists should address in determining how much diversity in biblical interpretation can be accommodated.

A statement read by Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., on behalf of the five presidents said:

"Dr. Jimmy Draper was invited to respond to the issue of women in ministry. We were surprised when he chose to ignore the topic under consideration and present a personal statement about our current controversy. Nevertheless, we are ready and eager to listen to his concerns and respond to his requests and interests.

"We regret that Dr. Draper was not present at the 1987 Conference on Biblical Inerrancy and that he was present this year for only one session. We invite and encourage him to share fully in the 1989 Conference on Biblical Imperatives," the statement continued. That conference is set for April 24-26 at Ridgecrest.

The five presidents said the purpose of all three conferences has been "to listen to and therefore understand each other better. Therefore, we will continue to enlist representatives of all Southern Baptist viewpoints in these conferences."

Lewis Drummond, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., since April 1, did not attend a private meeting where the other five presidents discussed their response to Draper. He also was not present at the news conference.

Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said Draper "was present for the kind of forum that he was calling for. We feel we're doing what he called on us to do."

Honeycutt said he regrets Draper's statements drew attention from the overall purpose of the conference. "To let one of four respondents characterize the whole conference is lamentable," he said. "Until that juncture, the conference was more apolitical than last year."

Despite the fact about 300 people attended the biblical interpretation conference in contrast to the 1,000 who participated in the 1987 inerrancy conference, Russell Dilday said, "We don't think this indicates a lack of interest or a bad crowd."

Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said the impact of the conferences "is not only in the number attending but in the reports and documents from the meeting." A book of the proceedings of the conference will be released by Broadman Press in June before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

At the same time, Dilday said, the absence in the conference of leaders of the moderate and conservative factions in the current convention controversy "almost implies to me that theology is not the issue."

The presidents said they believe their charters spell out clearly their purpose for existence, and the statements of faith signed by their faculties provide clear parameters and guidelines for teaching.

"Our charter spells out clearly that we are to prepare God-called men and women for church-related vocation in the churches and the denomination," said Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dilday said a "spotlight" has been on the seminaries for 10 years. "There are still less than eight or 10 specific persons on our faculties that have been accused of teaching outside the general parameters of what Baptists would expect. ... We do have people that drift outside the parameter even though it is indefinable. We will always have to discipline and correct and bring us back. We have the clearest statement, these six schools, as to what our teaching is to be in terms of its doctrinal orthodoxy and we abide by that Baptist Faith and Message as our guideline."

Ferguson said the presidents are considering the possibility of continuing to sponsor national conferences beyond 1989.

However, he noted the conferences require a heavy investment of personnel and money. Each of the six seminaries contributed about \$6,000 toward paying expenses of the 1987 conference.

CORRECTION: Please make two changes in the 4/28/88 Baptist Press story titled "Historical Commission adopts peace response."

The beginning of the first graf should read: Nashville (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission approved ...

And the award recipient mentioned in the last graf is G. Hugh Wamble.

Thanks, Baptist Press

Former SBC second VP Dies in Asheville, N.C.

Baptist Press 4/29/88

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Ray E. Roberts, 72, retired executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Ohio and former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died April 25 in an Asheville, N.C., hospital. Roberts apparently suffered a heart attack.

A native of Madison County, N.C., Roberts was executive secretary in Ohio from July 1952 until his retirement in March 1980. He was elected second vice president of the SBC during the convention's Atlanta meeting in June 1986.

Roberts was a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and attended Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. During his ministry, Roberts was pastor of churches in Kentucky, Ohio and North Carolina.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret Mooneyham Roberts; three sons, Ray E. Roberts Jr. of Livingston, N.J., Roger Roberts of Wichita, Kan., and Phillip Roberts of Brussels, Belgium; a daughter, Rebecca R. Craft of Dallas, two sisters, Mary Kathryn Harrison and Margie Pepple of Asheville; and seven grandchildren.

At the time of his death, Roberts was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Asheville. Funeral services were conducted at the church April 28. The church's pastor, Aubrey Folk, was assisted in the service by Roberts' three sons, all of whom are ordained ministers.

The family has requested memorials be made to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367; or to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

--30--

RTVC board members mean Business on development

Baptist Press 4/29/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission board members proved they meant business when they asked the staff to show them how they conduct fund-raising dinners.

Nineteen members who attended the April board meeting pledged gifts to support the commission's work of preaching the gospel via radio and television. The total amount pledged and given by trustees and commission administrators was \$34,280.

Last January the board instructed the commission's development department to stage a demonstration of a typical fund-raising activity during the April meeting.

Trustee Chairman Jewel Morris, a Fort Smith, Ark., layman, expressed his appreciation for the participation and said, "Some of those who could not attend have requested commitment cards so they, too, can participate."

Commission President Jimmy R. Allen said: "This demonstration of support is clear evidence that our trustees believe in the unique mission ministry of the Radio and Television Commission. Their affimation should be an encouragement to all Southern Baptists as they consider the opportunities God is giving us to reach America with the gospel."

Development committee chairman and Georgia trustee Jimmy Waters predicted the trustee response would be an encouragement to both individuals and foundations who might consider giving to the work of the commission in the future.

--30--

Congregation witnesses
Double murder, suicide

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press 4/29/88

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Apparently upset over a troubled marriage, a Hmong man walked into a Sunday afternoon worship service April 24 at Baptist Temple in Fresno, Calif., and shot his wife and 3-year-old daughter before an astonished congregation.

Pong Lor, believed to be about 45, then turned the .38-caliber revolver on himself as worshippers frantically sought refuge on the floor.

Lor and his 38-year-old wife, Ma Lee, were both dead when police and medics arrived. The daughter died later in a Fresno hospital.

Lonnie Chavez, California Baptist language missions director, was the guest speaker for Hmong mission sponsored by Baptist Temple which holds services at 3 p.m. Sundays.

Chavez was facing the congregation seated on the platform with Pastor Patoua Vang, in front of a choir of about 20 teenagers.

Chavez said he noticed the man coming into the service about 3:30 while a couple was singing special music just prior to his sermon. Since the Hmong service often has people coming in and out. Chavez said he did not pay much attention at the time.

"He came down the center aisle about five rows, faced right, bent down and the next thing I heard was a shot," Chavez said. "I yelled, 'Get down,' and for a split moment thought about charging the man but knew I couldn't stop a bullet."

Chavez heard three shots and then bolted out a side door intent on calling the police. He found a phone booth across the street from the church and called the 911 emergency number. Police and medics arrived on the scene in about 15 minutes, he said.

When he got back to the auditorium, people were milling about the room obviously distraught. About 120 people atttended the service, Chavez said, almost all Hmong, Laotian immigrants who came to the United States following the Viet Nam war.

Five other children are in the family, ranging in age from 11 years to 11 months. They were not in the auditorium at the time of the shooting, Chavez said, but relatives of the husband said he probably came to the church intent on killing the entire family.

Although the motive behind the shooting was still unclear, police theorized the couple had been having marital problems, and reportedly the woman had asked the man to leave the house. Witnesses later told the police the man had been evicted from the home for about two weeks.

One member of the congregation, Cheng Cha, told police the gunman yelled, "You die now," in Hmong just before firing.

"She kicked him out and he was angry," said Cha. "A woman (in Hmong culture) doesn't usually do that."

Fresno County juvenile authorities reportedly have placed the surviving children with a cousin who was at the service. The wife and children were regular attenders at the mission, while the gunman attended sporadically.

The Hmong congregation is one of the larger Laotian groups in California and often has 200 people for worship, said Elmer Gray, retired state worker who is interim pastor of Baptist Temple. The parent church has been without a regular pastor for about a year, he said. The church also sponsors a Korean mission that meets in another building at the same time as the Anglo congregation.

--30--

Carlyle Hayes named development
Director at Southwestern Seminary

Baptist Press 4/29/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Carlyle Hayes, assistant vice president of development for Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, has been named director of development at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Hayes, 62, will assume his duties at Southwestern May 15.

He previously worked at Cargill Associates as director of the fund raising firm's capital campaigns for five years.

For 23 years, Hayes was with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission where he was director of development. In 1974 he was named senior vice president for the commission's management services division.

As Southwestern's director of development, Hayes will coordinate the seminary's \$50 million Upward 90 campaign, a strategic plan for ministry in the 1990s.

Hayes replaces James Holcomb who resigned to become vice president for advancement at Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth.

--30--

NOTE TO EDITORS: In BP 4/27/88, in listing of nominees for trustee of the Home Mission Board, those who picked up the computer version have the correct list. However, in the BP which was mailed, there is an error.

On Page 5, eighth paragraph, please delete the name of Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue church, Fort Worth, Texas, as a nominee to the Home Mission Board. Add a paragraph -- suggested placement, new 13th paragraph -- which says: "The subcommittee also will nominate a replacement for Lawanna McIver, Dallas, who is ineligible for renomination."

BP is working on a story about Joel Gregory declining to accept nomination to the HMB. However, the inclusion of his name on the mailed list was inadvertent and in error.

Thanks, Baptist Press

### HONSE WAIL



901 Commerce #750 Nashville, Tennessee 37203

HOUSE MAIL

SO.BAPT. LIB. & ARCH. 901 COMMERCE SUITE 400 NASHVILLE, TN. 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION 1