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# PHOTO INFORMATION

The news room staff provides three major photo services:

-- PHOTOS OF THE CONVENTION will be taken, developed and printed by a professional staff. A list of pre-scheduled photos is posted on the bulletin board by the photo editor's desk. Copies of the photos will be posted on this bulletin board as they are printed.

Please order the photos by number, early in the week, so we can fill your orders efficiently.

Place orders with the photo editor.

Cost: \$4 each.

-- YOUR FILM can be developed, and prints can be made from your negatives. We develop at ASA 400, 1600 and 3200 (T-Max film only, at this speed). We print your negatives full-frame on  $8\ X$  10 glossy paper.

The cut-off for initiating this service is 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Place orders with the photo editor.

Cost: \$8 for developing, \$5 for prints.

-- SETS OF 25 COLOR SLIDES of convention highlights will be available about 2-3 weeks following the convention.

Place orders at the photo sale booth in the convention center.

Cost: \$15.



HMB directors lament 'inequitable' CP budget, ask change next year

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors called the convention's proposed 1989-90 Cooperative Program unified budget "inequitable" but declined to recommend changes that might be divisive during their June meeting.

A report on the Cooperative Program budget was approved by the board's executive committee. It was presented by Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla., chairman of an ad hoc committee appointed to draft a response to the 1989-90 budget proposed by the SBC Executive Committee.

The denominational budget must be approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15. The proposed 1989-90 budget, which jointly funds two mission boards, six seminaries and 11 other national agencies, would channel nearly \$1 million less to the Atlanta-based HMB next year than this year.

"The proposed SBC Cooperative Program budget is inequitable to the Home Mission Board," the report said. "However, the subcommittee feels that the approach of bringing a substitute motion at the convention in Las Vegas to correct this inequity would be counterproductive to the Home Mission Board and its work.

Allen said directors will abide by the SBC Executive Committee's decision but will draft a letter "pleading with them to correct this inequity" in the next budget year.

The Executive Committee, during its February meeting, proposed a new approach to the Cooperative Program basic operating budget, moving from a goal-oriented budget to one based on performance.

The 1989-90 budget calls for a goal of \$134,787,543 the amount of actual receipts in the last year of record, 1987-88. It represents a 2.05 percent decrease from the 1988-89 basic operating budget of \$137,610,000.

In other action, board members elected Danny Moore of Atlanta as director of the business services, division replacing Charles Stewart, who was elected director of mission property. Stewart replaces Charles Elder, who will take early retirement.

Moore is a native of Dothan, Ala., and worked 21 years as a manager for IBM.

President Larry Lewis reported on progress toward reducing the current HMB budget by \$8.2 million. The reductions are due primarily to a shortfall of income from last year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and the anticipated decrease in next year's Cooperative Program funding, and absence of excess reserve funds that have supplemented its budget it recent years.

Lewis said \$5.9 million has been cut from the Atlanta budget. Another \$700,000 was cut by negotiating with state conventions to delete positions that have been vacant for several years, he said.

Because the budget must still be reduced by \$1.6 million, Lewis said, "we'll be taking a hard look at our work here in Atlanta and in the states."



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Falwell News Conference at RNA

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 11 -- Baptist conservative Jerry Falwell told religion newswriters Sunday he will dissolve the Moral Majority, a political lobby he founded 10 years ago with the help of former SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta.

As an aside, Falwell also announced to members of the Religion Newswriters Association that he does not intend to become a Southern Baptist.

The newswriters and Falwell are in Las Vegas for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Falwell will address a gathering of Southern Baptist evangelists Wednesday.

When Falwell agreed to attend the convention, rumors began to circulate that his church, Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., might join the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I have no intention of joining the Southern Baptist Convention," Falwell said. "I would be of no value to them.

"We have our own school to support, our own mission board to support," he said. "I would just be one more pastor among thousands of pastors.

"The Southern Baptist Convention would be of no value to our ministry. There's nothing in the Southern Baptist Convention or in our ministry that we cannot mutally enjoy."

Because of the influence of the Moral Majority, Southern Baptist pastors like Stanley, of First Baptist Church Atlanta, have gained credibility as spokesmen on moral concerns, Falwell said.

"Ten years ago, people in our camp were not willing to do anything but call names when addressing people on the other side," he explained, but added that has changed as more polished spokesmen have emerged.

"I could name a lot of people I would not hesitate to ask to sit in for me at a function. I do it often," he said. "There used to be a time I wouldn't dare let somebody go (to Harvard or Yale) to represent our cause."

Falwell denied any direct link between the rise of the Moral Majority and the rise of the conservative group that has changed the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Both movements began in 1979. With Falwell's announcement, leaders of both have now said their task is completed.

"I believe we've accomplished everything we set out to do," Falwell said of the Moral Majority's influence on American politics. In a recent interview with Baptist Press, current SBC president Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., said he believes the theological conflict in the 14.7-million member denomination is also resolved.

Falwell acknoweldged he has heard rumors that "Adrian Rogers, W.A. Criswell,

## Falwell News Conference at RNA--Page 2

Charles Stanley, Jimmy Draper, Jerry Vines and Jerry Falwell all sat down and said, 'Let's take over the Southern Baptist Convention.'

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"There's never been such a meeting," he insisted. "There's never been such phone calls. There's never been such correspondence.

"I'm sure there is a strategy," Falwell said. "Of course, there's Judge Pressler, there's Paige Patterson, there are these gentlemen who are very savvy on the right, as well as there are those who are savvy on the left.

"But it didn't happen because of some clandestine effort. It happened simply because philosophically there was a moving to the right," he said.

Falwell said the Moral Majority would close its Washington, D.C., office at the end of this fiscal year, August 31, eliminating about a dozen jobs, including that of Southern Baptist Jerry Nimms, president of Moral Majority.

In reviewing the 10-year history of the organization, Falwell claimed credit for sending Ronald Reagan and George Bush to the White House by coalescing conservative evangelicals into a "strong political force."

He said Moral Majority "marshalled thousands of voters" to address moral concerns that have become known as the agenda of the Religious Right.

Over the 10-year span, Moral Majority raised \$69 million, he said. Another indication of its influence was the 3 million calls Moral Majority adherents directed to Congress in protest of one controversial piece of legislation.

"Now the mindset of the country is that activism is everybody's job," Falwell explained. "The mindset of this country has changed."

Conservative evangelicals are no longer "on the outside screaming to get in" as they were 10 years ago, he said.

Despite ending the formal organization, the work of Moral Majority will "go on forever," Falwell said. "The pastors who are movitated will go on. I will continue to speak on moral issues."

Falwell said dissolution of the Moral Majority will have little effect on his schedule, since he relinquished daily control of the group two years ago. He also reiterated plans to focus more on the ministry of his local church and on Liberty University, which he founded.

"I've never had any misconception about who I am," he said. "I've never felt I was called to politics. I'm planning to spend the rest of my years pastoring that church and leading that university."

Falwell said California psychologist and radio personality James Dobson is the "rising star" to marshall evangelicals in the way Moral Majority has in the past. -30-

By Mark Wingfield, 2:20 p.m. Sunday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women in Ministry Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 11--Southern Baptist women were encouraged at a two-day meeting here to be people of destiny and faith.

At the opening session of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry, Catherine Allen, of Birmingham, Ala., told a group of more than 100 people at Alexis Park Resort they must share the gospel with a hurting humanity, despite opposition in their roles as ministers.

"If you can help bring the joys of Jesus Christ to all the people of the world, starting right here in this city, among this people and this convention, you will have performed a great service," she said. "And then going forth from this meeting, if your strength can help untie the ropes of a limited gospel that will bind women to the pews, then you will have performed your mission."

History shows that the cause and methods of missions have been advanced through the determined efforts of women, said Allen, associate executive director of Women's Missionary Union, auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Women do shape Baptist history," she added. "Our handprints are indelibly impressed on the best and most beautiful features of Southern Baptist life today."

Women continue to make history through ministry, Allen pointed out. "Somewhere in this (annual meeting), between indulgence and insult, some women will make a definite contribution to progress in the Southern Baptist Convention."

As ministers who desire to impact history through the spread of the gospel, Allen noted several factors women should consider.

"First, we are dealing with a far-away destiny," she said. "We must acknowledge and be realistic about the fact that the full bloom of Christian womanhood can be seen only at a great distance.

"If a woman in ministry today must see a clear path to a definite place of service and affirmation in order to believe God's call, she'll never make it. But when a woman's belief gets her eyes to see the invisible possibilities of the future, she will find a way to get there. Believing means that you see the far-away goals set by God and make tomorrow's decisions today."

Secondly, women in ministry positions must be prepared to face nearby opposition, she said. "As a woman seeking to fulfill a call to ministry, you will be opposed. If you are not opposed, you're not trying hard enough!"

In pure Baptist polity, Allen said, ministry is a word and a role that belongs to everybody.

"But there is among us an impure Baptist polity polluted by a wet blanket of gender discrimination laid over the command of Christ to preach the gospel to every creature.

"Aspire to be whatever God calls you to be, see it through faith and embrace the opposition," she said.

Another important fact r for women in ministry to remember is "we are pressing toward a higher calling," Allen continued. "There is very little joy in limiting y ur life to the expectations and demands of peers and authority figures. Let God set the direction of your life; let needy people set your daily agenda, and you will soon find more power than you can use.

"Faith helps us believe that right makes might. Faith reminds us that God can use the weak things of this world to confound those who think they are mighty."

Women must also take up a wider responsibility for those around them, overcome the inner drive for self preservation, and have a deeper stability within the convention, Allen said.

"Southern Baptists cannot afford to keep exporting our leadership of women into other denominations and into secularism. And to contemporary women such as yourselves who might be contemplating such a shift, I will say you cannot afford to be exported, because God called you in this denomination and I seriously doubt that it would be in God's plan and wisdom for you to leave such a desperately needy field."

Temptations abound for women in ministry positions to "desert their heritage and disassociate from the unpleasantness," she said, "but victory is going to belong to those who endure the longest.

"Even a minority is a might force to be reckoned with if it is present, visible and in the way," she added. "God will give an inner reward to those who keep on seeking the far-away promises. ... Women of destiny and faith, lead us on!"

During a business session, Women in Ministry members welcomed new officers and elected new steering committee members, adopted a motion, and heard a report on recommendations from their steering committee.

Officers, elected prior to the meeting by the group's steering committee, will serve through the coming year. They are Betty Winstead McGary, minister to adults, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, president; Nancy Furgerson Cole, minister of music, Hanley Road Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., vice president; Donna Charlton-Starkes, associate pastor, Tropicana Christian Fellowship, Las Vegas, treasurer; Carol Causey, training designer, WMU, Birmingham, recorder; Carolyn Cole Bucy, minister of youth, Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, program chairman; and Sheila Black, director of church and community ministries, Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C., membership chairman.

The women adopted a motion instructing their steering committee to appoint a "project committee" which would explore ways to promote the inclusion of women in seminary curriculum.

President McGary presented a report on several recommendations of the steering committee that Women in Ministry members will consider at their June 1990 meeting in New Orleans, La. The steering committee recommended that:

- -- The Center for Women in Ministry in Louisville, Ky., will become the Center for Southern Baptist Women in Ministry and the organization will govern all the operations of the center, having a fiscal relationship with one tax-emept status.
  - -- The office of president-elect will be added to the steering committee.
- --Steering committee members will serve for four years, instead of the current one-year term.

Newly-elected steering committee members include E. Ruth Fowler of Staten Island, N.Y.; Roger A. Paynter of Waco; Christine Rowland of Dallas, Texas; M. Sue Skinner of Oakland, Calif.; and Pamela Tanner and Edgar Tanner, both of Sugar Land, Texas.

Women in Ministry members concluded their annual meeting with a Sunday morning worship service when leaders inspired the group to consider each person's life a "tapestry of faith"--a compilation of gifts to be shared and used for God's glory.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Door-to-door witness

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 10 -- Bill Wilkinson sat on the curb of a street in southwest Las Vegas Saturday sipping on a cold drink.

"It's a city that's open to the gospel," said Wilkinson, summing up his two days of survey work. "I wouldn't classify it as a 'sin city'. They're just like people all over the world who need the Lord. They're just everyday people," added the member of First Baptist Church Hendersonville, N.C.

Those "everyday people" were the target of Wilkinson and 1,800 other Southern Baptists who canvassed neighborhoods, attempting to survey 100,000 homes in the Las Vegas Valley.

"This has been a great opportunity for Southern Baptists to do something positive in this city," Wilkinson said. "People had been expecting us."

"I heard about you coming last night on television," one resident told Lynelle and Gary Cobb of Leaclair Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. "And now here you are, standing in my kitchen."

That type of recognition is what the local association of Baptist churches and organizers of the campaign at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., had hoped to get.

"One goal of this is that people are going to know who Southern Baptists are," said Bill Underwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Las Vegas. "We're not trying to close down the Strip or anything. We just want to tell people that Jesus cares. We're not trying to high-pressure anyone into a decision."

While the presence of hundreds of Baptists in their neighborhoods was new to Las Vegas residents, their visits were expected. Media coverage prior to the campaign paved the way for the surveyors.

But the irony of Southern Baptists knocking on doors in the nation's gambling capital didn't seem to bother the hearty witnesses.

Battling 95-degree temperatures and unanswered doors, the volunteers were relentness in their task. Clad in sneakers and T-shirts bearing slogans such as "Jesus Said Go Tell," the witnesses worked in teams of two.

In what Stanley Clark called a "Herculean effort," the teams hit the streets armed with maps and address labels. Clark and his wife Beverly are Mission Service Corps volunteer from Ohio who have coordinated the work since January.

The volunteers used an eight-question survey and tracts titled "Eternal Life," written just for witnessing effort.

"The wording of the tract is really good," said Dottie Pickard. "It asks the right questions."

Pickard and her husband David are members of Victory in Jesus Baptist Church in Duluth, Ga. Along with Wilkinson, the trio knocked on 110 doors Friday and Saturday. Pickard said she found the people "very receptive" and many invited the group into their homes.

The Pickards and Wilkinson were part of a team which targeted southwest Las Vegas, laying groundwork for a new mission of First Baptist Church. Eric Griffin, a recent seminary graduate and the mission's pastor, directed the survey work in that part of the city.

# Door-to-door witness -- Page 2

"What we're doing isn't anything we haven't done before." Clark said. . "It's just more concentrated because we have more people."

Clark and Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism at the Home Mission Board, told the volunteers not to "badger" residents.

"This is a 24-hour town," Ramsey said during a training session prior to the visits. "We don't want to argue with anyone," Clark added.

The volunteers were instructed to knock on each door only once. If no one answered, they went to the next house, Ramsey said.

Bill Harris, a worker from Augusta, Ga., wasn't able to join the teams on the street because of a heart problem. Instead, Harris used a telephone. "I'm still having people accept Christ," he said.

"To me, it's essential," said Peggy Matthews, a volunteer from Crown Point Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. "The time is growing short. We need to be sharing Jesus with these people rather than being concerned with winning money gambling."

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By Scott Collins--2:35 p.m. Sunday



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pressler-Hastey Debate at RNA

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 10 -- In a debate before the Religion Newswriters Association, two Southern Baptist personalities agreed Saturday there are problems with Baptist Press but disagreed over the direction the denominational news service is headed.

Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and member of the SBC Executive Committee which oversees Baptist Press, clashed with Stan Hastey, executive director of the Southern Baptist Alliance and former chief of the news service's Washington, D.C., bureau.

Pressler cited a litary of examples of what he classified as Baptist Press wrongdoings but concluded that the news service is improving. Hastey listed examples of ways he felt Baptist Press showed restraint in 10 years of denominational conflict, while contending the news service is headed toward becoming a "public relations machine."

The format of the debate allowed each man to speak for 20 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer time. The most intense exchange occurred during questioning when Pressler reiterated his opinion that Baptist Press articles in the past have been tainted by the personal convictions of writers.

Pressler distributed 87 pages of documentation of what he called factual errors and biases that have colored past Baptist Press stories and other articles by news service writers.

Among those examples was an editorial column titled "SBC Fundamentalists on the March" which Hastey wrote for The Christian Century in 1986, while still a denominational employee. Although the article was not distributed by Baptist Press. Pressler said it illustrated the underlying presuppositions Hastey had brought to his denominational job.

Hastey said Pressler failed to distinguish between news writing and editorial writing in making that accusation.

"That's not the point I was making," Pressler replied. "The point was that the presuppositions and the frame of reference and the attitude of the person writing will frequently color his writing."

Hastey responded: "Would you grant me the right to be prejudiced now that I'm off the denominational payroll?"

"Yes," Pressler replied. "But I think the fact that you are now head of the Southern Baptist Alliance shows the frame of reference from which you were operating when you were writing for Baptist Press."

"I was entitled as a BP writer -- as a Baptist -- to have an opinion too," Hastey countered. "Denominational employees do not forfeit the priesthood of the believer. They do not forfeit their individuality simply because they're on the payroll."

Pressler responded: "I agree with you. But some people wonder why sometimes the Baptist Press reflects more in favor of one side than the other. I think the predilections of those writing is frequently the explanation."

Pressler said that as a judge he excuses himself from hearing cases where he might be biased by a pers nal interest.

Pressler-Hastey Debate at RNA -- Page 2 minds about what the truth is."

Likewise, the press ought to be free of bias, he added, stating that the purpose of the press is to "deliver facts in an unbiased way so people can make up their

Both Hastey and Pressler agreed the BP system faces potential bias in this regard because denominational employees write about the actions of their own agencies.

As an example, Pressler cited a late-1970s controversy over Baptist Sunday School Board employee Don Burnett. In that situation, the Nashville bureau of Baptist Press at the Sunday School Board failed to tell all the facts about a lawsuit involving Burnett, he said.

Hastey countered that Baptist Press generally maintained credibility using agency-paid writers until those agencies began to be controlled by more conservative trustees and presidents.

He said Baptist Press determined from its beginning to "tell the Southern Baptist story and tell it straight, good news and bad.

"Until a few years ago, Baptist Press always could rely on the Executive Committee itself for the necessary protection any news organization must enjoy to preserve journalistic integrity," Hastey said. "Over the course of the last decade, this protective insulation has been subjected to higher and higher temperatures both by denominational executives and the Executive Committee itself.

"The scorching Baptist Press writers and editors have been taking, particularly over the past half-dozen years, some day will yield inevitably what its severest critics want: a public relations machine rather than a legitimate news service."

Hastey said the Executive Committee's own meetings have become the most difficult to cover. Only the body's plenary sessions are "on the record." He said the most substantive debate occurs in subcommittee meetings which are covered on "background only" rules, meaning reporters cannot attribute quotes.

"It is in these meetings that Judge Pressler has worked the system to his full advantage, leveling a variety of largely unfounded charges against his favorite targets, including Baptist Press, all under the cover of a rule that prevents reporters from quoting or even identifying him."

Hastey said state Baptist editors and the RNA should have challenged this procedure long ago.

"Judge Pressler's game is quite simply intimidation," he said, adding that Pressler has issued "constant threats" to Baptist Press reporters and editors, including firing.

"Despite this constant harassment, Baptist Press personnel have maintained remarkable professionalism in continuing to tell the story of the SBC conflict," Hastey said.

"Baptist Press has gone out of its way not to exacerbate the growing rift between the two sides in the conflict." he said, citing four examples, including the

- -- That Baptist Press has never reported on "ties to extremist political organizations by Pressler and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.
- -- That Baptist Press has "repeatedly given ground" in debate over what labels to use for the two sides in the conflict and finally "gave in" to Judge Pressler.

--more--



News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600

Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin News Room Manager Marv Knox Features Manager Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Pressler-Hastey Debate at RNA -- Page 3

"Outright control of Baptist Press has been and remains one of Judge Pressler's highest priorities," Hastey concluded. "He knows, as do all those who work for Baptist Press, that such control very well might be the most valuable spoils in the war over the Southern Baptist Convention."

Hastey spoke from a six-page manuscript. Pressler came to the podium with a three-inch thick file folder of information. Throughout Pressler's presentation, his assistants roamed the room handing out documentation of his charges against Baptist Press.

Pressler cited at least 14 incidents, including:

- -- Written statements by former Baptist Press director W.C. Fields calling Pressler and others "a dissident group of fundamentalists."
- -- Recent coverage of giving to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget. Pressler read several headlines and noted, "All of these are bad headlines."

He asserted that the Cooperative Program has done better in recent months than Baptist Press reports would lead readers to believe. "When you have a big increase, it's played down," he said.

Pressler charged that Cooperative Program reports were downplayed to undermine the leadership of current SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.

-- That Baptist Press reported extensive details about the personal finances of layman Lee Roberts, who has been a critic of Georgia's Mercer University, but waited three months to report on financial troubles at Mercer.

Pressler called on Baptist Press to admit errors, apologize when mistakes are discovered, and to represent all Southern Baptists "positively and fairly."

When asked if he wanted to purge current leadership in Baptist Press, Pressler replied: "I don't want to see (Baptist Press director) Al Shackleford fired. I want Al Shackleford to be fair and to listen to the other side."

As a joke, Pressler gave RNA members bright red and white bumper stickers proclaiming: "Don't Believe the Liberal Media."

-- 30 --

By Mark Wingfield -- 2:05 Sunday



News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600 Alvin C. Shackleford

SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin

News Room Manager Mary Knox

Features Manager Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WMU Executive Board

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 10-The executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union approved a record budget Saturday and set upcoming national home and foreign mission offering goals.

But one action that was noticeably absent was the naming of a national WMU executive director to succeed Carolyn Weatherford, who will retire Sept. 1 and marry Cincinnati pastor Joe Crumpler.

Even though the search committee had hoped to make an announcement by this meeting, Marjorie McCullough, national WMU president, said the committee did not want to be rushed as they make this decision. There is no projected announcement date at this time, she said.

The board adopted a record budget of \$11,450,568 for 1989-90. The new budget represents a 3.7 percent increase from the current year's budget of \$11.1 million.

Board members also voted to increase the goal of the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions from \$76.5 million to \$81 million. The decision to increase the goal stemmed from the recent announcement that \$78.7 million had been received for the 1988 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Although the 1988 offering receipts fell short of the \$84 million goal, the figure does represent a 12.7 percent increase over the 1987 offering.

The board also set offering goals for 1990. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$86 million, and the goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is \$41 million.

A new publication was introduced during the meeting. "Magazette" will be published by WMU for the Southern Baptist Minister's Wives organization.

By Susan Todd--4:00 p.m.

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News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600 Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin News Room Manager

Marv Knox Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

# 1989 SBC PHOTO LIST

9-A		
	0 00	Saturday, June 10
1.	8:00 a.m.	Door-to-door witnessing.
2.	afternoon	Campers on Mission doing church construction.
3.	7:00 p.m.	"Here's Hope" simultaneous revival.
		Sunday, June 11
4.	9:45 a.m.	Women in Ministry officers.
5.	p.m.	SBC messengers on The Strip or Fremont Street.
6.	5:45 p.m.	Directors of missions' officers.
7.	7:00 p.m.	Hispanic "Here's Hope" Rally of Celebration.
8.	evening	Registration.
9.	evening	Credentials Committee.
10.	evening	SBC Newsroom.
	evening	DEC NEWSI COM.
		Monday, June 12
11.	9:30 a.m.	Carolyn Weatherford at Woman's Missionary Union.
12.	11:30 a.m.	Religious education officers.
13.	11:30 a.m.	Church music officers.
14.	11:30 a.m.	Forum steering committee.
15.	11:45 a.m.	Peace fellowship luncheon.
16.	12:30 p.m.	Campus ministers' officers.
17.	1:00 p.m.	Black Baptist fellowship.
18.	8:30 p.m.	Pastors' Conference officers.
Tuesday, June 13		
19.	7:30 a.m.	Crowd feature, indoors.
20.	7:30 a.m.	Crowd feature, outdoors.
21.	9:00 a.m.	Convention photo with "Las Vegas '89" overburn
21a.	9:00 a.m.	Convention photo without overburn.
22.	9:25 a.m.	Gray Allison, theme interpretation.
	=	
23.	11:25 a.m.	Jerry Vines, President's Address. Ministers' Wives' officers.
24. 25.	12 noon	
26.	12:10 p.m.	Messengers eating lunch.
	afternoon	BTN coverage of convention.
27.	afternoon	Exhibit hall feature.
28.	2:30 p.m.	Messengers voting with ballots.
29.	afternoon	Messengers at microphones.
30.	6:00 р.ш.	Evangelists' officers.
31.	6:00 p.m.	President's press conference.
32.	•	President and family/wife.
33.	7:20 p.m.	Bobby Boyles, theme interpretation.
34.	8:00 p.m.	Foreign missions report.
Wednesday, June 14		
35.	morning	Child care.
36.	8:30 a.m.	New SBC officers
37.	8:50 a.m.	Congregational singing.
38.	12 noon	Morris Chapman, Convention Sermon.
39.	1:15 p.m.	Jerry Falwell at evangelists' meeting.
40.	1:15 p.m.	Arthur Blessitt, messengers on The Strip.
41.	7:05 p.m.	Bo Whittington, theme interpretation.
42.	8:05 p.m.	Home missions report.
. <b></b>		
Thursday, June 15		
43.	12 noon	Charles Stanley, sermon.
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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday neighborhood visitation

(LAS VEGAS,) Nev., June 10--As temperatures hovered in the mid-nineties, almost 2,000 Southern Baptists knocked on doors throughout Las Vegas, registering more than 350 professions of faith in the denomination's largest one-day witnessing effort.

Preliminary reports revealed team members also recorded a like number of other spiritual decisions, reported Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

The event followed on the heels of a week of statewide revivals which saw the premiere of materials that will be used in next year's "Here's Hope" national simultaneous revivals sponsored by the mission board.

Results from the Nevada revivals are slow in being reported and will be released as soon as they are compiled, said Richard Harris director of mass evangelism for the mission board.

Names of new converts, as well as individuals looking for a local church, will be given to local Southern Baptist congregations. Many of the individuals are expected to become the nucleus of some of the 25 new churches to be started this year by the Nevada Baptist Convention, Harris said.

The new church starts, being coordinated by the state convention and the mission board, dovetail with the denomination's goal of having 50,000 churches and church-type missions by the year 2000—an increase from 37,600 in 1989.

During this year's convention sessions, mission board and Nevada Baptist officials are expected to announce the launching of 15 of those new congregations.

About 1,800 individuals from 38 states and the District of Columbia participated in the massive door-to-door evangelistic thrust, Ramsey said.

Though Saturday's effort was the climax to six months of local planning, test visits were begun earlier in the week by individuals who arrived early for the convention.

Texas fielded the most participants with 178, while Georgia was represented by 158 and North Carolina by 117. Hawaii, the most distant state, registered 32 individuals with the mission board, which coordinated the efforts.

In ethnic participation, a group from several states representing the Hispanic Baptist Pastors Conference made visits in the largely Hispanic section of Las Vegas.

Stan Clark, Mission Service Corps volunteer from Toledo, Ohio, said nearly 100,000 of the city's 160,000 households were contacted during the visitation effort. Clark and his wife, Beverly have spearheaded the event locally since January.

The saturation visitation was limited to Las Vegas-area neighborhoods and avoided tourist areas on the "Strip" known for its elaborate casinos.

Though local ordinances restrict any solicitation inside the establishments, Ramsey said the evangelistic effort purposefully avided the sidewalks to concentrate on the neighborhoods.

Saturday neighborhood visitation -- Page 2

"We are trying to reach the residents of Las Vegas and direct any unchurched individuals to local Southern Baptist congregations. We want to meet the people where they live, away from the pressure of the workplace, and show them we care about them and want them to know Jesus Christ," Ramsey explained.

Revivals in 90 of Nevada's 120 Southern Baptist churches and missions, preceded the visitation effort, Harris explained. The mission board partially sponsored 32 fulltime evangelists to help conduct the revivals, while pastors and lay people from around the country filled the remaining pulpits.

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By Joe Westbury--3:35 p.m. Sunday



News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600

Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin News Room Manager

Marv Knox Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention
Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman's Missionary Union Sunday Afternoon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 11--Southern Baptists' oldest and foremost missions support force, Woman's Missionary Union, began their annual two-day convention Sunday with a stirring reminder that Baptists will do missions according to the way they support the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' system of financial support for state, home and foreign missions, was the focus of a panel featuring executive directors of the Arizona, California, and Nevada Baptist Conventions.

After telling how missions in Arizona have grown to encompass 126,000 members in 354 churches and missions, Executive Director Jack B. Johnson urged the women to "remind them (Southern Baptists) all of this is accomplished through the Cooperative Program.

"Unless a church supports the Cooperative Program, it's not going to cooperate with the Great Commission (Christ's command to his disciples to evangelize the earth)," Johnson said.

California Baptist Executive Director C. B. Hogue of Fresno, told WMU, "It's absolutely imperative you continue with missions education. Without Annie Armstrong (one of the special offerings for home, state and foreign missions) our state would be in real difficulty."

Nevada Baptist Executive Director Ernest B. Myers of Reno said cooperative missions support has helped Baptists in Nevada to grow to 22,000 members in 147 churches and missions since the first Southern Baptist church was started in the state in 1948.

The national WMU president, Marjorie J. McCullough of Alexandria, La., began the missions emphasis by noting that the gavel she was using "is the Luther Rice gavel" and 1989 marks the 175th anniversary of Baptists in America organized for missions.

She said the gavel was made from wood of the meeting house that stood near the Saluda, S.C., burial site of Luther Rice, the pioneer Baptist missionary who inspired Baptist women of the South to join together in support of missions.

David F. Meacham of Las Vegas, director of missions for the Southern Nevada Baptist Association, told the women that the Southern Baptist Convention coming to Nevada has already given a great boost to Baptist mission work in his area.

He praised the efforts of about 1,800 volunteers from across the country who shared Christ's gospel door-to-door in Las Vegas on Saturday.

A missions partnership between Louisiana and Nevada Baptists was the subject of a panel discussion featuring Linda Johnston of Reno, president of Nevada Woman's Missionary Union; Cindy Still of Reno, executive director of Nevada WMU; Beverly O'Reagan of New Orleans, president of Louisiana WMU, and Nelda Seal of Alexandria, executive director of Louisiana WMU.

Nancy Curtis of Cary, N.C., executive director of North Carolina WMU, gave a testimony of sharing Christ with a despondent young woman whom she stopped to help after the young woman had car trouble.

She urged the women to be bold in sharing their faith.

"There's a little risk in ministry and witness," she said, "but the risk even strengthens the testimony.

"Witness must be lived out, it must demonstrate His (Christ's) love and concern through our care and concern."



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Baptists Committed News Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 11 -- The conservative takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention is a movement out of control, a Southern Baptist "centrist" contended Sunday night.

Despite attempts by conservative leaders -- including SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., and Houston judge Paul Pressler -- to downplay the controversy during the past year, the movement they initiated has "gained momentum in and of itself," said David Currie of San Angelo, Texas, field coordinator for Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Currie cited in particular a recent meeting of young Southern Baptist conservatives during which one speaker warned there are "rats" and "skunks" in the SBC.

Such language reflects a "let's-get-them attitude" that Currie said has evolved as the conservative movement has taken on a life of its own.

Too much damage already has been done to be easily corrected, added Houston layman John Baugh. "If Pressler and (Paige) Patterson were to stand before the world today and say that from this day forward, all they would say and do would honestly reflect New Testament concepts. I'm afraid it would be too late."

The remarks were made during a news conference sponsored by the Religion Newswriters Association for Baptists Committed.

In addition to Currie and Baugh, speakers included Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas; Larry McSwain, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and Oeita Bottorff, project director for Baptists Committed.

Despite recent statements by Vines that the theological controversy in the denomination is resolved, Currie said, "Nothing is over in this controversy." He said the controversy actually is over power and control, not theology.

"It will not be over until we return to the historic Baptist principles that have always united us and that have always defined us."

Currie said the SBC controversy is now moving to state conventions. He cited increases in political newsletters and organizations in states. For his own part, Currie said he has encouraged people at the state level to "use some basic political sense."

On the other hand, Baugh lamented a preponderance of partisan political groups being formed by churches affiliated with the Religious Right.

"If I were to give you a list of all the right-wing political groups sponsored by Christian churches, even the religion newswriters would be suprised," he said.

Baugh said the proposed SBC Religious Liberty Commission is just another "interesting euphemism" for the Pressler-Patterson coalition to cover up its own ties to extremist political groups.

In its first months of recruiting members, Baptists Committed has enrolled about 1,000 people. Despite questions about who those members are and the suggestion that they are forming a "secret society." leaders refused to reveal names of the memb rship.

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Baptists Committed News Conference -- Page 2

McSwain's participation in the news conference prompted one reporter to ask what repercussions he would face from conservative trustees of Southern Seminary.

"I claim part of my heritage as a Southern Baptist is the freedom to speak one's convictions," he said. "If there are repercussions from my being here it would greatly disappoint me, but it would not surprise me.

"I'm not willing to be intimidated."

On another issue, Baugh said he could not predict the outcome of Tuesday's election of an SBC president. "I have no feel of how the voting will result," he said.

He and other speakers once again endorsed Atlanta pastor Daniel Vestal, who has announced his willingness to be nominated in opposition to incumbent Vines.

"I know Dr. Vestal personally, and he is a totally honest, open, loving person," Baugh said. "His is a truly sweet spirit."

When asked why those opposing the Pressler-Patterson coalition consistently wait until the last minute to field a candidate, Baugh said, "Let me confess that we are novices at politics."

But he pledged Baptists Committed will begin working toward next year's convention June 14 -- the day after this year's presidential election.

By Kathy Palen and Mark Wingfield, 7:38 p.m. Sunday



Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600 Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative Dan Martin News Room Manager Marv Knox

Features Manager Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Directors of Missions

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 11--Southern Baptist Directors of Missions from across the nation were encouraged Sunday to be on the cutting edge of ministry and missions.

At the opening session of the annual meeting of the two-day Directors of Missions Conference, D.L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, told 250 persons attending the conference that no matter "where you are, be on the cutting edge of the frontier."

Discussing "The Association on the Frontier," theme of the conference, directors of missions from different parts of the nation gave testimony as to how associations can be in the forefront of missions and ministry.

Lowrie warned the directors to "give attention to our salvation and God's purpose through us."

He encouraged the directors to feed their faith, develop their character and maximize their opportunities."

The directors conducted, for the first time, a worship service prior to the conference which was attended by about 425 persons. Mack Smoke, president of the conference and director of missions for the San Jacinto Baptist Association in Baytown, Texas, said he was overwhelmed by the turnout. He expected about 200.

During the worship service, \$1,010 was collected and designated for a new church in Las Vegas.

Robert Schmeltekopf, director of missions for the Hill Country Area in Fredericksburg, Texas, encouraged those at the worship service to be more like Paul on his second missionary journey and move from disappointment to discovery.

Schmeltekopf said Paul wanted to go to Bithynia in Asia Minor, but obeyed God's call to go west to Troas. "We all have Bithynia goals," Schmeltekopf said, "but we live with Troas realities."

He said the directors should "move from disappointment and discouragement . . . to a new sense of discovery."

Schmeltekopf encouraged the associational workers to quit making excuses and be more like Paul who "lifted his spiritual antennas to hear God's call . . . and commit ourselves to the Lord of the mission."

Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Virginia Baptist Convention, called on the directors of missions to help churches build fellowship. He said associations need to assist individual churches to maintain internal fellowship, to provide support systems for ministers and laypersons and build fellowship among very diverse fellowships.

Other frontiers explored during the opening session were Las Vegas, Montana (wide frontier) and Miami (ethnic work).

David Meacham, director of missions for the Southern Nevada Baptist Association in Las Vegas, reported about 1,800 persons worked with churches in Las Vegas on Saturday and recorded about 400 professions of faith.

"It will never be the same in this city because of your (Southern Baptists from across the nation) volunteering and being here to witness door-to-door. It has been encouraging for those of us here."

The missions directors were encouraged to plan and promote Bold Mission Thrust Launch Day on the first Sunday in Oct ber. Joe Stacker, director of the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., said, "As we begin the new church year we have a special day to celebrate. We need to set goals and move off the plateau or out of decline and into a growth mode."

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# Directors of Missions -- Page 2

One way to help in growth is by mobilizing volunteers to help in associations. B.C. McCoy, director of missions of Sabine Neches Area in southeast Texas, reported that at one time he had 22 Mission Service Corps volunteers working in the association.

"We need to expand our vision and see ministries which need to be started."

He said that in every association there are "people out there to do the ministry if we will let them. We need to believe in 'Bold Mission Thrust' . . . and find volunteers, train them, put them in ministry and let them settle the frontier."

Forty-nine directors of missions were honored for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service.

Honored for 25 years were Fred B. Lunsford, of Truett Baptist Association, Marble, N.C., and Kenneth Sparkman of Gibson County Baptist Association, Trenton, Tenn.

Honored for 30 years were Eugene B. Hager of South Yadkin Baptist Association, Statesville, N.C., and Thomas L. Lewis of West Union Baptist Association, Paducah, Ky.

Glenn Toomey of Nolachucky Baptist Association, Morristown, Tenn., was honored for 35 years of service.

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By Terry Barone -- 8:58 p.m. Sunday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday Church Music Conference

LAS VEGAS, NEV, June 11-- A discussion on revitalizing praise and worship and several concerts Sunday highlighted opening sessions of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at College Park Baptist Church.

Musicians heard concerts by the Singing Illinoisans, the Southern Seminary Vocal Ensemble and Max Lyall, professor of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Following the theme of "Sound His Word and Share God's Love!", John McGuckin, director of the church music department for the California Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno, discussed the "winds of change" in Southern Baptist church music today.

"The church has lost touch with contemporary society," he said, referring to the fact that 67 percent of Southern Baptist churches have either plateaued or declined in attendance.

"We cannot hope to reach these people with our traditional church music," he added. "The lost person should be captivated by the praises of God's people."

McGuckin gave suggestions on how to revitalize praise and worship in churches. He told musicians they should give priority to planning worship services, allowing at least 20 minutes of uninterrupted time for the congregation.

In addition, John Jackson, pastor of Crescent Baptist Church, Anaheim, Calif., presented three ideas which should constitute true worship.

He said worship must include a reawakening to the awareness of the person of God, along with recognizing man's futility. It must also be an outburst of joy, expressing one's faith and hope in God.

"We should not feel threatened by the younger generation which likes praise songs and choruses," Jackson said.

During an afternoon worship service, Paul Duke, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church, Kirkwood, Mo., told musicians worship services should leave out what will entertain but never transform lives.

"We should not worship to help anyone feel good or make it through another week," he said. "Instead we should bear witness to the holy character of God."

Conference participants also attended simultaneous interest sessions on music in the small church, teaching choir members to read music, building/maintaining a strong youth choir and handbells in the small church.

The musicians were among eight Southern Baptist groups meeting in advance of the three day Southern Baptist Convention which starts Tuesday. Others are two groups of pastors, women in ministry, women's auxillary, campus ministers, religious educators, and associational directors of missions.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION ... NEWS ...

News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600

Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

, Dan Martin News Room Manager

> Marv Knox Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Campus Ministers Sunday P.M.

LAS VEGAS, NEV., June 11 -- Campus ministers must live in a way that gives stability and faith to college students, Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, told members of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers Sunday night.

"You might be able to live a quiet, yet dramatic life so as to give faith to students," Elder said during the group's meeting at First Southern Baptist Church of Las Vegas.

Addressing the "context of ministry" on college campuses, Elder said the ministers should encourage students feeling called into Christian ministry.

Elder advised the campus ministers they should not carry conflicts in the Southern Baptist Convention back to their campuses.

"I am not going to let the discouragement of the last decade overcome 450 years of Baptist heritage," he said. "I hope and believe in the character of this denomination.

"We need the best minds and the best hearts to lead us because we are going to be here in some kind of structure" in the future, Elder said.

He said the Old Testament prophet Elijah is an example of the kind of student minister needed for the next century.

Calling the prophet "a student minister ahead of his time, Elder said "he provided a clue of what it will take for us to be campus ministers in the year 2,000."

Elder said Elijah "believed in a God who acted in history. Therein lies the strength to his ministry."

That strength enabled the prophet "to live in the kind of world where all the hurts and needs came knocking at his door. So do you," Elder reminded the campus ministers.

Along with the role of the campus minister and the context of ministry, Elder focused on the student body confronting campuses in the next century. Citing opinion polls, he said indications are that teenagers are more interested in religious matters.

"The generation of students to come may be more open than those there now."

Elder was joined on the progam by Glenn Saul, professor of Christian ethics at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. Saul addressed seven ethical issues campus ministers will face in the 21st century.

"What concerns me is that we want government to solve problems by law that we canot solve by conviction and persuasion," Saul said. "Our ethics is a way of life. We cannot ignore that the actions of human beings do make a difference."

Scott Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C., is leading the group's worship sessions. Campus ministers Mike Davis of Northwestern University in Chicago and Betsy Draper of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, told their colleagues about their professional pilgrimages.

"The world is sending their elite to us," Draper said. "How will we deal with it?"

-- 30 --

By Scott Collins -- 7:30 a.m. Monday



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday night Pastors' Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 11 -- Charles Stanley, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, called Southern Baptist pastors to a Sunday night confidence in the midst of conflict which they inevitably will face in the ministry.

The address by Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, capped the opening session of a two-day meeting of Southern Baptist pastors in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

"It is essential that God's men and women understand how to deal with conflict," said Stanley. "We are in a battle with Satan, and he will do all he can to destroy your ministry and divide your church."

Stanley told the 6,000 ministers they must learn to respond to conflict in the proper fashion.

"God will equip you and give you strength to continue," he explained.

He said that when church members sense fear or see compromise, "You begin to lose your place of leadership and you lose respect as a leader."

When faced with conflict, Stanley recommended four proper responses.

First, identify the root cause of the conflict, he said, and when responding, do so quietly, instead of being accusatory or making a quick response.

"Thirdly, don't defend yourself," Stanley advised. "God is your greatest defender. When you are doing right let Him defend you. And, express genuine concern for those causing the conflict."

Stanley also warned pastors about running from conflict, because it was possible they could run out of the will of God. He added that it is not the place of a friend to seek to find a place for someone who seems to be in the middle of a difficult situation. Instead, he said the person should seek the leadership of God.

If pastors would set aside time to have a personal, quiet time with God, several things would happen which would help them build strength and be confident in dealing with conflict, Stanley predicted. "God will make you sensitive to what is happening in the situation," Stanley said. "He will renew you physically and emotionally. God also will reassure you of his presence and will refocus attention from conflict and put it on him.

"Keep your eyes on Christ. When your eyes are on Jesus Christ, there is nothing you cannot face victoriously."

Ralph Smith, president of the pastors' conference and pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, presided during the first session, where the theme was "The Pastor's Motive."

Johnny Jackson, evangelist from Little Rock, Ark., urged pastors to "trust the Lord right now. Pastors, I challenge you to live and to walk in faith."

SBC President Jerry Vines, of Jacksonville, Fla., welcomed the pastors to Las Vegas, asking that they be "good, positive witnesses for Christ."

## Sunday Night Pastors' Conference -- page 2

Howard Gates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., told the pastors that "Jesus will trust me, help me, use me, and reward me. That is why we serve Jesus Christ."

John C. Click, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kans., asked the pastors to have a spirit of God's power, not fear.

"Stand your ground and suffer for the Gospel," he challenged them. "What you believe can make the difference between heaven and hell for someone.

"A doctrinal stance has no impact if it is not baptized in agape love," he warned. "A loveless gospel is a dead, ineffective, fruitless gospel. It is no gospel. Stand your ground, but stand lovingly."

The pastors were among eight Southern Baptist groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention which starts three days of activities Tuesday.

Other pre-convention conferences involve religious educators, musicians, camp ministers, associational directors of missions, women in ministry, and the SBC women's auxiliary.

Messengers for the SBC are expected to elect a president, consider a budget of \$137,287,542, hear reports of 69 agencies and the women's auxiliary, and transact miscellaneous business.

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By Jim Lowery -- 7:20 a.m. Monday



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Daniel Vestal Profile

فأنها مساواتها مكافعا والمروا

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 11 -- Two days before the opening of the 132nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Daniel Vestal attended Sunday morning worship at a local Baptist church with his wife Earlene, picked up his two sons at the airport and declared himself at peace about his decision to allow his nomination for president of the 14.8-million-member denomination.

"Today I have a real peace about what I have done, why and how I have done it," said Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta. "I am willing to entrust the election to the will of God and to the messengers."

Vestal also attended the Sunday evening session of the Woman's Missionary Union conference which focused on sharing the gospel in China because "my heart is missions." He planned to attend meetings of the conservative and moderate pastors on Monday.

While he had no speaking engagements during the day, a 30-minute videotaped message in which Vestal outlined his concerns about his denomination was telecast at 10:30 p.m. Sunday on KRLR-TV, channel 21, an independent, commercial station. The purchase of commercial time was a first for a candidate seeking office in the SBC.

Vestal, 44, announced April 16 to the congregation where he has been pastor since Octob r 1988 that he would challenge incumbent SBC president Jerry Vines. Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., earlier had said he would allow his nomination for a second term as president.

During a Sunday afternoon interview, Vestal said four weeks of travel, speaking and contact with Southern Baptist pastors and laypeople make him more optimistic than when he announced his candidacy that he has a chance of being elected president.

"I have appealed to some folks in the conservative movement who are weary of it," said Vestal, who in the month prior to the convention spoke in churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Arizona.

"There are folks in the moderate camp who had grown weary, given up and who have been nergized by my candidacy. Also, I have talked with laypeople who heretofore hadn't been listening (to developments in the 10-year-old controversy in the SBC)," he said. "Laypeople are the key to whatever this denomination will be."

Vestal said about one-third of his speaking engagements on the multi-state tour were planned by Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention. Vestal has said he welcomed the support of the group but that his candidacy is not affiliated with any rganization. About two-thirds of his meetings were arranged through pastor-friends in the states he visited.

"I am not a well-known person," he said. "I felt it was important for people to know me, my convictions and some of my burdens and concerns."

Vestal personally chose an Atlanta pastor who will nominate him for president Tuesday afternoon, a choice he will not reveal in advance.

"He is a man who knows me well and speaks his convictions. The decision was not made as a political decision but as a personal, spiritual decision," said Vestal.

If he is not elected, Vestal said he will continue his efforts to be a reconciler among all sides.

"I would still be committed to d ing what I can as one past r. I would continue to speak my conscience. I would speak to people on all sides of the issues. I would continue to pray and to practice Christian charity." Vestal acknowledged the decision to purchase TV time for the 30-minute program could be interpreted as a political act. However, he said conservatives who control the convention have politicized the Pastors Conference program, the order of business of the convention, the "entire atmosphere" surrounding convention meetings.

"The TV time was the only possibility I had to get my perspective to a broad cross-section of messengers. Whether it will be successful or not, I don't know. I have no recourse to get my message to the people," he said.

In the videotaped message which will air again Monday night at 11:30 p.m., Vestal said, "We are going to determine this week whether or not, on the one hand, we will be committed to the authority of the word of God while, on the other hand, to openness and freedom and unity."

He recalled in the message taped several weeks earlier at First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, his feelings at the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Bold Mission Thrust (the goal to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000) had been launched in 1976. Jimmy Carter, a Baptist layman, also had been elected president that year, an event which focused a spotlight on the denomination.

A videotaped message from Carter was presented at the 1977 SBC as part of the start-up of the Mission Service Corps to send volunteers throughout the world.

"There was a kind of electricity running through that hall," Vestal, then a 32-year-old pastor, recalled.

"I remember breaking down and weeping. I said to myself, 'I can give my life to this cause, not just to a denomination, but to the Lord Jesus Christ through the life and ministry of this denomination.'

"I shall go to my grave believing Southern Baptists walked up to a moment in history, to a date with destiny, and instead of accepting the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust, we turned aside and said. 'No we don't want to walk this way,'" Vestal said.

"For the past 10 years this denomination has not expended its time and energy and resources on fighting sin and secularism and Satan and proclaiming the gospel," he continued. "But we have expended our energies on an internal kind of conflict."

In the message, Vestal said Southern Baptists must remember the distinctive principles that have made them unique — biblical authority, priesthood of believers, congregational polity, religious liberty and separation of church and state.

Then Southern Baptists as individuals must repent of past sins, he said.

Emphasizing that he cannot tell others what sins they should repent of, he said he has asked himself the following questions:

"Have I been submissive to the authority of the word of God? Have I judged people's motives when I had no reason or right? Have I kept my motives pure? Have I spoken the truth? Have I spoken the truth in love?

"Frankly, my brothers and sisters, there is enough repentance to go around for all of us. The problem, the evil, is not outside of us. The problem is within us," said Vestal.

Finally, Vestal said, Southern Baptists must return to their first love, the Lord Jesus Christ and the causes of missions and evangelism.

He said he has not given up hope that Bold Mission Thrust can be accomplished, though some goals may need to be reduced and short-term goals set in other areas.

After arriving in Las Vegas Saturday, Vestal spoke to a meeting of the Religion Newswriters Association at the El Rancho Hotel and fielded questions.

He reiterated the goals he would pursue if president: (1) depoliticize the office of the president by making appointments from a broad spectrum of Southern Baptists and by seeking through bylaw changes to limit appointive powers of the president; (2) unify the SBC by dealing with leaders of all sides; (3) focus on the future.



Daniel Vestal Profile -- Page 3

Vestal told the newswriters the greatest loss in the 10-year controversy has been the loss of freedom -- character assassination that "has silenced a lot of good people," a caucus and control mentality and creedalism and forced conformity.

"We are narrowing the Baptist Faith and Message statement on Scripture to where if you don't subscribe to a particular interpretation of an interpretation, you cannot be part of this denomination," he said.

For example, he said the SBC Peace Committee, in its report adopted by messengers to the 1988 convention meeting, defined what "truth without any mixture of error" meant. Now, employees of some SBC agencies and institutions are being asked not only to subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message but to the Peace Committee's interpretation of Article 1 on Scripture.

"There is a difference between a confession of faith and a creed," said Vestal, who was a member of the Peace Committee. "A confession is a statement of belief while a creed is a statement of what you must believe."

Vestal said he has received overwhelming support from his church. Among several requests, he said he asked members most of all to pray that he would not become bitter or cynical through the experience of being nominated for president.

In the Sunday interview, he said the prayer is being answered.

"I am not bitter and I am not cynical. I do grow weary at times, and even angry. But I can honestly say I have love in my heart for every person in this denomination, even those with whom I disagree."

Vestal said he also has strong support from his wife Earlene, sons, Philip, 18, and Joel, 16, who are with him in Las Vegas, and his daughter, Anne Elizabeth, 10.

"My wife is as strong in her convictions about this denomination as I am. My two sons are here with me because of their support and encouragement. My daughter only wants to know when I am coming home," he said with a smile.

During the Sunday morning worship service at College Park Baptist Church, Vestal heard Jack Johnson emphasize that Christians must keep their focus on "the main thing" ab ut their faith, the kingdom of God. Johnson is executive director of the Arizona C nvention of Southern Baptists, Phoenix.

In response, Vestal said he was reminded that "more important than the vote is my relationship to God and my commitment to the kingdom. I asked the Lord, 'Am I doing everything I can to extend the kingdom of God? That's more important than the vote.""

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By Linda Lawson -- 9:25 a.m. Monday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# WMU Sunday Evening

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12--A focus on nations with limited access to mission work and those which are closed to missionaries set the tone Sunday night for the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union.

The crowd of 1,600 meeting in the Rotunda of the Las Vegas Convention Center also heard reports of Southern Baptist mission work in the Far East and listened in on a discussion of missions between Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks of Richmond, Va., Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis of Atlanta, and WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, Ala.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Weatherford received a framed citation from the mission leaders in recognition of her 14 years of service to the denomination.

The woman's auxiliary was among eight Southern Baptist groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention which opens a three-day run Tuesday. The annual processional of flags from 96 of the nations where Southern Baptists have missionaries opened the meeting. The ceremony included several flagbearers carried black banners symbolic of those nations which have no Christian witness or which are closed to Southern Baptist missionaries.

Nancy Curtis, executive director for North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union, Raleigh, explained the black flags were being used for the first time to dramatize the plight of residents of those nations who are being denied the gospel message.

Buryl Red of New York City, director of The Centurymen, reported on the vocal group's tour of China and its historic concerts on Radio Beijing and on national Chinese television.

Jack and Avah Shelby, serving through Cooperative Services International (CSI) in Hong Kong, gave testimonies of how they shared the gospel in nations where missionaries are not allowed to live. CSI is sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board.

Dressed in traditional Mongolian clothing, Avah Shelby told how next year Christian professors will be allowed to teach in universities in Beijing, China. Doors are also opening for other Christian professionals to participate through similar exchange programs, "not to preach, but to model the Christian life as they practice their profession."

Jack Shelby then asked Southern Baptists to pray that a Christian witness could become a reality in Mongolia.

"We hope some day to have missionaries in that nation, tucked between northern China and Siberia, but tonight we do not even have a Bible translated into the national language. Until we make more progress, three million people will wait to hear about Christ," he said.

During the "fireside chat" with the two mission presidents, with Weatherford serving as moderator, Parks thanked Southern Baptists for their support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

WMU Sunday Evening -- page 2

Parks said this year's receipts, the largest percent increase since 1982, totaled \$78,776,000-up almost 13 percent from last year.

Parks stressed that the agency's goal will always be to evangelize the world's unchurched population as it meets human needs. As testimony to that commitment, 200,000 baptisms were reported worldwide by its foreign missionaries last year, he said.

"Thank you for providing the financial stability which has enabled our missionaries to do their job without worrying if they would be able to cover their expenses," he said.

Lewis said it was too early to project the giving level of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, but preliminary receipts indicate a similar gain for the special offering.

Though both offerings may show an increase this year, Weatherford reminded the crowd that neither offerings have meet their goal since 1981.

Lewis said the home mission agency, in its role of reaching the nation with the gospel, has identified 23,000 specific locations where churches could be started if the funds and personnel were available. But 115 home missionaries could not be appointed this year due to a shortage of funds, he added.

During the recognition service, Weatherford, retiring executive director, was cited for challenging WMU members "and all Southern Baptists to be true to their first and highest calling: missions."

The citation noted that during her tenure "through years of dramatic change", Southern Baptists gave \$1,018,000,732 through the special (mission) offerings.

The amount represented 75 percent of the total given to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions since its founding in 1888, and 76 percent of the total given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions since it was begun in 1933.

During the period, 6,593 home and foreign missionaries were also appointed for service across the nation and around the world.

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By Joe Westbury -- 9:10 a.m. Monday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vines Profile

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 11 -- For all the young man knew, the tie-clad preacher who had come to his house Saturday was just another Southern Baptist in town for a big religious meeting.

It was three days before the start of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and the president of the 14.8-million-member denomination was sitting in his living room.

But the young man never asked about messenger turnouts, presidential elections or convention controversies. Instead he concentrated on learning how to become a Christian.

The experience didn't come as any surprise to SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.

"In all of the witnessing I've done, I've never had a single person mention the SBC controversy," Vines said. "People have asked me about (Jimmy) Swaggart and (Jim) Bakker, but they've never brought up the controversy within our convention."

Vines, who announced in February he will allow himself to be nominated for a second term as convention president, spent the days prior to the SBC doing two of the things he enjoys most -- personal evangelism and preaching.

On Saturday afternoon, he teamed up with an area layman and a Wyoming pastor to visit prospects for a local church.

As the threesome traveled from home to home, a relaxed and joking Vines spoke openly of his philosophy of personal evangelism.

"We always talk about the plan of salvation, but you know there really isn't a set plan," he said. "You have to deal with each situation individually.

"I always try to leave each visit I make so I can go back. I pray that God will help me to be sensitive so I will know how far I can go with a person.

"You can drive a lot of people away if you're not sensitive. I try to leave each situation on real good terms."

After the trio's final visit, Vines proposed stopping for a celebratory round of . Diet Cokes -- even though he admitted he would rather have a big dish of chocolate ice cream.

After spending Saturday evening resting and working on his sermon, Vines preached the next morning at a service sponsored by Las Vegas' Twin Lakes Baptist Church. The congregation rented an auditorium on the University of Nevada-Las Vegas campus for the service, which drew a large number of folks who had arrived early for the SBC.

Vines selected John 3:16 as the text for his sermon. He said that one verse sums up the mind, heart and will of God.

Using alliteration. Vines called God's love incredible, indisputable and indispensable.

The evangelistic sermon steered clear f any mention of SBC politics — with the exception of one brief aside about "liberal theologians" who don't insist on a belief in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Vines contended such a belief is essential, adding that through the virgin birth the Holy Spirit "short-circuited the sin cycle."

# Vines Profile -- Page 2

Vines also spent time preparing for the one aspect of the convention about which he admits to being a bit anxious -- presiding over the annual meeting. He said he has been studying up for it during the past few months and then he met Saturday morning with Barry McCarty, who has served as parliamentarian for the past three years.

But Vines said overall he is excited about the convention. He added he is especially looking forward to hearing good sermons and good agency resports.

When asked about the upcoming presidential election, Vines simply said, "Who wins, wins. It won't change things that matter.

"Of course, whether I am re-elected or not will make some differences in my life, but it won't change those things that are really important to me."

If re-elected. Vines said he would place a special emphasis upon growing soul-winning churches during the upcoming year.

Vines and his wife, Janet, arrived in Las Vegas Thursday so they could spend some time together before his hectic convention schedule began. The couple also have been joined at the convention by one of their two daughters and her husband and one of their two sons.

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By Kathy Palen, 11:50 a.m. Monday



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forum Monday Morning

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, June 12-A resolution "On the Priesthood of the Believer" from the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention drew renewed fire Monday morning at the Southern Baptist Forum.

The doctrine, one of several historically shared by Baptists, received "cavalier treatment" from the resolutions committee that initiated the stance last year, charged Molly Marshall-Green, associate dean of the school of theology and assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

She also enunciated several components of the priesthood of the believer relevant "in our Baptist life today."

Among them: "resistance to authoritarian pastoral leadership."

About 500 people attended the morning session, which was devoted to the topic. The forum is an outgrowth of the controversy within Southern Baptist ranks. It was begun six years ago by Baptists who came to view the traditional Pastor's Conference as a pre-convention preaching ground for the faction that has controlled SBC presidential elections since 1979.

The believer's-priesthood resolution was adopted by messengers by about a 10 percent margin after attempts failed to amend or refer it to the convention's Executive Committee.

The resolution, while affirming the priesthood of the believer, stated that the doctrine "in no way contradicts the biblical understanding of the role, responsibility and authority of the pastor," who is "called of God to lead the local church."

The resolution charged that the doctrine "has been used to justify wrongly the attitude that a Christian may believe whatever he so chooses and still be considered a loyal Southern Baptist." It added that the priesthood of the believer "in no way gives license to misinterpret, explain away, demythologize or extrapolate out elements of the supernatural from the Bible."

Marshall-Green, said church members should neither be passive nor stew in anger should a pastor "attempt to lead us erroneously."

"Leadership does not require intimidation, but empowerment," she added, noting that "church staff members cannot possibly be priests to all members of the congregation who need care. All believers must share in the pastoral care of the flock."

Lay persons also should "reprove, exhort, pray for, encourage" their pastors as needed, she said.

The priesthood of the believer does not make faith "the privatized domain of the individual," Marshall-Green said, nor does it license a person to say, "Nobody can tell me what to believe."

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Forum Monday Morning -- Page 2

But, she noted, "... neither creeds nor confessions, neither pope nor pastoral authority can presume to function as divine guidance for one's life."

That "does not suggest that one has no Lord -- it is simply concerned that no council, creed, confession or presumptuous creep usurp the position that belongs to God alone," Marshall-Green said.

Christians must balance freedom with the responsibility to minister to each other and to those outside the faith, she said. "God has more to say to us than any of us can hear by ourselves," she added.

The Uptown Baptist Church of Chicago was selected for the forum's second "Church of the Year Award" for tackling an array of urban ministres in its neighborhood, five miles north of the downtown area.

Worship services at the church, encompassing about 500 people, are held in seven languages. About 150 volunteers participate weekly in providing hot meals, overnight shelter, sobriety help and other programs to some 8,000 people.

"In order to reach the cities, it takes a lot of time, a lot of hard work," said the church's pastor, Jim Queen, who grew up in the area and returned there after graduating in 1975 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. An urban church must earn credibility by "nitty-gritty sacrificial" ministries, he said.

Marshall-Green was elected to the forum's executive committee for a three-year term, along with Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., and Ray Spence, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. Richard Groves of Winston-Salem, N.C., was elected to fill a one-year unexpired term.

Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., the morning's concluding speaker, said the Southern Baptist Convention is "right in the middle of an integrity crisis." In a message on faithfulness, he said ongoing strife in the convention prompts times "when it is easy to get so discouraged that we want to leave the convention."

But faithfulness, Harbour said, requires "being you and staying true and seeing it through" until harmony returns to Southern Baptist life.

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By Art Toalston - 1:10 p.m. Monday.



For Immediate Release

# WMU Monday Morning

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- AIDS, abortion and the political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention drew major focus of speakers at the Monday morning session of the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union.

Carolyn Weatherford, who retires in September after 14 years as executive director of WMU, convention auxiliary, deplored the controversy that has divided the denomination for a decade.

Sylvia Marlene Boothe of Atlanta described the threat of abortion, while Pamela P. Plath of Phoenix, Ariz., urged churches to adopt health practices which discourage the spread of diseases such as AIDS.

"How do we explain to a lost world observing us that we are not getting along?" Weatherford asked. "How do we answer the abominable question -- 'Which side are you on?'

"How do missionaries explain to new converts that there is not enough money to build a church, or pay a pastor, or take the good news to others. How does a WMU leader explain to a young woman surrendering her life for ministry that some would deny her a place to carry out her call?"

Weatherford drew applause when she said, "It is imperative that, instead of continuing to draw swords and choose sides, we acknowledge that nothing that divides us is as important as that which binds us in Christ's mandate to call us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all the people."

The SBC controversy was one of several challenges which Weatherford characterized as "giants" similar to those described by the Israelites after spying out the promised land.

Other obstacles faced by WMU, said Weatherford, include a weakening of missions emphasis in the Convention, a declining percentage of churches with WMU and a leveling out of membership.

Also, she said, WMU magazine subscriptions are at their lowest level since 1986.

Weatherford said the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards were forced to make major, life-threatening cuts in their 1989 budgets because goals of the foreign and home mission offerings have not been reached since 1981.

She said elected SBC leadership "continues to come from churches where the Cooperative Program is less than 5 percent of the total budget rather than from churches where cooperative missions is emphasized by Cooperative Program gifts in the 20-30 percent category."

Other problems, she said, are poor attendance at the convention sessions on missions and the growth of Awana, women's ministries and other organizations with names that replace or weaken WMU organizations.

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WMU Monday Morning -- page 2

Joe Crumpler, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, who will marry Weatherford August 19, was introduced to the auxiliary.

Avery T. Willis, Jr., manager of the Leadership Development Section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Training Department, presented Weatherford with a copy of the new "LifeGuide to Discipleship and Doctrine," a 13-week guide to study of the "Disciple's Study Bible."

The women learned one of the ways WMU is seeking to insure the funding necessary to continue its mission is through the Second Century Fund, a permanent endowment fund.

Beth Hayworth McClaren of McLean, Va., executive director of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, told how the fund has helped strengthen WMU leaders in Seoul, Korea, and in Argentina to attend conferences.

Sydney Portis of Englewood, Colo., executive director of Colorado WMU, told how the fund helps support her work.

Another speaker at the morning session of WMU said 23 million babies have been aborted in this country in the 16 years since the Roe v. Wade decision by the United States Supreme Court and called on Southern Baptists to volunteer their services in crisis pregnancy centers.

Boothe, coordinator for abortion alternatives for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said America has the most liberal abortion laws in the world.

"In many of our states," she said, "a girl under 16 cannot get her ears pierced without her parents' permission because it is a surgical procedure, and yet this same 16-year-old girl can legally have an abortion without her parents' knowledge or permission.

She said the "second victims of this holocaust are the women of all ages who choose abortion as the quick fix. Five, ten, fifteen years later, they are telling us of the aftermath of their decisions. They are being heard and ministered to."

Boothe called on the WMU to lead in teaching parents to talk to their children about sexuality.

"We can teach young people what God's Word says about sexuality," she said. "We can teach them to stand alone...that they must accept responsibility for their own choices.

"Let's teach them to date creatively, how to plan a date, how to say 'No' and not be rejected."

Another speaker urged Southern Baptists to provide a Christian ministry to teenage pregnant girls.

Plath, Mission Service Corps volunteer for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said, "We are called to care, like Jesus cared, by meeting the needs of people... Today, few of us will touch the life of a leper, but what about the life of an AIDS victim; many will not come face to face with an adulterous woman, but what about a pregnant teenager; and while you may not encounter a multitude of children, what about one abused or neglected child?"

Plath, who is healthcare services director of the Central Association of Southern Baptists in Phoenix, told how volunteers are helping to share Christ's love by teaching literacy classes, dressing wounds and teaching teenage moms how to care for their babies.

The women re-elected Marjorie J. McCullough of Alexandria, La., president of WMU for 1989-90, and Pattie T. Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., recording secretary.

Note to editors: The following stories were included in the Baptist Press dated June 12, 1989.

Southern Baptists in Las Vegas see 350+ professions of faith By Joe Westbury

LAS VEGAS, Nev., (BP)—As temperatures hovered in the mid-90s, about 1,800 Southern Baptists knocked on doors throughout Las Vegas, Nev., registering more than 350 professions of faith in Christ during the denomination's largest one-day witnessing effort.

Preliminary reports revealed team members also recorded a like number of other spiritual decisions, reported Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The event followed on the heels of a week of statewide revivals that saw the premiere of materials that will be used in next year's "Here's Hope" national simultaneous revivals sponsored by the board.

Results from the Nevada revivals are slow in being reported and will be released as soon as they are compiled, said Richard Harris, HMB director of mass evangelism.

Names of new converts, as well as people looking for a local church, will be given to local Southern Baptist congregations. Many of the individuals are expeted to become the nucleus of some of the 25 new churches to be started this year by the Nevada Baptist Convention, Harris said.

The new church starts, being coordinated by the state convention and the mission board, dovetail with the denomination's goal of having 50,000 churches and church-type missions by the year 2000 -- an increase from 37,600 in 1989.

During this year's convention sessions, HMB and Nevada Baptist officials are expected to announce the launch of 15 of those new congregations.

Individuals from 38 states and the District of Columbia participated in the door-to-door evangelistic thrust, Ramsey said.

Texas fielded the most participants, with 178. Hawaii, the most distant state, registered 32 individuals with the board, which coordinated the efforts.

In ethnic participation, a group from several states representing the Hispanic Baptist Pastors' Conference made visits in the largely Hispanic section of Las Vegas.

Stan Clark, Mission Service Corps volunteer from Toledo, Ohio, said nearly 100,000 of the city's 160,000 households were contacted during the visitation effort. Clark and his wife, Beverly, have spearheaded the event locally since January.

The saturation visitation was limited to Las Vegas-area neighborhoods and avoided tourist areas on the "Strip" known for its elaborate casinos. Though local ordinances restrict any solicitation inside the establishments, Ramsey said the evangelistic effort purposefully avoided the sidewalks to concentrate on the neighborhoods.

Revivals in 90 of Nevada's 120 Southern Baptist churches and missions, preceded the visitation effort, Harris said. The partially sponsored 32 full-time evangelists to help conduct the revivals, while pastors and lay people from around the country filled the remaining pulpits.

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Pressler-Hastey debate problems of Baptist Press

By Mark Wingfield

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--In a debate before the Religion Newswriters Association June 10, two Southern Baptists agreed problems exist with Baptist Press but disagreed over the direction the denominational news service is headed.

Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee that oversees Baptist Press, debated with Stan Hastey, executive director of the Southern Baptist Alliance and former chief of the news service's Washington bureau. Pressler cited a litany of examples of what he classified as Baptist Press wrongdoings but concluded that the news service is improving. Hastey listed examples of ways he felt Baptist Press showed restraint in 10 years of denominational conflict while contending the news service is headed toward becoming a "public relations machine."

The format of the debate allowed each man to speak for 20 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer time. The most intense exchange occurred during questioning, when Pressler reiterated his opinion that Baptist Press articles in the past have been tainted by the personal convictions of writers.

Pressler distributed 87 pages of documentation of what he called factual errors and biases that have colored past Baptist Press stories and other articles by news service writers.

Among those examples was an editorial column titled "SBC Fundamentalists on the March" which Hastey wrote for The Christian Century in 1986 while still a denominational employee. Although the article was not distributed by Baptist Press, Pressler said it illustrated the underlying presuppositions Hastey had brought to his denominational job.

Hastey said Pressler failed to distinguish between news writing and editorial writing in making that accusation.

"That's not the point I was making," Pressler replied. "The point was that the presuppositions and the frame of reference and the attitude of the person writing will frequently color his writing."

Hastey said: "Would you grant me the right to be prejudiced now that I'm off the denominational payroll?"

"Yes," Pressler said. "But I think the fact that you are now head of the Southern Baptist Alliance shows the frame of reference from which you were operating when you were writing for Baptist Press."

"I was entitled as a BP writer -- as a Baptist -- to have an opinion too," Hastey said. "Denominational employees do not forfeit the priesthood of the believer. They do not forfeit their individuality simply because they're on the payroll."

Pressler responded: "I agree with you. But some people wonder why sometimes the Baptist Press reflects more in favor of one side than the other. I think the predilections of those writing is frequently the explanation."

Pressler said that as a judge he excuses himself from hearing cases where he might be biased by a personal interest.

Likewise, the press ought to be free of bias, he added, stating that the purpose of the press is to "deliver facts in an unbiased way so people can make up their minds about what the truth is."

Both Hastey and Pressler agreed the BP system faces potential bias because denominational employees write about the actions of their own agencies.

As an example, Pressler cited a late-1970s controversy over Southern Baptist Sunday School Board employee Don Burnett. In that situation, the Nashville bureau of Baptist Press at the Sunday School Board failed to tell all the facts about a lawsuit involving Burnett, he said.

Hastey countered that Baptist Press generally maintained credibility using agency-paid writers until those agencies began to be controlled by more conservative trustees and presidents. He said Baptist Press determined from its beginning to "tell the Southern Baptist story and tell it straight, good news and bad."

"Until a few years ago, Baptist Press always could rely on the Executive Committee itself for the necessary protection any news organization must enjoy to preserve journalistic integrity," Hastey said. "Over the course of the last decade, this protective insulation has been subjected to higher and higher temperatures, both by denominational executives and the Executive Committee itself.

"The scorching Baptist Press writers and editors have been taking, particularly over the past half-dozen years, some day will yield inevitably what its severest critics want: a public relations machine rather than a legitimate news service."

Hastey said the Executive Committee's own meetings have become the most difficult to cover. Only the body's plenary sessions are "on the record." He said the most substantive debate occurs in subcommittee meetings that are covered on "background only" rules, meaning reporters cannot attribute quotes.

"It is in these meetings that Judge Pressler has worked the system to his full advantage, leveling a variety of largely unfounded charges against his favorite targets, including Baptist Press, all under the cover of a rule that prevents reporters from quoting or even identifying him."

Hastey said state Baptist editors and the RNA should have challenged this procedure long ago.

"Judge Pressler's game is quite simply intimidation," he said, adding that Pressler has issued "constant threats" to Baptist Press reporters and editors, including firing. "Despite this constant harassment, Baptist Press personnel have maintained remarkable professionalism in continuing to tell the story of the SBC conflict."

"Baptist Press has gone out of its way not to exacerbate the growing rift between the two sides in the conflict," he said, citing four examples, including:

- -- That Baptist Press has never reported on "ties to extremist political organizations" by Pressler and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.
- -- That Baptist Press has "repeatedly given ground" in debate over what labels to use for the two sides in the conflict and finally "gave in to Judge Pressler.

"Outright control of Baptist Press has been and remains one of Judge Pressler's highest priorities," Hastey said. "He knows, as do all those who work for Baptist Press, that such control very well might be the most valuable spoils in the war over the Southern Baptist Convention."

Hastey spoke from a six-page manuscript. Pressler came to the podium with a thre -inch thick file folder of information. Throughout Pressler's presentation, his assistants handed out documentation of his charges against Baptist Press.

Pressler cited at least 14 incidents, including:

- -- Written statements by former Baptist Press director Wilmer C. Fields calling Pressler and others "a dissident group of fundamentalists."
- -- Recent coverage of giving to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget. Pressler read several headlines and noted, "All of these are bad headlines."

He asserted that the Cooperative Program has done better in recent months than Baptist Press reports would lead readers to believe. "When you have a big increase, it's played down," he said.

Pressler charged that Cooperative Program reports were downplayed to undermine the leadership of current SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.

-- That Baptist Press reported extensive details about the personal finances f layman Lee Roberts, who has been a critic of Georgia's Mercer University, but waited three months to report on financial troubles at Mercer.

Pressler called on Baptist Press to admit errors, apologize when mistakes are discovered and to represent all Southern Baptists "positively and fairly."

When asked if he wanted to purge current leadership in Baptist Press, Pressler replied: "I don't want to see (Baptist Press director) Al Shackleford fired. I want Al Shacklef rd to be fair and to listen to the ther side."

HMB directors lament 'inequitable' CP budget, ask change next year

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors have called the convention's proposed 1989-90 unified budget "inequitable" but declined to recommend changes that might be divisive.

A report on the Cooperative Program budget was approved by the board's executive committee during its June meeting. It was presented by Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla., chairman of an ad hoc committee appointed to draft a response to the 1989-90 budget proposed by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

The denominational budget must be approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas. Nev., June 13-15. The proposed 1989-90 budget, which jointly funds two mission boards, six seminaries and 11 other national agencies, would channel nearly \$1 million less to the Atlanta-based HMB next year than this year.

"The proposed SBC Cooperative Program budget is inequitable to the Home Mission Board," the report said. "However, the subcommittee feels that the approach of bringing a substitute motion at the convention in Las Vegas to correct this inequity would be counterproductive to the Home Mission Board and its work."

Allen said directors will abide by the SBC Executive Committee's decision but will draft a letter "pleading with them to correct this inequity" in the next budget year.

The Executive Committee, during its February meeting, proposed a new approach to the Cooperative Program basic operating budget, moving from a goal-oriented budget to one based on performance.

The 1989-90 budget calls for a goal of \$134,787,543 -- the amount of actual receipts in the last year of record, 1987-88. It represents a 2.05 percent decrease from the 1988-89 basic operating budget of \$137,610,000.

In other action, board members elected Danny Moore of Atlanta as director of the business services, division replacing Charles Stewart, who was elected director of mission property. Stewart replaces Charles Elder, who will take early retirement. Moore is a native of Dothan, Ala., and worked 21 years as a manager for IBM.

President Larry Lewis reported on progress toward reducing the current HMB budget by \$8.2 million. The reductions are due primarily to a shortfall of income from last year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, the anticipated decrease in next year's Cooperative Program funding and absence of excess reserve funds that have supplemented its budget it recent years.

Lewis said \$5.9 million has been cut from the Atlanta budget. Another \$700,000 was cut by negotiating with state conventions to delete positions that have been vacant for several years, he said.

Because the budget must still be reduced by \$1.6 million, Lewis said, "we'll be taking a hard look at our work here in Atlanta and in the states."

WMU approves budget, sets offering goals

By Susan Todd

LAS VEGAS. Nev. (BP) -- The executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in its June 10 meeting approved a record budget and set upcoming home and foreign mission offering goals during its June 10 meeting.

But one action that was absent was the election of a national WMU executive director to succeed Carolyn Weatherford, who will retire Sept. 1 and marry Cincinnati pastor Joe Crumpler.

Even though the search committee had hoped t make an announcement by this meeting, National WMU President Marjorie McCullough said the committee did not want to be rushed as it makes the decision. The committee has no projected announcement date, she said.

The board adopted a record budget of \$11,450,568 for 1989-90. The new budget represents a 3.7 percent increase from the current budget of \$11.1 million.

Board members also voted to increase the goal of the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions from \$76.5 million to \$81 million. The decision to increase the goal stemmed from the recent announcement that \$78.7 million had been received for the 1988 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Although the 1988 offering receipts fell short of the \$84 million goal, the figure does represent a 12.7 percent increase more than the offering taken in 1987.

The board also set offering goals for 1990. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$86 million, and the goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is \$41 million.

A new publication was introduced during the meeting. "Magazette" will be published by WMU fpr the Southern Baptist minister's wives organization. -30-

By Susan Todd--4:00 p.m.

Follow destiny, faith, Allen exhorts women

By Brenda J. Sanders

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Southern Baptist women should be people of destiny and faith, more than 100 participants in the Southern Baptist Women in Ministry annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., were told.

"If you can help bring the joys of Jesus Christ to all the people of the world, starting right here in this city, among this people and this convention, you will have performed a great service," said Catherine Allen, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. "And then going forth from this meeting, if your strength can help untie the ropes of a limited gospel that will bind women to the pews, then you will have performed your mission."

History shows that the cause and methods of missions have been advanced through the determined efforts of women, said Allen: "Women do shape Baptist history. Our handprints are indelibly impressed on the best and most beautiful features of Southern Baptist life today."

She also noted: "Southern Baptists cannot afford to keep exporting our leadership of women into other denominations and into secularism. And to contemporary women such as yourselves whom might be contemplating such a shift, I will say you cannot afford to be exported, because God called you in this denomination, and I seriously doubt that it would be in God's plan and wisdom for you to leave such a desperately needy field."

Officers, elected prior to the meeting by the group's steering committee, will serve through the coming year. They are Betty Winstead McGary, minister to adults, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, president; Nancy Furgerson Cole, minister of music, Hanley Road Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., vice president; Donna Charlton-Starkes, associate pastor, Tropicana Christian Fellowship, Las Vegas, treasurer; Carol Causey, training designer, WMU, Birmingham, Ala., recorder; Carolyn Cole Bucy, minister of youth, Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, program chairman; and Sheila Black, director of church and community ministries, Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C., membership chairman.

The women adopted a motion instructing their steering committee to appoint a "project committee" which would explore ways to promote the inclusion of women in seminary curriculum.

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China Update 6/9/89

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos relating to this story and others about the situation in China and Hong Kong will be mailed as they are received by Baptist Press\* foreign bureau in Richmond. Call bureau chief Bob Stanley or news editor Erich Bridges at (804) 353-0151 for information.

'Emotionally drain d' students leave Beijing: hope to return

By Michael Chute

HONG KONG (BP) -- Not wanting to leave Beijing but not wanting to be stranded either, two Southern Baptist students boarded a plane at the crowded Beijing International Airp rt June 8 and arrived safely in Hong Kong.

Frustration and grief over events inside China lined the faces of the two students -- Jay Templeton and Jana Clayton -- as they met family and friends in Hong Kong.

Both expressed mixed emotions about leaving Beijing and said they want to return to China as soon as the situation there stabilizes.

"I never felt like we should leave in the first place," said Templeton, of Kingsland, Texas, who hopes to return to China this fall. Clayton added that the decision to evacuate all Americans from China was "bizarre" and called reports of danger to foreigners "a little exaggerated."

But both admitted mainland news reports of the violence were understated by the Chinese media.

"Inside China we didn't get all the facts. We only got Chinese news," said Clayton, who is from Longmont, Colo. "China needs to know the truth. The world knows but the Chinese people themselves don't."

Templeton has another year on his two-year contract to study Chinese at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing under sponsorship of

Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist organization. Clayton, also sponsored by CSI, had almost finished her two-year stint at the institute.

The decision to leave Beijing was "painful but we felt that most of those w were a help to" had already left the language institute, said Clayton. The two Americans also worried that they "might be in the way" of their Chinese friends and acquaintances. "By protecting us they might be endangering their own lives," Clayton explained.

"Staying there to help the people would be useless," concluded Templeton.

Templeton and Clayton gave eyewitness accounts of events in China. Although many Chinese students were not involved in the pro-democracy demonstrations, the two said, most students made trips to Tiananmen Square in the days prior to the bloody army attack on student demonstrators there.

"But we didn't go down there again after the Statue of Liberty ('Goddess of Democracy' built by Chinese students) was erected or the violence started," explained Templeton.

As pro-democracy Chinese demonstrations successfully halted the progress of one convoy of trucks on the boulevard in front of the language institute, fellow Chinese students and teachers asked Templeton to talk to the soldiers.

"They literally pushed me to the back of one of the trucks and there I was looking at a truckload of soldiers pointing guns at me," he recalled. Not sure what to say, Templeton said he merely stated, "The solders love the Chinese students," which evoked laughter from the crowd.

"I told them that working though peaceful ends was a much better

solution. When I finished someone said. 'See, even the foreigner understands.' One soldier close to me smiled. He was the only one that I saw show any emotion."

Clayton added that she "knew we shouldn't get involved but we wanted to see what was going on. We decided to leave that area because it was getting very tense."

They told of vivid scenes on Beijing streets as soldiers beat students and students threw rocks at convoys of army trucks and marching soldiers.

Clayton witnessed a verbal confrontation between a large group of student demonstrators and a smaller group of soldiers. Beside the street, a peasant woman was "digging on her rows of onions in the midst of all this. There were students and soldiers all around her but sh was totally ign ring it. She acted like there wasn't another person anywhere around."

Paranoia gripped the Chinese students after martial law was declared May 20, the two Americans said. Until that time, Tiananmen Square was "a big party," said Templeton. "It was a very festive mood there."

After the declaration of martial law, "They were not wanting to talk to foreigners then," Clayton said. "A lot of people, especially older people, remember the Cultural Revolution, so I don't blame them."

Both said the Chinese student demonstrators' idea of democracy and what Americans think of democracy are different.

"People weren't wanting to overthrow the government," Templeton explained. "When they talked about democracy, they were talking about reform within the Communist Party. They wanted to be loyal to the government, loyal to the party, and therefore loyal to China.

"But now after the violence. ... It's a really crazy time now. Nobody understands what the government is doing and why."

Language institute officials took the two Southern Baptist students to

the Holiday Inn Lido hotel on the outskirts of Beijing to await a flight out. Lodging was arranged by a Christian businessman residing in the hotel complex.

Clayton said a "lot of good 'guanxi' (relationships) and miracles, and a lot of prayer going up helped us get out." The two had confirmed flight reservations on June 10 but were able to get on an earlier Dragon Air flight.

Now safe in Hong Kong, they are just begining to deal with the pent-up emotions of the past few weeks. The overriding emotion is helplessness.

"All our friendships, particularly with the Chinese, ended in an abrupt way," Clayton said. "There just wasn't any more time. I'm not there now to do anything else.

"Many of these people I'll never see again. There wasn't even time to exchange addresses and phone numbers. But they're all in God's hands. By faith they're going to be taken care of."

Both young people said they are not emotionally ready to return to the United States. They will stay in Hong Kong to see what options might be available.

"I called my parents and told them I'm not ready to come home right now," Clayton said. "I want to see if there is still something I can do for China or the Chinese."

Templeton, whose parents are Southern Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong,

is concerned for those he left behind. "We have no idea what is going to happen to the Chinese friends we left in Beijing," he lamented. "China has no certainty right now.

"Even during the student strikes, we said we'll be here (in Beijing). Now we're gone and our friends are scattered. Once the violence started, their world was shattered. For many their future is gone.

"All they're talking about now is a way to get out of the country. A lot of people are suffering, in despair, and looking for hope. I feel we needed to be there longer to tell people where our hope is coming from."\*

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(Based in Hong Kong, Chute is Baptist Press overseas correspondent for Asia and the Pacific.)



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Rapha Luncheon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- Adrian Rogers, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, emphasized the threat of depression to the Christian life Monday at a free luncheon for Southern Baptist pastors and their spouses at the Las Vegas Hilton. Nothing is more debilitating to the Christian life than depression, said Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and keynote speaker at the luncheon sponsored by Rapha, a national health organization that provides in-hospital and out-patient counseling programs.

Rapha accepts referrals from pastors and family members, as well as doctors and counselors. It has treatment centers in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Nevada and Illinois.

The luncheon program included a brief description of the for-profit organization by its president, Robert McGee, as well as personal testimonies by Southern Baptists whose family members have received treatment through Rapha.

In addition, materials were distributed that included endorsements of the organization by individuals including Jerry Vines, SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.; Bailey Smith, Atlanta-based evangelist; Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta; Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texs; Lewis A. Drummond, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston; and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.

Speaking on depression in the ministry, Rogers pointed to three Uld Testament prophets -- Moses, Elijah and Jonah -- who were affected by depression.

He said all three men faced the problems of being physically worn out, emotionally wrought up and spiritually run down.

"The ministry is not immunity," Rogers said, warning those present against taking their eyes from the Lord and working in the flesh.

In the case of each of the three prophets, Rogers said, God gave a provision for overcoming depression.

God gave Moses a way out of the physical demands that were placed upon him. he said.

"The preacher who is always available isn't worth much when he is," he said. God provided Elijah with a vacation, Rogers said.

"A lot of the time, we get in a journey that God didn't assign us," he said, adding that rest is commanded of God.

With Jonah, God provided a "pastorium" in the form of a whale, Rogers said. The stay in that parsonage provided Jonah with perspective.

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By Kathy Palen -- 3:30 p.m. Monday



News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600

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Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Reprinted from the 6/1/89 Virginia Religious Herald.

# Committee To Present Virginia Memorial

The Virginia Baptist Memorial adopted by messengers in its 1988 Baptist General Association annual meeting will be presented to the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas.

After four meetings in three months, Virginia Baptists' Denominational Crisis Committee has shepherded the report through the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, initiated a series of doctrinal articles which are appearing in the Religious Herald, and scheduled several "listening sessions" to be held throughout Virginia during August.

# A Major Force

The 11-membet committee, the result of efforts by state Baptist leaders to address the 10-year-old theological and political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, has emerged as a major force in Virginia's response to the denominational crisis.

"I'm happy at the way in which the committee is functioning and I feel good at what we're about," said Committee Chairman Neal T. Jones. "I'm eagerly anticipating the results of the committee's work."

The crisis committee had its genesis in a meeting of BGAV officers in August 1988. Jones, pastor of Columbia Church in Falls Church and BGAV president at the time, called the meeting, saying it was "designed to discuss concerns raised by some Virginia Baptists and to anticipate action that might be taken" at the 1988 meeting of the General Association.

# Most Crucial Action

What is widely viewed as the officers' most crucial action was the formation of what became known as the President's Task Force on the Denominational Crisis. The mandate of the committee, whose members were selected by Jones, was "to prepare a positive statement to reaffirm the principles that have historically characterized Virginia Baptists and to declare the basis of our cooperation."

By the time that task force held its first meeting on September 9, its membership of "recognized Virginia Baptist leaders" consisted of Clingenpeel, pastor of Franklin Church, Franklin, who was selected to chair the committee, and four former BGAV presidents: William J. Cumbie of

Fairfax, Christine Gregory of Danville, Carl W. Johnson of Richmond and William L. Lumpkin of Norfolk.

Jones and Reginald M. McDonough, BGAV executive director, served on the committee as exofficio members.

The Report of the President's Task Force on the Denominational Crisis identified six areas of stress in denominational life and presented recommendations for dealing with them.

# First Five

The first five provided a means for the BGAV to give direct support to the embattled Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; simplified the process by which a Virginia Baptist church might, for reasons of conscience, limit its financial participation regarding agencies or institutions; urged the adoption of a report on theological education which suggested the BGAV postpone the establishment of a seminary in Virginia; altered the status of SBC Executive Committee members who serve on the General Board, making them ex officio without voting privileges; and encouraged the BGAV to suggest two persons to serve on the SBC Committee on Committees.

A final recommendation resulted from the task force's judgment that "A new style of life for Southern Baptists—one of cooperation with integrity, mutual consultation and unity in diversity—is the only way to ensure survival of our unique denominational system."

Out of this recognition, the task force recommended that the General Association elect "the ancient Baptist means of formal mutual communication, a Memorial, to address our partner and identify our concerns."

# Memorial Notes Partnership Relations

The Memorial begins by noting that since 1845 "... Virginia Baptists have been in a partnership relationship with our missionary Baptist brothers and sisters throughout the Southern Baptist Convention." It laments the present SBC crisis and pleads for "the consultation between partners" which has historically characterized the SBC and state general associations and conventions.

"We desire to continue to carry out our part f the partnership," the Memorial states, "to cooperate with integrity, and

to support the work generously... We earnestly desire a relationship in which no faction—right or left—can be arbitrary and exclusionary."

Five "Issues for Consideration and Response" are identified in the Memorial in which BGAV messengers "urge the messengers to the SBC to consider and respond . . . "

The first of the five issues posed for consideration and response calls for "the SBC to maintain its historic relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA) and continue to fund its ministries."

A second issue is that the SBC develop a plan permitting a church "on conscience grounds, to choose to omit from its Cooperative Program gifts selected SBC budget items through a carefully-developed plan similar to the BGAV negative designation procedure."

Emphasis on Theological Education

Theological education is the third issue and the appeal is that the SBC foster theological education marked by "serious academic scholarship; openness of inquiry that encourages independent investigation of the truth; balance in theological approach; [and] responsible freedom within the bounds of historic Baptist confessions of faith."

A call for the SBC president to "appoint to membership on the 1989 SBC Committee on Committees those persons proposed by the BGAV" was the fourth issue identified.

The fifth issue to be addressed is "a new style of relating be developed on the partnership principle so that genuine healing may take place and advance be achieved in our cooperative mission enterprise."

# Committee Task

The assigned purpose of the Denominational Crisis Committee was "to continue to study the relationship of the BGAV with the Southern Baptist Convention; represent the BGAV in discussion with SBC officials; report developments to BGAV constituencies through the Religious Herald; and report to the 1989 and 1990 annual meetings of the BGAV with recommendations as it deems necessary."

The Report of the President's Task Force was overwhelmingly approved by mes-

Religious Herald

sengers at the 1988 BGAV meeting. By a show of hands, approximately 85 percent of the messengers adopted the recommendations made by the task force.

Only one change was made in the report. James White, pastor of First Church, Newport News, moved to amend the last paragraph. After debate, messengers approved the change.

The new paragraph reads: "We believe the Cooperative Program was God's provision in an earlier dilemma. It has, since its adoption, been the great common ground from which Southern Baptists launched their mission endeavors. How tragic it would be to see our task of reaching and changing our world for Christ disrupted by uncooperative and unresponsive attitudes. We believe that both the percent of receipts for SBC causes and the priorities of the total Cooperative Program should be scrutinized prayerfully."

Jean Woodward of Richmond, a former president of Virginia WMU, was elected BGAV president at the same annual meeting. It became her responsibility to name the newly-authorized nine-member crisis committee, to serve until November 15, 1990.

#### Pleas for Fairness

She received a number of pleas for "fairness" in her appointments, a concern she said she took "very seriously."

In January 1989, Mrs. Woodward named Neal Jones to chair the committee, which became known as "The Committee on the Denominational Crisis."

Three members—Clingenpeel, Cumbie and Lumpkin—had served on the task force the year before. Others named were Lewis T. Booker, a Richmond attorney and legal counsel for the General Board; Alma Hunt of Roanoke, retired executive director of WMU, SBC; Bob D. Lynch, pastor of First Church, Gate City; John W. Patterson, director of missions for Peninsula Association; and James H. Slatton, pastor of River Road Church, Richmond.

Mrs. Woodward and McDonough have served as ex officio members.

# Critics Express Themselves

The crisis committee has not been without its critics. It held its first meeting on February 8 to discuss plans to present the Memorial to the SBC Executive Committee, February 20-21, the initial step in the agreed-upon process to bring the document to the messengers to the June SBC meeting.

During this time, a document highly June 1, 1989

critical of the Memorial began circulating in the state. T. C. Pinckney of Alexandria, a member of the SBC Executive Committee, told the *Religious Herald* that he was coordinating the distribution of the opposing document, although he said the initiative for so doing had not been his.

"A number of people felt after last November's General Association annual meeting that the Task Force Report and Memorial needed response," said Pinckney, a retired U.S. Air Force general. "It was prepared and the final draft was sent to me and others for response and suggestions."

Pinckney later said it had been signed by 713 laypersons, 36 church staff members and 84 senior pastors.

# Agreed To Print Report

During its February meeting, the Executive Committee agreed to print the Memorial—and the opposition statement—in the Book of Reports, which is distributed to all SBC messengers prior to the annual meeting.

The Executive Committee also approved the formation of a committee to "accept all responses" of Southern Baptists. That committee will be named by Executive Committee Chairman Charles Sullivan and submitted for response to the committee at its June 12 meeting just prior to the SBC.

#### Series of Articles

In its most recent meetings the crisis committee has initiated a series of articles, appearing in the *Religious Herald*, related to "Virginia Baptist ideals."

Scheduled to run through August, the articles are addressing such issues as the

centrality of Christ, liberty of conscience, autonomy of the local church, priesthood of the believer, the non-creedal nature of Baptists, voluntary connectionalism, separation of Church and State, theological education, freedom and cooperation, and the role and authority of scripture.

# Listening Sessions

Another recent crisis committee action is the decision to hold "listening sessions" in several locations around the state. Although no dates have been set, McDonough has said they will be held during a 10-day period near the end of August. The committee's desire, he said, is to solicit as much response as possible from Virginia Baptists.

"We are looking forward to the listening sessions because we feel like that will be true grassroots participation," Jones also noted. "We welcome the opinions and will carefully consider them in our work."

In some ways the culmination of the crisis committee's work will come during the presentation of the Memorial at the SBC annual meeting next month.

# Desire for Dialogue

Both McDonough and Jones have stressed that the purpose of the Memorial is a "desire for dialogue" among Baptists to find a solution to the differences that divide them. They emphasize it is not an attempt to threaten the national convention.

If messengers in Las Vegas refer the Memorial to the SBC Executive Committee for study and subsequent report, the Denominational Crisis Committee will continue to work with that group in the months ahead.



# **Chesapeake Church Burns Note**

Elizabeth River Church, Chesapeake, recently burned the mortgage note on its facilities. Participating were (left to right) Hillery Privott, oldest deacon; Bobby Powell, chairman of deacons; and J. Michael Wilkins, pastor.



Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Campus Ministers Monday

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 12 -- Members of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers elected a student director from Texas as their new president Monday and heard a report on the status of future projects.

Raye Nell Dyer, director of Baptist student work at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, was elected president by acclamation.

Other officers chosen were Woody Hammett, director at the University of South Carolina, president-elect; Tana Clement, coordinator of student work for metropolitan St. Louis, vice president for programs; Otey Enoch, coordinator for metropolitan Portland, Ore., vice president for administration; Dwain Gregory, student director at United States Air Force Academy, vice president for membership; and Ginny Bridges, of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., vice president for publications.

In addition to electing officers, the group heard a report from Charles Johnson, director of the Student Ministry Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Johnson told the student directors of plans by the Sunday School Board to develop informational literature about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"We're going to make a serious atempt to speak to the problem of AIDS," Johnson said.

Johnson also reported on recent leadership training for student leaders.

"I don't know of anything we put more money into than student leadership development," Johnson said. "It will remain a key peg for our work."

Johnson told of plans for the upcoming Mission 90 meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. He said 5,000 college students are expected for the event the end of December, 1989.

Alfred Staggs, pastor of First Baptist Church in Portales, N.M., presented a monologue of martyred German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

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By Scott Collins -- 4:35 p.m. Monday



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Directors of Missions Wrap-up

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 12--Southern Baptist directors of missions were challenged at their annual two-day meeting here to help congregations grow "Great Commission" churches and to not let problems hinder their work "because God is in control."

Mark Short, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, said when the majority of churches in the SBC have either plateaued or are dying, they need to channel more energy into "evangelism and outreach" and less attention to "maintaining the fellowship."

Short said churches need help with "priority planning" in order to reach the unsaved, children and teenagers enrolled in SBC Sunday Schools, and non-resident (unlisted) church members.

The 250 directors from across the nation who attended the conference preceding the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention heard D.L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, warn they may have to "suffer" for God, but that their "suffering will enhance the ministry."

Illustrating his point, Lowrie said both Lottie Moon and Corrie Ten Boom did "more for the cause of God through their suffering than through their ministry."

He also encouraged the directors to remember that "you can't bind God" and that He is in control.

"What happens," Lowrie said, "is in the hands of God, not in the hands of the officers of the SBC or trustees or boards or institutions or me or you. What happens ultimately is in the hands of God.

"So, let's let God be God. He is not weary, discouraged or tired. Our God is able. Let's serve Him."

In keeping with the theme of the conference, "The Association on the Frontier," Mack Smoke, president of the conference and director of missions of the San Jacinto Baptist Association in Baytown, Texas, encouraged his fellow directors to be pioneers in order to be effective in associational work.

To be effective, Smoke said pioneers must have the courage to face obstacles and the unknown, take the initiative to plot a course others can follow, be willing to make mistakes and suffer the consequences and be willing to be a stepping stone for those to follow.

F. Russell Bennett of Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, Ky., was elected president, and Glen Hickey of Pulaski Baptist Association, Little Rock, Ark., was elected first vice president.

Others elected included Ken Chadwick of Salt Lake and Rainbow Canyon Baptist Associations in Utah, second vice president; A. Lawrence Clegg of Chappapeela Baptist Association in Ponchatoula, La., secretary; Phill G. Hall of Southeast Iowa Baptist Association in Albia, Iowa, treasurer; Grayson Glass of Galveston Baptist Association in Galveston, Texas, newsletter editor; and J.R. Blakeney of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans, host director 1990.

# Directors of Missions Wrap-up -- Page 2

The directors voted to ask the officers of the conference to work with the appropriate agencies within the convention (SBC) to change the name of Associational Emphasis Week to Associational Missions Week. The motion was made by Russell Barker of the Atlanta Baptist Association.

Proposed changes in the conference constitution were presented. They will be discussed and voted on at next year's meeting.

The conference featured directors of missions from different parts of the nation who gave testimonies as to how associations could be in the forefront of missions and ministry.

At a first-time worship service sponsored by the directors prior to the beginning of the conference, \$1,010 was collected and designated for a new church in Las Vegas.

Also, 49 directors of missions were honored for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service.

Glenn Toomey of Nolachucky Baptist Association, Morristown, Tenn., was honored for 35 years of service.

Honored for 30 years were Eugene B. Hager of South Yadkin Baptist Association, Statesville, N.C., and Thomas L. Lewis of West Union Baptist Association, Paducah, Ky.

Honored for 25 years were Fred B. Lunsford of Truett Baptist Association, Marble, N.C., and Kenneth Sparkman of Gibson County Baptist Association, Trenton, Tenn.

By Tony Barone -- 4:10 p.m. Monday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Operation Rescue News Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- While stating unequivocal opposition to abortion except to save the life of the mother, Richard Land executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn., described his position on civil disobedience to obstruct abortions Monday as "sympathetic neutrality."

Land spoke at a news conference at First Southern Baptist Church of Las Vegas sponsored by Southern Nevada Operation Rescue. The group, headed by an ordained Southern Baptist minister, plans "rescue" efforts at undisclosed locations in the Las Vegas area Tuesday through Thursday, coinciding with the 132nd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Prior to the news conference, Land said he accepted the invitation to participate to "clarify Southern Baptists' resolutionary stance on abortion," not to indicate support for Operation Rescue.

He issued the following statement concerning Operation Rescue:

"Non-violent civil disobedience must always remain an ultimate option for Christians. Otherwise, as has been noted, Caesar becomes Lord, and only the Lord can be Lord for believers.

"When the point of invoking civil disobedience has been reached is a question that must always remain one of individual conscience. I would call upon those who have reached that point not to judge those who have not, and those who have not, must not judge those who have."

Land cited resolutions adopted by messengers to the 1982 and 1984 Southern Baptist Conventions which oppose abortion except to save the life of the mother.

At the same time, Land said some Southern Baptists "who are strongly pro-life strongly disagree on Operation Rescue."  $\,$ 

Russ Daines, director of Southern Nevada Operation Rescue, said the "rescues" planned for Tuesday through Thursday represent an opportunity for Southern Baptists "to put their beliefs into practice.

"We encourage them to come out, hold a protest sign, pray or participate in a rescue," he said. "I think Southern Baptists' stand on pro-life is good as far as it goes. It is time for direct action."

Daines said he believes a position of sympathetic neutrality "only assists the aggressor. Neutrality never helps a victim."

At the same time, Daines said he agreed with Land that participation in Operation Rescue must be a matter of individual choice.

"I understand God doesn't call everyone to participate in rescues," he said.

By Linda Lawson -- 4:45 p.m. Monday

Virginia Memorial.

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Church starting fellowship -- Monday afternoon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- Fifteen new churches and missions have been started in a special effort related to the Southern Baptist Convention which opens a three-day run Tuesday at Las Vegas Convention Center.

David Meacham, director of missions for Southern Nevada Baptist Association, reported on Project '89 Monday to members of the Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship during their annual meeting. Project '89 calls for 25 new works to be started in Nevada in conjunction with the SBC meeting.

Meacham said the starts are important because Nevada is the most unchurched state in the nation. Currently, Southern Baptists have 120 churches and missions in the state.

"The coming of the Southern Baptist Convention is putting us so much farther down the road than we would have been otherwise," he said. "When this convention is over and you folks leave, it's only the beginning."

Meacham said another five missions should be launched by the end of the summer. Initial plans are in place for others that will meet the goal of 25, home missions leaders said.

Work on the 25 starts has been coordinated by the Nevada Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The mission board has provided at least seven missionaries to assist in church starting.

Other assistance has come through partnerships with individual churches, local associations and state conventions. One large Georgia church has pledged \$1,000 per month for two years to help start one of the churches in Las Vegas, where start-up costs are highest.

The 15 new starts include four ethnic congregations -- two Hispanic, one Chinese and ne Filipino.

Church starters also heard from two men who led their churches to sponsor multiple missions: Harvey Kneisel, minister of missions at First Baptist Church in Houston; and Robert Cuttino, pastor of Beaufort Baptist Chuch in Beaufort, S.C.

Kneisel said Southern Baptists must learn to multiply new churches rather than simply add. This is done by starting churches that also start churches, he said.

"Until we start multiplying churches in America, we'll come nearer to burying the church of God rather than raising it," Kneisel said.

First Baptist Church has started 20 missions in the past three and one-half years, he said.

"Everything good that's happened has happened when members of First Baptist Church responded to the needs of people," he explained. "If you'll give yourself away t meet people's needs, God will bless you."

Kneisel, who transformed a dying church in a transitional neighborhood into First Baptist's church starting center, said Southern Baptists must determine to reach all the people in their communities.

Church starting fellowship -- Monday afternoon -- Page 2

Rather than moving to the suburbs "where the money and church letters are," churches should find out who lives in their existing communities and attempt to meet their needs, he said.

"Our churches are dying because they won't reach the people in their communities," . Kneisel said. "Thousands of churches all over America, when their greatest day of opportunity is before them, move away to the suburbs."

Cuttino's South Carolina church is a traditional congregation with direct links to the first president of the Southern Baptist Convention and Annie Armstrong, the namesake of the denomination's annual home missions offering. Despite that history, through church starting members have discovered "we're still the greatest mission field there is," he said.

Beaufort Baptist has "jump-started" six missions in the past two years, often involving inactive members as core families. Cuttino said.

"When you dare to reach out, you wake up the dormant members of your church," he explained.

By Mark Wingfield, 5:35 p.m. Monday



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### SBC Executive Committee

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, June 12 -- The SBC Executive Committee voted Monday to delay a proposal to create a new Religious Liberty Commission based in Washington, D. C., until the 1990 Convention in New Orleans.

The action came in response to a plea in April from Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., who had asked that the matter be deferred this year so that the convention could focus on missions and evangelism in Las Vegas.

In February, the SBC Executive Committe had voted to recommend that the SBC establish a new Religious Liberty Commission in Washington. The proposed new agency would have to be approved by two successive conventions, according to SBC bylaws.

SBC Executive Committee President Harold Bennett said Roberts' Rules of Order makes no provision for deferring a motion already adopted, but only permits that a motion be amended or rescinded.

Gordon Graham, chairman of the Administrative and Convention Arrangements Subcommittee, moved that the Executive Committee amend its previous recommendation by changing all 1989 dates and references to the Las Vegas convention to 1990 when the convention meets in New Orleans.

The amended recommendation to create the Religous Liberty Commission will be presented as one of 13 recommendations to the SBC Executive Committee's report to the convention Tuesday.

Twelve recommendations to the convention had been approved by the Executive Committee in February.

One new recommendation, a resolution of appreciation for Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford who is retiring, was adopted by the committee at its pre-convention here.

The resolution cited the growth and accomplishments of Woman's Missionary Union under Weatherford's leadership and her personal contributions to the denomination.

Other recommendations previously approved include a proposed \$137.2 million Cooperative Program budget for 1989-90; changes in the SBC business and financial plan concerning fund raising activities by SBC activities; revisions of program statements for the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board; and recommendations that the SBC hold its annual meetings in Dallas in 1997, in Atlanta in 1999, and in New Orleans in 2001.

A proposal to amend the Executive Committee's recommendation on fund raising activites that would have limited restrictions to fund raising campaigns failed after objections from Judge Paul Pressler of Houston. Pressler argued that a proposal from the SBC Interagency Council to change the wording "defeats the purpose of the whole rec mmendation."

In a report to the members, Bennett said projections of Cooperative Program income indicate that the SBC may go over its 1988-89 budget by as much as \$1 million. by common consent, the Executive Committee agreed that income over the budget would be applied to capital needs, and that the balance of the 1985-90 capital needs budget would be revised to reflect the unanticipated income this year.

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Monday Pastors' Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- Southern Baptist pastors were encouraged Monday by a battery of preachers to emphasize soul winning, revival and the proclamation of truth in their ministries.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis of Atlanta reminded Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference attendees that "there is no greater need in the Southern Baptist Convention than for soul winners. Pastors, deacons, evangelists and Sunday School teachers all need to be recommitted to be soul winners.

"I want to challenge you too. Let us make soul winning a top priority, a prominent part of our schedules," Lewis continued. "Make your life a model of Christian commitment."

Lewis also asked the pastors to follow three essentials of ministry, which were based on what you believe, what you do and what you are before God.

Under the first essential of ministry, Lewis underscored the importance of the inerrancy of the Scriptures. He said pastors are not to have a "halitosis view" of Scripture, where God breathed the Scripture, but part of it is bad, or a "dalmation view" of Scriptures which says the Scripture is inspired in spots and you pick out which spots.

Daryl Gilyard, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, told the pastors to "present the risen and righteous Jesus. Just a glimpse of his glory and you are changed forever. Some hold onto casual Christianity without ever seeing the glory of God."

In a personal testimony, Gilyard said he never saw his mother or father, lived in the homes of friends until he was 14, when he lived for five years under a bridge in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I decided that the only way to rise out of the mud of self pity was to put my eyes on Jesus," he said. "I had absolutely nothing, but God gave me a contentment. When I took my eyes off myself and put my eyes on Jesus, a peace came over me.

"Take your eyes off your circumstances and difficulties and Jesus will bring triumph out of your tragedy," he said. "Jesus enables us to meet whatever challenge we have with confidence."

John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, told of a difficult time in his ministry when attendance, giving and fellowship were decreasing. After trying many things, he said he realized God was telling him that the church was taking God for granted.

"We had to have spiritual renewal," Bisagno told the pastors. "We were equating blessings with procedures. I asked God for help and now the power is back."

Then he added that like his church, "America and the Southern Baptist Convention need revival. I believe all the committees and discussions and analysis are not going to change America. Somehow, the breath of God has got to come on Southern Baptists."

Bisagno said four factors are always present when revival is successful in a church.

"First, we must acknowledge that we are substituting the things of God for God," he said. "And we must restore relationships. Speak to the deacon with whom you disagree and go to that brother who has fallen.

"If you really mean business, put away strange gods and confess your sins," he continued. "And fourth, engage in mighty, intercessory prayer. God wants to send a revival to you. Meet these four conditions and go home and watch. I promise, God is ready to send revival to this Convention, the world and to churches. And it starts in individuals."

In the afternoon session of the Pastors' Conference, Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., appealed to the pastors to "harden not their hearts."

"You must come to God on His terms," Elliff continued. "You don't come to God when you want to, you come when he calls you or not at all."

Elliff was unanimously elected president of the Pastors' Conference shortly after his sermon. He was nominated by former SBC and Pastors' Conference president Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

Ron Hart, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Tuscon, Ariz., also was elected unanimously as vice-president. Robert Holmes, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev., defeated Ricky Hargraves of McKinney, Texas for secretary-treasurer.

Rich Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church, Mission Viejo, Calif., preached a message of encouragement to the pastors, urging them to overcome fatigue, frustrations, failure and fear.

Warren, whose church has grown from zero to more than 4,000 members since 1981 when he founded it, said the cure, or antidote for discouragement is to "reinforce your weak points, remember the Lord and refuse to quit.

"Many of you serve in faithfulness in relative obscurity," he said. "God knows who you are and you matter to God. Remember that your ministry matters to the Lord and the Lord is with you."

Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, delivered the closing sermon of the afternoon session, offering six pillars of truth which pastors must preach to lift up Jesus.

He said pastors must hold up a pillar on which Jesus stands, which is supported by the six truths, which show that Jesus appeared, was vindicated, was seen, preached, was believed upon and was taken up to be with the Father in heaven.

"There is a tremendous thrust in ministry today to only preach what is visible and immediate—the so called relevant life," he said. "The best thing you can do is proclaim these pillars of truths about heaven."

Other pastors who spoke to the pastors included Neal Jones, pastor of Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, VA., and Gordon Graham, pastor of First Baptist Church, New Braunfels, Texas.



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Dan Martin News Room Manager

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Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WMU Monday Afternoon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12--Continuing the theme "In His Name," members of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, were challenged Monday afternoon to share their faith with others.

The Baptist women's auxiliary members also heard a testimony of a woman from Appalachia and learned about ministering and witnessing through mission action.

Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, cautioned the Baptist women to be sure well-intentioned programs do not come between them and "the glorious task for which we have been commissioned—the task of missions and evangelism."

Harris then reminded them that Satan will allow Christians to do good things as long as they neglect the priorities of missions and evangelism.

"He will let us do Bible study and let us have good, warm Christian fellowship if we will neglect those things. He may even let our Sunday School grow, our missions organizations thrive and Church Training reach new heights of success if we simply neglect the aspects of missions and evangelism."

Southern Baptists seeking ministry options do not need to look very far before sharing their faith—they are surrounded by suffering people, he said. Harris then quoted from a Nov. 7, 1988 issue of Time magazine which reported that each day in the U.S., 2,753 teenagers become pregnant, 1,099 teenagers have an abortion, 367 teenagers miscarry, 1,287 give birth out of wedlock, and 2,989 see their parents divorced.

"And then there are the up-and-outs as well as the down-and-outs, the people who have full pockets and empty hearts. The list goes on and on."

Harris said one way WMU could become involved in reaching more people with the gospel is through praying for revival and encouraging their church's participation in next years's national simultaneous revivals.

"I'm convinced the Here's Hope" revivals will be one of the greatest evangelistic opportunities Southern Baptists have ever experienced. The Lord has promised to bless his people when they are obedient to do his work.

Rita Mahon, of Pennington Gap, Va., told how her life in Appalachia had changed since she became a Christian.

"I've done a little bit of everything you could do, but Jesus turned my life around. Jesus has made a big difference in my life.

Mahon, who became a Christian through the ministry of Belchers Chapel Baptist Church, has credited her maturity to The Quilting Place. a ministry partially sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Through the ministry. Southern Baptists have given Applachian women the opportunity to develop skills in quiltmaking and to increase their income by selling the items. The center is now staffed by Mission Service Corps volunteers from the Home Mission Board.

Alberta Gilpin, executive director of the Missouri Woman's Missionary Union. Jefferson City, told how she was able to incorporate mission action and witnessing through adoption of a Komanian refugee couple.

The couple, which has since been reunited with their son and daughter, have become Christians through the adoption process. The family lives with Gilpin.

"When you are faithful to what God has asked you to do, you will discover he is more than able t meet any needs that may arise," she t ld the crowd.

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#### PHOTO CUTLINES

Obregon)

- 1A. SHARING FAITH--Bernie Creel of Tennessee (right) and Charles Phillips of North Carolina share their Christian faith with Mrs. Richard Green and her son June 10 during Southern Baptists' massive door-to-door Christian witnessing effort in Las Vegas, Nev. The evangelism thrust preceded the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 1B. GOING FISHING--Southern Baptists from across the country converged on Las Vegas, Nev., the weekend before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting met in the Silver City June 13-15. They arrived in town early to participate in a dod-to-door witnessing campaign that reached 100,000 of the city's 160,000 households. This group met at Paradise Valley Baptist Church for orientation before fanning out through the neighborhood. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 3. HERE'S HOPE--Darrell W. Robinson, vice president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, presents the gospel message during revival services at Green Valley Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nev., the weekend before the convention's annual meeting convened in the city. Ninety of the state's 120 Southern Baptist churches held revival services during the week, a statewide effort that was a precursor to next year's "Here's Hope" nationwide simultaneous revivals, sponsored by the Home Mission Board. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 4. WOMEN MINISTERS--Officers of the Southern Baptist Women in Ministry organization are (from left) Betty Winstead McGary, minister to adults at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, president; Nancy Furgerson Cole, minister of music at Hanley Road Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., vice president; Donna Charlton-Starkes, associate pastor at Tropicana Christian Fellowship, Las Vegas, Nev., treasurer; Sheila Black, director of church and community ministries for Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C., membership chairman; and Carolyn Cole Bucy, minister to youth at Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, program chairman. Not pictured is Carol Causey, training designer for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., recorder. The organization met in Las Vegas the weekend before the June 13-15 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. (Photo by Bobbye Hill)
- 7. HISPANIC RALLY-Daniel Sotelo (right) interprets as Bobby Sunderland, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's direct evangelism division, preaches during the Hispanic "Here's Hope Rally of Celebration" at West Oakey Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nev., June 11, two days before the start of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. More than a dozen special-interest or vocational conferences were held in conjunction with the Las Vegas event. (Photo by Paul



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Moyers discussion cancelled

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 12 -- With a three-word notice, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention Monday dismissed the possibility of a discussion between television commentator Bill Moyers and committee member Paul Pressler.

In February the Executive Committee adopted by a 40-14 vote a resolution critical of Moyers' three-part documentary, "God and Politics," and particularly a segment on Southern Baptists. Moyers immediately requested an appearance before the Executive Committee in June with Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, to discuss the matter.

However, before the committee could consider the request, Moyers requested it be withdrawn.

The notice on the recommendations to be voted on by the Executive Committee at its meeting prior to the SBC annual meeting simply reported: "Deleted. Request withdrawn."

Executive Committee Chairman Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, Tenn., had said he would deny Moyers an appearance before the June 12 meeting because of the press of time at the two-hour gathering.

"I did not feel I had the right (to decide whether Moyers would appear) but that I would present it to the Executive Committee because they have the right to say whether they would hear him," Sullivan told Baptist Press.

Sullivan earlier told Baptist Press he would present the matter to the committee and let members decide in June whether they wanted to hear a discussion of the matter at the September, 1989 meeting.

However, on Sunday night (June 11) Moyers sent a fax message to Sullivan in Las Vegas, Nev., site of the 1989 SBC annual meeting, withdrawing the request.

In the Executive Committee deliberations, Sullivan declined to read the text of Moyers' message, saying only the request had been withdrawn and adding, "it served no useful purpose" to read the text.

Moyers made a copy of the message to Sullivan available to Baptist Press, the news service of the SBC. It said:

"I have read in the Baptist Press that you intend on Monday to ask the Executive Committee to vote whether or not to allow me to appear at your meeting in September to answer Paul Pressler's attack on my documentary.

"Forget it."

"When you and Pressler would not allow me to present my case this week at your meeting in Las Vegas and when Pressler refused my offer of free time on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) to discuss the issue following the repeat in May of the documentaty, I realized that I am up against a situation most un-Baptist: closed minds, and in the parlance of your host city, a stacked deck."

"There is no way to get a fair hearing from an Executive Committee that has become a rubber stamp for a secular politician who has infected this Christian fellowship with the partisan tactics of malice, manipulation and untruth. Under his thumb, you do only his will.

Moyers discussion cancelled -- Page 2

"I want no part of it."

Although the matter drew discussion during a meeting of the Executive Committee's administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee Monday morning, it drew no discussion when Sullivan announced the deletion of the matter from the agenda.

However, after the regular agenda was dispensed with, committee member James Wideman, pastor of Screven Memorial Baptist Church in Portsmouth, N.H., introduced a motion that said:

"I move that the Executive Committee report to Baptist Press that Bill Moyers has withdrawn his request to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee has acknowledged that request."

The motion was adopted without discussion or opposition.

Wideman's motion was different from a motion adopted earlier in the day by the administrative subcommittee, which had voted to "respectfully request that Baptist Press only report that Moyers had withdrawn his request to appear."

Wideman explained after the full executive committee meeting that when he thought about the motion he made in subcommittee, he realized it amounted to instructing Baptist Press what and what not to report.

"I changed my motion because I have confidence that Baptist Press will do nothing to inflame the issue," Wideman said.

During the subcommittee meeting -- which was conducted under background rules that allow no direct quotation or attribution -- several members said they believe the whole issue is a personal matter between rressler and Moyers and that nothing can be gained by continuing the controversy.

"Let's just let it drop and leave it alone," one subcommittee member said later.

Another said he believed it was an error to adopt the February resolution criticizing Moyers and the continuing controversy just proves the point.

Another said the matter was not just a personal matter between Pressler and Moyers. "Moyers has accused the SBC Executive Committee of being puppets of Paul Pressler, and we need to respond," he said.

Pressler was informed of the Moyers letter Sunday and called it "ridiculous." He said he did not want to see the text reported in Baptist Press.

When asked for comment, Pressler said: "I have nothing to say about it. It has been deleted, and it was reported as being deleted" from the agenda.

Baptist Press Director Alvin C. Shackleford said he wants to make sure any report in the news service is balanced and fair and tells both Moyers' reasons for withdrawing his request and offers the Executive Committee and Pressler and opportunity to respond.

By Dan Martin and Jim Newton, 7 p.m. Monday

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Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Schuller at Forum

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, June 12--Relief from shame.

That's what every person needs, Robert Schuller told 700 persons at the Southern Baptist Forum Monday afternoon at Cashman Field Complex.

In both the secular marketplace and in Christian ministry, Schuller, television preacher, popular author and Crystal Cathedral pastor, said, the secret of success is find a need and fill it, find a hurt and heal it, find a problem and solve it.

Relief from shame is the need of agnostics and atheists — as well as "extreme right fundamentalists, middle of the road moderates (and those) left of center in the Christian community," the Dutch Reformed minister from Garden Grove. Calif., said.

"No human being will ever be emotionally integrated, spiritually whole and psychologically healthy until he has recovered his lost glory and honor."

Those attributes flow from the fact that every human being "is created in the image of God and was crowned with glory and honor," Schuller said. That glory and honor, he said, was lost with Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden.

When people, through Christian faith, move "from shame to honor, from humiliation to glory," they will gain both a wholesome sense of pride and authentic humility, Schuller said.

"It's time that we learned that the opposite of pride is not humility," he said.
"The opposite of pride is shame."

And when a person's self-image is rooted in God, he or she will be both proud and humble -- and they're "the same thing," Schuller said.

The TV preacher credited Southern Baptists with influencing his ministerial career at two key junctures.

While in seminary, Schuller recounted, a chapel speaker exhorted the students to view their pastorates as lifelong commitments. A month later, he wrote a term paper about George W. Truett. who was pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas from 1897 to 1944. From that time on, Schuller said, "I had a call from God to look for a church where I could spend my whole life."

In 1969, 14 years after beginning a church from scratch in Garden Grove, Calif., Schuller said he began televising his worship services — at the suggestion of Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham who was in the Los Angeles area for a crusade.

"Southern Baptists, thank you," Schuller told the forum.

By Art Toalston -- 8:40 p.m. Monday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Mahon Feature

LAS VEGAS. Nev. -- When Rita Mahon boarded a plane for the first time last Friday, she ignored a fear of flying and traveling far from home because she was getting a chance to tell her story.

Mahon, a 30-year-old redhead with a strong, mountain accent, told bits and pieces of her story to about 1,200 women gathered for the Monday afternoon session of the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

She told of a former life of alcoholism, drug abuse and a violent nature. She also described her life since accepting Jesus as one full of joy, hope and new opportunities.

Her story actually began three years ago with the opening of The Quilting Place, a cottage industry in her home town of Pennington Gap, Va., sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and WMU.

"I've always wanted to learn how to quilt," Mahon said. "I kind of think of it as a lost art -- especially among the younger people." Mahon admitted that it was amazing that having grown up in Appalachia she did not know how to sew or quilt.

Mahon's pastor's wife first invited her to go to The Quilting Place. From that point on, Mahon was a regular at the quilting sessions along with her 7-year-old daughter, Crystal.

"I was excited about learning how to quilt," she said. "I was also excited that my daughter would learn how to quilt and could pass the art on."

Mahon attributes love and fellowship she found at The Quilting Place as determining factors in her Christian walk, a walk unlike the one of former days.

"I was real shy when I first started going to The Quilting Place," she said. "I wouldn't speak. In fact, one of the main reasons I ever started drinking was because I was so shy. When I drank, I wasn't as shy."

"I'm not proud I drank, but it shows what a complete turnaround is possible. I also used to use language like a sailor."

Mahon credits the power of Jesus as the reason she was able to quit drinking and using foul language. That power was one Mahon wanted to share with family members and friends.

"Once I was saved, I thought everybody had to be saved," Mahon said.

This week Mahon had the opportunity to witness to people beyond the limits of her Appalachian community. She joined the 1,800 Southern Baptists in door-to-door witnessing in Las Vegas.

"Most people were very open-minded here and willing to listen. They were real nice."

Mahon didn't know exactly what to expect from the city of Las Vegas or from the WMU annual meeting. But when she compared it to her life in three-stoplight Pennington Gap, she said, "I've been busier than I've ever been."



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Church Music Conference - Monday

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- Church musicians received practical advice from Southern Baptist church music leaders and elected new officers Monday at the 33rd annual session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at College Park Baptist Church.

Panel discussions focused on planning creatively for worship and creative approaches to hymn singing.

"Worship services should be well-planned and have a contagious spirit of love," explained Robert Hatfield, minister of music at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Additionally, worship should be "user-friendly," making non-Christians feel a part of the service, said Mark Lawson, minister of music at Kirkwood Baptist Church, Kirkwood, Mo.

Congregational hymn singing should have an important place in corporate times of worship, said David Hairel, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas.

"The leading of congregational hymn singing can be one of the most rewarding and uplifting experiences we, as ministers of music, can have," Hairel said.

Over 240 participants also heard concerts, various choirs, and Henrietta Davis, concert artist from Oakland, Calif.

In a business session, the musicians presented the W. Hines Sims award to Dan C. Hall posthumously. He was state music secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Convention fr m 1967-87.

They also memorialized Eugene M. Bartlett, Jr., retired state music secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and Paul Stewart, retired state music secretary for the Alabama Baptist Convention.

A resolution was adopted which expressed concern for the "mounting number of music ministers who are being forcibly terminated from their places of service."

Participants in the music conference also established a scholarship for seminary students who plan to pursue a career in music missions.

The winning entry of the 1988-89 Hymn Search relating to the theme of music and missions was announced. R. G. Huff was the winner with his entry entitled "Fill the Earth With Music." He is minister of music at University Hills Baptist Church, Denver, Colo.

Musicians elected Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., as president; and Birmingham's Robert Hatfield as president-elect.

Executive Council members elected included Bill Roper, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., and Emerson Porter, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Allen, Texas, local church division; Bobby Jones, associate state music director for the Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, denominational division; and Loyd Mins, assistant professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological ceminary, Louisville, Ky., educational divisions.



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Religious Education Roundup

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- Southern Baptist ministers of education are struggling with the reality that the label "minister" does not protect them from a world of pressures, Larry McSwain, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., told 250 religious educators at the annual two-day meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

Unfortunately, ministers find themselves participating in the "pains of life" just as everyone else, McSwain added.

Trying to fulfill too many areas of competency at one time causes "role overload, role ambiguity and role conflict" that often is difficult to handle, he said.

"We fail to care about ourselves enough to share our pains with each other," McSwain said. "Every minister needs to find someone outside of the ministry to be their 'pastor'."

As part of McSwain's presentation, Terry Peele, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., told of the "personal devastation" he felt when his wife divorced him.

Peele said the key to coping with the pain he felt was that "I could be ministered to as I had ministered through the years. It was an affirmation that my style of ministry really worked."

Eddie Lee, minister of education and administration at Grace Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind., said his termination from a church staff position after only 16 months was like rejection of "me and my ministry."

"My family and I felt like convicts trying to sneak into a Southern Baptist church," Lee said of their efforts to find a caring support group and a new place of ministry.

"The most important thing we learned is that God's grace is sufficient even in difficult times."

Lee said, "There is life after forced termination. As a result, I have become more sensitive to the way I relate to people around me."

Bradley Courtenay, associate professor of adult education at the University of Georgia, Athens, said religious educators must be concerned with teaching in a superior way because of the important role they play.

"Excellence is a worthy goal," Courtenay said. "But, remember that it is difficult to become an excellent teacher because you always have something that can be improved."

Using both visual and verbal teaching methods is important, Courtenay said. Educators also should keep traditional teaching methodologies while always adding new technologies, he continued.

"Most people are multi-preferential in their learning modes, " he said. "Even if we don't learn as well with one method, such as a lecture or achievement tests, we have the potential to learn under any method."

The key to excellence is using different methods to "tap the potential of the learner," Courtenay said. "The learners bring a wealth of knowledge to the learning experience, and we must learn to tap those resources as part of the learning process."

Bill L. Taylor, associate pastor/minister of education at Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, said Southern Baptists are going through "troubled waters.

"There has never been a time when we needed to focus on excellence and to build up our standards as Southern Baptists as today."

Noting that 57 percent of the more than 37,000 Southern Baptist churches reported five or less baptisms in 1988, Taylor urged conferees to look at role models of the past for building Sunday School programs and increasing baptisms.

"B. W. Spilman, the first field secretary at the Sunday School Board, had barely a first grade education, " Taylor siad. "He created the first training model for Southern Baptists in the early 1900s, and it was called the 'Southern Baptist miracle.' Today, we can't train the people we have and many of them are college graduates."

Taylor also cited the growth promotion methods of the late J. N. Barnette, when more than one million new persons per year were enrolled in Sunday school in the mid-1950s.

"Why can't we do that today?" Taylor asked.

Arnold Brown, chairman of a New York City consulting firm, cited several social, economic, political and technological factors affecting religious education in the future.

"Baby-boomers are becoming increasingly aware of their mortality and are beginning to think about what kind of legacy they want to leave," Brown said. At the same time, there is a new emphasis on the "search for meaning.

"People are looking for a more intimate relationship with the divine," Brown said. "There is a growing interest in teaching of religion in public schools."

Technological factors also have an impact on a changing society, Brown said.

"Machines are forcing us to become what they want us to be," he siad. "Although we are increasing our capacity to generate more information through technological advances, we cannot generate our capacity to analyze all the information available to us.

This eventually leads to information overload, Brown said.

We reach the point of negative information -- having too much that it makes a negative impact on our ability to think and teach.:

In business sessions, Bob Edd Shotwell, minister of education/administration, Hyde Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, was elected association president for 1989-90.

Other new officers include Katie Grogan, director of inter-program field services, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Columbia, president-elect; Wayne Poling, church growth consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, vice president; Walter Jacobs, minister of education, Edwards Road Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., eastern vice president.

Also Frank Fain, minister of education, Winnwood Baptist Church, Kansas City, central vice president; Thomas Kelly, director of church development, California Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno, western vice president; and Cathy Nixon, director of education ministries, Northminister Baptist Church, Monroe, La., assistant secretary.

Joe Haynes, growth/administration consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, was reelected secretary/treasurer.

LeRoy Ford, professor emeritus of foundations of education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, received the distinguished leadership award for contributions to religious education.



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Monday Forum

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12--For leadership that kept missions-minded women above controversy that has plagued the Southern Baptist Convention, Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, Ala., Monday received the Southern Baptist Forum's "Denominational Statesperson Award."

The forum honored Weatherford "for integrity and actions in holding the banner of missions ... above the winds of controversy."

Weatherford will take early retirement from her position as executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union in August just before her marriage to Cincinnati pastor Joe Crumpler.

She has led the 1.2-million-member missions education organization for women, girls and preschoolers for 15 years.

"I am not leaving denominational statesmanship," she told 700 people at the forum's Monday afternoon session.

She said she will continue to pursue "a vision of a fractured convention being made whole again" and renewing its commitment to "giving hope to people who are hopeless.

"We cannot sit idly by and wish that things were better unless we're willing to work to make them so," Weatherford said.

Her predecessor, Alma Hunt, 79, participated in the award presentation. Hunt said Weatherford became "a world Baptist citizen" during her tenure at the agency.

The forum's afternoon session centered on preaching, with messages by Clyde Fant, chaplain at Stetson University in Deland. Fla., and Fred Craddock, professor of New Testament and preaching at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

Fant took aim at "pulpit popes" who view themselves as "infallible when speaking." Such preachers, he said, will take a toll on the historic Baptist doctrine of the priesthood of the believer.

According to Fant, "as with all ecclesiastical monarchies, there is no room for fresh interpretation in the study (of the Bible), no room for humanity in the pulpit, no room for human, no room for grace.

"And eventually, there is no room for the Bible -- the Bible as it really is. It's too open, too varied."

Fant said it's perplexing that "fundamentalist interpreters harmonize every difference in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ... but they won't harmonize their differences in interpretation with their fellow preachers."

When a preacher thinks his biblical interpretations are the same as "the mind of God," Fant said, "there is room for only one truth," one that is "really no more than the idolatrous worship of past tradition."

Craddock said preachers unwittingly forfeit their freedom in the pulpit by worrying what their peers think, c mpeting with colleagues, focusing on their enemies, becoming "addicted" to comfortable circumstances and accepting failure.

But the greatest loss of freedom in Christian circles, Craddock said, stems from "a growing partiality in the associations people have with each other," a phenomenon he has observed as he has traveled to speaking engagements across the country.

There's a widespread fear of strangers, Craddock said. Yet the basic meaning of Hebrews 13:1-2 in the New Testament, he said, exhorts Christians not to neglect "love for the stranger."

Christians need to fight the growing temptation to "hold back" in giving their lives to God, Craddock said.

"When I was in my late teens," Craddock commented, "I wanted to be a preacher. When I was in my late 20s, I wanted to be a good preacher.

"Now that I am 60," the professor continued, "I want more than anything else to be a Christian, to live simply, to love generously, to seek truth, to serve faithfully and leave everything else to God."

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By Art Toalston -- 9:45 p.m. Monday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Pastors' Conference Wrapup

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- Encouragement, hope and guidance were offered by a battery of preachers at the two-day Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference for clergymen who must deal with the stresses of ministry.

In the closing session, former SBC President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., called on Southern Baptist preachers to mount a campaign against all forms of sin and degradation in the United States by holding higher faith in Jesus Christ.

"Our job is to lift up the truth (of Jesus Christ) so judgment, justice and equity can enter."

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, said, "America is in serious trouble. Our days as the land of the free and the home of the brave are numbered. We pray, 'Oh, God, do something.' But he doesn't because sin has built a barrier between this nation and God."

Rogers said abortion, pornography, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual immorality, dishonesty and other sins are responsible for social and moral chaos in the country today.

Meanwhile, other speakers urged pastors to guard against forces that threaten their ministries.

"It is essential that God's men and women understand how to deal with conflict," said Charles Stanley, former SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga. "We are in a battle with Satan, and he will do all he can to destroy your ministry and divide your church.

"God will equip you and give you strength to continue," Stanley promised.

When church members sense fear or see compromise, "you begin to lose your place of leadership and you lose respect as a leader," he told the pastors.

Stanley also warned pastors about running from conflict, because it was possible they could run out of the will of God. He added that it is not the place of a friend to seek to find a place for someone who seems to be in the middle of a difficult situation. Instead, he said the person should seek the leadership of God.

If pastors would set aside time to have a personal, quiet time with God, several things would happen which would help them build strength and be confident in dealing with conflict, Stanley predicted.

"God will make you sensitive to what is happening in the situation. "He will renew you physically and emotionally. God also will reassure you of his presence and will refocus attention from conflict and put it on him.

"Keep your eyes on Christ. When your eyes are on Jesus Christ, there is nothing you cannot face victoriously."

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis of Atlanta, challenged the pastors to make soul winning a top priority of their ministries.

"There is no greater need in the Southern Baptist Convention than for soul winners. Pastors, deacons, evangelists and Sunday school teachers all need to be recommitted to be soul winners."

Texas pastor Daryl Gilyard challenged the pastors to "take your eyes off your circumstances and difficulties and Jesus will bring triumph out of your tragedy. Jesus enables us to meet whatever challenge we have with confidence."

After a personal testimony of how he never knew his parents and lived five years under a bridge, Gilyard, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Garland, Texas, said, "I decided that the only way to rise out of the mud of self pity was to put my eyes on Jesus. When I took my eyes off myself and put my eyes on Jesus, a peace came over me."

John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, called the pastors to spiritual renewal as a step toward revival in their churches.

"America and the Southern Baptist Convention need revival," Bisagno said. "I believe all the committees and discussions and analysis are not going to change America. Somehow, the breath of God has got to come on Southern Baptists.

"If you really mean business, put away strange gods and confess your sins," Bisagno challenged the pastors.

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., told the pastors to "come to God on his terms. If you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

"You don't come to God when you want to, you come when he calls you or not at all," Elliff concluded. "God wants you to agree with him today."

John Click, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kans., asked the pastors to have a spirit of God's power, not fear.

"Stand your ground and suffer for the Gospel," he challenged them. "What you believe can make the difference between heaven and hell for someone.

"A doctrinal stance has no impact if it is not baptized in agape love," he warned. "A loveless gospel is a dead, ineffective, fruitless gospel. It is no gospel. Stand your ground, but stand lovingly.

Another speaker, J. Harold Smith, president of Radio Bible Hour Inc., Newport, Tenn, said he has "never been prouder to be a Southern Baptist than during the last 10 years (when the SBC has been engaged in doctrinal controversy).

"I am proud of our past president and our present leadership," he said.

About 9,000 persons attending the pastors' conference elected Elliff president without opposition.

Ron Hart, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz., also was elected unanimously as first vice president. Robert Holmes, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev., was elected secretary-treasurer.

By Jim Lowrey and Louis Moore--10:30 p.m. Monday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Forum Wrapup

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12-Words buttressing a historic Baptist doctrine, the priesthood of the believer, were heard with regularity Monday during the Southern Baptist Forum.

The forum, a meeting ground for the losing side in presidential elections of both the Southern Baptist Convention and the pastor's conference in recent years, also honored Carolyn Weatherford, outgoing executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, with its "Denominational Statesperson Award." The forum commended her for playing a key role in keeping the Birmingham-based agency above the denominational fray.

The forum heard addresses by two non-Baptists, Robert Schuller, TV preacher, popular author and pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., and Fred Craddock, professor of New Testament and preaching at Emory University's United Methodist Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

Two other forum speakers took direct aim at a resolution "On the Priesthood of the Believer" from the Southern Baptist Convention last year in San Antonio.

The doctrine received "cavalier treatment" from the resolutions committee that initiated the stance last year, charged Molly Marshall-Green, associate dean of the school of theology and assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

She also enunciated several components of the priesthood of the believer relevant "in our Baptist life today." Among them: "resistance to authoritarian pastoral leadership."

Clyde Fant, chaplain at Stetson University, Deland, Fla., argued that "pulpit popes" who view themselves as infallible are undermining the priesthood of the believer.

He noted that "eventually, there is no room for the Bible -- the Bible as it really is. It's too open, too varied" for "fundamentalist interpreters."

Forum attendance grew from about 500 to a day's end total of 700.

The believer's-priesthood resolution was adopted by messengers by about a 10 percent margin after attempts failed to amend or refer it to the convention's Executive Committee.

The resolution, while affirming the priesthood of the believer, stated that the doctrine "in no way contradicts the biblical understanding of the role, responsibility and authority of the pastor," who is "called of God to lead the local church."

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# Forum Wrapup -- Page 2

The resolution charged that the doctrine "has been used to justify wrongly the attitude that a Christian may believe whatever he so chooses and still be considered a loyal Southern Baptist."

The priesthood of the believer does not make faith "the privatized domain of the individual," Marshall-Green said, nor does it license a person to say, "Nobody can tell me what to believe."

But, she argued, "no council, creed, confession or presumptuous creep (must) usurp the position that belongs to God alone."

Weatherford has led the 1.2-million-member missions education organization for women, girls and preschoolers for 15 years. She will take early retirement in August just before her marriage to Cincinnati pastor Joe Crumpler.

"I am not leaving denominational statesmanship," she told the forum. She said she will continue to pursue "a vision of a fractured convention being made whole again."

The Uptown Baptist Church of Chicago was selected for the forum's "Church of the Year Award" for tackling an array of urban ministres in its neighborhood, five miles north of the downtown area.

Worship services at the church, encompassing about 500 people, are held in seven languages. About 150 volunteers participate weekly in providing hot meals, overnight shelter, sobriety help and other programs to some 8,000 people.

Next summer's forum will be held the day before the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans at the 3,000-seat Sanger Center for the Performing Arts near the Superdome --30--

By Art Toalston -- 10:40 p.m. Monday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### WMU Monday Evening

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- A recently-retired foreign missionary and a missions volunteer who has served in 25 countries in 19 years called on Southern Baptists Monday to redouble their giving and going to do missions at the closing session of the two-day annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Former medical missionary Wana Ann Fort, who with her doctor husband, Giles, served for 26 years as a medical missionary in Zimbabwe, told the women that three of the couple's five sons are also serving as missionaries in Africa.

Dr. Fort's illness forced the couple to return to the United States in 1986.

"It has been very difficult because we were not able to return to the land we loved," said Mrs Fort, "but we are grateful that our children have chosen to obey the Lord.

"Long after we pass from the scene, they will still be proclaiming His name."

Mrs. Fort read a segment of an anguished letter from her oldest son, David, a medical missionary serving in Nalerigu Baptist Hospital in Ghana.

Dr. Fort wrote about a budget cut that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board had been forced to make due to declines in missions giving. As a result, he said, many people would not receive the medical aid they badly need.

"It is difficult to deal with this, especially considering the affluence of our denomination as a whole and of many of the churches," Dr. Fort wrote.

Winona Cobb, who with her husband, Morris, has done partnership missions in more than 25 countries, reminded the women that today it is possible to take a jet plane to the ends of the earth, witness two weeks for the Lord and get back home in less time than it took the Apostle Paul to load the ship for his first missionary journey.

She contrasted the comfortable situation of most Baptists in the United States with a scene of "believers in Nigeria who worship under a tree, sitting on a log or a dung heap where the parasites crawl up into their bodies and make them sick--no Bibles, no song books, no pastors, no hope of ever having any."

Mrs. Cobb said she believes that if Lottie Moon (pioneer missionary to China for whom the Southern Baptist foreign mission offering is named) were alive, "she would be on wide screen television, bouncing messages off Telstar and enlisting people and loading up 747 jets taking people into all the world to make a witness."

The women heard testimonies from its Acteens National Advisory Panel of six teenage girls including Deborah T. Aye of Valencia, Calif., a native of Japan who said she feels God wants her to be a foreign missionary.

Others on the panel include Lourdes Floridalma Carrera of Columbia, S.C.; Pat Griffin of Fairfax, Va.; Michelle Mitchell of Bellevue, Neb.; Lori Suzanne Webb of Lanett, Ala., and Tonia Wheeler of High Point, N.C.

--30--

By Orville Scott -- 7:05 a.m. Tuesday



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SBC Press Representative
Dan Martin
News Room Manager
Mary Knox
Features Manager
Southern Baptist Convention
Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

# For Immediate Release

WMU Wrap

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12-Members of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union rallied around the theme "In His Name" for their two-day annual meeting as they considered ways to be more effective for missions at home and abroad.

Crowds as high as 1,600 were present in the rotunda of the Las Vegas Convention Center as members of the woman's auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention heard testimonies from missionaries, listened to updates on the denomination's special mission offerings, and learned of countries which remain closed to the gospel message.

In her outgoing comments, retiring executive director Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, Ala., deplored the 10-year-old controversy which has polarized the denomination and consumed two thirds of her tenure at the helm of the nation's largest woman's missions organization.

Weatherford drew applause when she said, "It is imperative that, instead of continuing to draw swords and choose sides, we acknowledge that nothing that divides us is as important as that which binds us in Christ's mandate to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all the people."

Other obstacles on the horizon for the organization include a weakening of missions emphasis in the convention, a declining percentage of churches with WMU units and a resulting leveling out of national membership.

As part of the final address to the group at the annual denominational gathering. Weatherford observed that SBC leadership "continues to come from churches where the Cooperative Program is less than five percent of the total budget rather than from churches where cooperative missions is emphasized by CP gifts in the 20-30 percent category."

Weatherford said she feared the combination of problems is showing up in a lack of commitment to the denomination's missions programs and will cause a further eroding in funding of those programs.

In recognition of her 15 years service to the organization, Weatherford was honored for consistently challenging WMU members and Southern Baptists to remain true to missions.

The framed citation was presented by Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks of Richmond, Va., and Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis of Atlanta.

WMU members heard Parks report that giving to this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering jumped almost 13 percent from last year to \$78,776,000. The total is the largest percentage increase since 1982.

Lewis said it was too early to project the giving level of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, but preliminary receipts indicate a similar gain for the offering.

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Though both offerings may show an increase this year, Weatherford reminded the crowd that neither offerings have met their goal since 1981. In addition, both agencies are struggling under massive budget cuts that threaten the future of Southern Baptist foreign and home missions efforts, she said.

For the first time, black banners were used in the annual processional of flags to dramatize the number of nations that are closed to missionaries.

WMU members heard ways the Foreign Mission Board is attempting to plant the gospel in those countries by use of non-resident missionaries.

John and Avah Shelby, serving through Cooperative Services International (CSI) in Hong Kong, gave testimonies of how they shared the gospel in such nations. CSI is sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board.

Dressed in traditional Mongolian clothing, Avah Shelby told how next years Christian professors will be allowed to teach in universities in Beijing, China. Doors are also opening for other Christian professionals to participate through similar exchange programs, "not to go and preach, but to model the Christian life as they practice their profession."

John Shelby then asked Southern Baptists to pray that a Christian witness could become a reality in Mongolia, which does not have a Bible translated in the national language.

"Until we make more progress, three million people will wait to hear about Christ," he said.

Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the Home Mission Board, cautioned the Baptist women to be sure well-intentioned programs do not come between them and "the glorious task for which we have been commissioned--the task of missions and evangelism.

Harris said one way WMU could become involved in reaching more people with the gospel is through praying for revival and encouraging their church's participation in next year's national simultaneous revivals.

"I'm convinced the "Here's Hope" revivals will be one of the greatest evangelistic opportunities Southern Baptists have ever experienced," he said.

the women were challenged to urge their churches to increase their giving to the denomination's missions offerings to ensure missionary needs will continue to be met.

Wana Ann Fort, a medical doctor who with her physician husband, Giles, served for 26 years as missionaries in Zimbabwe, told how three of their five sons are also serving as missionaries to that continent.

"Long after we pass from the scene, they will still be proclaiming his name," she said.

She then told of an anguished letter from her oldest son, David, a medical missionary serving in Nalerigu Baptist Hospital in Ghana.

He told of a budget cut from the Foreign Mission Board as a result of declines in . mission giving, which will make it more difficult to receive the medical supplies they need.

"It is difficult to deal with this, especially considering the affluence of our denomination as a whole and many of the churches," he wrote.

The women re-elected Marjorie J. McCullough of Alexandria, La., president of WMU for 1989-90, and Pattie T. Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., recording secretary.

-30-

By Orville Scott and Joe Westbury -- 10:35 p.m. Monday



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Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HMB's Black Church Extension SBC Fellowship

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- The Southern Baptist Convention needs the help of black Southern Baptists to reach lost souls for Christ, Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, declared Monday.

In an address to the Southern Baptist Black Church Extension Fellowship, Lewis added: "If we are going to fulfill our Lord's command to share the gospel with every creature .. We need you."

Focusing on the text found in Acts 10:34-35, he emphasized that "God is no respector of persons... Every man, woman, boy and girl born into this world is born in the image of our God, and thus, every nation, every ethnae of people needs to hear about Jesus.

"There is nobody outside the bounds of God's love; Jesus died for the whole world," Lewis said.

"If we are under the mandate to share the gospel with every creature, the Great Commission drives us into the home and heart of every human being, regardless of his race or his color or his ethnic background," he continued. "Our bold mission thrust to share the gospel is a sincere and genuine commitment to win souls and plan churches anywhere people are—regardless of who they are."

The Home Mission Board's black church extension division is committed to make the major thrust of its effort the winning of souls and the planting of churches, Lewis said.

"We're committed ... to develop and grow those churches to be viable, ministering bodies in black communities as well as white.

"If we're going to reflect Christ's mind, if we're going to be about his work ... then we need to be planting that body of Christ, that local church, everywhere where people are.

"We need you--not for what we can give you, but for what you can give us," Lewis told the group of more than 100 black Southern Baptists. "The Southern Baptist Convention needs your spirit. You can teach us how to praise ... you can teach us how to have an exciting worship.

"We need you because black America is lost without you," Lewis concluded.

Emmanuel McCall, director of the mission board's black church extension division, shared a "wish list" with the audience which included 13 goals the division would like to see accomplished by the year 2000. They include:

--Having 5,000 predominantly black congregations in the denomination that are strong, thriving, mission-minded and mission supporting. (Currently, there are more than 1,300 black Southern Baptist churches.

--Establishing 5,000 Woman's Missionary Union and 5,000 Brotherhood organizations in black churches, which are actively involved in mission education and promotion.

HMB's Black Church Extension SBC Fellowship -- page 2

- --Enrolling 800 black seminarians in the six denominational seminaries. (Currently, about 300 are enrolled.)
  - -- Providing 400 internships for black students at seminaries and graduate schools.
  - -- Employing 15 full-time black faculty members in the six seminaries.
- -- Involving at least 100 black people on committees and boards of the convention. (Currently, McCall said, there are only about 9.)
- --Placing more black people on denominational staffs in other than black church-related areas.
- --Seeing more black people in elected offices on associational, state and national denominational levels.
- --Seeing black SBC churches so equipped in mission and social awareness that they change the character of their residential communities.
  - -- Recording black Southern Baptist churches baptizing 50,000 people per year.
  - -- Having 360 black people recruited for chaplaincy ministries.
  - -- Locating 7,500 short-term missions volunteers from black congregations.
- --Locating 200 long-term (one or two years) missions volunteers from black congregations.
- --To help black Southern Baptist realize these goals, McCall said the black church extension division will get promotional help from the Foreign Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood commission.

"We can tip the balance in Southern Baptist life by our evangelistic zeal," McCall said. "We have not yet begun to realize our potential!"

Also during the meeting, the Sunday School Board's black church development section presented two awards for initiative in black church development work. They went to George McCalep, pastor of Greenforest Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.; and the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

By Brenda Sanders--7:15 a.m. Tuesday

- 8. REGISTRATION LINE--Carol Foster, (right) a member of Spring Valley Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nev., joined hundreds of Southern Baptists from her city in welcoming fellow Southern Baptists to Las Vegas for their convention's annual meeting in mid-June. Foster helped scores of people register as messengers to the event. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 9. CREDENTIAL CHECK--Sylvia Meenach, (left) helped Margie Robinson confirm her credentials to register as a messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15. Meenach is a member of Central Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., and Robinson is a member of Unity Baptist Church in LaGrange, Ga. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 11. FAREWELL ADDRESS--Carolyn Weatherford addressed members of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union during the final WMU annual meeting at which she will be the organization's executive director. She will marry Joe Crumpler, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 19 and retire from WMU in September after 14 years at the organization's helm. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 44. RESCUE CONFERENCE--Richard D. Land, (right) vexecutive diffector Soft then Souphern Baptist Christian Life Commission, participated in a news conference June 12 sponsored by Southern Nevada Operation Rescue in Las Vegas. The organization was to conduct abortion "rescue" efforts in Las Vegas June 13-15, to coincide with the 132nd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention. Land said he participated in the conference to "clarify Southern Baptists' resolutionary stance on abortion," citing resolutions from 1982 and 1984. He was joined by Russ Daime, director of Southern Nevada Operation Rescue. (Photo by Bobbye Hill)
- 13. CHURCH MUSICIANS--Mark Edwards, (seated) minister of music at First Baptist Church of Nashville, became president of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference during its annual meeting June 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nev. He was joined by (standing, from left) Bob Hatfield, minister of music at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., president-elect; Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., immediate past president; Louis Ball, professor of music at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., secretary-treasurer; and Craig Singleton, professor of church music at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., chairman of the educational division. (Photo by Brenda Flowers)
- 17. FELLOWSHIP TIME-David Cornelius, (from left) Elwanda Cornelius, Frankiekie
  Harvey and Carol Shack of Emmanuel Baptist Church in San Jose, Calif., were
  among about 100 black Southern Baptists who participated in their denomination's
  Black Church Extension Fellowship June 12 in Las Vegas, Nev. They were told
  black Southern Baptists play a vital role in reaching the United States for Christ.
  (Photo by Stanley Leary)

HH H Sanford letter
Mrs. Sanford letter
is
missing



> Alvin C. Shackleford **SBC Press Representative**

> > Dan Martin **News Room Manager**

> > > Mary Knox

Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Music Conference Wrapup

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12 -- Southern Baptist musicians focused their attention on the theme of "Sound His Word and Share God's Love" at a two-day conference preceding the 132nd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

About 240 attended the sessions at College Park Baptist Church. . Panel discussions addressed how to revitalize praise and worship in church, worship planning, and creative approaches to hymn singing. And the state of the

President Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., described the stable but expectant state of the church music conference. The war to the the to the terminal Commence of the Commence of th

"As we renew our common efforts, through music's tuneful voice, we anticipate the

The musicians honored Dan C. Hall with the W. Hines Sims award posthumously. He was state music secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1967-87.

Panelists presented discussions on how to revitalize praise and worship, in: churches, planning creatively for worship, and creative approaches to hymn singing.

John McGucking, director of the church music departments for the California

Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno, discussed the "winds of change" in Southern Baptist church music today.

The church has lost touch with contemporary society, he said, referring to the fact that 67 percent of Southern Baptist churches have either plateaued or declined in attendance. .. . 3

Speaking about worship planning, Robert Hatfield, minister of music at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., said, "Worship services should be wellplanned and have a contagious spirit of love."

Congregational hymn singing should have an important place in corporate time of worship, said David Hairel, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas.

"The leading of congregational hymn singing can be one of the most rewarding and uplifting experiences, we, as ministers of music, can have." he said.

Over 240 participants also heard numerous concerts and two sermons by Paul Duke, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church, Kirkwood, Mo.

Duke told musicians worship services should leave out what will entertain but never transform lives.

"We should not worship to help anyone feel good or make it through another week," he said. "Instead we should bear witness to the holy character of God."

Conference participants also attended simultaneous interest sessions on music in the small church, teaching choir members to read music, building/maintaining a strong youth choir and handbells in the small church.

The musicians also heard vignettes from our hymnal history and announced the winning entry of the 1988-89 Hymn Search. R. G. Huff was the winner with his entry entitled "Fill the Earth With Music." He is minister of music at University Hills Baptist Church, Denver, Colo.

# Music Conference Wrapup--page 2

A resolution was adopted which expressed concern for the "mounting number of music ministers who are being forcibly terminated from their places of service."

Participants in the music conference also established a scholarship for seminary students who plan to pursue a career in music missions.

In addition, they offered speaking and singing tributes to Mary June Tabor, assistant in the church music department for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, who served as the group's secretary-treasurer for 20 years.

Musicians elected Mark Edwards, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., as president and Birmingham's Robert Hatfield as president-elect.

Executive Council members elected included Bill Roper, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., and Emerson Porter, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Allen, Texas, local church division; Bobby Jones, associate state music director for the Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, denominational division; and Loyd Mins, assistant professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., educational divisions.

--30--

Eddy Oliver -- 9:25 a.m. Tuesday



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Messenger Opinion of Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, June 13--Southern Baptists think Las Vegas is beautiful at night, and not nearly as bad as they expected, a survey taken Tuesday indicated.

"It's a whole lot different than I thought," said Helen Flannery from Danville, Ky. "I thought it was going to be wicked."

Patsy Connerley from Greenville, Miss., was nervous about bringing her four children with her to Las Vegas. "But it's not as bad as I thought it might be," she said. "We're enjoying it."

Jesse and Edith Head from Morganton, N.C., who have been coming to the Southern Baptist Convention since 1947, had nothing but good things to say about the city.

"We've been treated fine," Head said. "Everyone has gone overboard to be nice to us."

"It's not near as bad as I thought it'd be," said Edith. "I wouldn't mind coming back sometime."

For Rodney Johnson of Dike, Texas, attending the SBC in Las Vegas has brought back some wonderful memories. He was here once before--19 years ago on his honeymoon.

"It's a beautiful city," he said. He drove into town at night coming from Hoover Dam and could see the lights of Las Vegas miles before he hit the city limits.

He was surprised at how the city had grown up since his last trip, but many other characteristics are the same, he said. Even 19 years ago the casinos were right inside the hotel doors.

"That doesn't bother me," he said. "If Southern Baptists can go to New Orleans, they can go to Las Vegas. Southern Baptists need to be in Las Vegas; someone has to plant the seeds (of Christianity)."

Tom and Paula Fowler from Noble, Okla., also drove into the city at night, arriving about 4 a.m., and were shocked to find the casinos full, even at that hour.

"It's a different environment," said Mrs. Fowler. "Everything's geared towards gambling."

Fowler said he had mixed feelings about holding the convention in Las Vegas but now is glad of the decision. "It's exciting, hearing about the witnessing efforts," he said.

As far as Ben Lokteff of El Centro, Calif., is concerned, the witnessing efforts are the only redeeming factor in holding the convention in Las Vegas. "We should not be here," he said. "We're putting a lot of money into their business and it's not the kind of business I'd want us to put our money into."

"It's like any other city," said Sterling Kim of Maui, Hawaii. "There are souls to be won." He said he concentrates on witnessing and doesn't pay attention to the other things.

Jane Kent, 72, of Lousiville, Ky., agrees. It's her first time in Las Vegas, but she's not shocked. "We should be flexible enough to walk past things in the lobby," sh said.

Susan Nichols of Troy, Ala., has not been tempted to put any of her coins into the slot machines. "People were so worried we'd (Southern Baptists) be tempted to gamble, but I haven't been," she said.

But she has been surprised at some of the city's rougher edges. "I thought it'd be all glamour, but there are some sleezy spots, even on the Strip," she said. "I don't think I'd want to come back."

Stacey Lightfoot, 8, of Kennett, Mo., has never been in a city this big before and would like to come back. "I like it," she said. "It's big and there're lots of flashing lights."

But she's not so fond of the casinos. "I don't like all those people; it's so crowded."

Phillip Graves, another 8-year-old from Glen Rose, Texas, agreed with Stacey about the casinos and summed it up in one word, "Yuk!"

"I wish it was more like San Antonio," he said.

"It was weird going into the hotel," said LaRaine Dail, 21, from Clearwater, Fla. "All those slot machines. It really looked tempting. I think there's some psychology involved in putting the machines just as you go in."

Monte Hodges from Mayfield, Ky., noticed the temptation, especially among older people. "I was surprised how many senior adults were gambling at the nickle machines," he said. During dinner one night he watched one woman working six machines for over an hour without a single pay-off.

Even when someone wins, it's no big deal, he said. "They're not smiling. They're not getting any joy out of it."

Although he originally was opposed to holding the convention in Las Vegas, just 24 hours in the city has changed his mind. "I've had three opportunities to witness since Sunday afternoon," he said. "People are very open."

On the way to his room, Hodges said he talked with the bell boy about why he was in the city and got some local advice: "Don't play the games; just enjoy the cheap food and soak up the sun."

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By Anita Bowden -- 11:20 a.m. Tuesday



News Room
Las Vegas Convention Center
(702) 791-8600
Aivin C. Shackleford
SBC Press Representative
Dan Martin
News Room Manager
Marv Knox
Features Manager
Southern Baptist Convention

Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opening SBC Session Tuesday

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13--"Las Vegas, Southern Baptists are here," said a Mississippi pastor, extending greetings Tuesday to the city where the 132nd convention of the 14.7 million member denomiation opened a three day run.

Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., acknowledged before 18,085 messengers in their opening session that Las Vegas is "an alluring city."

Harris cited "its big names and its big games ... its limousines and luminaries, its brilliant lights and professional fights and its busy nights."

Christians, however, ultimately look to enter "an eternal city in the heavens," Harris said, adding, "We are interested in taking as many people to that celestial city as we possibly can."

Already, he noted, Southern Baptist witnessing teams and individual church members have helped more than 360 Las Vegas residents make professions of faith in Christ.

Harris was scheduled to respond to a welcome from Mayor Ron Lurie but the leading Las Vegas official did not appear.

The convention's president, Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church Jacksonville, Fla., called the convention to order and announced he would be aided in presiding over the three-day meeting by a team of four parliamentarians.

Messengers adopted a three-minute limit on messengers, speaking for or against any m tion before the convention.

Gray Allison, president and professor of evangelism at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., delivered the first of several messages on the convention's theme, "Going, Weeping, Sowing, Reaping."

Allison focused on three sorts of individuals needing Christian witness mentioned in the New Testament Book of Jude.

Some are good people who simply need an explanation of the gospel, such as children of church members, Allison said. "They are not bitter toward God. They are not mean and ugly. But they are sinners," he said.

Others are people "who have had opportunity after opportunity and have not responded to the gospel," Allison said.

"We need to go to them with a holy boldness." he said, and urge them to rethink their hesitance to turn to faith. Christians must seek to "pull them out of the very jaws of hell itself."

The third sort of individuals needing Christian witness, Allison said, are "the gamblers, the dope addicts, the drunkards, the prostitutes, the openly wicked and vicious pe ple in this world."

Jesus reached out to them, Allison said, "and we must do it also."
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By Art Toalston -- 11:26 a.m. Tuesday.



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Executive Committee Report

LAS VEGAS. Nev., June 13 -- Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a \$137.2 million budget for 1989-90 and approved 11 other recommendations from its Executive Committee with a minimum of debate.

The budget is a decrease of \$8.4 million from the \$145.6 million budget for the current year, 1988-89.

The new budget will allocate \$134.7 million for operating expenses of 19 SBC agencies, and \$2.5 million for capital needs.

Priority in allocating receipts will be given to capital needs, with one-twelfth of the capital needs budget distributed monthly before the basic operating budget is allocated.

The 1989-90 budget is based on a new budgeting procedure adopted by the SBC Executive Committee last September in which future budgets are based on actual receipts for the previous year, rather than on estimated projections for income. The current 1988-89 budget of \$145 million is based on income projections, not actual receipts.

Under the new procedure, the \$134.7 million operating budget for 1989-90 is the same amount received during the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, 1988. The amount is \$2.9 million less than the current 1988-89 operating budget. The new capital needs budget represents a reduction of \$4.4 million.

In case income exceeds the budget, receipts will be distributed to the agencies according to the percentages by which they receive operating funds.

There was no debate or discussion on the budget by the 19,553 messengers.

Debate surfaced unexpectedly over what normally would have been a routine recommendation: a change in the statement of purpose for the convention's Home Mission Board.

Bob Crowder, a layman from Birmingham, Ala., who lost a lawsuit against the convention earlier this year, objected to the purpose statement because the Executive Committee did not provide printed copies of the previous purpose statement.

Convention messengers defeated a motion to postpone consideration of the Home Mission Board purpose statement until copies of the original could be printed and distributed.

Messengers also debated briefly recommendations for dates and places of future conventions scheduled in 1997, 1999 and 2001. Debate centered around the desire by several messengers to schedule conventions in cities on the West and East Coasts, rather than in Dallas, Atlanta and New Orleans which were recommended.

An amendment to change the dates of the 2001 convention in New Orleans to June 19-21 rather than June 12-14 was defeated, after Executive Committee vice president Tim Headquist explained that the later dates were not available, and contracts with hotels would have to be renegotiated.

Executive Committee Report -- page 2

Future conventions will meet in Dallas, June 17-19, 1997; in Atlanta, June 15-17, 1999; and in New Orleans, June 12-14, 2001.

A proposal from the SBC Executive Committee which had voted in February to recommend creation of a new Religious Liberty Commission was not presented to the convention for consideration.

SBC Executive Committee chairman Charles Sullivan explained that the Executive Committee on the previous day had amended the proposal to create the new agency, postponing consideration until the 1990 convention in New Orleans. Sullivan said the Executive Committee made the decision at the request of SBC President Jerry Vines, who said deferring the controversial recommendation would help the convention focus on missions and evangelism in Las Vegas.

Other Executive Committee recommendations adopted by messengers limited the term of office of the music director to two years, received as information a report on Bold Mission Thrust goals and accomplishments during the years 1985-88, and revised the program statement of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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Prepared by Jim Newton, 12:20 p.m., Tuesday

Patterson, Criswell College drop attempt to buy school

HEVERLEE, Belgium (BP)--Paige Patterson has ended his effort to to buy the financially troubled Belgian Center for Biblical Education, following months of negotiations with the school's trustees.

Criswell College, the Dallas Bible school Patterson runs, was negotiating to buy the Belgian school. But Robert Johnson, chairman of the Belgian school's board of trustees, told European Baptist Press Service June 10: "We have mutually agreed with Dr. Patterson that all of our efforts to negotiate to a successful conclusion are terminated. I think both parties were very sad."

Johnson said Patterson and the trustees had arrived in principle at a successful purchase agreement. Had Patterson raised enough money, "I think we would have followed through to a successful conclusion," he added.

Patterson, interviewed by Baptist Press June 11, indicated he was unable to gain sufficient financial commitments to fund the school in the future. "The purchase price itself was not problematic." he said. But "just purchasing it would not solve their problems unless I could raise sufficient endowment or endowment commitments."

He added "One of the greatest tragedies of our era (would be) if that school, with its accreditation and doctoral program, is lost to evangelical Christianity."

Patterson is president of Criswell College and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Sale of the Belgian school would have involved Criswell College, not the Foreign Mission Board. Patterson said in May he needed to raise \$2 million to purchase the school and another \$3 million endowment to undergird its future operation.

In March, Patterson said he would not buy the school if he felt he would imperil its future or the future of Criswell College. Criswell's annual budget is \$4.5 million, and Patterson and his staff must raise all of it, he said.

"It's a difficult time for us to be raising money right now with the economy in Texas down," said Patterson. "We're still about two years behind in recovering." Upturns in charitable giving lag about two years behind economic recovery, he said.

Patterson will contact people who donated money for the purchase, he noted. Donors might choose for their money to be returned, given to Criswell College or used in some other missionary activity, he said.

Patterson said he has no current plans for other overseas theological efforts but would launch them "any time we felt led by the Spirit of God."

Southeastern Seminary names new development director

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Raleigh, N.C., attorney George H. Harvey has been named director of development for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., effective June 5.

Harvey, 42, succeeds Robert Spinks, who resigned in 1987.

A native of Greenville, N.C., Harvey has been an attorney with Seay, Harvey, Titchener and Horne since 1972. His main area of practice has been real estate law.

Harvey is a graduate of East Carolina University and the Wake Forest University School of Law. He is married to the former Margaret Elizabeth J nes. They have four sons.

Congressional morality hinges on politcs, ethicist notes

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A new emphasis on ethics in Congress is probably rooted more in political expediency than a genuine concern for morality in government, claimed a Southern Baptist ethicist.

Paul D. Simmons, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said "political expediency is the primary ethic" in Congress. "Whatever works in favor of a political party or its agenda will usually be trotted out."

In recent weeks, ethical problems have forced the resignations of House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, and House Majority Leader Tony Coelho, D-Calif. The resignations have led to a series of charges and counter charges between Republicans and Democrats in Congress about ethical conduct.

Ethical problems of members of Congress are compounded by "a lack of clarity about the rules" that govern their ethical behavior, he said. Yet members of Congress, like others in positions of power, are prone to "see themselves as arbiters of the rules and not subject to the rules," he added.

"I suppose it's an almost universal human phenomenon when people get in power they begin to think they are somehow above the rules that govern ordinary human beings," he said.

Although the "greed factor cannot be brushed aside," Simmons said, members of Congress often are victims of a flawed system.

Congressional "salaries are scandalously low and we have set up a system that short circuits ethics in favor of economic expediency," he said, suggesting congressional salaries be raised and speaking honoraria be eliminated.

When choosing members of Congress, Simmons recommended that voters stay well informed on the issues, be cautious of candidates with strong ties to political action committees and observe the ethical standards of a candidate's campaign.

Many times, he said, people have campaigned as the "pro moral candidates," but investigations of their private lives have revealed they were" not suited for public office."

Simmons said voters should expect officeholders to model good moral behavior and inspire the public to move toward high moral standards. He cautioned, however, that citizens should hold themselves to the same level of ethical conduct that they expect of their elected officials.

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Veteran Arizona leader McKay dies

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) -- Charles L. McKay, former executive secretary of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, died June 6 in Yucaipa, Calif., following a battle with cancer. He was 81.

The Mississippi native led the Arizona convention for 14 years, 1956-70. During his tenure, the convention grew from 155 to 230 churches, despite the loss of 52 churches that formed the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention in 1964. Church membership rose from 29,000 to 70,000, and Cooperative Program giving more than doubled, to a high of \$430,000.

Before joining the Arizona convention staff, McKay was director of enlargement and evangelism for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville five years.

McKay was pastor of First Baptist Church of Pascagoula, Miss.; First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Miss.; Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; Temple Baptist Church, Ruston, La.; and Toulminville Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

McKay resigned as Arizona executive secretary in 1970 to become pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Scottsdale, a position he held for 4 years. Upon his retirement as pastor, he became professor of Bible at California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif.

McKay was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received master and doctor of theology degrees. He also received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Grand Canyon College.

Survivors include his wife, Glenda; two daughters: June Myers, wife of Ernest Myers, executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention, and Ruth Wood, program director in the ASBC church growth and development division; a sister, Ruth Edwards of Mississippi; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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Fifteen congregations started in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nev.(BP)--Fifteen new churches and missions have been started in a special effort related to the Southern Baptist Convention 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

David Meacham, director of missions for Southern Nevada Baptist Association, Las Vegas, reported on Project '89 to members of the Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship during their annual meeting. Project '89 calls for 25 new works to be started in Nevada in conjunction with the SBC meeting.

Meacham said the starts are important because Nevada is the most unchurched state in the nation. Currently, Southern Baptists have 120 churches and missions in the state.

"The coming of the Southern Baptist Convention is putting us so much farther down the road than we would have been otherwise," he said. "When this convention is over and you folks leave, it's only the beginning."

Meacham said another five missions should be launched by the end of the summer. Initial plans are in place for others that will meet the goal of 25, home missions leaders said.

Work on the 25 starts has been coordinated by the Nevada Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The mission board has provided at least seven missionaries to assist in church starting.

Other assistance has come through partnerships with individual churches, local associations and state conventions. One large Georgia church has pledged \$1,000 per month for two years to help start one of the churches in Las Vegas, where start-up costs are highest.

The 15 new starts include four ethnic congregations -- two Hispanic, one Chinese and ne Filipino.

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Battery of preachers offer encouragement, hope, guidance By Jim Lowry & Louis Moore

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Encouragement, hope and guidance were offered by a battery of preachers at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 11-12.

In the closing session, former Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., called on Southern Baptist preachers to mount a campaign against all forms of sin and degradation in the United States by holding higher faith in Jesus Christ.

"Our job is to lift up the truth (of Jesus Christ) so judgment, justice and equity can enter," said Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church. "America is in serious trouble. Our days as the land of the free and the home of the brave are numbered. We pray, 'Oh, God, do something.' But he doesn't because sin has built a barrier between this nation and God."

Abortion pornography, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual immorality, dishonesty and other sins are responsible for social and moral chaos in the country today, he said.

Meanwhile, other speakers urged pastors to guard against forces that threaten their ministries.

"It is essential that God's men and women understand how to deal with conflict," said Charles Stanley, former SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta. "We are in a battle with Satan, and he will do all he can to destroy your ministry and divide your church. God will equip you and give you strength to coninue."

When church members sense fear or see compromise, "you begin to lose your place of leadership and you lose respect as a leader," he told the pastors.

Stanley also warned pastors about running from conflict, because they can run out of the will of God. A friend should not seek to find a place for someone who seems to be in the middle of a difficult situation, he added, noting the person should seek the leadership of God.

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis of Atlanta challenged the pastors to make soul winning a top priority of their ministries: "There is no greater need in the Southern Baptist Convention than for soul winners. Pastors, deacons, evangelists and Sunday school teachers all need to be recommitted to be soul winners."

Texas pastor Daryl Gilyard challenged the pastors to "take your eyes off your circumstances and difficulties and Jesus will bring triumph out of your tradegy. Jesus enables us to meet whatever challenge we have with confidence."

After a personal testimony of how he never knew his parents and lived five years under a bridge, Gilyard, pastor of Shiloh Baptist church in Garland, Texas, said, "I decided that the only way to rise out of the mud of self pity was to put my eyes on Jesus. When I took my eyes off myself and put my eyes on Jesus, a peace came over me."

John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, called the pastors to spiritual renewal as a step toward revival in their churches: "America and the Southern Baptist Convention need revival. I believe all the committees and discussions and analysis are not going to change America. Somehow, the breath of God has got to come on Southern Baptists."

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., told the pastors to "come to God on his terms. If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

John Click, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., asked the pastors to have a spirit of God's power, not fear: "Stand your ground and suffer for the Gospel. What you believe can make the difference between heaven and hell for someone.

"A doctrinal stance has no impact if it is not baptized in agape love. A loveless gospel is a dead, ineffective, fruitless gospel. It is no gospel. Stand your ground, but stand lovingly."

J. Harold Smith, president of Radio Bible Hour Inc. in Newport, Tenn., said he has "never been prouder to be a Southern Baptist than during the last 10 years (when the SBC has been engaged in doctrinal controversy). I am proud of our past president and our present leadership."

About 9,000 people attending the Pastors' Conference elected Elliff president without opposition.

Ron Hart, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz., was elected unanimously as first vice president. Robert Holmes, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev., was elected secretary-treasurer.

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Missions directors elect Russell Bennett president

LAS VEGAS. Nev. (BP)--Southern Baptist directors of missions were challenged at their annual two-day meeting to help congregations grow "Great Commission" churches and to not let problems hinder their work "because God is in control."

The 250 directors from across the nation who attended the conference preceding the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., elected F. Russell Bennett of Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, Ky., president, and Glen Hickey of Pulaski Baptist Association, Little Rock, Ark., first vice president.

Others elected included Ken Chadwick of Salt Lake and Rainbow Canyon Baptist Associations in Utah, second vice president; A. Lawrence Clegg of Chappapeela Baptist Association in Ponchatoula, La., secretary; Phill G. Hall of Southeast Iowa Baptist Association in Albia, Iowa, treasurer; Grayson Glass of Galveston Baptist Association in Galveston, Texas, newsletter editor; and J.R. Blakeney of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans, host director 1990.

Moyers withdraws request to appear before committee By Dan Martin & Jim Newton

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--With a three-word notice, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention Monday dismissed the possibility of a discussion between television commentator Bill Moyers and committee member Paul Pressler.

In February the Executive Committee adopted by a 40-14 vote a resolution critical of Moyer's three-part documentary, "God and Politics," and particularly a segment on Southern Baptists. Moyers immediately requested an appearance before the Executive Committee in June with Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, to discuss the matter.

However, before the committee could consider the request, Moyers requested it be withdrawn.

The notice on the recommendations to be voted on by the Executive Committee at its meeting prior to the SBC annual meeting simply reported: "Deleted. Request withdrawn."

Executive Committee Chairman Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, Tenn., previously said he would deny Moyers an appearance before the June 12 meeting because of the press of time at the two-hour gathering.

"I did not feel I had the right (to decide whether Moyers would appear) but that I would present it to the Executive Committee because they have the right to say whether they would hear him," Sullivan told Baptist Press.

Sullivan earlier told Baptist Press he would present the matter to the committee and let members decide in June whether they wanted to hear a discussion of the matter at the September 1989 meeting.

However, on Sunday night (June 11) Moyers sent a fax message to Sullivan in Las Vegas, Nev., site of the 1989 SBC annual meeting, withdrawing the request.

In the Executive Committee deliberations, Sullivan declined to read the text of Moyers' message, saying only the request had been withdrawn and adding, "it served no useful purpose" to read the text.

Moyers made a copy of his message to Sullivan available to Baptist Press, the news service of the SBC. It said:

"I have read in the Baptist Press that you intend on Monday to ask the Executive Committee to vote whether or not to allow me to appear at your meeting in September to answer Paul Pressler's attack on my documentary.

"Forget it."

"When you and Pressler would not allow me to present my case this week at your meeting in Las Vegas and when Pressler refused my offer of free time on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) to discuss the issue following the repeat in May of the documentary, I realized that I am up against a situation most un-Baptist: closed minds, and in the parlance of your host city, a stacked deck.

"There is no way to get a fair hearing from an Executive Committee that has become a rubber stamp for a secular politician who has infected this Christian fellowship with the partisan tactics of malice, manipulation and untruth. Under his thumb, you do only his will.

"I want no part of it."

Although the matter drew discussion during a meeting of the Executive Committee's administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee Monday morning, it drew no discussion when Sullivan announced the deletion of the matter from the agenda.

However, after the regular agenda was dispensed with, committee member James Wideman, pastor of Screven Memorial Baptist Church in Portsmouth, N.H., introduced a motion that said:

"I move that the Executive Committee report to Baptist Press that Bill Moyers has withdrawn his request to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee has acknowledged that request."

The motion was adopted without discussion or opposition.

Wideman's motion was different from a motion adopted earlier in the day by the administrative subcommittee, which had voted to "respectfully request that Baptist Press only report that Moyers had withdrawn his request to appear."

Wideman explained after the full executive committee meeting that when he thought about the motion he made in subcommittee, he realized it amounted to instructing Baptist Press what and what not to report.

"I changed my motion because I have confidence that Baptist Press will do nothing to inflame the issue," Wideman said.

During the subcommittee meeting -- which was conducted under background rules that allow no direct quotation or attribution -- several members said they believe the whole issue is a personal matter between Pressler and Moyers and that nothing can be gained by continuing the controversy.

"Let's just let it drop and leave it alone," one subcommittee member said later.

Another said he believed it was an error to adopt the February resolution criticizing Moyers and the continuing controversy just proves the point.

Another said the matter was not just a personal matter between Pressler and Moyers. "Moyers has accused the SBC Executive Committee of being puppets of Paul Pressler, and we need to respond," he said.

Pressler was informed of the Moyers letter Sunday and called it "ridiculous." He said he did not want to see the text reported in Baptist Press.

When asked for comment, Pressler said: "I have nothing to say about it. It has been deleted, and it was reported as being deleted" from the agenda.

Baptist Press Director Alvin C. Shackleford said he wants to make sure any report in the news service is balanced and fair and tells both Moyers' reasons for withdrawing his request and offers the Executive Committee and Pressler an opportunity to respond. SBC WMU rallies around 'His Name'

## By Orville & Joe Westbury

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Members of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union rallied around the theme "In His Name" for their two-day annual meeting as they considered ways to be more effective for missions at home and abroad.

Crowds as high as 1,600 were present in the rotunda of the Las Vegas (Nev.) Convention Center as members of the woman's auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention heard testimonies from missionaries, listened to updates on the denomination's special mission offerings and learned of countries that remain closed to the gospel message.

In her outgoing comments, retiring Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, Ala., deplored the 10-year-old controversy that has polarized the denomination and consumed two-thirds of her tenure at the helm of the nation's largest woman's missions organization.

Weatherford drew applause when she said, "It is imperative that, instead of continuing to draw swords and choose sides, we acknowledge that nothing that divides us is as important as that which binds us in Christ's mandate to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all the people."

Other WMU obstacles include a weakening of missions emphasis in the convention, a declining percentage of churches with WMU units and a resulting leveling out of national membership.

As part of the final address to the group at the annual denominational gathering, Weatherford observed that SBC leadership "continues to come from churches where the Cooperative Program unified budget is less than 5 percent of the total budget rather than from churches where cooperative missions is emphasized by CP gifts in the 20 to 30 percent category."

Weatherford said she feared the combination of problems is showing up in a lack of commitment to the denomination's missions programs and will cause a further eroding in funding of those programs.

In recognition of her 15 years service to the organization, Weatherford was honored for consistently challenging WMU members and Southern Baptists to remain true to missions.

The framed citation was presented by Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks of Richmond, Va., and Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis of Atlanta.

WMU members heard Parks report that giving to this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering jumped almost 13 percent from last year to \$78,776,000. The total is the largest percentage increase since 1982.

Lewis said the giving level of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions could not be predicted but preliminary receipts indicate a similar gain.

For the first time, black banners were used in the annual processional of flags to dramatize the number of nations that are closed to missionaries.

WMU members heard ways the Foreign Mission Board is attempting to plant the gospel in those countries by use of non-resident missionaries.

"Until we make more progress, three million people will wait to hear about Christ," said John Shelby, serving through Cooperative Services International in Hong Kong.

Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the Home Mission Board, cautioned the Baptist women to be sure well-intentioned programs do not come between them and "the glorious task for which we have been commissioned -- the task of missions and evangelism."

The women also were challenged to urge their churches to increase their giving to the denomination's missions offerings to ensure missionary needs will continue to be met.

The women re-elected Marjorie J. McCullough of Alexandria, La., president of WMU for 1989-90 and Pattie T. Dent of Holly Springs, Miss., recording secretary.

Forum praises Weatherford, supports priesthood of believer

Art Toalston

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) -- Words buttressing a historic Baptist doctrine, the priesthood of the believer, were heard with regularity June 12 during the Southern Baptist Forum in Las Vegas, Nev.

The Forum, a meeting ground for the losing side in presidential elections of both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference in recent years, also honored Carolyn Weatherford, outgoing executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, with its Denominational Statesperson Award. The Forum commended her for playing a key role in keeping the agency above the denominational fray.

The Forum heard addresses by two non-Baptists, Robert Schuller, TV preacher, popular author and pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., and Fred Craddock, professor of New Testament and preaching at Emory University's United Methodist Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.

Two other forum speakers took direct aim at a resolution "On the Priesthood of the Believer" from the Southern Baptist Convention last year in San Antonio, Texas.

The doctrine received "cavalier treatment" from the resolutions committee that initiated the stance last year, charged Molly Marshall-Green, associate dean of the school of theology and assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

She also enunciated several components of the priesthood of the believer relevant "in our Baptist life today." Among them: "resistance to authoritarian pastoral leadership."

Clyde Fant, chaplain at Stetson University in Deland, Fla., argued that "pulpit popes" who view themselves as infallible are undermining the priesthood of the believer.

He noted that "eventually, there is no room for the Bible -- the Bible as it really is. It's too open, too varied" for "fundamentalist interpreters."

Forum attendance grew from about 500 to a day's end total of 700.

The 1988 SBC believer's priesthood resolution was adopted by messengers by about a 10 percent margin after attempts failed to amend or refer it to the convention's Executive Committee.

The resolution, while affirming the priesthood of the believer, stated that the doctrine "in no way contradicts the biblical understanding of the role, responsibility and authority of the pastor," who is "called of God to lead the local church."

The resolution charged that the doctrine "has been used to justify wrongly the attitude that a Christian may believe whatever he so chooses and still be considered a loyal Southern Baptist."

The priesthood of the believer does not make faith "the privatized domain of the individual," Marshall-Green said, nor does it license a person to say, "Nobody can tell me what to believe."

But, she argued, "no council, creed, confession or presumptuous creep (must) usurp the position that belongs to God alone."

Weatherford has led the 1.2-million-member missions education organization for women, girls and preschoolers for 15 years. She will take early retirement in August just before her marriage to Cincinnati pastor Joe Crumpler.

"I am not leaving denominational statesmanship," she told the forum. She said she will continue to pursue "a vision of a fractured convention being made whole again."

The Uptown Baptist Church of Chicago was selected for the forum's Church f the Year Award for tackling an array f urban ministres in its neighborhood, five miles north of the downtown area.

Worship services at the church, encompassing about 500 people, are held in seven languages. About 150 volunteers participate weekly in providing hot meals, overnight shelter, sobriety help and other programs to some 8,000 people.

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Education ministers struggle with reality of their titles

By Philip Poole

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Southern Baptist ministers of education are struggling with the reality that the label "minister" does not protect them from a world of pressures, Larry McSwain, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., told 250 participants in the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting July 11-12.

Unfortunately, ministers find themselves participating in the "pains of life" just as everyone else, McSwain added. And trying to fulfill too many areas of competency at one time causes "role overload, role ambiguity and role conflict" that often is difficult to handle, he said.

"We fail to care about ourselves enough to share our pains with each other," McSwain said. "Every minister needs to find someone outside of the minsitry to be their 'pastor.'"

In business sessions, Bob Edd Shotwell, minister of education/administration at Hyde Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, was elected association president for 1989-90.

Other new of officers are Katie Grogan, director of inter-program field services, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Columbia, president-elect; Wayne Poling, church growth consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, vice president; Walter Jacobs, minister of education, Edwards Road Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., eastern vice president.

Also Frank Fain, minister of education, Winnwood Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., central vice president; Thomas Kelly, director of church development, California Southern Baptist convention, Fresno, western vice president; and Cathy Nixon, director of education ministries, Northminister Baptist Church, Monroe, La., assistant secretary.

Joe Haynes, growth/administration consultant, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, was re-elected secretary/treasurer.

LeRoy Ford, professor emeritus of foundations of education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, received the distinguished leadership award for contributions to religious education.

Samford students back home after hasty retreat from China

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--After a 4 a.m. departure and bus trip through Chinese back roads to avoid demonstrating students and an assist from "Indiana" Hsu, Samford students and faculty returned from a study trip to China Saturday, June 10.\*

The 24-member group planned to spend June studying at Anhui Normal University in Wuhu, but cut short its stay because of uncertainty over the Chinese political situation.\*

The group had been at Anhui a week when the decision was made to return home. Arrangements were made with the help of Herbert Hsu, an international businessman whose Birmingham-based investment company has offices in Hong Kong and other world capitals.\*

Samford students quickly nicknamed him "Indiana" after the hero of a currently popular movie.\*

"The Chinese students in Wuhu began demonstrating peacefully, filling the streets to block traffic and cause a general strike," said history professor Jim Brown, co-leader of the Samford group. "For this reason, we decided to leave the city at 4 a.m. to avoid being tied up."\*

The group bussed to Hefei to await finalization of travel plans. By this time, booking passage out of the country had become difficult because of mass exodus of non-Chinese.\*

With Hsu's help, Brown and the others obtained passage on a Chinese commercial flight sponsored by the Canadian government from Nanjing to Hong Kong. But first, they faced a 79 mile trip from Hefei to Nanjing.\*

"We went to work on getting them a bus, but told them to get ready to walk if nothing else presented itself," said Hsu.\*

After some anxious hours, a bus was located and the group left Hefei, again in the early morning hours.\*

The next obstacle was a lengthy bridge over the Uangtze River at the entrance to Nanjing. Rumors circulated that students had blocked the passage.\*

"We mapped a route through back roads to avoid the bridge," said Brown, "and crossed the river on a ferry."\*

The Samford group flew from Nanjing to Hong Kong early Thursday (Birmingham time) and returned to the U. S. Friday.\*

"We were never in any personal danger," said biology professor Robert Stiles, co-leader with Brown of what was to have been a course on Chinese history and environment. "Our biggest concern was, in the deteriorating and uncertain situation, to get the students out."\*

Throughout the ordeal, the group maintained contact with Samford officials via Telex communications, and Samford relayed information to concerned parents and relatives.\*

The China study group was composed of six faculty members and 18 students, including students from Furman and Emory universities and Davidson College.\*

Wuhu is 600 miles southwest of Beijing, and the Samford travelers saw no violence during their odyssey. Back in Birmingham, however, they agreed on two things: they were delighted to be back home and they were concerned about the future of their Chinese friends.\*

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION ... NEWS ...

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Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin News Room Manager

> Marv Knox Features Manager

IMMEDIATE RELEASE Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Monday A.M. Business

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention introduced motions concerning a communication from Virginia Baptists and a controversial trustee of a Southern Baptist agency.

Additional motions introduced during the convention's Tuesday morning business session addressed issues ranging from SBC bylaws to Southern Baptist agency funding to convention proceedings.

Neal T. Jones, past president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., asked SBC messengers to receive and respond to a "memorial" from messengers to the 1988 BGAV last November.

The memorial -- a formal statement whereby one body expresses concerns to another body -- was presented to the SBC Executive Committee in February and was printed in the 1989 SBC Book of Report.

The communication states: "The present crisis in Southern Baptist life calls for a re-examination of the partnership (between the SBC and state conventions). ... We earnestly desire a relationship in which no faction -- right or left -- can be arbitrary and exclusionary."

It lists for discussion questions concerning communication, trustee and committee representation, resolutions and public pronouncements, and distribution of the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

Another messenger -- Joe Arthur of Fort Worth, Texas -- moved that the convention immediately remove Curtis W. Caine of Jackson, Miss., from service on the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Statements reportedly made by Caine, a medical doctor, during the CLC's annual meeting last September set off a flury of controversy.

Caine reportedly called Martin Luther King Jr. a "fraud" and said "apartheid in South Africa ... doesn't exist anymore and was beneficial when it did." He also is reported to have made controversial statements about the issues of hunger and peace.

Two messengers introduced motions recommending amendments to SBC bylaws.

J. Howard Cobble of Elizabethtown, Ky., introduced a motion to amend Bylaw 16, which governs the Committee on Nominations.

The bylaw currently forbids the committee from nominating "a fellow committee member or a member of the previous year's Committee on Committees for a first term" on an SBC entity. Cobble's motion would extend that disqualification to spouses of those committees' members.

Chic Sales of Hillsboro, Texas, moved to amend convention bylaws to require a ballot vote in the election of officers. His proposed amendment also would forbid any nominee for convention president who does not receive two-thirds of the votes cast from being nominated for president during the following convention.

A messenger from Bumpass, Va., Charlie Waller, moved that the convention divert \$350,000 from the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Other motions recommended that messengers:

- -- Adopt no resolutions during the 1989 annual meeting.
- -- Establish a committee consisting of present state convention presidents to prescribe a meth d for representation of all SBC churches during the convention's annual meetings.
- -- Rescind and reject a resolution on the priesthood of the believer that was adopted by messengers to the 1988 convention.

# Monday A.M. Business -- Page 2

- -- Establish a committee on the Baptist Faith and Message to consider and report on all matters brought before the SBC concerning doctrinal statements, positions and opinions.
- -- Reprimand the SBC Executive Committee for its adoption of a statement critical of a television broadcast produced by commentator Bill Moyers.
- -- Restrict convention exhibit space for use by educational institutions that are accredited and clearly affiliated with the SBC.
- -- Instruct the Executive Committee to consider Portland, Ore., as a future site for an SBC annual meeting.
- -- Require the printing of all future changes in program and purpose statements in both their original and revised forms in the SBC Book of Reports or the daily SBC Bulletin.

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By Kathy Palen, 2:05 p.m. Tuesday



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Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday Morning Resolutions

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- A potpourri of 29 resolutions -- including-support for freedom in China, opposition to abortion and racism -- were submitted Tuesday morning by messengers to the 132nd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Two resolutions condemn the Chinese government's suppression of freedom.

George Uribe II of Raleigh, N.C., submitted a resolution condemning "the forces of oppression for their atrocity" and asking the Southern Baptist Convention to go on record supporting "the will of the Chinese students in their fight for freedom, their struggle for justice and their desire for democracy and religious liberty."

The second, proposed by Russ Barker of Avondale Estates, Ga., encourages Christians to pray "for the freedom loving people of China."

Kirk Shrewsbury of Tulsa, Okla., proposed two abortion-related resolutions.

One urges the U.S. Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation restricting the practice of induced abortion while the other condemns U.S. government funding of abortion through some foreign aid programs and so-called family planning services "that dispense birth control medications and devices to unmarried minors without parental knowledge or consent."

Resolutions from Jerry Sutton of Nashville, Tenn., and Jim Holladay of Louisville, Ky., express opposition to racism.

In other areas, the priesthood of the believer, the subject of a controversial resolution adopted by messengers to the 1988 SBC, is addressed in a 1989 resolution submitted by Hugh Wamble of Kansas City, Mo.

The resolution affirms the doctrine and urges widespread writing, teaching and preaching to educate Southern Baptists about it.

A resolution on churches and staff conflict earlier adopted by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Pastors Conference was submitted by three messengers.

Resolutions criticizing the observance of Halloween because of its pagan origins were proposed by Leo Lytle of Pineville, La., and Ray Johnson of Destin, Fla.

Television was the subject of two resolutions.

One from Chip Turner of Alexandria, La., urged Southern Baptists to support its ACTS Network as a tool for evangelism, missions and ministry. A second from Mark Frees of Sledge, Miss., urges support for the work of Christian Leaders for Responsible Television.

Billy Bolden of Shreveport, La., submitted a resolution opposing "all forms of secular campaigning for any office of leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention."

Kiely Young of Greenville, Miss., proposed a resolution supporting the Cooperative Program and urging all churches to give at least 10 percent of undesignated receipts to missi ns through the Cooperative Program.

Education was the subject of two resolutions -- one supporting home schooling and the other encouraging parents to be more involved in the education of their children.

Resolutions asking support for the 1988-89 Southern Baptist emphasis on the laity and on designating 1990 as the International Year of Bible Reading also were suggested.

Lotteries, drugs and violence, integrity, peacemakers. Islam, and help for the mobility impaired were the subjects of other resolutions submitted by messengers.

Rounding out the first group of resolutions topics were dominion over outer space and a warning about friendly overtures from the Soviet Union.

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Southern Baptist Convention

IMMEDIATE RELEASE Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

President's Address -- Tuesday morning

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- Southern Baptists have settled their disagreement over the Bible and must now emphasize personal evangelism, Jerry Vines said Tuesday in the annual president's address at the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Southern Baptists have settled the issue of the Bible. Southern Baptists believe the Bible is the incorruptible word of God," he declared. "Some may doubt the word of God; Southern Baptists will sow the precious seed," he said. "The Bible teaches that the child of God is to take the precious seed of the word of God and go forth and scatter it.

"It is in the very warp and woof of Holy Scripture that those who have the saving seed have an assignment from the great sower himself to spread that seed," Vines explained. "If there is anything that Southern Baptist pastors and people agree on, it is our mandate to let every person know about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"This is the only book I know that can change a human life," Vines said, waving a leather-bound Bible in his left hand.

An emphasis on personal evangelism will "put the joy back in the Southern Baptist Convention," he added. "I believe that with all my heart."

Vines said that after his election as SBC president last year, "God laid it upon my heart to lead people to Jesus.

"Something wonderful has happened to me this year," he reported. "It's been the sweetest, most joy-filled year in all my life."

Vines held up a small red book in which he had written the name of every person he led to Christ this year. He flipped through the pages, citing examples.

"I'm not going to tell you how many names are in that book, because to be perfectly honest, I'm ashamed," he said.

But he added that the evangelistic thrust of his presidency will bring joy to heaven and earth. "I think there's not just going to be rejoicing here; I think there's going to be rejoicing up there.

"The greatness of the Southern Baptist Convention is found every day when Southern Baptist people go as Jesus has commanded us to go," Vines said. "It's time for our denomination to get on the go.

"How are we going to respond to the poignant statement of Jesus when he said, 'The harvest is truly great but the laborers are few'? How are we going to respond to billi ns of our generation when they say to God, 'I never knew you had a son'?

"It's time for all of us to sow the seed," he said. "If you want to see the joy put back in your church, get involved with sowing and reaping.

"No longer can we sit in our air-conditioned churches, tack a sign on the do r which says, 'Come on in you lucky sinners and get saved.'

"The kind of world in which we live demands that we take seriously the going assignment which the Lord has given us," Vines said.

"Let the president run the nation, let Congress pass the laws, let Wall Street handle the finances, let Vegas put on the shows, but let's you and I be winners of souls, going as the Lord has commanded us to go."

Vines said Southern Baptists must learn to weep for those without Christ.

"We've just about lost our capacity t weep," he said. "Have we come to the point where we are so professional, so businesslike, that we are no longer able to veep over lost people who need Jesus?

--more--

President's Address -- Tuesday Morning -- Page 2

"We're weeping about the wrong things. We're weeping about sexy soap operas and silly songs and about sentimental movies. But who weeps today over the souls of men without God?

"There will never be a genuine soul-winning revival in our convention until we get concerned about lost souls," he said.

Vines told about a man in his church who is illiterate but won 40 individuals to Christ in one year by taking tracts to people and asking them to read to him.

"Some of us in this building today can read Hebrew and we can read Greek, we have master's degrees, and I wonder if we've won 40 people to Christ," he said.

Vines thanked the Baptist Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, the home and foreign mission boards and the six SBC seminaries for their emphasis on evangelism.

"Keep it up. Give us every assistance you can," he said. "Scholarship and soul winning fervor are not mutually exclusive. They are handmaidens. They go together."

Vines ended his message by asking messengers to join hands and sing the hymn "Bringing in the Sheaves."

Before the president's address, Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder presented Vines with a copy of his new book, "Wanted: Soul Winners" and commended him for making evangelism the practice of his life and presidency.

By Mark Wingfield, 2:45 p.m. Tuesday



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## PHOTO CUTLINES

- 12. RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS—Bob Edd Shotwell, (front row, left) minister of education at Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, became president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association during its annual meeting June 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nev. Other officers are (front row) Wayne Poling, growth consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, vice president; Katie Grogan, director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware's interprogram department, president—elect; (back row, from left) Frank E. Fain, minister of education at Winnwood Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., vice president, central region; Walter W. Jacobs, minister of education at Edwards Road Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., vice president, eastern region; Merle T. Basden, SBREA executive director, Fort Worth, Texas; and Joe Haynes, growth/adminstration consultant at the Sunday School Board, secretary/treasurer. Not pictured are Thomas Kelly, director of development for the California Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno, vice president, western region; and Cathy Nixon, director of education ministries at Northminster Baptist Church in Monroe, La., assistant secretary. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)
- 16. CAMPUS MINISTERS--Raye Nell Dyer, (left) campus minister at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, was elected president of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers annual meeting June 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nev. Other officers are (from left) Tana Clement, metro campus ministry coordinator, St. Louis, program vice president; Dwain Gregory, campus minister at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Srings, Colo., membership vice president; Otey Enoch, metro campus ministry coordinator in Portland, Ore., administration vice president; Woody Hammett, campus minister at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, president-elect; and (not pictured) Ginny Bridges, campus minister at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., publications vice president. (Photo by Bobbye Hill)
- 6. MISSIONS DIRECTORS—The Southern Baptist Directors of Missions Conference elected officers during its annual meeting June 11-12 in Las Vegas, Nev. They are (from left) F. Russell Bennett, Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, Ky., president; Glenn Hickey, Pulaski Baptist Association, Little Rock, Ark., first vice president; Ken Chadwick, Salt Lake and Rainbow Canyon Baptist associations, Salt Lake City, second vice president; A. Lawrence Clegg, Chappapeela Baptist Association, Ponchatoula, La., secretary; Grayson Glass, Galveston Baptist Association, LaMarque, Texas, newsletter editor; (not pictured) Phill G. Hall, Southeast Iowa Baptist Association, Albia, treasurer; and J.R. Blakeney, associate director of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans, host for the 1990 meeting. (Photo by Kent Harville)
- 18. PASTORS' LEADERS—Ralph Smith, (front, center) pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, and outgoing president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, presents the organization's new officers: (from left) Robert Holmes, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev., secretary—treasurer; Ron Hart, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Tucson, Ariz., vice president; and President Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., accompanied by his wife, Jeannie. The Pastors' Conference convened in Las Vegas, Nev., June 11-12, immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 14. PEACE PRAYER--Members of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America journeyed to a nuclear test site in the desert near Las Vegas, Nev., following the annual luncheon sponsored by the fellowship and Baptist Peacemaker newspaper. Fellowship Executive Director Ken Sehested joined other participants in a prayer vigil at the site. (Photo by Paul Obregon)



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carolyn Weatherford Resolution

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- The Southern Baptist Convention honored Carolyn Weatherford, the retiring executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary for "15 years of outstanding leadership."

Messengers to the convention adopted a resolution of appreciation on the recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee.

The resolution, which was presented to Miss Weatherford during the Tuesday afternoon session, praised her for leading the 1.2 million-member women's organization.

During the 15 years she was executive director, contributions to foreign missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering tripled from \$23.2 million to almost \$70 million. During the same period, gifts to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering almost quadrupled from \$8.1 million to \$30.8 million. Woman's Missionary Union co-sponsors the two missions offerings with the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

In adopting the resolution, messengers expressed "gratitude to God for the life and ministry of Carolyn Weatherford . . . (and) for her long and faithful service to Southern Baptists."

SBC Executive Committee President Harold Bennett presented a framed copy of the resolution to Miss Weatherford, and introduced to the convention her fiance, Joe Crumpler of Cincinnati, Ohio. Weatherford and Crumpler will married on August 19.

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By Jim Newton -- 4:05 p.m. Tuesday



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Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Presidental Election

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13--Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., Tuesday was re-elected to a second one-year term as president of the 14.8 million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Vines defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, Ga., by a vote of 10,754 to 8,248.

The margin of victory in this year's presidential election was greater than last year in San Antonio, Tex., when Vines won by 692 votes over Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church Del City, Okla., said in nominating Vines that "Jerry Vines has been a model to us as preacher, pastor and certainly as president.

Eliff, newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, said Vines has called Southern Baptists to be soul winners and said he had seen Vines lead people to the Lord in their home in Las Vegas. He said missions giving at First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., has increased 250 percent since Vines has been pastor there.

"He (Vines) has also called us to reaffirm our position on the authority and integrity of the Bible," Elliff said.

David Sapp, pastor of First Baptist Church, Chamblee, Ga., nominated Vestal, saying, "He has called us to come out from our trenches and be brothers and sisters again... He seeks to share presidential appointments with all Southern Baptists committed to the healing process.

Sapp said First Baptist Church, Midland, where Vestal was pastor for many years before moving to Georgia last year, has led Southern Baptist churches in Cooperative Program giving many times.

"We are all tired of the divisiveness, and our mission boards have had to cut their budgets while a lost world awaits," Sapp said.

Messengers also approved several hundred nominees to the convention's boards of trustees for its institutions and agencies.

Among the most notable was Jackson, last year's losing presidential candidate, who agreed to represent Arizona Southern Baptists for a one-year term as a trustee of the Home Mission Board.

A messenger asked Joe H. Reynolds, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, why there were so few women among the nominees.

Reynolds said the committee had considered that and "the problem is not with women" but with difficulties in analyzing all of the nominees and requirements for a certain percentage of non-related, at-large and local representatives."

After Convention President Vines ruled the report had been accepted in a hand vote, a messenger called for a ballot vote. His motion was defeated by more than two to one majority.



Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin - News Room Manager

Mary Knox Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon

LAS VEGAS, NEV., June 13--With a characteristic shout of "Whoooooeeee!", comedian Jerry Clower brought his special brand of country humor to the 34th annual Conference of Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon Tuesday, at the Sahara Hotel.

Clower, a recording artist, author and member of the Grand Ole' Opry, told the audience: "I love y'all! I don't know of any group in the world that's more important than the pastors' wives.

"I love y'all 'cause you ain't a bunch of pessimists," the humorist continued. "Negativism can kill us graveyard dead! I run into negativism in my business every day."

Clower, clad in a bright red suit and white boots, told the group: "Christianity works; it really does! Whatever happens in your life, whatever hardship you got, Christianity works, and I can't fathom Christian folks not lettin' it work.

"It really bothers me that some of you are too pessimistic, some of your pastors." he continued, gesturing to the audience which included both women and men. "All you want to talk about is the 'split.'

"Do you not believe we have a sovereign God?" Clower asked. "Has God ever made a mistake?...Christianity works!"

In conclusion, Clower smiled and said, "I'm convinced that there's just one place where there ain't no laughter, and that's in Hell. And I've made arrangements to miss Hell!

"So, ha! ha! I won't never have to be no place where folks ain't laughin! Whoooooeeee!"

The ministers' wives elected their 1991 officers during the luncheon meeting. They include Carol Hughes, Independence, Mo., president; Margaret Carter, Jonesboro, Ga., vice president; Margaret Murchison, Augusta, Ga., recording secretary-treasurer; and June Baggett, Birmingham, Ala., corresponding secretary.

In addition, the organization's outgoing president, Joy Yates, Yazoo City, Miss., passed the gavel to 1990 president Lynda Estep, Columbia, S.C. Other 1990 officers include Rhonda Kelley, New Orleans, La., vice president; Janet Wicker, Lubbock, Texas, recording secretary-treasurer; and Darlene Herring, Memphis Tenn., corresponding secretary.

By Brenda Sanders--5:05 p.m. Tuesday



> Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

> > Dan Martin **News Room Manager**

Mary Knox Features Manager

IMMEDIATE RELEASE Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

First Vice President Nominees

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 13--An evangelist, a layman, a denominational executive and a pastor were nominated here Tuesday afternoon to serve as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Nominated were Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala.; Bill Poe, a layman and member of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.; and Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.

C.B. (Bill) Hogue, executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno, nominated Hill and said he was loyal to "the Word of God and S uthern Baptist heritage and doctrine."

Hogue also called Hill a "humble person" who has "integrity. What a great way to say to the United States, 'Here's Hope' (referring to the 1990 simultaneous revivals) than to elect an evangelist."

Bill Poe was nominated by E. Leon Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N.C., and president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Smith said Southern Baptists are a "people's denomination" and encouraged the more than 20,000 registered messengers to "call out laypersons (like Poe) who can speak to all of us. He (Poe) is that kind of person."

Saying he would give the shortest nominating speech in the history of the convention, Ronald H. Grizzle, pastor of Alabama Road Baptist Church, Roswell, Ga., nominated Miss Weatherford.

Grizzle said, "We know her well. We love her and she loves us."

Grizzle also emphasized her last 15 years of service at the helm of the national missionary education auxiliary and concluded by saying, "She will serve us well."

Phil Lineberger, pastor of Richardson Heights Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas, a Dallas suburb, nominated Harbour by calling him a "friend of pastors . . . who has spent his life in ministry . . . and has a heartbeat for missions."

Lineberger reported that Harbour's congregation in Little Rock gives 20 percent of its undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist's unified support for mission endeavors.

Early in the afternoon, messengers re-elected Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., to a second one-year term as president of the 14.8 million-member SBC.

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By Terry Barone -- 5:40 p.m. Tuesday



> Alvin C. Shackleford **SBC Press Representative**

> > Dan Martin **News Room Manager**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SBC Exhibit Hall Feature

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- If Southern Baptists were to sing a song of favorite things, nachos and computers would be among them.

The words to this tune would have their origin in the exhibit hall at the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas Convention Center.

Grand Canyon University's booth was the most popular spot in the exhibit hall if judged by lines and crowds. And it's not education the messengers were most interested in. Two bowls of nachos and one bowl of salsa attracted messengers like bees to nectar.

Messengers had consumed 120 pounds of machos and 15 gallons of salsa by noon of the first day of the convention.

Any institution giving away food gained an edge on other exhibitions. A total of 41 exhibits competed for the attention of the messengers.

Cory Singleton, 14, of Spartanburg, S.C., referred to his favorite booths as "jolly ranchers and tootsie rolls." He didn't even remember who was giving the candy away.

"I walked around several times just getting candy," Singleton said.

Two large fish bowls full of chocolate mints were the attraction at the Woman's Missionary Union booth.

Messengers didn't always stop to visit with booth personnel. It was the candy they were most interested in.

One exception was the open and airy Foreign Mission Board exhibit. Computers loaded with games about Southern Baptists' work in foreign missions usually had two to three people waiting to take on the challenge.

Malinda Upton, 11, a missionary kid from Malawi, and Cory Singleton matched their wits with the computer monitors. It wasn't until the convention's morning session let out that they had to consider sharing the games with an older crowd.

Les Bates, pastor of Menifee Valley Baptist Church in Menifee, Calif., named the Annuity Board's soaring tent-covered exhibit as his favorite and the business going on under the tent won his vote.

"I like the Annuity Board's booth best because after my interview there, I know how much I'll make when I retire, if I make it that long," Bates said.

A friend standing beside him had a different assessment of the situation.

"He'll be able to go home and tell his wife how much she'll get when he dies."

SBC Exhibit Hall Feature -- Page 2

One other busy stop for messengers was the desk where they could pick up fre paperback New Testaments.

Betsy Wedekind, a Sunday School Board employee, said messengers were giving them away and coming back for more.

"They're giving them to hotel personnel, people working in restaurants and the convention center personnel."

One man came by and asked for 16. He wanted to take one to each member of his Indian church in rural Nevada.

But New Testaments were not the only books messengers were taking out of the exhibit hall. Books made up most of the \$750,000 worth of stock spread across the Baptist Book Store.

"We've done very well," said Mark King, bookstore assistant manager. "We've done much better than we thought we would in coming to Las Vegas."

However, the final results of sales in the bookstore will not be available until several days after the convention.

King attributed the vast space given to the bookstore as the reason for a steady stream of purchases.

Two other popular spots in the exhibit hall shared the same corner. More than 2,200 messengers had lined up by Tuesday noon for a free portrait at the Church Directory Service booth. The lines only shortened during convention officer elections. Just behind the Las Vegas backdrop used in the portable studio was a mobile ice cr am vendor. She had 6,000 ice cream products to sell, and after lunchtime, she was optimistic about leaving with an empty cart.

As one messenger said, "Where there's food, there are Baptists."

By Susan Todd, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Tuesday Afternoon Resolutions

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- Twenty-two more resolutions were submitted Tuesday afternoon at the 132nd session of the Southern Baptist Convention, bringing the total proposed by messengers to 51.

All proposed resolutions were referred to the 10-member Resolutions Committee which will bring resolutions for messengers to consider Wednesday and Thursday.

Three proposed resolutions dealt with convention logistics — not returning to Las Vegas for a convention meeting, starting a pre-convention meeting for youth ministers and urging messengers to occupy only one chair in the convention hall.

Jim Guenther of Schenectady, N.Y., suggested a committee be formed to propose a name change for the Southern Baptist Convention to "reflect our purpose rather than a territory." He suggested Evangelical Baptist Convention and Convention of Cooperating Evangelical Baptists as possibilities.

Two more abortion-related resolutions were proposed, bringing the total on the subject to four. One, from Ken Sodergren of Reedville, Va., calls for days of prayer and fasting about abortion. The other, from Carol A. Sutton, opposes medical experimentation with tissue from aborted fetuses.

A resolution on drunk driving proposed by Liz Minnick of Austin, Texas, urges support for an increased excise tax on alcoholic beverages, reduction in the legal blood-alcohol limits, elimination of "happy hours," a halt to the use of celebrities in advertising alcoholic beverages and formation of a national coalition to conduct a campaign against drunk driving.

Susan Glover of St. Louis, Mo., proposed a resolution on child care, supporting "tax credits for families with small children and opposing bureaucracy-building legislation as anti-religious and discriminatory."

On the international front, resolutions were suggested urging intercessory prayer for world revival, sending a Southern Baptist delegation to China, expressing support for Christians in Cambodia and urging President George Bush not to appoint a U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Mark Wilcox of Whitharrel, Texas, suggested a resolution encouraging ministers married to divorced persons "to continue to be a witness, not only of the despair and pain of divorce, but also of God's redeeming grace.

Other resolutions topics included concern for children who die of hunger, Southern Baptist unity, Here's Hope evangelistic emphasis and appreciation to Nevada Baptist hosts.

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By Linda Lawson -- 6:50 p.m. Tuesday



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Junior Hill Elected First Vice President

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 13--Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala. was elected first vice president of the 14.8 million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Hill garnered 6,989 votes, or 54.2 percent of the votes cast, to defeat three other nominees.

Of the more than 20,000 messengers who were registered, 12,884, or 63.53 percent, cast ballots for first vice president.

Others who were nominated, their vote totals and percentages were Carolyn Westherford, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., 4,207 votes, or 32.62 percent; Bill Poe, a layman from First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., 1,005 votes, or 7.79 percent; and Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., 683 votes, or 5.3 percent.

C.B. (Bill) Hogue, executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno, nominated Hill and said he was loyal to "the Word of God and Southern Baptists heritage and doctrine."

Hogue also called Hill a "humble person" who has "integrity. What a great way to say to the United States, 'Here's Hope' (referring to the 1990 simultanious revivals) than to elect an evangelist."

Earlier Tuesday, messengers re-elected Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., to a second one-year term as president of the SBC.
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By Terry Barone -- 7:50 p.m. Tuesday



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News Room
Las Vegas Convention Center
(702) 791-8600
Aivin C. Shackleford
SBC Press Representative
Dan Martin
News Room Manager
Marv Knox
Features Manager
Southern Baptist Convention
Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Vestal News Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev.. June 13 -- While not ruling out the possibility, Daniel Vestal said Tuesday night he could not yet commit to being a candidate for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency next year.

During a news conference just a few hours after his defeat to incumbent Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta, said he would need to talk with his congregation and family before making his decision.

But he added: "I believe deeply about those principles and truths that I have tried to speak about and stand for. I believe those principles will prevail and I believe they will prevail in New Orleans (the site of next year's convention).

Vestal said he believes the question within the denomination is not about belief in the Bible, but about freedom.

For the past 10 years, he said, there has been a "forced conformity" within the SBC that has disfranchised and excluded a great number of Southern Baptists. He said such an approach polarizes and divides.

Although admitting grief and disappointment over his defeat. Vestal said he thinks he did well against an incumbent by receiving 43.7 percent of the vote.

Despite his defeat, Vestal said his church will continue supporting its local assoication, the Georgia Baptist Convention and the SBC. He added he hopes the congregation will be able to increase the 12 percent it now gives to the Cooperative Program.

But in regard to other congregations and state conventions, Vestal said he doesn't think the SBC can continue "disfranchising people year after year for 10 years and expect them to continue giving."

In responding to questions about women in ministry, Vestal argued against charging that people do not believe in the Bible simply because they interpret Scripture differently.

Vestal appealed to Southern Baptists to reject "militant partisanship" and instead work toward a "legitimate unity" by including people from various perspectives within the denomination.

He said he applauds Tuesday's election of Richard Jackson of Phoenix, Ariz., who opposed Vines in last year's SBC presidential election, to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as a trustee.

"I see it as an introduction to a greater inclusiveness," he said, adding he would encourage Vines to continue that pattern of broader inclusion.

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By Kathy Palen, 8:10 p.m. Tuesday



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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Presidential News Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- Southern Baptists have settled "the issue of the Bible," but that does not mean the denomination's 11-year-old controversy is over. Jerry Vines said in a news conference Tuesday shortly after his re-election as president of the 14.8-million-member body.

However, Vines reiterated a pledge made during the annual president's address t "restore the joy" to the denomination through an emphasis on personal evangelism.

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., defeated Daniel Vestal of Dunwoody, Ga., in balloting earlier that day by a margin of 12 percent.

"I believe the issue of the Bible is settled in Southern Baptist life," he said.
"What I mean by that statement is that Southern Baptists, every time they have had an prortunity to do so, have overwhelmingly affirmed we believe the Bible is without

"Those who say that there are errors in the Bible are in pronounced minority in Southern Baptist life. That has been settled."

This agreement, however, does not mean that the controversy is over or that all the denomination's problems are solved, he said.

"I do think it means that the administrators of our institutions, that the trustees of our institutions clearly understand the direction which Southern Baptists want to go," he explained.

"I believe the process of theological renewal is under way. I am confident that in a loving and Christlike manner, theological problems in God's good time will be resolved."

When asked by to estimate how many professors in SBC seminaries do not believe in the virgin birth of Christ, Vines declined to answer.

"Are there any?" the reporter asked.

"We'll let the trustees and the administrations decide that for us," Vines responded.

"You don't want to answer that?"

"No, ma'am," Vines said.

Vines, a notably gentle man, responded firmly when he was referred to as part of a "fundamentalist faction."

"If you mean by fundamentalist that I not be referred to as a fundamentalist," Vines said.
"If you mean by fundamentalist that I'm one of those who believes in the fundamentals of the faith, yes. But if you mean that I would fall in the category of a legalist, an unloving person, an Ayatollah Khomeini or a Jim Jones, then the answer is no. "I would like to be known as a Bible-believing Christian."

Vines said he intends to be the same person in his second term as he was in his first. However, he said he will extend his emphasis on personal evangelism to promote "building great soul-winning churches."

One reporter asked Vines about a statement reportedly made by conservative leader Paige Patterson of Dallas that a "memorial" from the Baptist General Association of Virginia that has been referred to the SBC Executive Committee would "never see the light of day" at next year's convention me ting.

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## Presidential News Conference -- Page 2

"I have been very close to the Virginia memorial since the beginning," Vines recalled, expressing appreciation to Virginia Baptist leaders for that involvement.

Vines said it was at his recommendation that the Executive Committee organized a committee to receive the memorial and the concerns of Virginia Baptists.

"I am most desirous that this be done because I personally take the position that we should be responsive to any concerns expressed from anywhere in our Southern Baptist constituency," he said.

Vines addressed a variety of other topics during the news conference:

- -- Appointments. "My criteria for last year will be my criteria for this year." Vines said. "I will appoint the best Baptists I can find. I will not knowingly appoint anyone who believes there are errors in the Bible."
- -- Ordination of women. "I believe the ordination of women is a local church matter," Vines said. "I would not ordain a woman as a pastor or as a deaconess. This is my interpretation. "What other churches choose to do is certainly their prerogative. The difficulty comes when those who may have a different view on that issue are perhaps required or forced to fund something that is against them."
- -- Cooperative Program and mission offering giving. "I'm an optimist," Vines said. "I believe we're going to be moving back up."
- -- The denominational press. Gene Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder of North Carolina, asked Vines if he would support a free press among Baptists, alluding to alledged attempts by some conservative leaders to control Baptist Press, the denominational news service. Vines replied simply, "Yes."
- -- The possibility of repeating this year's door-to-door witnessing effort when the SBC meets in New Orleans next year. "I am very positive toward doing a similar witnessing effort in New Orleans," Vines said. "I think it would be marvelous if we did this everywhere we go."
- -- The possibility of deferring any motion on creating a new Religious Liberty Commission next year in the interest of avoiding controversy, as was done this year. "In terms of what I might or might not do concerning that recommendation, it's a little early," he said. It was at Vines' urging that the Executive Committee recommended deferring the Religious Liberty Commission vote until the 1990 annual meeting.

Vines declined to comment on a pending motion to remove funds from the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

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By Mark Wingfield and Kathy Palen, 9:05 p.m. Tuesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Tuesday Afternoon Business

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 --Southern Baptists' representation on religious liberty issues would be affected by two motions introduced Tuesday by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention.

A commissioner of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission asked messengers to consider expanding the program statement of his agency rather than establish a Religious Liberty Commission.

Rudy C. Yakym Jr. of Mishawaka, Ind, moved that the SBC Executive Committee study the "feasibility and advisability of foregoing its recommendation to establish a Religious Liberty Commission and instead expand the program statement and budget of the Christian Life Commission to include the proposed duties of the Religious Liberty Commission."

Yakym's motion also calls for the Executive Committee to report its findings to the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

A member of the SBC Executive Committee moved that messengers reconsider the convention budget they approved earlier in the day and in doing so reduce the allocation to the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by \$200,000.

According to the motion introduced by Kenneth R. Barnett of Denver Colo., that sum would be re-allocated to four Southern Baptist entities -- \$60,000 to the Foreign Mission Board, \$50,000 to the Home Mission Board, \$50,000 to the Public Affairs Committee and \$40,000 to the Christian Life Commission.

Two other motions were somewhat related. One, introduced by Bob M. Patterson of Warm Springs, Ga., would prohibit funding the Public Affairs Committee. The other, made by John Leland Berg of Houston, would prohibit the creation of any new agency or expansion of any agency's budget until the convention had increased the budgets of both mission boards by at least 3 percent for three consecutive years.

Several motions related to the consideration of dates and sites for future SBC annual meetings. Other motions called for changes in the scheduling of various items of convention business.

Witnessing prior to annual meetings, reserving seats on the convention floor and providing convention exhibit space for non-SBC seminaries and schools also sparked motions.

# Other motions addressed:

- -- The appointment of individuals to SBC boards and committees.
- -- The terms of office and responsibilities of SBC officers.
- -- The selection of faculty members at Southern Baptist seminaries and schools.

Other messengers introduced motions on establishing housing scholarships for future c mentions, sending a letter of assurance of prayer to President George Bush, directing the Committee on Order of Business about the consideration of convention business, establishing a committee to assist states in which churches are not baptizing individuals, and designating 1990 as the International Year of Bible Reading.

Other motions concerned SBC agencies and institutions and ranged from affirming agency leaders to examining institutional policies to supporting specific programs.

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Theme Interpretation/Sunday School Board Report

LAS VEGAS. Nev. June 13--Southern Baptists have grown older and colder as a denomination because they are no longer the blue collar soul winners they used to be, an Oklahoma pastor told convention messengers Tuesday night.

Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., lay the blame for the denomination's lackluster growth on a mentality that has become too sophisticated to be concerned about soul winning.

"We are now white collar socialites...who have been distracted from "Going, Weeping; Sowing, Reaping," he said as he interpreted the convention theme.

Boyles said the denomination has become distracted "by all the glamor of being the largest 'Protestant' denomination in the world, and we stopped doing the thing that brought us where we are.

"I keep hearing everyone say baptisms and soul winning are down because of the controversy. I believe just the opposite is true. I believe we are in controversy because we stopped winning souls," he declared.

Boyles lamented that there was a time when the main conversation at Baptist s minaries was "How many souls have you won to Christ this week?" But now, he contended, conversation centers on "How's your golf game?"

But, he continued, the problem is more the fault of churches which have lost their vision for evangelism than the seminaries. "Our seminaries are simply a reflection of our churches as a whole," he added.

Boyles said Southern Baptists problems are the result of "becoming fat and laying around the campfire like a bunch of coon dogs. We were not designed to be built around educational institutions, boards and agencies. We are the blood bought, Holy Ghost empowered people of God, designed to win the world to Christ.

"It's high time we get off the fat and away from the fire and get back on the trail of lost men, women, boys and girls and fulfill the mission which we were bought by the blood of Calvary's cross to do."

In his report to the convention, Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder of Nashville, Tenn., reaffirmed his agency's commitment to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

"Our commitment to the integrity of God's word will not fail," he stated.

In detailing accomplishments of the past year, Elder reported:

- -- The board is printing 10 million copies of the New Testament for use in the denomination's "Here's Hope" revivals next year. Five million copies have already been produced and are being distributed to churches which are committed to the revivals.
- -- The Holman Division is celebrating its tenth anniversary in its relationship with the agency.

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Theme Interpretation/Sunday School Board Report -- Page 2

- -- The "Disciple's Study Bible", with study helps based on 27 key Baptist doctrines, has sold almost 100,000 copies since its introduction in 1988.
- -- Work is progressing on "The New American Commentary," which will serve as an exegetical and theological exposition of the Bible for Southern Baptists.
- -- The plan of salvation continues to be included in more literature published by the agency.

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By Joe Westbury--9:50 p.m. Tuesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foreign Mission Board Report

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 13 -- Unless Southern Baptists make a radical commitment within the next few years and turn away from selfishness and self-indulgence, the 14.8-million-member denomination will not reach its Bold Mission Thrust goal of proclaiming the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000.

Keith Parks, president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. made the prediction during the agency's annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention Tuesday night at Las Vegas Convention Center.

Parks expressed fear that Southern Baptists in the year 2000 would be known as a denomination which had everything they needed to reach the world with the gospel except a broken heart.

He said Baptists will not be able to evangelize the world "unless we fall on our faces in humility, unless we deny ourselves, unless we put aside our self-indulgence, unless we redevelop a passion for the world, unless we are willing to lay down our lives for the sake of the gospel."

Parks called on Baptists to commit themselves to prayer, to missions giving, and to giving their lives in mission service.

A former missionary to Indonesia. Parks said Southern Baptists have plenty of money to finance an effective missions program, but they keep the money in their pockets and in their churches, and spend it on themselves instead of giving it to missions.

"Some of us have salaries that are too big, based on culture instead of commitment," Parks said. "We are going to ride around in air-conditioned comfort and wonder why the rest of the world does not believe in Jesus."

He charged that Southern Baptists have not yet decided whether it is worth the cost to reach the world for Christ. "We have lost the passion for reaching a lost world."

Parks said there are 1.3 billion people in the world who are facing death and the judgement of God because they do not have a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

In an effort to reach these 1.3 billion people, Southern Baptists support the work of 3,855 missionaries assigned to 116 countries, plus 10,000 volunteers who work alongside the career missionaries each year.

Parks said that 99 percent of Southern Baptists' mission resources are spent on "traditional mission fields" using traditional approaches. Only one percent of Baptists' resources are used to reach the 325 million people who live in countries where missionaris cannot go.

Parks outlined four non-traditional ways the Foreign Mission Board is using to try to reach people in what mission leaders call "restricted access nations."

A subsidiary of the board called Cooperative Services International (CSI) sends experts into countries like the People's Republic of China where traditional missionaries cannot go.

Parks reported that 45 Baptists involved in CSI programs have safely traveled from China to H ng Kong in recent weeks. Because of political unrest in China, the board has delayed plans to send 35 other CSI volunteers to China this summer, and is waiting to see what happens before sending 65 others this fall.

# Foreign Mission Board Report -- Page 2

Th board has also appointed seven career "non-resident" missionary couples who cannot live in specific countries, but they learn the language of the people and work with others to reach specific people groups. In the fall, the number of non-resident missionaries will double to 14 couples.

These 14 couples will target unreached people groups with a population of more than 200 million, Parks said.

Another creative way the board is seeing to reach restricted access nations, he explained, is through a "tentmaker" program involving bivocational missionaries who work in professions that are needed in countries which career missionaries could not enter.

The board is also experimenting with the concept of "itinerant missionaries," who travel to countries on tourist visas for short periods of time, rather than living in the countries. One such couple, Parks said, traveled into six countries for a total of 99 times, living out of a suitcase with four changes of clothes. They have no home, but ask Baptists not to feel sorry for them.

"We are encountering some of the most responsive people in the world and we wouldn't trade places with anyone," they told Parks.

Parks praised the work of the board's 3.855 missionaries, saying they baptized an average of 51 new Christians each last year, compared to 30 baptisms per missionary in 1976 when the SBC launched its Bold Mission Thrust program.

Before Parks spoke, the president of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, Antonio Perez Rabelo, expressed thanks to Southern Baptists for the support they have given Cuban Baptists for more than 100 years. Rabelo said there are 103 Baptist churches in Western Cuba with 6,300 members working with more than 20,000 Cubans who ar sympathetic with the gospel.

Messengers also heard testimonies of Dick and Lahona Greenwood, missionaries with the Ketchi Indians of Guatemala; Ralph and Melinda Bethea of Mombosa, Kenya who work with the Swahili people; and John and Connie Anthony, missionaries in Jerusalem, Israel who work with both Arabs and Messianic Jews.

In a business session, messengers elected Ernest Myers, of Reno, Nev., as second vice president. Myers is executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention, defeated Lewis Adkison of Colorado Springs, Colo., in a runoff.

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By Jim Newton, 10:30 p.m., Tuesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Second Vice President

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14 -- Ernest B. Myers of Reno, Nev., was elected second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention Tuesday night in a runoff.

Myers, executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention, defeated Lewis Adkison, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., by a vote of 3,540 to 2,748.

A third candidate, G. T. Bowman, director of Flint River Baptist Association, Griffin, Ga., was eliminated on the first ballot when he received 538 votes.

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By Roy Jennings -- 11:05 a.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Election of Officers and RTVC Report

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 14-Messengers to the 132nd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention learned Wednesday that about 350 million Chinese citizens heard the gospel last year through musical programs sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Richard T. McCartney, interim chief executive officer, reported that the Centurymen, a group of Southern Baptist ministers of music, traveled extensively throughout China performing concerts. McCartney also said that the RTVC, in cooperation with China Central Television, produced a show which presented the gospel through classical and folk music.

McCartney asked for the messengers to pray for an English-speaking anchor woman who performed with the Centrymen during the tour who recently had spoken out in favor of the students demonstrating for democracy in China. McCartney reported that the woman had been on ABCs Nightline speaking in support of the students and had spoken out in favor of the students on China Central Televsion. He said she has not been seen recently and that no one has heard from her.

Because of the recent events in China, McCartney said, "We do not know how God was preparing the Chinese people" through the witness of the singing group.

"For a few days," McCartney said, "the Chinese people learned not of a western religion, but of a way of life for millions of people."

The commission's report ended with a segment from a television special about the China trip which featured the Chinese television anchorwoman singing "Amazing Grace" with the Centurymen.

In other business during the morning session, Martin Bradley, director of the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., was re-elected recording secretary, and Lee Porter, design editor for the Sunday School Department at the Sunday School Board, was re-elected registration secretary.

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By Terry Barone -- 10:55 a.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Action on Tuesday Motions

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14 -- Almost every motion introduced Tuesday by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention has been referred, postponed or ruled out of order.

A motion to receive and respond to a "memorial" from the Baptist General Association of Virginia was referred to the SBC Executive Committee. The formal statement of concerns about the "present crisis in Southern Baptist life" was approved by Virginia Baptists during their state annual meeting last November.

The Executive Committee also will review motions on resolutions during SBC annual meetings, establishment of a committee on the Baptist Faith and Message and evaluation of representation at future conventions.

Also referred to the Executive Committee were all motions that would require amending SBC bylaws or affect future convention arrangements.

Motions concerning specific SBC agencies and institutions were referred to those entities.

A motion to remove Curtis W. Caine of Jackson, Miss., from the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission was postponed to the 1990 SBC. The Committee on Order of Business said this delay would allow time for an investigation of the legal ramifications of removing a CLC commissioner, as well as providing Caine a time for response.

Ruled out of order were motions to reconsider a 1988 SBC resolution on the priesthood of the believer; to censure the Executive Committee for an action it took in opposition to a television broadcast produced by commentator Bill Moyers; and to ask messengers to refrain from "frivolous applause" during the annual meeting as a means of expressing personal opinion.

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By Kathy Palen -- 11 a.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBC Missions Day Camp

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14-- Over 200 children of Southern Baptist messengers escaped the confines of the Las Vegas Convention Center Tuesday and Wednesday to learn about missions at the SBC Missions Day Camp.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn., the day camp offered children from 26 states that have completed grades 1-6 a welcomed alternative to the convention proceedings.

"Day camp is fun for kids," said eleven-year-old Gregory Floyd of Miami, Florida. "We can play around. It's not boring like being at the convention center."

First Southern Baptist Church of Las Vegas hosted the 1989 day camp. Melissa Arnold, Phoenix, Ariz., was assisted by 19 student summer missionaries assigned to work in Nevada. Arnold served as the director.

"Day camp gives children a chance to learn about God and fun while at the convention," said Arnold.

Cynthia Still, Woman's Missionary Union director, Nevada Baptist Convention, directed the training of the summer missionaries.

The day camp's program was designed to teach missions and Bible lessons in a creative and fun atmosphere.

According to Karl Bozeman, the Brotherhood Commission's director of Lad and Crusader Royal Ambassadors, the day camp is an investment in the future of Southern Baptist misssions.

"I feel like there will be some children who, because of their experience in misssions day camp, will feel called to misssions," said Bozeman who has coordinated the day camp for nine years.

Children heard testimonies of two Southern Baptist foreign misssionaries during the day camp. They were Albert Sutton, Jr., Brazil, and Sallie Lanier, Israel.

Bozeman said that other day camp volunteers included teenagers from across the country who attended the convention with their parents.

One of those teenagers was Jana Rousseau of Taylor, La.. "I had fun helping last year," said Rousseau. "I wanted to do it again. This gives you the opportunity to meet some neat children."

The Brotherhood Commission, the missions education agency for men and boys, is already making plans for SBC Missions Day Camp 1990 to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 12-14.



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Wednesday AM Reports

Service Services

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LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention received progress reports Wednesday morning from two of their six seminaries, the Stewardship Commission, and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., reported the institution is leading students to become "more effective evangelists for Christ and leading their people to have soul winning lifestyles."

To pursue that goal, the seminary has launched a five-year "Program of Advance", the first stage which will raise funds for endowment of a chair for a professor of evangelism, he said.

Lewis Drummond, president of embattled Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., reported the school has kept its budget balanced and is busy filling seven professorships which have become vacant in recent months.

Concerning accrediting difficulties, Drummond said the seminary is "absolutely dedicated" to fullfilling the concerns of its accrediting agency and is "determined to keep our accreditation in place."

The seminary will soon launch a school of missions, world evangelism and church growth to better prepare its students for evangelism, he reported. The new school "will set the tone and pattern I am confident all Southern Baptists can support," Drummond added.

Rudy Fagan, president of the Stewardship Commission, Nashville, Tenn., announced the initiation of a new program to lead Southern Baptists in evangelism and stewardship.

"The 'Witnessing, Giving Life' program is a joining of hands between the Stewardship Commission and the Home Mission Board" that will provide more funds for greater evangelistic efforts of the denomination, he said.

Fagan then led in the signing of a Commitment of Dedication by selected denomination leadership. In addition to Fagan, those signing the commitment were SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.; Harold Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.; and Darrell Robinson, vice president, evangelism, for the Home Mission Board.

At the conclusion of the report, Ron Gunter, messenger from River Oaks Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, asked Fagan what the Stewardship Commission has done to encourage elected SBC leaders to increase their level of giving to Cooperative Program and other missions offerings.

"At our church, we would have to reduce our giving by 19 percent to match that f some of our elected leaders," he said.

Fagan replied that in recent years, each of the elected presidents "have come forward to say they will lead their churches to higher levels of percentage giving" to the offerings.

Hollis Johnson III, president of the Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville, Tenn., reported a record year of investment performance for the agency.

Johnson reported that market value of assets increased \$6,413,023 to a record of \$67,816,478—an increase f 6.5 percent. The highlight of fiscal year 1988, he added, was a 22.59 percent increase in income produced from the previous year for Baptist causes and individuals.

When the floor was opened for questions, Bill Wiley, messenger from Cedartown Baptist Church, Cedartown, Ga., questioned whether Johnson is a "personal soul winner."

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# Wednesday A.M. Reports -- Page 2

Johnson replied that he did practice personal evangelism, was an active member of his church and a teacher of a Sunday School class.

Wiley was referring to testimonies on personal evangelism that each previous agency head had included in his report that morning, on request by SBC President Jerry Vines. Johnson had not included such an account in his report.

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By Joe Westbury -- 11:15 a.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Business sessions/reports

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14-- For the first time in history, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commisssion filed friend of court briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court, messengers to the 132nd Southern Baptist Convention were told Wednesday morning.

Making his first report as director of the commission, Richard D. Land of Nashville reported on briefs filed in 1988 relating to cases opposing abortion on demand and a federal ban on the availability of "dial-a-porn" telephone pornography.

Land reported that the commission also had assisted with efforts to defeat legalized gambling in several states and had increased its work in the areas of world hunger, alcohol and drug abuse.

Following the report, messenger Jim Edwards of Hendersonville, Tenn., asked Land about the commission's actions related to remarks made in September 1988 by commission trustee Curtis Caine of Jackson, Miss.

In the same meeting where Land was elected as director, Caine had made several remarks about the nonexistence of apartheid in South Africa and had called Martin Luther King, Jr. a "fraud."

The remarks created controversy across the convention about the commission's stands on race relations.

Land deferred to commission trustee chairman Joe Atchison of Rogers, Ark., saying it was his (Land's) "conviction that it is inappropriate for me to respond to the statements of a commission trustee."

Atchison said the commission and its trustees always had practiced freedom of speech and that "no one ever has been muzzled.

"I think the commission has issued a clear statement already about the stand we take on race relations," said Atchison.

Billy Summerlin of Gadsden, Ala., chairman of trustees for the convention's Brotherhood Commission, reported that more than 800 Baptist men helped to rebuild churches in Jamaica following Hurrican Gilbert in 1988. In addition, Baptist men helped to build another 200 new churches in the United States in the past year.

Baptist men also helped to raise funds to send more than 100,000 Bibles to Russia in 1988 and currently are involved in efforts to send an additional 100,000 Bibles in 1989, Summerlin said.

"But, it is the week in and week out continuing missions activities of men and boys in the local church that are the backbone of the Brotherhood Commission's activities," Summerlin said.

Summerlin and Brotherhood Commisssion President James H. Smith of Memphis, Tenn., reported on a communications audit which resulted in several changes in commission curriculum and publications.

The changes include a new program emphasis on senior adults and specialized materials for age groups.

Smith presented humorist Jerry Clower of McComb, Miss., with an award recognizing his contributions to High School Baptist Young Men through the Jerry Clower Speak-Out Award presented annually in a national competition.

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Samuel T. Currin of Raleigh, N.C., chairman of the convention's Public Affairs Committee, said the past year had been "especially challenging and also very rewarding."

The committee, which represents the denomination on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, was involved in several key legislative issues, Currin said, including opposition to federal child-care regulations and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988.

Messenger Bentley Gwinn of Luke, Texas, questioned Currin about discrepancies in Public Affairs Committee reports and publications of the BJCPA on a proposed voluntary prayer in school amendment.

The amendment, proposed in the early 1980s by the Reagan administration, had sparked a resolution by messengers to the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting supporting the amendment.

Gwinn questioned if the amendment called for written prayers and why the PAC failed to recognize the BJCPA's opposition to government-written prayers.

"The SBC resolution stands on its own merits," Currin said.

Currin added that any legislation was open to "a host of interpretations," but in his opinion, the Southern Baptist Convention interpretation was correct and the Baptist Joint Committee was wrong.

Mike Ruffin, messenger from Adele, Ga., asked Currin about "attitudes of the Public Affairs Committee leaning toward severing relationships with the BJCPA.

Currin said, "there should be no concern about the quality of your representatives or their commitment to the Public Affairs Committee."

However, the PAC has faced problems in relating to the BJCPA, Currin said, including differences on issues and matters of funding.

"This will surprise many of you, but Southern Baptists provide 90 percent of the Joint Committee's funding but we have only one-third of the representatives," Currin said.

"We can't get an accounting from the staff on where their money is coming from and how it is being spent," Currin said. "I do hope one of these days this matter can be resolved."

During a three-minute response, James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, contended the Washington-based agency had been "maligned and misrepresented" in the PAC report.

He disputed the claim that the SBC provides 90 percent of the BJC's budget. During the current budget, he said, the convention provides 60 percent of the agency's budget and under the budget approved by messengers Tuesday that figure would drop to 53 percent.

In addition, Dunn said each BJC member receives a certified audit verifying the agency's income and expenditures.

Despite the fact that the BJC receives financial support from three Baptist state conventions and a number of Southern Baptist churches, Dunn said the agency has not conducted a campaign of solicitation among SBC constituents.

Dunn also called false charges that the BJC has not stayed within the bounds of actions taken by the SBC. He specially disputed claims that the agency was in opposition to SBC actions on the Supreme Court appointment of Robert Bork and the passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

In other business, messengers heard reports from the Baptist World Alliance, a world-wide organization of Baptist groups, and the convention's calendar committee.



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Baptist United Breakfast

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14-- Daniel Vestal, who failed Tuesday in his bid for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency, told a breakfast group of more than 400 Wednesday that he wants to "go home and pastor" his congregation in Atlanta, Ga., before he decides whether to allow his name to be placed in nomination for president again next year.

But Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, and spokesman for Baptist Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, breakfast sponsor, gave Vestal little room to say no.

Brother Dan, I know you need to talk to your people and as a pastor I appreciate that, but I want you to know that I sent a telegram to your deacons this morning."

As the applause subsided, Moore added, "And I signed your name to it."

Stopping short of a formal announcement, Vestal said, "I'm willing to do what I can to return this convention to the basic truths and principles we believe in.

"I believe those truths and principles will triumph in New Orleans."

Vestal told Moore and the other Baptist Committed members, "I'm humbled to be counted among your ranks."

Another leader, John Baugh of Dallas, told the group, "The Pressler era will leave a legacy of oppression and deceit. It must be brought to an end."

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By Roy Jones, Abilene Reporter News--1:00 p.m. Wednesday

#### PHOTO CUTLINES

- 14. FORUM STEERERS—The Southern Baptist Forum held its annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 12, immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Among the group's steering committee members are (back row, from left) George (Dub) Steincross, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Liberty, Mo.; Peter Rhea Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga.; C. Kenny Cooper, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Nashville; (front row, from left) Pete Hill, pastor of First Baptist Church of Vero Beach, Fla.; Molly Marshall—Green, assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Jon Stubblefield, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.; and conference speaker Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 23. PRESIDENTIAL EXHORTATION—Southern Baptists have settled their disagreements over the Bible and must now emphasize personal evangelism, convention President Jerry Vines told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas June 13 during his annual President's Address. Messengers re-elected him to a second one-year term as SBC president three hours later. Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody (Ga.) Baptist Church by a vote of 10,754 to 8,248. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 21.A. CONVENTION CROWD--More than 20,000 Southern Baptists from across the country converged on Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15 for the 142nd session of the Southern Baptist Convention. The event was preceded by an evangelistic witnessing/door-to-door campaign and more than a dozen vocational and special-interest conferences. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 45. TEN YEARS--The Southern Baptist Executive Committee honored Harold C. Bennett for 10 years as its president and treasurer during the convention's annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev. Executive Committee Chairman Charles Sullivan, (left) pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, Tenn., presented a plaque of appreciation to Bennett and his wife, Phyllis. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 31. PRESIDENT SPEAKS—Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines met with reporters hours after messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., re-elected him to a second one-year term as president. "I beleive the issue of the Bible is settled in Southern Baptist life," he said, adding that he hopes to "restore the joy" to the denomination through an emphasis on personal evangelism. Vines is pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla. (Photo by Jim Veneman)
- 47. FATHER, SONS--Flanked by sons Philip (left) and Joel, Daniel Vestal talked to reporters following his defeat in the Southern Baptist Convention presidential election in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13. Vestal admitted he was grieved and disappointed over his loss, but he said he could not yet commit to being a candidate for the presidency next year. Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta. (Photo by Jim Veneman)
- 24. MINISTERS' WIVES--New officers for the Southern Baptist Conference of Ministers' Wives are (from left) Rhonda Kelley, New Orleans, vice president; Linda Estep, Columbia, S.C., president; Janet Wicker, Lubbock, Texas, recording secretary-treasurer; and Darlene Herring, Memphis, Tenn., corresponding secretary. The organization held its annual luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13 in Las Vegas, Nev. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 27. HI TECH--David Trammel of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville showed Al (center) and Elaine Lawson of Parkwood Baptist Church in Annandale, Va., how computers can help their church. The board's computer was among scores of booths and displays in the exhibit area at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev. (Photo by Stanley Leary)



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Convention Sermon

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, June 14 -- A Texas Baptist pastor called on professors at Baptist colleges, schools and seminaries Wednesday to live up to their titles by professing their faith in the classroom.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, said Baptist schools need professors "who believe in the inspired, infallible word of God."

Chapman delivered the annual sermon at the 132nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"A professor is one who professes," said Chapman, "and every Baptist college professor ought to be a born-again Christian who professes his faith in the classroom."

Chapman said Baptist schools need professors who believe in the virgin birth of Christ, in the Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God, in the sacrificial, atoning blood of Christ shed on the cross for the salvation of the world, in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, and in the glorious second coming of Jesus.

Througout the Las Vegas Convention Center, many of the messengers stood to applaud Chapman's comments on Baptist professors.

Chapman cited Baptist history as justification for Southern Baptists to demand that professors in Baptist colleges, operated by Baptist state conventions, believe in the fundamentals of the faith.

In 1913, the convention meeting in St. Louis adopted a report from its Education Committee urging denominational control of colleges when they waver from the doctrine or spirit of the New Testament, he said. It has always been part of Baptist history and heritage to insist the Baptist schools be true to the faith, he said.

Chapman said the Bible needs no defense, adding, "but we do need to defend how the Bible is represented to people."

"The Bible," he added, "is the inspired Word of God, the infallible Word of God, the inerrant Word of God. Since God is its author, and God cannot lie, the Bible never misleads or deceives. It is without error."

The Bible, he said, is "our chart and our compass, our lamp and our light. The Word of God is pure and precious, the full and final authority for our faith."

Chapman said that Southern Baptists have been using labels such as liberal and fundamentalists, moderates and conservatives, right and left to describe various positions of people concerning the Bible. "But it is not a matter of a left turn or a right turn, it is a matter of a right turn or a wrong turn."

Chapman said Southern Bapists need a moritorium on name bashing and character assassination. "We need more personal conferences and fewer press conferences.

"This denomination is not a demolition derby," he quipped.

He called for members of the 14.8 million-member denomination to build a cooperative spirit. "We must not have friend against friend, brother against brother," he said.

Just before Chapman preached, his son Chris, a staff member of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, sang a solo, "All Rise."
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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Las Vegas Reaction to SBC

LAS VEGAS, June 14--Las Vegans agree: most Southern Baptists are nice, friendly and generally eager to talk about Jesus.

"They're more considerate than other convention groups," said Jack Smith, supervisor of security for the Las Vegas Convention Center, Wednesday. "They've been more cooperative. Maybe it's because of their religion."

Robert McMaster, a security guard for the convention center, said nearly everyone has tried to witness to him. "But I just tell them I'm Catholic," he said. All that witnessing doesn't bother him, he said. "Nothing offends me."

"They've all been really nice," said Christy Franciosi, a cashier with the convention center's food service. "And I love the way they dress. It's like a fashion show."

One of the shuttle bus drivers who gave her name as Sam also noticed the difference in the way Southern Baptists dress. She stopped several times Sunday night to pick up people walking to the convention center who were dressed in suits.

"There's another Southern Baptist," she said as she pulled to the curb and offered them a ride. "It's so good to have people on my bus who are not drunk or cussing."

"I just don't think it's right for people to run other people down; or to mak you think they're better than you are," she said.

A roulette dealer for a local casino who didn't want her name used said she had not had any direct contact with the Southern Baptist messengers, but she had been "finding a lot of (witnessing) pamphlets around."

She hasn't noticed any drop in the amount of gambling this week, "because of the fight (between Thomas Hearns and Sugar Ray Leonard)." she said. More people have been in town to attend the boxing match and they have made up for any slack in gamblers Southern Baptists might have caused, she said.

Lee Harris, the Las Vegas convention center's coordinator, said the people she has dealt with have been extremely warm and friendly. But requirements have been a bit different.

"We don't normally set up 17,000 chairs," she said. "Most of our conventi ns have more exhibit space and fewer people." Hours, too, are longer with Southern Baptists. Most other convention groups close their booths at 6 p.m. The longer hours for the SBC have caused the center to provide more security people and work longer hours, but "it hasn't been a problem," Harris said.

Fran Gregory, hostess for a casino buffet, said Southern Baptist customers have been very polite, very nice and very patient, even when they're waiting in long lines. "I wish all the people through here were like them," she said.

"I haven't seen one get mad," said Bob Shattuck, supervisor of services for local hotel. "They're much more patient than other conventioneers."

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Las Vegas Reaction to SBC -- Page 2

Shattuck, who supervises bell boys and valet parking attendants, said Southern Baptists are about average in their tipping.

"Doctors and dentists are the worst," he said. "No matter how many bags they have, 50 cents is the most you can expect from them."

He's also noticed that Southern Baptists seem to be methodical or perhaps preoccupied in their convention activities. "When it's time to go to a meeting, they all get up and go. They stand in line forever, without complaining," he said.

But he said he was disappointed in one thing. A Christian, he's surprised no one has tried to witness to him.

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By Anita Bowden -- 1:20 p.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday A.M. Business

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14 -- Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Wednesday refused to reconsider a 1989-90 budget of \$137,287,542 they had approved 24 hours earlier.

Almost 54 percent of messengers voting rejected a motion by Charlie Waller of Bumpass, Va., to reconsider the convention budget after extended debate. The vote was 6,034 to 5,198.

Waller introduced a motion Tuesday to divert \$350,000 from the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJC) to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Before messengers could vote whether to take that action, they had to agree to reconsider the budget.

Before the vote on whether to reconsider, Waller announced he planned to amend his original motion. He said he intended to substitute a motion that had been introduced by another messenger.

That motion, made by Kenneth R. Barnett of Denver, Colo., a member of the SBC Executive Committee, called for taking \$200,000 from the convention's allocation to the BJC and re-allocating it to four Southern Baptist entities -- \$60,000 to the Foreign Mission Board, \$50,000 to the Home Mission Board, \$50,000 to the Public Affairs Committee and \$40,000 to the Christian Life Commission.

During discussion on whether to reconsider the budget, Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., former SBC president, spoke in favor of reconsideration. "We have marched around this issue (funding of the BJC) so many times," he said, "the body now needs to speak."

But Frank Ingraham of Franklin, Tenn., another SBC Executive Committee member, urged messengers not to disrupt the convention's "very intricate budget process." "To do so," he said, "would be to favor those who are the most winsome at the moment and not those programs the convention has set as priorities."

During a three-minute response -- given after the budget reconsideration vote was taken -- James M. Dunn, BJC executive director, said the agency had been "maligned and misrepresented" during the morning session.

He disputed the claim that the SBC provides 90 percent of the BJC's budget. During the current budget, he said, the convention provides 60 percent of the agency's budget and under the budget approved by messengers Tuesday that figure would drop to 53 percent.

In addition, Dunn said each BJC member receives a certified audit verifying the agency's income and expenditures.

Despite the fact that the BJC receives financial support from three Baptist state conventions and a number of Southern Baptist churches, Dunn said the agency has not conducted a campaign of solicitation among SBC constituents.

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# Wednesday A.M. Business -- Page 2

Dunn also called false charges that the BJC has not stayed within the bounds of actions taked by the SBC. He specially disputed claims that the agency was in opposition to SBC actions on the Supreme Court appointment of Robert Bork and the passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

In other business, the convention disposed of all pending motions.

Two motions -- one on instructions to the Committee on Order of Business and the other on a prohibition against saving seats on the convention floor -- were ruled out of order.

All other motions were referred to the Executive Committee or individual convention entities.

A ballot vote was taken on one motion to refer.

Pat Pearce of Hickory, N.C., introduced an amendment to separate his motion on the scheduling of the convention's president's address from the other motions to be referred to the Executive Committee. His amendment was defeated 5,247 to 5,206.

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By Kathy Palen -- 2:10 p.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southwestern Seminary Luncheon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14 -- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, received a "straight A" from its president during the school's annual National Alumni Association luncheon Wednesday at the Las Vegas Hilton.

"When you wrap it all up, the grade point average of Southwestern is 4.0," Russell Dilday told the 850 alumni and friends. "The seminary receives a magna cum laude for its high level of accountability to you, those of you who own this school."

Dilday said recent denominational tests along with criticisms and misunderstandings about "theological wildings has taught us to work together and be more trusting." He asked those attending the luncheon to join together to "help us build a coalition" of support for the school.

Citing Southwestern's faculty, curriculum, involvement in missions and evangelism and the spiritual level of students, Dilday said "when you put us to the test, I think the grade is very high."

But Dilday's message included what he called the bad news of budget cuts, enrollment declines and decreased Cooperative Program support.

The alumni association recognized six men for outstanding service in the Southern Baptist Convention. Those honored were Ben Elrod, president of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkedelphia, Ark.; Nilson Fanini, pastor of First Baptist Church of Niteroi, Brazil; Finlay Graham, retired Southern Baptist missionary to the Middle East; William Hendricks, professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; John Seelig, vice president for public affairs at Southwestern; and William Souther, retired professor and music evangelist.

Minette Drumwright, director of the International Prayer Strategy Office of the Foreign Mission Board and National Alumni Association president for 1988-89, presided over the election of officers for the coming year.

Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, was elected alumni president. Cecil Sims, executive director/treasurer of the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore., was elected vice president/president-elect, and Seelig, secretary/treasurer.

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By Scott Collins -- 3:58 p.m., Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Golden Gate Seminary Luncheon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14 -- The luncheon for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends attracted more than 215 Wednesday at West Oakey Baptist Church.

The program included the premier of Golden Gate's new promotional videotape and a report from President William O. Crews.

"We can't continue to do 'business as usual'," Crews said regarding the seminary's assignment to train ministers and the current financial pressures. He said the long range planning committee will probably bring recommendations relating to the seminary's future plans in about 18 months.

Honored as alumnus of the year for 1989 was Homer McLaughlin, pastor of Montecito Baptist Church in Santa Rosa, Calif. He received the bachelor of divinity degree from Golden Gate in 1962 and the master of divinity in 1972.

The alumni association presented its seventh meritorious service award to Clyde B. Skidmore of Tehachapi, Calif.

Skidmore, who earned the bachelor of divinity and master of divinity degrees from Golden Gate, is a retired minister who is currently leading revivals, Bible studies and doing pulpit supplies. He served as pastor of churches in Texas and California for over 35 years.

New officers elected included P. Alona Bright of Hercules, Calif., vice president of promotion; and Clyde B. Skidmore of Tehachapi, Calif., vice president of finance.

Executive committee members elected were Cristobal Dona of San Jose, Calif.; C. Gail Hardy of Winters, Calif.; Joe L. Morris of Johnson City, Texas; J. Alfred Smith Sr., of Oakland, Calif.; and Richard S. Spangenberg of Fair Oaks, Calif.

Alumni president elect Michael D. Dean of Beaumont, Texas, moved up to president after the meeting.

The next seminary alumni association luncheon and business meeting will occur on June 13, 1989 in New Orleans, La.

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By Eddy Oliver -- 4:45 p.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Executive Committee Officers

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14 -- The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention elected Sam Pace of Lawton, Okla., as chairman and Faul Pressler of Houston as vice chairman Wednesday during their organizational meeting.

Pace, director of missions for Commanche-Cotton Baptist Association in Lawton, succeeds Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City, Tenn., as chairman of the influential 76-member committee.

Pressler, an appellate court judge who has been active in denominational affairs for the last ten years, succeeds Darrell Robinson, recently elected vice president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Both Pace and Pressler defeated James E. Jones, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Ky. Jones was nominated as chairman, and later for vice chairman.

Pace was elected by a 53-15 vote margin over Jones, and Pressler by a 43-26 margin.

Elected recording secretary by acclamation was Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Pace was nominated by Wolfe and Pressler by Mrs. Gayden Jones of Baton Rouge, La.

As chairman, Pace will preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and appoint all standing committees and their officers, in conference with Pressler as vice chairman.

At the close of the meeting, Jim Wideman, pastor of Screven Memorial Baptist Church in Portsmouth, N.H., explained the intent of a motion he had made during the pre-convention session of the Executive Committee two days earlier.

Wideman's motion reported to Baptist Press that television personality Bill Moyers had withdrawn his request to appear before the Executive Committee to discuss his differences with Judge Pressler concerning a television special Moyers produced entitled. "The Battle for the Bible."

Wideman explained that he was not interested in censoring the press or criticizing anyone, or trying to control the press. \*I wanted to bring a redemptive end to a no-win situation, \*Wideman said.

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Prepared by Jim Newton, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Midwestern Seminary Alumni Luncheon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14--More than 200 alumni and friends of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary heard a deeply personal testimony from President Milton Ferguson at a luncheon Wednesday at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Ferguson talked about the 1980 death of his 16-year-old daughter, Jo Catherine, who was killed in an automobile accident.

The day after she died, Ferguson said he went to his daughter's bedroom and began to thumb through her copy of The Living Bible. He discovered that two months earlier, after attending a summer church camp, Jo Catherine had begun reading through the New Testament, underlining certain passages and making notations in the margins as she went along.

He said the verses she marked became a revelation to him, helping him to get to know her "from the inside" and bringing him comfort and encouragement.

"I share this with you, risking the anxiety of such a personal reference," Ferguson said, "because I do have a sense of great joy and encouragement.

"These are difficult days in the lives of Southern Baptists. ... We have walked together in difficult times at Midwestern Seminary," he acknowledged. "But there is a word abroad in the land which is not due simply to public relations and certainly not due to any kind of capitulation. The word simply is that God is at work at Midwestern Seminary!"

In addition to presenting his testimony, Ferguson announced two upcoming staff changes. In July, Ray Kesner, who currently serves the seminary as director of alumni affairs and denominational services, will assume the newly-created position of director of career assessment counseling and supervision. He has been an administrator at Midwestern since 1982 and is an alumnus of the institution.

Marty Blankenship, who currently serves as director of public relations and administrative services and associate director of development, will take on the directorship of alumni affairs in July. Her administrative services duties will be reassigned and her new title will be director of alumni and public relations. She has served on the seminary staff since 1979.

Also during the luncheon, Kesner presented awards to honorary alumni and alumni of the year.

Honorary alumni include V. Lavell Seats, Midwesterns's first faculty member, dean of students and registrar who currently serves the institution as senior professor of missions; Alta Morrow, retired, of Springfield, Mo., who served the seminary 16 years in a variety of capacities, including director of program coordination and alumni affairs; and the late William H. Morton (posthumously) who served Midwestern as professor and, later, senior professor of biblical archaeology for 27 years.

Alumni of the year include Roger W. Hall, treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, who was vice president for business affairs at Midwestern in 1981 and received the master of divinity degree there in 1974; and Doug and Evelyn Knapp, recently retired missionaries to Tanzania, who were students at Midwestern in 1963.

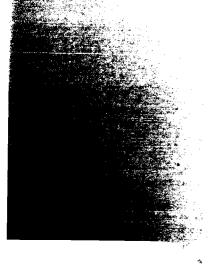
# Midwestern Seminary Luncheon--page 2

puring a brief business session, David Johnson was named alumni association president-elect. He is assistant professor of religious education at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., and pastor of Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church in Horseshoe Bend, Ark. He received the master of divinity degree in 1980 and the doctor of ministry degree in 1986, both from Midwestern.

Darrell Rickard, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., and western eres representative for the Missouri Baptist Foundation, began his duties as 1989-90 alumni president.

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By Brenda Sanders -- 7:15 p.m. Wednesday





#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hispanic Baptist Ministers Conference

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12-Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, affirmed the growing participation of language churches in the life of the denomination and foreign mission service Monday during a meeting of the Hispanic Baptist Ministers Conference.

Parks made the comments during an ethnic commissioning service of two couples during the meeting at Westoakey Baptist Church.

The agency comissioned native Cubans Alcides and Mariam Nunez of Kissimmee, Fla., to serve in Chile and Jacob and Toong-Ja Shin to serve in Japan.

During the ceremony, Parks encouraged ethnic Southern Baptists to increase their participation in short term volunteer foreign mission projects, become involved in a prayer network for specific missionaries and countries of the world, and increase communication between language congregations.

Parks praised the group for becoming more involved in denominational life and credited the inroads they have made into the denomination to that involvement.

The president of the Richmond, Va.-based mission agency said he foresaw no problems with an increase of ethnic foreign appointments, and nationals in other nations would welcome the ethnics onto the field.

During the meeting the agency honored three individuals who have made "outstanding contributions" to foreign missions among blacks and language ethnic congregations.

Receiving the awards were Oscar Romo, director of the language church extension division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; and Foreign Mission Board employees Victor Davis, director of black church relations, and Geriel De Oliveira, director of ethnic relations.

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By Eduardo DoCampo--7:20 p.m. Wednesday



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jerry Falwell at SBC

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14 -- Independent Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell affirmed the course of the Southern Baptist Convention but said he has no intention of joining the 14.8-million-member denomination.

Falwell walked among Southern Baptists for five days during their annual meeting in Las Vegas. He did not appear on the convention program, but addressed the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, which met in conjunction with the SBC.

Falwell also used an appearance before the Religion Newswriters Association to announce that he will dissolve the Moral Majority, a political lobby he founded 10 years ago with the help of former SBC president Charles Stanley. The religion writers held their annual meeting in Las Vegas immediately prior to the SBC.

"I am here because I believe the cloud of God is today over those Bible-believing Southern Baptist churches that without a doubt are the shining lights of our nation," Falwell told the evangelists.

"In the last 10 years, I have watched something happen in your organization I thought could not happen. I thought the only cure for apostasy was judgment.

"The last 10 years, history will report, have been miraculous years in which Bible-believing Christians have made an impact," he continued.

Falwell said Southern Baptist churches represent "some of the greatest churches since Pentecost."

Earlier, while addressing the religion newswriters, Falwell dispelled rumors that he might join the SBC. "I have no intention of joining the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

"We have our own school to support, our own mission board to support," Falwell said of his church, Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va. "I would just be one more pastor among thousands of pastors.

"The Southern Baptist Convention would be of no value to our ministry," he added. "There's nothing in the Southern Baptist Convention or in our ministry that we cannot mutually enjoy."

Falwell later told the evangelists he wants to work alongside Southern Baptists toward world evangelization. "I am not a loner," he said. "I don't believe any of us can do it alone."

Falwell's influence among Southern Baptists was evident in the large numbers of people who greeted him everywhere he went. In introducing him to the evangelists conference, Southern Baptist evangelist Jay Strack called Falwell "the man God used to enlarge my vision of growing an evangelistic church" and "a great defender of the faith."

Falwell told the evangelists that church starting is God's plan for evangelizing the world. He said there are 110,000 evangelical churches in North America and asked, "Have you ever stopped to think what could happen if every church started just one other?"

He recounted how he started his church from scratch by knocking on every door in his community. Thomas Road Baptist Church has started 47 other congregations, he said.

Falwell also urged laypeople not to stay in churches that are "dead religious morgues."

"You don't need to stay in a church where people are not being saved, where the word of God is not preached as the inerrant revelation of a loving God. You don't n ed to be in a church where altar calls are not given," he said.

In announcing the dissolution of Moral Majority, Falwell said, "I believe we've accomplished everything we set out to do."

Because of the influence of Moral Majority, Southern Baptist pastors like Stanley have gained credibility as spokesmen on moral and political concerns, he said.

Moral Majority "marshalled thousands of voters" to address concerns that have become known as the agenda of the Religious Right, Falwell explained. Conservative evangelicals are no longer "on the outside screaming to get in" as they were 10 years ago, he added.

Despite ending the formal organization, the work of Moral Majority will "go on forever," he said. "The pastors who are motivated will go on. I will continue to speak on moral issues.

"Now the mindset of the country is that activism is everybody's job. The mindset of this country has changed."

In reviewing the history of the organization, Falwell claimed credit for sending Ronald Reagan and George Bush to the White House by coalescing conservative evangelicals into a "strong political force."

Falwell said there had been "thousands" of Southern Baptists involved with Moral Majority and the causes it defended.

However, he denied any direct link between the rise of the Moral Majority and the rise of the conservative group that has changed the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Both movements began in 1979. With Falwell's announcement of "mission accomplished," leaders of both movements have now said their task is done. (In a recent interview with Baptist Press, SBC president Jerry Vines said he believes the theological conflict in the denomination is also resolved.)

Falwell acknowledged he has heard rumors that "Adrian Rogers, W.A. Criswell, Charles Stanley, Jimmy Draper, Jerry Vines and Jerry Falwell all sat down and said, 'Let's take over the Southern Baptist Convention.'

"There's never been such a meeting," he insisted. "There's never been such phon calls. There's never been such correspondence."

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By Mark Wingfield, 7:45 p.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# SBC Brotherhood Breakfast

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14--Comedian Jerry Clower's "double duty" performance was the highlight of the 1989 Brotherhood Breakfast at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The award-winning entertainer was on hand to present a national award named in his honor, and as featured speaker for the annual event. His remarks to the 165 Brotherhood leaders were laced with his usual brand of country humor.

"I love this young man for being the best he can be," Clower said as he presented the National Jerry Clower Award to National High School Baptist Young Men's Missions Speak Out winner Kendall Shuler of Marshfield, Mo.

"He's like the national champion coon dog that's done sucked up all the competition at the state level and been named 'Top Dog.'

"Kendall Shuler has done fought 'em off in all the 50 states and he's the best in the nation at makin' a stand-up speech that means something," Clower added.

Clower also challenged Brotherhood leaders to be loyal leaders.

"You got to be loyal to God, to yourself, and to other people," Clower said. "That's the only thing that matters.

"I love Royal Ambassadors and Brotherhood because that's where I learned those words, 'It's loyalty, loyalty, yes, loyalty to Christ.'" Clower said. "Ya'll need to keep doing that kind of job."

Brotherhood Commission President James Smith was quick to offer words of praise for Clower's love and support of Brotherhood work.

"We have a friend in Jerry Clower," Smith told the gathering. "He has been a great source of support for the National High School Baptist Young Men's Missions Speak Out.

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By Mike Day--8:15 p.m. Wednesday



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Orleans Luncheon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14-- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to maintaining its identity as a Southern Baptist institution, President Landrum P. Leavell II assured school alumni Wednesday at a luncheon here.

Besides honoring distinguished alumni and electing officers, 450 participants heard Leavell praise the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget plan. The Cooperative Program finances worldwide missions and ministry efforts, including six theological seminaries.

"We are today over 60 percent dependent on the Cooperative Program (at New Orleans Seminary), and we will be in the forseeable future," Leavell told luncheon participants. "And I'll let you in on my heart just a little bit. I don't want us to get endowment sufficient to make us independent from the convention.

"We are a Southern Baptist institution. And if we ever get out of line, I want the Southern Baptist Convention to grab us by the coattail and pull us back."

The seminary leader pointed out that when an institution gains financial independence from a sponsoring body, it often begins to pull away from that group.

"I want no part of that," Leavell asserted. "I want the Cooperative Program to remain viable, not only for what it menas to New Orleans Seminary, but for what it means to the cause of Christ and all our mission enterprises."

Leavell also reported to alumni on seminary endowment and finances and plans for a center of evangelism and church growth. He noted that the school remains committed to operating "in the black" financially.

Alumni saw a video promoting the seminary's "Bold March Forward" capital campaign.

The seminary faculty presented distinguished alumni awards to Hyran E. Barefoot and Carl J. Duck. Barefoot, president of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., earned a bachelor of divinity and doctorate from the seminary in the 1950s. Duck, executive director of the Nashville (Tenn.) Baptist Association, received a bachelor of divinity degree from the seminary in 1952.

Alumni chose Richard Alan Day, pastor of First Baptist Church, Edmond, Okla., as president-elect; Pamela Miracle Phillips, church growth specialist with the Western Connecticut Baptist Association, New Britain, Conn., as secretary; and Ronnie Lofton, minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church, Minden, La., as treasurer.

Alumni president for 1989-90 is Jim Henry, pastor at First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

-30-

By Lacy Thompson - 8:05 p.m. Wednesday

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hispanic Baptist Ministers Election

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 12--Members of the Hispanic Baptist Ministers Conference elected officers during their meeting Monday prior to the opening of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Daniel Sotelo, pastor of Templo Bautista in Fresno, Calif., was re-elected to a third term as president. Also elected were Manuel Galindo of Harlington, Texas, first vice president; Luis Razco, pastor of West Hialeah Baptist Church, Hialeah, Fla., second vice president; Heriberto Becerra, pastor of First Hispanic Baptist Church, New York City, treasurer; Yamil Fernandez, pastor of Centro Cristiano Buenas Nuevas, Santa Ana, Calif., secretary; Josue Grijalva, national ethnic home missionary of San Antonio, Texas, historian; Bob Sena, pastor of First Hispanic Baptist Church of Atlanta, was liaison to Southern Baptist agencies.

Sonny Rios, an evangelistic singer from Dallas, Texas, was elected music director for the next annual meeting, which will be held in New Orleans prior to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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By Eduardo DoCampo--8:30 p.m. Wednesday

- 34. FLAG PARADE--A parade of flags kicked off the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board report during the convention's annual meeting June 13 in Las Vegas, Nev. The flags represented the 116 foreign countries where 3,855 missionaries minister in the name of Christ. FMB President R. Keith Parks challenged Southern Baptists to proclaim the Christian gospel to the world. Southern Baptists have not yet decided whether reaching the world for Christ is worth the cost, he said, noting, "We have lost the passion for reaching a lost world." (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 48. CUBAN GREETINGS—Antonio Perez Rabelo, (left) president of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, spoke to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13, thanking them for the support they have given Cuban Baptists for more than 100 years. Western Cuba is home to 103 Baptist churches, with more than 6,300 members working among more than 20,000 people sympathetic to the gospel. He was joined by Don Kammerdiener, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's regional vice president for Latin America. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 46. THANKS ALOT--Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford received a plaque of appreciation from the Southern Baptist Convention during its annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev. The plaque, which carried the words of a resolution passed in her honor, expressed "gratitude to God for the life and ministry of Carolyn Weatherford ... (and) for her long and faithful service to Southern Baptists." She will marry Ohio pastor Joe Crumpler in August and take early retirement in September. Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, presented the plaque. (Photo by Tim Fields)
- 35. CHILD CARE--Southern Baptist Convention childcare worker Sharon Meeks, (left) a member of Parkdale Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nev., shows a dove to the children of Gailin Smith, a convention messenger from Alexandria Baptist Church in Paragould, Ark., during the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas June 14. Members of Las Vegas churches provided the childcare service for children of messengers to the meeting, which attracted more than 20,300 people to the Silver City. (Photo by Tim Fields)
- 20. NEW FRIENDS--Participation in the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., gave people from across the nation the opportunity to make friends and share experiences. Dorothea Melusky (from left) and Dorothy Daugherty from First Baptist Church in Pinnellas Park, Fla., greeted Park Sung Do of Los Angeles Korean Baptist Church and Byung Chou of South Florida Korean Baptist Church, also in Los Angeles. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 26. ON AIR--The Baptist Telecommunication Network provided gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev. The production involved equipment, staffing and technical assistance from the SBC Sunday School Board, technical assistance from the SBC Radio and Television Commission, a satellite uplink from the convention's Woman's Missionary Union and a news crew provided by the SBC Foreign Mission Board. (Photo by Van Payne)
- 30. EVANGELISTS' OFFICERS-- Officers of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists are (from left) Larry McFadden, assistant music director, Orlando, Fla.; Alan B. Celoria, music director, jackson, Miss.; Tom Cox, parliamentarian, Mountainburg, Ark.; John Box, vice president, Orlando, Fla.; Jay Strack, president, Dallas, Texas; and Richard Lee, pastor adviser, Atlanta. The organization sponsored an evangelistic rally during the Wednesday afternoon break in the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 33. BOYLES' VIEW--Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., provided a theme interpretation of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13. He lay the blame for the denomination's lackluster growth on a mentality that has become too sophisticated to be concerned about converting people to Christianity. (Photo by Stanley Leary)



News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600

Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

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Mary Knox Features Manager

IMMEDIATE RELEASE Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Evangelists In Pulpit

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14--Who, they asked among themselves, would be the loneliest man in New York City on Thanksgiving?

Graham Ferguson Lacey of London told the Wednesday afternoon session of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists that the question ultimately resulted in a face-to-face encounter with Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi.

The evangelists' meeting ended with a New Testament-distributing march onto Las Vegas' famous casino-laden "strip" led by cross-bearing evangelist Arthur Blessitt. Evangelists and several hundred messengers on hand for the second of three days of Southern Baptist Convention sessions followed Blessitt, his wife, Sherry, and their six children

Lacey, a businessman who maintains his church membership at First Baptist of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said he and several Baptist friends in New York City decided the loneliest man in the metropolis on Thanksgiving Day 1986 would be the Libyan ambassador to the United Nations.

So, they invited him over for dinner. Surprisingly, he came, Lacey said. "'If people knew who I am, they would spit in my face. Your country has just bombed mine. Your people don't like Col. Moammar Gadhafi, my leader, "Lacey uoted the ambassador as saying.

The Libyan accepted a second invitation for fellowship, Lacey said, and several weeks of interaction with the ambassador resulted in an invitation from Gadhafi for a visit to Libya in August 1987.

After six days of meetings with officials in the Islamic country, Lacey said, he was taken to meet Gadhafi in his Bedouin-style (nomadic) tent.

"It was a combative discussion," Lacey said. "At first, he accused me of believing a Zionist lie. But I insisted, 'Sir, I know Jesus Christ personally. I've experienced him in my life. And until you've known him personally, you cannot deny his very existence.'"

After a discussion that stretched beyond an hour, Lacey said, he asked to pray with the Libyan leader. "There was a lot of discussion in Arabic with his advisers. He looked at me straight in the face and he said, 'Sir, you may pray.'

"I prayed in the name of our Lord and Savior," Lacey said, "for (Gadhafi's) salvation, for his wife's and his family's and for revival, for an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit's power in Libya."

Lacey said Gadhafi embraced him and again spoke with his advisers in Arabic. Lacey said one of them told him, "'The distinguished leader would like you to pray again.'"

Lacey said he hesitated, then Gadhafi said, "'Nobody has ever told me before about Jesus. Nobody but a Muslim has ever prayed with me. I would like you to get down on your knees and pray again. This time, Libyan television will televise it.'"

Libyan television continues to air the prayer at either the beginning or end of each day, Lacey said. The Englishman also said he remains in contact with Gadhafi.

Asked in an interview for his personal impressions of Gadhafi, Lacey said the Libyan leader is "very well informed. He's an Arab, a Bedouin. We misunderstand the cultural differences (between Libyans and Americans). He is fanatical, politically shrewd and impressive physically."

"Too many of us," Lacey told the evangelists' meeting, "decide who's beyond redemption, so we don't pray for a (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev or a Gadhafi...or a (Palestinian leader) Yassir Arafat.

"We seem somehow to forget that the Apostle Paul was once a terrorist, no less so than Moammar Gadhafi or any of his allies. But God reached (Paul) on the road to Damascus."

--more--

Evangelists In Pulpit -- Page 2

Blessitt, of Hollywood, Calif., said he was glad to return to his Southern Baptist roots."

"I was saved in a Southern Baptist church" in Louisiana, "went to a Southern Baptist college (Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss.) and seminary (Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.), worked with the Home Mission Board" in 1964 and 1965 while starting several churches in Elko, Nev.

"I believed what I heard back there as a child," Blessitt said. "'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"

Blessitt has carried his wooden cross across some 26,000 miles in 110 countries since Christmas Day 1969. He said he has trekked through 21 wars and has been jailed 20 times.

Commenting that "the leader of the Southern Baptist Convention is not (current president) Jerry Vines...not (Vines' opponent) Daniel Vestal." Blessitt said "the leader of the Southern Baptist Convention...is Jesus. He is our Lord."

Blessitt said he had worked on a sermon for the evangelists for six months, but, in coming to the pulpit 10 minutes before the scheduled time of adjournment he said, "I want to get out on the streets. Maybe at a better time I'll preach this message that's burning in my heart."

Other speakers at the evangelists' meeting included black pastor E.V. Hill of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, Calif., and a vice president of the National Baptist Convention; Robert McGee, of Houston, Texas, founder and president of Rapha Christian treatment centers for drug and alcohol abuse and other disorders; and Rick Stanley, one of Elvis Presley's three stepbrothers and now an evangelist from Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Hill told the evangelists his church has a committee specializing on outreach "for every way you can be lost, for the purpose of telling everybody, 'Come and be saved.'"

"I've got a gang committee...an alcoholics committee...a homosexual commitee...an up-and-out committee...a homeless committee," Hill said.

McGee told the evangelists of being "addicted" for 36 years to the need for approval.

"We're looking for acceptance in all the wrong places," McGee said. "We're primarily made for God. He has placed in us a part only he can fill."

Stanley credited the seven-year persistence of a high school friend --now his wife, Robin -- for bringing him to faith after several years of heroin addiction and life in the fast lane as an aide to his famous stepbrother.

Stanley recounted that he was turned off to Christianity because "I was brought up in a church that did not accept people. I never heard anything about the love of God."

And, in the entertainment industry, "I'd seen too many quartets walk on stage and say how much they loved Jesus and walk off and get two hookers."

He recounted once telling Presley of Robin's ongoing concern, and the singer replied, "'That kid who told you about Jesus was exactly right.'" Eight hours later, Stanley said, Presley was dead.

Stanley later attended a church service with Robin. "I don't remember so much what the man said. I know what he didn't say. He didn't talk to me about the way I looked. He didn't talk to me about what (music) I listened to. He talked a lot about Jesus" and got ahold of "an old doper's heart."

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By Art Toalston -- 9:25 p.m. Wednesday



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Currin Response and Wednesday Evening Reports

LAS VEGAS, Nev. June 14--Saying the record needs to be set clear, Samuel T. Currin of Raleigh, N.C., Wednesday defended statements he made earlier in the day about the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

After Currin, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee, made his report, James M. Dunn, executive director of BJCPA, told messengers the Washington-based agency had been "maligned and misrepresented" in Currin's report.

During the evening report, Currin stood firm on his statement that BJCPA receives at least 90 percent of its operating budget from Southern Baptists. He said that according to last year's Southern Baptist annual \$435,000 of the \$476,000 BJCPA budget came from Southern Baptist sources.

He reiterated that many of the funds being channeled to BJCPA from Southern Baptist sources are not "going through" the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist's unified budget to support missions and evangelism.

Dunn had reported that this year's percentage of receipts from Southern Baptists would be about 60 percent of the BJCPA budget. Currin said that monies through the Cooperative Program would comprise about that amount, but that the amount was greater with other Southern Baptist contributions being added.

"Our concern as trustees (of both the PAC and BJCPA)," Currin said, "is that funds from outside the Cooperative Program are being distorted."

Currin also said that Dunn's statements of staff evaluation and accountability to the trustees PAC-related were "denied. When trustees cannot interview staff, that is not accountability."

SBC President Jerry Vines reported to messengers that Dunn would present the BJCPA report on Thursday.

In other business, messengers elected the convention sermon preacher and alternate and music director for 1990 when the annual meeting of the 14.8 million-member denomination convenes in New Orleans, La.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will deliver the convention sermon; and with Jimmy E. Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., as the alternate. John McKay, a music evangelist, Hurst, Texas, will direct the music.

Vines reported that 35 teams went door-to-door witnessing Wednesday afternoon. They visited about 500 homes, discovered about 50 prospects, and recorded about 20 salvation decisions.

He also said several vocational evangelists made their way down the famous Las Vegas Strip to witness as temperatures soured above the 105 degree mark.

Mrs. Bo Whittenton, a homemaker from Marietta, Ga., told mess ngers about her witnessing efforts and desire to win souls for Christ.

Currin Response and Wednesday Evening Reports -- page 2

She said that after she was saved, Jesus gave ber a "real burden for lost people and a deep desire to share my faith. Reaching lost people is a priority in my church."

She encouraged messengers to "make it (reaching the lost) a priority in your church."

She recounted several experiences of leading persons to Christ including a man from England whose name God had given to her two months before meeting him while on a mission trip in Massachusetts.

Helping Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, in giving the Bold Mission Thrust report were Ernest B. Myers, newly-elected second vice president of the SBC and executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention, and David Meacham, director of missions of the Southern Nevada Baptist Association in Las Vegas.

Myers said when the Nevada convention was formed in 1978, those cooperating made it a priority to be involved in Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' emphasis to tach the world with the gospel by the year 2000.

He recounted that in the past 11 years the convention has grown from 72 churches to more than 150. He said, "Nevada and Southern Baptists in Nevada will never be the same because you came here to help us . . . we have been set ahead in reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Meacham echoed Myers' comments and said, "Thank you for your tremendous support. You are the largest volunteer mission group in our state's history."

Because of the efforts of Southern Baptists this weck in Las Vegas, Meacham said Southern Baptists in Nevada would continue to start and grow churches and reach people for Jesus Christ.

Seven pant presidents of the SBC were recognized during the session.

By Terry Barone -- 9:40 p.m. Wednesday

Currin Response and Wednesday Evening Reports -- page 2

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Barone -- 9:40 p.m. Wednesday



Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative Dan Martin

News Room Manager

Marv Knox Features Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEAS Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Evangelists' March To Las Vegas Strip

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- Chris Martin jumped from a city bus one block short of his hotel Wednesday and ended up taking a leap of faith.

Martin, a 35-year-old tourist from Park Forest, Ill., saw a crowd gathered around the temple-like entrance of Caesars Palace and wanted to know what they were doing.

"I actually got off the bus one block before my hotel because the crowd attracted me." Martin said.

What he found was a remnant crowd of Southern Baptist evangelists and pastors who marched almost three miles from the Las Vegas Convention Center to the Las Vegas strip witnessing to any and everyone who would stop long enough to listen. They didn't seem to mind the 110 degree heat.

As the crowd of about 500 kneeled on the steps of the hotel entrance, two men were left standing in the shadow of a 12-foot tall wooden cross. Martin held the tract as the other man read it to him.

When the prayer ended, march leader Arthur Blessitt of Hollywood, Calif., asked if anyone had been saved as a result of the march. Martin raised his hand.

"That's worth everything," Blessitt said as he asked Martin to join him under the cross.

Shouts of "Praise Jesus" and "Hallelujah" went up from the crowd.

But every response to the crowd wasn't a saved soul.

As the crowd left the lawn of the convention center singing "Jesus loves me this I know," "Amazing grace how sweet the sound" and "I've got joy, joy down in my heart," they encountered people who didn't care to hear what they had to say.

Crowds gathered on hotel balconies to watch the singing group. Cars screeched to a halt in the middle of the streets as drivers took a second look.

One young man walked quickly from the sidewalk as the Baptists approached him. He took shelter in the entrance of a nearby casino.

He said the group had "a renegade attitude. And I don't believe it's appropriate."

People on the Las Vegas strip are intelligent and witnessing to them en masse is insulting to them, he said.

He had been witnessed to earlier in the week in a one-on-one encounter. This individual interest left a positive impact on him. He even knew of the witnessing done earlier in the week in neighborhoods and applauded Southern Baptists for such an approach.

"I've taken their books and even read some, but this pushing and shoving is a little too much," motioning to the crowded sidewalk.

Many of the Baptists handed out bright orange stickers with religious messages on them. He had one rolled up in his hand.

"This woman walked up to me and, bingo, she stuck this thing on me," he said. "I think that is very rude."

A middle-aged woman called it "an invasion of privacy."

"I certainly wouldn't pay to go and see this group," she said.

A shopkeeper who said she believed in God took a Bible from one of the Baptists. For herself, she didn't mind the confrontation. For her security guard, she resented the incident because it upset him.

Evangelists' March To Las Vegas Strip

One couple was representative of the many who turned their backs to any approach from the group.

Others responded more positively to the march.

"I'm Catholic," said a man from Champaign, Ill. "I'm Catholic and I think they're doing a great job," as he shaded his eyes with the Bible he had taken from one Baptist.

Another man said he thought it was "really nice. The more here the better," not bothered by what the group was doing.

A young man in a truck stopped at a red light said he didn't mind that someone had come up to his vehicle to hand him a Bible and say "Jesus loves you."

"I'll take anything I don't already have," he said.

Evangelist Blessitt led the march with a 12-foot tall and 6-foot wide wooden cross supported across his shoulder. A self-described pilgrim, Blessit has walked across 103 countries carrying his cross. To him, Las Vegas was just another city in which to share Jesus.

Blessit, 48, was invited by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists to speak and lead the march. His 9-year-old son Jerusalem walked along beside him carrying a shorter cross.

Blessitt shouted "Praise God" and "Hallelujah" as the group walked down the street. In response, they would shout the same. He even led the group in what he called "Jesus" cheers.

If many of those who participated in the march have anything to say about it, this won't be the last march during a Southern Baptist Convention.

"I think it ought to be done at every convention and on this scale," said Bill Quatrone of Baxterville Baptist Church, Baxterville, Miss.

"It's up to us to plant the seeds."

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By Susan Todd, 9:45 p.m. Wednesday



News Room Las Vegas Convention Center (702) 791-8600

Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin News Room Manager

> Marv Knox Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

## PHOTO CUTLINES

- 10. WORKING PRESS--More than 600 newspeople from across the United States and Great Britain converged on Las Vegas, Nev., in mid-June to cover the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Portable computers were a necessity for most reporters, such as John Dart of the Los Angeles Times (foreground) and Helen Parmley of the Dallas Morning News. (Photo by Van Payne)
- 19. EXHIBIT CROWD--Messengers crowded the exhibit area of Las Vegas (Nev.) Convention Center during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15. National and state Baptist agencies and institutions set up booths to tell their "stories" to more than 20,300 Southern Baptists who attended the event. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 37. JOYFUL NOISE-Singing played a vital part in proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15. Primary purpose of the convention is to conduct business, but messengers also participated in worship by listening to sermons and singing hymns. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 25. FOOD FOR ...—Business gave them food for thought. Sermons and songs gave them food for the soul. But from time to time, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., had to stop for food for the body. Concession stands in Las Vegas Convention Center provided snacks and meals so that messengers wouldn't have to go out into the desert heat. (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 29. OUT LOUD--Microphones located throughout the meeting hall allowed messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., to participate in proceedings. Ed Menger, from Watts StreetBaptist Church in Durham, N.C., had his say at microphone No. 7. (Photo by Tim Fields)
- 28. SURVEY CARDS--Computerized survey cards used by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15 helped convention planners know more about the demographic nature of the mammoth event. The Stout family of Trinity Baptist Church in Carthage, Miss., participated. Parents William and Donna and daughter Jessica completed their cards while son William looked on. (Photo by Tim Fields)
- 36. SBC OFFICERS--Messengers to the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev., re-elected Jerry Vines, (center) pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., to a second one-year term as president. The convention's vice presidents are Junior Hill, (right) evangelist from Hartselle, Ala., first vice president, and Ernest Myers, executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention in Reno, second vice president. (Photo by Stanley Leary)



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Home Mission Board Report

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention were told Wednesday night the 14.8 million member denomination last year began the largest number of new churches since 1968 and commissioned the most new home missionionaries since the convention began in 1845.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said during his board's report to the messengers that 1,248 new Southern Baptist churches were started during 1988.

Also, 733 new missionaries were commissioned, bringing the total number of SBC home missionaries to 3,827, Lewis added. He said Southern Baptist churchs baptized 346,320 converts during the year, a 2.3 percent increase over the previous year.

Lewis said a record 2,014 chaplains have been commissioned by the convention, and 49,781 short-term volunteers served in special assignments during the year.

He said 2,025 volunteers during and just prior to the three-day convention meeting, visited 120,000 homes in Las Vegas and led 470 people to faith in Jesus Christ.

Two of the new converts, Darren and Tina Brumfield of Las Vegas, told the messengers their lives had been under tremendous pressure because of his gambling and alcoholism.

Brumfield said he had gambled away all but \$1 of his paycheck just before a Southern Baptist volunteer shared God's plan of salvation with the couple.

In response to questions from Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the mission board, Brumfield said no one had ever talked to him about Jesus, and he had thougt he would spend eternity in hell, but now he would spend eternity in heaven.

Thousands of messengers responded to a challenge by Darrell Robinson, new vice president of the Home Mission Boards' evangelism section, to pray for spiritual awakening, to pray daily for 1990 Here's Hope Simultaneous Revivals and to share their faith as personal soul winners.

They signed commitment cards and knelt around the podium during a commitment prayer closing the presentation.

"If we're going to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus, we've got to start at home," said Robinson.

"Our priority is witnessing, and witnessing is not an option. If you're saved, you're His (Christ's) witness by virtue of who He is in you."

Robinson, the outgoing first vice president of the convention, urged pastors to enlist and query their lay people to be personal soul winners.

"Every church has the adequate personnel to reach their community. The problem is they're only sitting in the pew. We must equip the lay people, we preachers will never do it alone."

Messengers heard personal testimonies of Erwin McManus, director of evangelism for the Dallas Baptist Association, Dallas, Texas, and Bo Mitchell of Atlanta., Ga., a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the mission board's evangelism department, during the mission board report.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Southern Seminary Luncheon

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 14--In a challenge to "keep the dream alive" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, President Roy L. Honeycutt reminded alumni at a reunion luncheon that "Jesus came to take away our sin, not our minds."

Honeycutt's pledge to academic excellence grounded in the Louisville, Ky., school's confessional statement of faith met with sustained applause and a standing ovation by 600 participants.

Honeycutt, the seminary's eighth president, recounted the various eras of leadership in the school's 130-year history and appealed to its alumni "to reclaim that heritage and redream that dream."

"Of historical necessity," he said, "Southern Seminary begins again in each generation. We today are participants in the contemporary rebirthing of the seminary."

Honeycutt urged "fidelity to the God-given vision" of the seminary's founders, noting that "Southern Seminary remains committed to excellence bound to a world vision of the gospel."

During the luncheon, the seminary's national alumni association presented alumni of the year awards to Moriyoshi Hiratani, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pearl City, Hawaii; Carl F. Whirley, Birmingham, Ala., retired foreign missionary to Nigeria; R. Gene Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, news journal for the North Carolina Baptist Convention in Raleigh; and Joe Priest Williams, retired pastor of Baptist Tabernacle, Louisville, Ky.

Alumni also elected Bobby (Bob) S. Terry, editor of the Word and Way, weekly newspaper of the Missouri Baptist Convention, as president-elect of the alumni association.

Alumni president for 1989-90 is Floyd Roebuck, pastor of First Baptist Church, Rome, Ga.

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By David Wilkinson, 10:30 a.m., Thursday



#### PHOTO CUTLINES

- 39. FALWELL'S BLESSING--"I am here because I believe the cloud of God is today over those Bible-believingSouthern Baptist churches that without a doubt are the shining lights of our nation," Jerry Falwell told the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists June 14 in Las Vegas, Nev. Falwell, pastor of the independent Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., said Southern Baptist churches represent "some of the greatest churches since Pentecost," but he added, "I have no intention of joining the Southern Baptist Convention." (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 38. CONVENTION SERMON--Baptist schools need professors "who believe in the inspired, infallible word of God," Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 14 in Las Vegas, Nev. Chapman, who preached the annual Convention Sermon, said, "Aprofessor is one who professes, and every Baptist college professor ought to be a born-again Christian who professes faith in the classroom." (Photo by Paul Obregon)
- 40. STREET WITNESSING--Armed with a Bible and a cross, evangelist Arthur Blessitt lead Southern Baptist Convention messengers onto Las Vegas' famed Strip to tell people about faith in Jesus Christ. Blessitt closed out the annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelist meeting, held during a break in the SBC annual meeting June 14. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 42. NEW CHRISTIANS--Brand-new Christians Tina and Darren Brumfield of Las Vegas, Nev., appeared on the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board report to the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas June 14. The Brumfields accepted Christ as their savior just four days before, when Southern Baptists participating in a citywide door-to-door witnessing effort talked to them about Jesus. They were presented to SBC messengers by Bo Mitchell, (right) an SBC Mission Service Corps volunteer assigned to the board's personal evangelism department. (Photo by Stanley Leary)
- 41. WITNESSING PRIORITY--Bo Whittington, a homemaker from Marietta, Ga., encouraged messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., to making telling people about Christ "a priority in your church." Whittington interpreted the annual meeting theme, "Going, Weeping, Sowing, Reaping." (Photo by Van Payne)



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Alvin C. Shackleford SBC Press Representative

> Dan Martin News Room Manager

> > Marv Knox Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989 OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fellowship of Baptist World Ministries

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, June 15--The Fellowship of Baptist World Ministries was organized here Tuesday morning with its leaders pledging close cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and overseas Baptist bodies.

Aim of the fellowship is greater unity in Southern Baptist world evangelization eff rts.

The fellowship would encompass as many as 70 organizations founded by and involving Southern Baptist ministers and lay people in a range of overseas efforts, said the fellowship's first president, W.H. "Dub" Jackson.

Jackson is president of World Evangelism Foundation of Dallas, Texas. Since its founding in 1969, he said, the organization has coordinated the witnessing efforts of 8,000 Southern Baptist volunteers who traveled to 40 countries. Jackson was a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan from 1951 to 1968.

Leaders of the 15 charter member organizations in the new fellowship have "a desire to cooperate with the total program of Southern Baptists all over the world," Jackson said.

The organizational meeting followed two other gatherings of representatives of the Southern Baptist-related ministries. The first, on Feb. 7 of this year, was initiated by the president of the Foreign Mission Board, R. Keith Parks, who voiced a concern for greater understanding and cooperation between the denomination's missions agency and the various independent groups.

Bill O'Brien, the Foreign Mission Board's executive vice president, said, "This (new fellowship) represents a further step in the dialogue and mutual understanding of the roles and ministries of each entity — and how all these resources can be brought to bear in a more effective way on world evangelization."

"We can enhance each other's ministries," agreed Rudy Hernandez, pastor-evangelist of Metro Park Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas. He also is president of Rudy Hernandez Evangelism International, which has conducted pastor training clinics and crusades in 45 countries since 1973. He was Texas Baptists' director of Hispanic evangelism from 1955 to 1969.

"We hope to keep from having duplications and wasted efforts," Jackson said. To maximize cooperation, the fellowship plans to work with the Foreign Mission Board to create a computer database listing each organization's purpose statement and scheduled plans for ministry.

If the data reveals that too many volunteers are headed for a particular country at the same time, for example, "We would do our best to schedule ourselves to be there at the most appropriate times," Jackson said.

In addition to Jackson, the fellowship's officers are Mike Downey, vice president, Kathy Evitts, secretary-treasurer, and Hernandez and Jim Ponder, executive committee members.

Downey leads Global Missions Fellowship of Dallas: Evitts is president of Dehoney's BibleLand/Heritage Travel of Louisville, Ky.; and Ponder leads the Jim Ponder Evangelistic Association of Jacksonville, Fla.

The organization's mailing address will be 1204 South Third, Suite A. Louisville, Ky., 40203.

O'Brien will serve as the Foreign Mission Board's liaison to the new fellowship and Jimmy Draper will be its pastor adviser. Draper is pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The fellowship will hold annual meetings prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. Next year's session will be Monday morning, June 11, in New Orleans.

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charles Stanley Message Thursday

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 15 -- Southern Baptists would be better soul winners if set free from guilt, Charles Stanley told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta and a former SBC president, brought the concluding message Thursday at the denomination's annual three-day meeting.

"You want to know why many people in the church do not attempt to share their faith," Stanley asked. "It is simply because they do not feel worthy. How in the world can they be telling someone else how to be saved when they feel so guilty?

"I believe our primary business is winning souls. But we also have a responsibility to lead people to be set free from the bondage that is destroying their spiritual lives," he said.

Stanley said thousands of Christians are burdened by the misconception that their acceptance by God is based on performance. "You and I grew up under shoulds, oughts and musts," he said, noting that pastors often "browbeat" congregations with guilt.

"Pastor, there are people sitting in your congregation week after week, many of whom have suffered child abuse and have never told anybody. There are young men as well as women who are hooked on pornography. There are many women in your congregation who've had abortions," he said.

Stanley noted that these people "believe the gospel, but they're in bondage" because they won't accept forgiveness.

Preaching from John 8, Stanley identified one truth to break the bondage of guilt: "Jesus Christ, who is my life, is my sufficiency for my every need. I am complete in him."

Stanley said Southern Baptists are strong on proclaiming Christ as "saviour" and "lord." However, "that's only two thirds of it," he added.

"Jesus Christ is our savior, our lord and our life. The fact that Jesus Christ is my life makes it possible for me to live. If Jesus Christ is not my life, I'll never be free," he said.

With Jesus living in them, Christians have "got it all," Stanley said. "When I begin to understand my circumstances are based on who I am in him, I begin to be set free."

Stanley said those who walk the aisle to "rededicate" themselves are really looking for freedom from guilt.

"They're going to keep coming down the aisle until God sets them free," he said. "What they need is freedom, not rededication."

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By Mark Wingfield, 1:30 p.m. Thursday



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Thursday Resolutions

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 15 -- After a 40-minute delay of a Thursday morning business session on resolutions due to lack of a quorum, messengers to the 132nd session of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted with almost no changes 10 resolutions proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The lack of a quorum was a first for an SBC meeting since a 25 percent quorum rule was established, effective with the 1988 convention meeting.

Resolutions on racism and encouraging laws regulating abortion generated the most debate before messengers adopted a motion by Rudy Yakym of Mishawauka, Ind., to limit discussion to five minutes per resolution.

After the adoption of three resolutions, a motion by Gerald Harris of Jackson, Miss., to adopt the remaining seven resolutions as a body failed by 13 votes. The vote was 2,648 to 2,635.

Other resolutions topics included support for Chinese Christians, drunk driving, drugs and violence, personal ministry of the people of God and integrity.

Rounding out the resolutions were those on "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You," Southern Baptists' evangelistic emphasis for 1989-90, supporting 1990 as the International Year of Bible reading and a resolution of appreciation for Nevada Baptist hosts.

The resolution encouraging laws regulating abortion urges state legislatures and the U.S. Congress to enact legislation regulating and restricting abortion and asks the SBC Christian Life Commission and state conventions to promote the passage of such legislation.

Chairman Mark Coppenser of Indianapolis, Ind., said the committee proposed the resolution on abortion, the subject of numerous resolutions in recent years, because a ruling is expected within a few weeks on a case recently heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, Webster v. Reproductive Health Services. That ruling, some observers believe, may result in restrictions or revocation of Roe v. Wade, a 1973 Supreme Court ruling which, by invalidating existing state laws, established abortion on demand in the United States.

The resolution also reaffirms opposition to abortion except to save the life of the mother.

Two messengers opposed the resolution on the basis of allowing only one exception and not speaking to women who are victims of rape or incest. "This resolution is insensitive to the complexities of the issue," one messenger said.

The abortion resolution generated the largest opposition with about 20 percent of messengers voting against it in a show-of-hands vote.

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## Thursday Resolutions -- Page 2

The racism resolution, adapted from statements adopted earlier in the year by the executive committee of the Christian Life Commission, notes that "Southern Baptists have not always clearly stood for racial justice and equality" and affirms the intention of convention messengers to "stand publicly and privately for racial justice and equality."

The resolution also states that messengers "repent of past bigotry" and calls on Southern Baptist people and churches "to reach across racial boundaries, establishing fraternal rather than paternal friendships."

Jim Holladay of Louisville, Ky., unsuccessfully offered a substitute resolution with stronger language against racism and urging Southern Baptists to join with the Baptist World Alliance in condemning apartheid in South Africa.

Support for Chinese Christians was offered in a resolution which noted that "Christians in China have repeatedly affirmed their support for the basic aspirations for peace, justice, progress and full free expression."

The resolution calls on Southern Baptists to pray for a peaceful solution to the current crisis in China, for Christian's dealing with change in their country and for the spread of the gospel in China.

Opposition to drunk driving and to drugs and violence were expressed in resolutions.

The drunk driving resolution urges Southern Baptists to contact their U.S. R presentatives and Senators in support of recommendations to the Congress from the U.S. Surgeon General.

Recommendations include increased excise tax on alcoholic beverages, reduction in the legal blood-alcohol limits, elimination of "happy hours," halt to the use of celebrities in alcohol advertising and formation of a national coalition to conduct a campaign against drunk driving.

The resolution on drugs and violence asks messengers to call for action in six areas: establishment of local, state and federal task forces; drug education in schools and enforcement of restrictions against drug use; call on President George Bush not to invite to the White House celebrities whose lifestyles would promote acceptance of drug use; encourage pharmaceutical companies to restrict the sale of materials used to produce illicit drugs; encourage the entertainment industry not to produce videos that promote or condone drug use; and encourage families to educate their children to deal with the issue.

The personal ministry of the people of God was the subject of a resolution affirming the role of laypersons in churches, noting that 1988-89 is the Year of the laity in Evangelism and Discipleship in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The resolution calls on all Christians "to exercise their gifts in the personal ministries to which God has called them."

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Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Thursday Resolutions -- Page 3

Bill Johnson of Ardmore, Okla., proposed an amendment accepted by the Resolutions Committee to add a statement from Article 6 of the Baptist Faith and Message statement on the church. The statement describes the characteristics of a church, noting that "in such a congregation members are equally responsible."

Concerning integrity, messengers adopted without discussion a resolution affirming "our own unswerving commitment to absolute personal integrity so that we might be an example to the world and not bring reproach on the name of Christ."

The traditional resolution of appreciation also adopted without debate referenced only Nevada Baptist hosts. In other years, such resolutions have expressed gratitude t local government and business officials

In the resolution on the "Here's Hope" evangelistic emphasis, churches are urged to pray for spiritual awakening, conduct a soul-winning training event and challenge members to win one person to Christ.

Support also was urged for the 1990 International Year of Bible Reading in which people are encouraged to read through the Bible in one year.

After the adoption of the resolutions. Coppenger said he felt the committee succeeded in its goal of bring resolutions on which messengers could agree.

Messengers proposed 51 resolutions which were considered by the committee along with three motions submitted to the Order of Business Committee and later ruled resolutions, for a total of 54.

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By Linda Lawson -- 1:45 p.m. Thursday



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**Southern Baptist Convention** 

Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Thursday A.M. Reports

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 15 -- In a flurry of last day business, messengers to the 132nd meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Thursday heard a variety of reports from denominational agencies, institutions and special committees.

Presiding officers continually modified the convention agenda in an effort to present reports and conduct business while waiting for a quorum of messengers to arrive in the meeting hall.

At mid-morning, John B. Wright of Little Rock, Ark., chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, asked messengers to vote to dispense with the scheduled afternoon session and complete all reports and business during the morning session.

Convention President Jerry Vines, in announcing an almost unanimous approval of the recommendation, said, "I know what it is. You folks are ready to go home."

In the first report of the morning, Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission in Nashville, said educators at Southern Baptist schools are working in places where people are changing their lives and are helping them to make their lives different in Christ.

"Our schools are not only training people for future ministry but are also enlisting them for current ministry," Walker said, adding that his agency's primary concern is helping students know Christ is needed in their lives.

Later in the morning. Walker reported on the relationship of the SBC and the National Baptist Convention in supporting American Baptist Theological Seminary, an historically black institution in Nashville.

Walker said the seminary has built no new buildings or other facilities in 35 years yars. During that time, he said, enrollment at the seminary has more than doubled.

"I hope that in the near future, Southern Baptists will take the lead in helping to build new facilities for those involved in training for black Baptist ministries," Walker said.

William O. Crews, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., emphasized the school's intensive efforts of training church planters and leaders.

He described the seminary's location as providing a natural laboratory for training church planters.

The president of another seminary -- Landrum P. Leavell II of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary -- said he is proud of his faculty, whom he described as committed to the Bible, the Baptist Faith and Message and the seminary's Articles of Belief.

Leavell also said every New Orleans Seminary faculty member is a tither and a teetotaler. "You try that on your deacons and then you come and criticize my faculty," he added.

In her final report as executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, Ala., outlined some of the accomplishments that have taken place during her 15-year tenure at the WMU.

Weatherford credited the women and girls involved in the WMU with those accomplishments, which include moving to a new location, increasing communications, creating an endowment fund and beginning tours of mission fields.

"The WMU is an auxiliary to the convention, but it is never auxiliary to churches or to the denomination," she said.

Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in Nashville, said his agency is strongly supportive of missions and evangelism.

He cited archival support and materials provided by the Historical Commission. "We also provide recording and interpreting of Southern Baptists' great heritage of missions and evangelism."

Thursday A.M. Reports -- Page 2

Also providing his final report as a SBC agency executive, Darold H. Morgan, president of the Annuity Board in Dallas, said 1988 was one of the best years experienced by that agency.

Morgan described the Annuity Board's mission as freeing Southern Baptist ministers and missionaries from "concern about retirement and insurance so they can concentrate on doing the work of ministry."

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., began his presentation by presenting the seminary's E.Y. Mullin Denominational Service Award to R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Honeycutt said his school wants to serve all Southern Baptists, not just a part of Southern Baptists. "We live with the family," he said. "We suffer with the family. We hope with the family."

He said Southern Seminary is characterized by academic excellence that is bound to a world vision of the gospel. "Christ came to take away our sins, not our minds," he said.

Russell H. Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, called the denomination's largest seminary "an amazement to all the world" with more than 5,000 students.

Dilday compared that enrollment with an average of 280 students in seminaries of all denominations.

"At Southwestern, we unapologetically combine the uncompromising study of theology with the practical applications to ministry," Dilday said. "When students come to Southwestern, they take a classical study of theology and at the same time they learn how to lead someone to Jesus using the Roman Road to salvation plan."

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, reported on Southern Baptist work in Canada on behalf of the convention's special Canadian study committee.

"In 1977, we did a good thing in breaking down the geographical and psychological barriers between the United States and Canada," Lewis said in reporting that more than 100 Baptist churches now thrive in Canada.

In his report, James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., said the BJC staff was "deeply moved by the reaffirmation you voted to us yesterday."

On Wednesday, messengers had voted not to withdraw funds from the BJC.

"This was evidence of the strong continuing Southern Baptist support of the Baptist Joint Committee," Dunn said.

In his report, Dunn noted that "the climate has changed regarding religion in public schools" and said the BJC had been "intrumental in shaping that new perspective."

Dunn said the new focus is on "what can be done in public schools rather than what can't be done" regarding religion.

Dunn also noted the BJC staff's involvement in new denominational access to the Internal Revenue Service. He said a coalition of church groups was lobbying to restore charitable tax deductions for non-itemizers and praised the work of Oliver S. "Buzz" Thomas, BJC general counsel, who has served as chairman of the coalition.

Dunn encouraged messengers to make an effort to understand the "difficult task of the Baptist Joint Committee" in the areas of religious liberty and church and state issues.

In what had become a continuing debate during the convention, messenger Jimmy Gentry of Owensboro, Ky., asked Dunn about discrepancies between his report and that of Public Affairs Commission chairman Samuel T. Currin of Raleigh, N.C.



Thursday A.M. Reports -- Page 3

Dunn used statistics from the convention's 1988 annual to report SBC contributions to BJC.

"We're so much bigger than a lot of these smaller Baptist denominations," Dunn said. "We're hardly giving our fair share."

Dunn said he would respond to a request to send the BJC's full financial statement to each of the denomination's state publications.

Alvin C. Shackleford, vice president for public relations for the SBC executive committee and director of Baptist Press, reported that two new Baptist state papers had been started in the past year in the Dakota and Montana Baptist fellowships.

"Thank you for supporting your state Baptist papers," Shackleford said. "The importance of sharing information is significant and essential in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention.

John Erickson, general secretary of the American Bible Society, New York, N.Y., told messengers that the recent strife in China had not interfered with publication of Bibles in Nanjing.

"Bibles are being printed in Nanjing at the rate of 60-75,000 per month, and about 880,000 have been pritned since November 1987," Erickson said.

Also, he said, "God is answering our prayeers beyond belief in the USSR and Eastern Europe. More than 500 churches have been reopened in the past year, and new churches are being built."

He said the ABS has just launched a major "Gifts of Love" appeal in the United States to help provide one million scriptures for believers in the USSR and Eastern Europe and now has been challenged by Russian church leaders in Moscow to help supply 20 million Bibles for Christians in the Soviet Union.

Russian church leaders said there would be no trouble in getting Bibles into the Soviet Union, and they would be distributed fairly and equitably to people throughout all of the country, Erickson said.

At the end of business sessions, messenger Robert Wheeler of Charlottesville, Va., requested that the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards reconsider their positions on appointing divorced persons as messengers.

The request was referred to the two boards.

Vines gaveled the sessions to a close more than two hours earlier than anticipated.

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By Kathy Palen and Philip Poole -- 2:15 p.m. Thursday



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SBC re-elects Vines .
OKs \$137.2 million budget

By Roy Jennings

SBC Wrapup

LAS VEGAS, Nev., June 15 -- Messengers to the 132nd Southern Baptist Convention re-elected president Jerry Vines, approved a \$137.2 million budget, received program reports from 18 agencies and an auxiliary, and took positions on issues ranging from racism to support of Chinese Christians.

The convention theme, "Going, Weeping; Sowing, Reaping," was developed through three inspirational addresses and opportunities for witnessing in the Las Vegas area.

The three-day meeting attracted 20,423 messengers, making it the sixth-largest in the history of the denomination and the largest west of San Antonio, Texas.

President Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., won a second ne-year term by defeating Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta. The vote was 10,754 - 8,248.

Messengers chose Junior Hill, a Hartselle, Ala., evangelist, as first vice president, and Ernest B. Myers, executive director of Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno, as second vice president.

Given new one-year terms were Martin Bradley, recording secretary, and Lee Porter, registration secretary. Both live in Nashville, Tenn.

Vestal, who campaigned on a theme of freedom, left open the possibility of running for the presidency in 1990 at New Orleans. He said he would talk with his congregation and family before making his decision.

During the presidential address and in a news conference following re-election. Vines pledged to restore joy to the 14.8-million-member denomination through an emphasis on personal evangelism.

President Vines actively participated in a giant Southern Baptist witnessing eff rt in the Las Vegas area before and during the convention.

The 2,025 volunteers visited 120,000 homes, discovered 5,000 prospects for Southern Baptist churches and led 470 persons to faith in Christ.

On the issue of controversy in the denomination, Vines said, "Administrators and trustees of our institutions clearly understand the direction which Southern Baptists want to go.

"I believe the process of theological renewal is underway. I am confident that in a loving and Christlike manner, the theological problems in God's good time will be resolved."

For the first time in recent years, the basic operation portion of the new budget is almost \$3 million below the current budget and reflects an effort to budget on the basis of current giving levels.

The \$2,500,000 in the capital needs section of the budget was designated for paying off the indebtedness of the four-year-old Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville.

Funding of a major capital needs program of almost \$23 million for eight agencies was deferred for one year.

After approving the budget without debate, messengers sought unsuccessfully by a vote of 5,198 to 6,034 to rescind the action and reassign \$200,000 of the \$391,796 allocation of the Baptist Joint Committee of Public Affairs to three other agencies.

The action was part of a running dispute between leaders of the Baptist Joint Committee funded by nine Baptist bodies, including the SBC, and the new Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee which has minority representation on the Washington-based agency.

The flap erupted during the convention when Samuel T. Currin, chairman of PAC, lamented that the SBC provided 90 percent of the funding of the Baptist Joint Committee but had only 33 percent of the representation on the agency board.

James M. Dunn, BJC executive director, contended the PAC report maligned and misrepresented his agency. He said the SBC provides 60 percent, not 90 percent, of his agency's budget and the figure would drop to 53 percent next year.

Currin replied that the 1987-88 reports supported his position, but Dunn said those reports did not reflect his total budget.

In contrast to the tiff between the BJC and PAC, the report of the Foreign Mission Board warned messengers their goal of proclaiming the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000 would fail unless they make a radical commitment.

Mission board President Keith Parks of Richmond, Va., called on Southern Baptists to put aside self-indulgence, redevelop a passion for the world and lay down their lives for the sake of the gospel.

While pleading for more prayers, missions giving and missionaries, Parks contended Southern Baptists have not decided whether it is worth the cost to reach the world for Christ.

Southern Baptists have 3,855 missionaries and 10,000 volunteers serving in 116 countries, Parks said. The missionaries baptized an average of 51 new Christians each in 1988, Parks reported.

The report of the Home Mission Board reported the largest number of new church starts since 1968 and the most new home missionaries commissioned since 1845.

President Larry Lewis said the Atlanta-based agency led in starting 1,248 new churches and commissioned 733 new missionaries, increasing the total to 3,827.

Messengers adopted 10 resolutions without major change after a motion to approve seven remaining resolutions as a group without debate failed by only 14 votes. A total of 54 resolutions were proposed.

Several messengers sought to amend resolutions on racism and support of Chinese Christians to include condemnation of apartheid in South Africa.

The resolution on racism affirmed messengers' intention of standing publicly and privately for racial justice and eduality, called for Southern Baptists to repent of any past bigotry and pray for those caught in its clutches, and asked agencies and



institutions to try to increase racial and ethnic representation.

The resolution encouraging laws regulating abortion called for legislation to restrict the practice of induced abortion, including prohibiting abortion except to prevent the imminent death of the mother.

In a statement on China and the support of Chinese Christians, messengers called for prayer for a peaceful solution to the crisis, for Chinese Christians as they experience change and for the spread of the gospel throughout that nation.

Other resolutions called for local, state and federal governments to establish a task force to address the problems of drugs and violence, affirmed unswerving commitment to absolute personal integrity, urged support of the International Year of Bible Reading in 1990, and expressed strong support for such proposals as a national coalition to conduct a national campaign against drunk driving.

In other actions, the messengers approved Executive Committee recommendations for the convention to meet in Dallas, Texas, June 17-19, 1997; Atlanta, Ga., June 15-17, 1999, and New Orleans, La., June 12-14, 2001, and recognized Carolyn Weatherford, returning executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, for 15 years of outstanding leadership. She retires in August.

A proposal for the Executive Committee to create a new Religious Liberty Commission was withheld until the 1990 meeting at the refuest of President Vines in the interest of a convention focus on missions and evangelism.

At an organizational meeting the Executive Committee elected Sam W. Pace of Lawton, Okla., chairman; Paul Pressler of Houston, Texas, vice-chairman, and Fred H. Wolfe of Mobile Ala., recording secretary.

Later, messengers chose Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, to preach the annual convention sermon in 1990 in New Orleans and named Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., as the alternate preacher.

John McKay of Hurst, Texas, was selected to lead the music.

Sermons by President Vines, Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, provided much of the inspiration and challenge.

President Vines said Southern Baptists have settled their disagreement over the Bible and must now emphasize personal evangelism.

"It's time for all of us to sow the seed," he said. "If you want to see the joy put back in your church, get involved with sowing and reaping.

"Let the president run the nation, let congress pass the laws, let Wall Street handle the finances, let Vegas put on the shows, but let's you and I be winners of souls, going as the Lord has commanded us to go."

Chapman, who preached the annual convention sermon, called on professors at Baptist colleges, schools, and seminaries to live up to their titles by professing their faith in the classrooms.

Baptist schools need pr fessors who believe in the virgin birth of Christ, in the Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant word of God, in the sacrificial, atoning



blood of Christ shed on the cross for the salvation of the world, in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, and in the glorious second coming of Jesus, Chapman declared.

Chapman called for a moratorium on name bashing and character assassination in the denomination, emphasizing the denomination was not a demolition derby.

Stanley told the messengers their responsibility as partners is to lead people to be set free from the bondage that is destroying their spiritual lives.

Thousands of Christians are burdened by the misconception that their acceptance by God is based upon performance. Stanley said.

Those who walk the aisles to rededicate themselves are really looking for freedom from guilt, he explained.

"They are going to keep coming down the aisle until God sets them free. What they need is freedom, not rededication."

Seminary alumni luncheons and a round of sermons at a conference of Southern Baptist evangelists were sandwiched between sessions of the convention.

The conference featured sermons from such notables as Independent Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell; E.V. Hill of Los Angeles; evangelist Rick Stanley of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., step-brother of Elvis Presley; and evangelist Arthur Blessitt, who appeared with a large wooden cross.

Carrying the cross, Blessitt led about 500 on a witnessing march to the Las Vegas strip following his sermon.

While open gambling and a plethora of slot machines in convention hotels, raised the eyebrows of many messengers initially, they swiftly adjusted to the culture, packing the meeting halls and restaurants.

Dealers reported an absence of Southern Baptists in their casinos and the presence of a 1 t of witnessing pamplets.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION ... NEWS...

MMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southern Baptist Convention Las Vegas, June 13-15, 1989

Convention motions - Thurs.

LAS VEGAS, Nev., jUNE 15 -- Medical Control of Southern Baptist Convention introduced more than 40 motions on a variety of issues during the three-day meeting.

Only two of those motions resulted in ballot votes. Most were referred, postponed or ruled out of order.

On Wednesday, messengers rejected a motion to reconsider the convention budget they had approved just 24 hours earlier.

Almost 54 percent of messengers voting turned down a motion by Charlie Waller of Bumpass, Va., to reconsider the budget.

Waller introduced a motion Tuesday to divert \$350,000 from the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Before messengers could vote on that action, they had to agree to reconsider the budget.

On Wednesday, Waller announced plans to amend his original motion. He said he intended to substitute a motion that had been introduced by another messenger.

That motion -- made by Kenneth R. Barnett, a Southern Baptist Executive Committee member from Denver, Colo. -- called for removing \$200,000 from the convention's allocation to the BJC and re-allocating it to four other Southern Baptist entities -- \$60,000 to the Foreign Mission Board, \$50,000 to the Home Mission Board, \$50,000 to the Public Affairs Committee and \$40,000 to the Christian Life Commission.

During debate on whether to reconsider the budget, Adrian Rogers, a past SBC president from Memphis, Tenn., spoke in favor of reconsideration. "We have marched around this issue (funding of the BJC) so many times," he said, "the body now needs to speak."

But Frank Ingraham of Franklin, Tenn., who just rotated off the Executive Committee, urged messengers not to disrupt the convention's "very intricate budget process." To do so, he said, "would be to favor those who are the most winsome at the moment and not those programs the convention has set as priorities."

Messengers rejected the budget reconsideration on a 6,034-5,198 vote.

The other ballot vote came in connection with a recommendation to refer a number of motions to the Executive Committee.

Pat Pearce of North Carolina introduced an amendment to separate his motion on the scheduling of the convention's president's address from the other motions that were to be referred. His amendment was defeated 5,247-5,206.

Messengers agreed to postpone a motion introduced by Joe Arthur of Fort Worth, Texas, to remove Curtis W. Caine of Jackson, Miss., from service on the Christian Life Commission.

The Committee on Order of Business said this delay would allow time for an investigation of the legal ramifications of removing a CLC commissioner, as well as providing Caine a time for response.

Statements reportedly made by Caine during the CLC's annual meeting last Septemb r set off a flury of controversy.

Caine reportedly called Martin Luther King Jr. a "fraud" and said "apartheid in South Africa ... doesn't exist anymore and was beneficial when it did." He also is reported to have made controversial statements about the issues of hunger and peace.

Messengers approved a motion related to future changes in SBC agency program and purpose statements. The motion, introduced by Jim Lemons of Dallas, calls for printing both the original and the revised forms of the statements in the SBC Book of Rep rts and/or the daily SBC Bulletin.

Among motions referred to the Executive Committee was one on a "memorial" from the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

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Neal T. Jones, past BGAV president from Falls Churh, Va., asked messengers to receive and respond to the formal statement of concerns about the "present crisis in Southern Baptist life" that was approved by Virginia Baptists during their annual state meeting last November.

It lists for discussion Luestions related to communication, trustee and committee representation, resolutions and public pronouncements, and distribution of the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

A motion by Rudy C. Yakym Jr., a Christian Life Commission commissioner from Mishawaka, Ind., to consider expanding the program statement of his agency rather than establish a Religious Liberty Commission was referred to the Executive Committee.

Yakym moved that the Executive Committee study the "feasibility and advisability of foregoing its recommendation to establish a Religious Liberty Commission and instead expand the program statement and budget of the Christian Life Commission to include the proposed duties of the Religious Liberty Commission."

The motion also calls for the Executive Committee to report its findings to the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

The Executive Committee also will review motions on resolutions during SBC annual meetings, establishment of a committee on the Baptist Faith and Message and evaluation of church representation at future conventions.

All motions that would refuire changes in SBC bylaws -- including calls to amend rules for the Committee on Nominations, to alter the election and service of convention officers and to change the schedule of business at annual meetings -- were referred to the Executive Committee.

Also referred to that body were all motions that would affect future convention arrangements, such as meeting dates and locations.

Motions concerning specific SBC agencies and institutions were referred to those entities.

Ruled out of order were motions to reconsider a 1988 SBC resolution on the priesth od of the believer; to censure the Executive Committee for an action it took in opposition to a television broadcast produced by commentator Bill Moyers; to ask mess ngers to refrain from "frivolous applause" during the annual meeting; to give instructions to the Committee on Order of Business; and to prohibit saving seats on the convention floor.

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