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SBC 1990 New Orleans

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

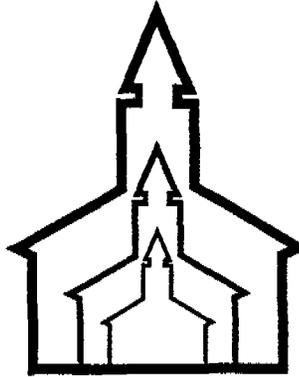
June 12-14, 1990

"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Marv Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State music leaders

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 -- The Baptist Hymnal, scheduled for release March 14, 1991, is on schedule, Southern Baptist church music leaders from across the United States were told during their mid-year meeting in New Orleans June 8-9.

Wesley L. Forbis, editor of the hymnal, told state convention music directors meeting at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary that all 625 hymns, choruses and gospel songs have been selected and all copyrights have been secured.

"The last proofreading of music and texts is in process," Forbis said, "and test prints of pages will be produced in a few days.

"Following on the heels of the pew edition will be printing of 28 related products, including volumes of orchestra and handbell arrangements of all pieces of music."

All 29 products will be released during Praising II, a worship and music celebration in Nashville, Tenn., March 11-14, 1991. He said more than 1,900 persons have registered for the four days of concerts and worship celebrations.

Forbis unveiled a sampler of songs new to the hymnal, calling it "a preview of the largest, most comprehensive, most inclusive hymnal ever produced by Southern Baptists."

The sampler was to be available to participants in the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in New Orleans and at all 10 weeks of conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers this summer.

Forbis said one of the most important features of the hymnal is its organization around "The Baptist Faith and Message" statement.

"Instead of a creed or confession," he said, "a page is devoted to the Plan of Salvation.

"The hymnal includes hundreds of songs which represent the diverse variety of music which Southern Baptists cherish, from the traditional to the contemporary. The 100-plus members of the Hymnal Committee worked for three years to ensure this hymnal would be of the people and based on Holy Scripture."

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By Charles Willis, 2:00 p.m., Sunday

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

June 12-14, 1990

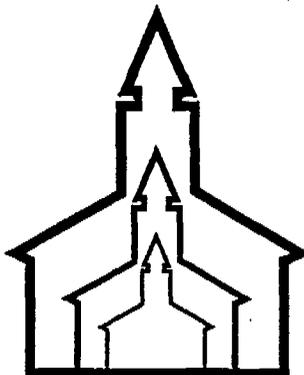
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SBC Press Representative

Dan Marlin  
News Room Manager

Mary Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### National prayer conference

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 -- Decadence, crime, violence, the recent onslaught of natural disasters and an ecological system that is failing are signs God has turned his back on America as a nation, a prayer leader said.

The next step is to destroy it, Avery Willis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board discipleship training department told a pre-Southern Baptist Convention conference on prayer. Other speakers included T.W. Hunt, also of the Sunday School Board, Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board, Minette Drumwright of the Foreign Mission Board and Doug Beggs of the Brotherhood Commission. The National Prayer Conference was held at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary June 7-9.

Willis told the group of about 150 that God "removes his wall of protection when his people are disobedient."

The former missionary to Indonesia believes God took his wall of protection away from America sometime around 1963.

"The war in Vietnam should have been a clear signal that God was not protecting us anymore," Willis said. "Until then, America had been a victor in all wars."

About the time Willis believes God removed his "wall of protection" from America, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated and rebellion against the Vietnam war pervaded the country. Also, at that time, premarital sex, teen pregnancies, child abuse, the divorce rate, crime, violence, alcohol consumption and suicides began to increase dramatically.

Willis cites governmental statistics supporting his beliefs which he found in the book, "America To Pray or Not To Pray," by David Barton.

For example, violent crime is up over 400 percent since 1963, child abuse is up 300 percent, federal prosecution of politicians has increased 470 percent, and the number of reported cases of AIDS is up by 6,000 percent since 1982. Even scores on college entrance exams taken by high school students have declined significantly since the early 60s.

As a foreign missionary entering the United States every four years during this time, Willis said he was well aware of the nation's decline in morality.

"Personally, I can't understand why God is so patient with this sinful world. What more could he do for America or what more could he do for Southern Baptists that he hasn't already done?" Willis asked. "God has looked for good grapes and has yielded only bad."

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Willis said he believes America is in the fifth of seven stages of eventual destruction by God. In the first stage, God convicts his people of their sins, he then warns them of sins and, in the third stage, he applies remedial judgement of sins committed.

In the fourth stage, God withdraws his presence. In the fifth, he takes away his wall of protection and allows disasters to come upon his people. Next, he gives his people over to sin, failure and depravity. Finally, he destroys his people.

Willis, Blackaby, and the other prayer leaders see prayer and corporate repentance as the only way to salvage America and the Southern Baptist Convention.

"God is trying to get our attention." Willis said. "What does it take?"

Blackaby said the Bible clearly states "if God's people don't repent, then you will be no more."

"If God didn't spare his people in the Old Testament, then 2,000 years of witness later, he won't spare us," Blackaby said.

Blackaby said religious leaders have "a corporate responsibility to help people of God be a people of God."

He said God is desperately trying to get the attention of his people.

"When God takes the initiative to call his people together for corporate confession, you better not have any other business. God is in the midst of one of the greatest calls to repentance I've ever known," Blackaby said.

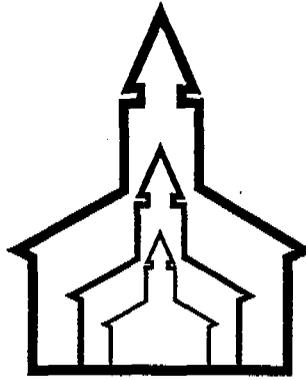
The National Prayer Conference was sponsored by the Sunday School Board National Prayer Corps of the discipleship training department and Louisiana Baptists.

Willis said the purpose of the prayer conference was to "bring praying people together to pray for the prayerlessness of the convention and America as a whole."

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By Terri Lackey, 2 p.m. Sunday

'The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied'



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Friday evangelism rally

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 -- Southern Baptists ought to leave more than money in New Orleans after their annual meeting here, the president of the denomination's Home Mission Board said.

"We've made it a priority at the Home Mission Board to reach the great cities of America for God," Larry Lewis told 500 pastors and denominational workers attending an evangelistic rally Friday (June 8).

"Every year we go into one of those cities. We ought to leave something behind besides our money. We ought to blanket the city with the gospel."

Those attending the rally were preparing to do just that in New Orleans Saturday. They were to lead evangelistic teams in a door-to-door blitz, working with 113 churches in southern Louisiana and parts of Mississippi.

More than 550 Baptists from 29 states pre-registered to participate in the one-day event. Each volunteer was to be teamed with a local church member. The teams visited homes to conduct a religious opinion survey and share the gospel, said Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Home Mission Board.

Lewis told those attending the Friday rally that God's plan for winning a city is summed up in Acts. He noted that when the disciples preached in Jerusalem, "they continued daily, house to house, praising God."

As Baptists go "house to house," they can expect to find people who share their beliefs, said Buford Easley, pastor of the Williams Boulevard Baptist Church, where the rally was held.

"The people of New Orleans believe most everything we believe--they're very religious," Easley said. "They simply don't know how to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

"If we tell them, they'll receive him. This city is ready."

David Blakeney, minister of music and youth at Hillwood Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., also believes New Orleans is ready to hear the gospel. He is so certain that he came to New Orleans for the witnessing effort even though he cannot stay for the convention.

Blakeney's church in Alabama worked with Central Baptist Church in New Orleans doing Vacation Bible Schools last summer and will do so again this summer. Blakeney said the church has been involved in food distribution in the area and other tangible evidences of God's love.

That, he said, will help "open some doors" as volunteers share the gospel Saturday.

W.O. Cottingham, pastor of one of the host churches for witnessing, said he anticipated a good day of evangelism on Saturday. Cottingham was sent to New Orleans 31 years ago by the Home Mission Board to start a French-language mission.

"Our work here is very difficult," he explained. "This is kind of a pioneer area still.

"I'm hoping we'll reach some people that will help us build a better work. I'm hoping we'll see some people won to the Lord."

Cottingham said he also hopes the day of witnessing will make a difference in his church. "I'm hoping it will be contagious, that it will encourage our people."

Mark Coppenger, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention of Indiana, said he came early for the rally and witnessing blitz because it was such a refreshing start to last year's convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

"I wouldn't do it any other way," Coppenger said. "I think a denominational worker can become pretty bogged down in the details of office work. We need to take every opportunity to do door-to-door witnessing.

"There's no greater refreshment than that and prayer."

Coppenger also said he was taking notes in preparation for Southern Baptists' visit to Indianapolis in 1992. A similar witnessing event is already being planned for that convention.

"It's everyone's dream that the the Holy Spirit would just fall on these conventions," he said. "This is how it could happen."

Before the evangelists had hit the streets of New Orleans, Ramsey was enlisting workers for next year's convention in Atlanta. "I'm dreaming of the day when every person who comes to the Southern Baptist Convention has such a desire to win people to Jesus Christ that they come early to do that," he said. "That's when we'll penetrate America with the gospel."

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By Sarah Zimmerman and Mark Wingfield, 2:00 p.m. Sunday.

1990  
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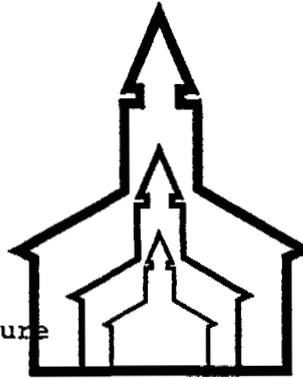
Dan Martin

News Room Manager

Marv Knox

Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday witnessing feature

NEW ORLEANS, June 9 -- While making his regular Saturday stops, a New Orleans mail carrier received a special message.

Throughout the New Orleans suburb of Kenner, he noticed teams of two canvassing the neighborhood. Finally he stopped two women to ask what they were doing.

They told him about the religious opinion survey they were taking as members of nearby Williams Boulevard Baptist Church.

As a Jehovah's Witness, it surprised him to see Baptists knocking on doors.

The mail carrier told the women he was raised a Catholic but became a Jehovah's Witness largely because of the hypocrisy he saw between what Christians professed to believe and how they lived.

He listened and questioned the women without changing his views. He tested their knowledge of Scripture but did not daunt their enthusiasm.

By that time, their enthusiasm could not easily be challenged, for they had earlier led a college student to accept Jesus Christ.

The women were two of about 1,000 people who infiltrated southern Louisiana and parts of Mississippi during the one-day witnessing effort preceding the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

The blitz was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

On the other side of town, Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis and his wife, Betty Jo, encountered a similar inquiry from a woman passing through the neighborhood they were surveying.

Stooped at her rolled-down car window, the Lewises led the woman in a prayer of commitment to Jesus Christ.

Charley Westbrook Jr. also led a person to accept Christ through the blitz. Westbrook, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lake Alford, Fla., found a strong Catholic population in the neighborhood he surveyed.

However, Mormons frequently survey the area, so the residents were accustomed to missionaries knocking on their doors, he said.

Westbrook's father, Charley Westbrook Sr., is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla. Saturday, the father and son shared Christ with people on opposite sides of the street in the west New Orleans middle-class neighborhood.

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Fred and Linda Oaks visited near Crescent City Baptist Church in Metairie, an adjoining New Orleans suburb. Oaks, pastor of Quitman Baptist Church in Quitman, Ark., said they discovered many people who believed to be a Christian "all you have to do is be a good person."

"We saw people who were in a world of hurt," Oaks said. He and his wife did not lead anyone to accept Christ, but they did discover several prospects for the church.

Mrs. Oaks said almost all the residents took the tract which explained the plan of salvation and said they would read it.

The Oaks were also part of the witnessing effort in Las Vegas, Nev., before last year's Southern Baptist Convention. "People don't know what they're missing" by not participating in the evangelistic thrust, Oaks said.

"The joy of meeting people and sharing Christ" makes coming to the convention worthwhile, Mrs. Oaks added. They hope to lead their church to conduct a similar survey in Quitman when they return.

The couple said they hope Southern Baptists will conduct similar witnessing events every year in the future. That sentiment was echoed by Bob Martin, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Paragould, Ark.

"I really believe we ought to do this every year," he said. "This is what we should have been doing all the time."

--30--

By Sarah Zimmerman and Mark Wingfield, 12:30 p.m. Sunday

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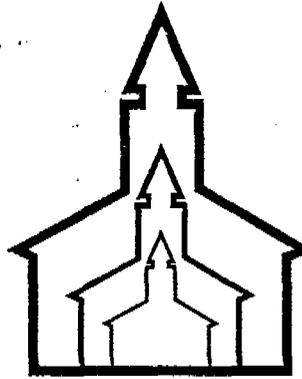


PHOTO INFORMATION

The news room staff provides three major photo services:

1. 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 orders can be filled efficiently.

Place orders with the photo editor.

Cost: \$4 each.

2. Your film can be developed, and prints can be made from your negatives. We develop at ASA 400, 1600 and 3200 (T-Max P-3200 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.

3. 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 Superdome.

Cost: \$15.

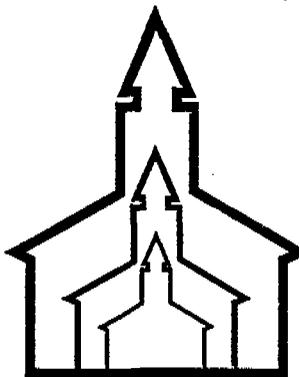
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Saturday witnessing blitz

NEW ORLEANS, June 9 -- The City That Care Forgot was not forgotten by Southern Baptists Saturday.

Although this city is renowned for its nightlife and revelry -- as the nickname indicates -- Southern Baptists who arrived early for their annual convention here spent the day witnessing.

About 1,000 Baptists braved 90 degree heat drenched in 63 percent humidity to conduct door-to-door surveys throughout New Orleans. As many as 35,000 Baptists from across the nation are expected for the June 12-14 convention in the Louisiana Superdome.

About half of those participating in the one-day witnessing effort came in early from 29 states. The other half were members of local churches who teamed up with the out-of-town guests.

The evangelistic thrust also extended outside New Orleans into southern Louisiana and parts of Mississippi. A total of 113 churches hosted canvassers.

A visiting pastor-teacher was enlisted to conduct two hours of evangelistic training in each of the churches Saturday morning. The teams then went out for five hours of visitation.

Participants included pastors, laypeople and denominational workers. Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board scheduled several open hours in their Saturday meeting to enable trustees to go door-to-door.

The witnessing thrust was "absolutely excellent," said Charley Westbrook Sr., pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla. He was assigned to Williams Boulevard Baptist Church in Kenner.

A layperson from Williams Boulevard who joined Westbrook and the other out-of-town guests had the same assessment. Dee Gennaro said she had experienced a number of family problems that could have kept her from showing up.

"I'm glad I kept my commitment to be here," she said during the lunch break. "God has given me a blessing."

The volunteers used a uniform religious opinion survey, which asked residents questions about religious preference, why American families are under stress and if it is possible to know for certain that a person has eternal life.

Out of those questions the witnesses shared the gospel using tracts about how to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

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Because each church had different needs, the teams were able to tailor their outreach to the situation.

Dave and Susie James, members of Crescent City Baptist Church in Metairie, said their church already conducts a weekly visitation program. However, assistance from messengers across the convention allowed the church to do general survey work it could not have done on its own.

Some teams laid the groundwork for new congregations. Charles Chaney, vice president of the Home Mission Board's extension section, teamed up with members of New Salem Baptist Church to survey a subdivision for a new work.

New Salem is a National Baptist Convention church, which is planning to start another National Baptist congregation in the Rue Bienvenu subdivision in east New Orleans.

Warren Jones Jr., New Salem's pastor, explained that the subdivision needs a church: "There are hundreds and hundreds of people in that area and not one Baptist church."

New Salem was one of 25 National Baptist churches hosting Southern Baptist teams. Jones heads the New Orleans Baptist Joint Committee, which fosters cooperation between National Baptists and Southern Baptists.

"I just see us as Baptists," Jones said. "Winning people to the Lord is something we can do together."

Results appeared to vary depending upon location. Howard Ramsey, director of the Home Mission Board's personal evangelism department, said teams in the area he worked recorded 19 professions of faith. He personally encountered only one person unwilling to talk to him.

But in some areas, participants discovered the city nicknamed the Big Easy isn't a pushover for evangelism.

Surveyors encountered residences with iron bars and closed doors. Many people in predominantly Catholic areas were not receptive to the Baptist witness, some of the workers reported.

"I really expected more openness," said Bob Martin, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Paragould, Ark. Martin was assigned to Crescent City Baptist Church in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans.

Although the people were cordial, Martin said he encountered more closed doors than open doors and was not able to complete the survey with many of those who opened their doors. "We had some folks who said, 'Sorry, we don't want to listen to you,'" he reported.

That response is different from what he normally experiences in northern Arkansas, where Southern Baptists are more predominant. "In my area, if we had knocked on as many doors in an area like this, 80 or 90 percent would have asked me in," he explained.

Despite the difficulty, Martin said he felt the witnessing blitz was well worth the effort. "We had one person saved this morning," he said shortly after lunchtime. "It was definitely worth the effort."

Due to the reporting process from the 113 churches participating in the witnessing effort, final results will not be available from the Louisiana Baptist Convention until Tuesday afternoon.

--30--

By Mark Wingfield and Sarah Zimmerman, 12:30 p.m. Sunday

(A list of most participants in the witnessing effort may be obtained from Mark Wingfield or Sarah Zimmerman.)

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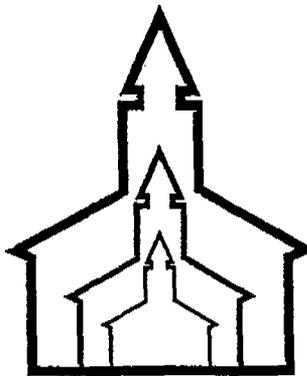
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NEWSROOM ADVISORY

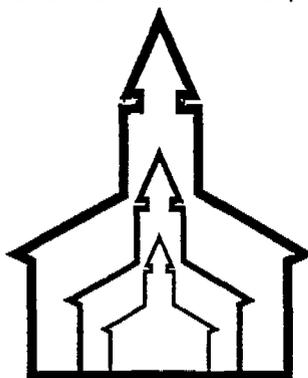
Snday, June 10, 1990

The News Media seating for the 1990 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be in the football press box of the Louisiana Superdome.

To get there from the Newsroom, turn right at the entrance, go past the Poydras Street doors and continue on to Elevator 8. It is a pink door and has Press Elevator on it. Go to the third level and you are in the news media seating area.

Thanks

Dan Martin  
Newsroom Manager



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Women in Ministry

NEW ORLEANS, June 9--Southern Baptist Women in Ministry closed their Saturday session at the Hotel Intercontinental in New Orleans with a recognition of new steering committee officers.

The leaders for 1990-91 are president, Carolyn Bucy, minister to youth, Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas; vice president, Cheryl Collins, minister of youth, McLean Baptist Church, McLean, Va.; program chair, Pam Tanner, minister of music and worship, Williams Trace Baptist Church, Sugar Land, Texas; recorder, Cindy Johnson, minister at large, First Baptist Church, Rockville, Gaithersburg, Md.; treasurer, Nancy Campbell, clinical pastoral education, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas; and membership chair, Sheila Black, church and community ministries, Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C.

Outgoing president Betty McGary of Houston reviewed the "where we are and where we're going" status of Women in Ministry. Humans must first meet their survival needs before they are free to love others, she said. "I think we can say our survival needs have been met. Now Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will be able to devote a lot more energy to the business of loving," she said.

As the group has changed and grown through the years they have seen a need for more structure, McGary said. But there is a danger in having that same structure now necessary. "We in the Southern Baptist Convention have seen the very worst in what can happen when you have too much structure," she said.

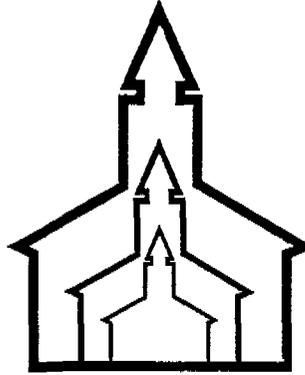
"Institutions are only as good as the people who hold them," she said. "And they are best when held lightly."

McGary expressed three hopes for the organization she has led this past year: that the group would stay inclusive; that they would not place the institution (of Women in Ministry) ahead of the work they were called to do; and that some day there would be no need for Southern Baptist Women in Ministry.

--30--

By Anita Bowden -- Saturday, 6:15 p.m.

8



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Resolutions Committee Meetings

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 -- During nine hours of meetings June 8 and 9, the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee sifted through 35 resolutions sent in advance to the committee and considered priority concerns for possible resolutions topics.

Chairman Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C., said early copies of resolutions enabled the committee to begin its work. However, he emphasized resolutions must be submitted by messengers to the 133rd session of the Southern Baptist Convention when it convenes Tuesday at the Louisiana Superdome to be officially considered by the committee.

"I'm impressed by the ability of this committee to zero in on timely issues," said Corts, who was named in late April by SBC President Jerry Vines to chair the 10-member committee. "To this point the committee has been interested in resolutions addressing societal issues such as the family, pornography and abortion."

He said the committee will not consider resolutions which place blame for the 10-year denominational controversy on any individuals or groups, resolutions which "fan any additional controversy" or which attack individuals or groups.

Earlier, Corts had said he would "rather see a few resolutions given thorough and careful consideration by the committee and the messengers."

After the committee meetings, he said keeping resolutions to a manageable number will require careful prioritizing by the committee.

During miscellaneous business sessions Tuesday, messengers will be invited to bring resolutions to a table near the platform where they will be processed by members of the Resolutions Committee and a convention parliamentarian.

Resolutions are then read into the record by a convention officer and forwarded to the committee for consideration.

The committee then has several options including putting proposed resolutions in proper form and submitting them to the convention, incorporating resolutions on similar topics into one resolution or referring proposed resolutions to an agency or committee.

The committee also may elect to take no action on a resolution on the grounds that messengers to previous convention meetings have taken similar positions on the topic. In addition, the committee may recommend reaffirming previous resolutions or decide against taking any action on a proposed resolution. Resolutions also may be initiated by the committee.

The committee must report Thursday on its actions regarding each resolution proposed by a convention messenger.

The number of resolutions submitted by messengers and the number proposed by Resolutions Committees for convention action have varied in recent years. In 1989, messengers proposed 44 resolutions while the committee presented 10 which were debated and adopted. Messengers to the 1988 convention meeting proposed 54 while the committee brought 22 for convention consideration.

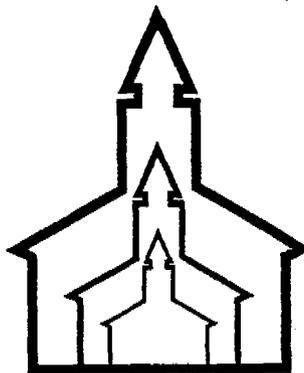
In addition to Corts, the 1990 committee includes the 1989 Resolutions Committee chairman, Mark Coppenger, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

According to SBC bylaw, the Resolutions Committee must include three members of the SBC Executive Committee. They are Russell Bush, a retired dentist and pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss.; Paul House, assistant professor of religion at Taylor University in Upland, Ind.; and Miriam Kibelbeck, a homemaker from Port Charlotte, Fla.

Other members are Andy Buckley, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Southwestern Louisiana and member of East Bayou Baptist Church in Lafayette; Bill Merrill, pastor of Country Estates Baptist Church of Midwest City, Okla.; Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn.; Robert Sloan, professor at Baylor University and member of First Baptist Church of Lorena, Texas; and Mrs. Bobby Vereen, a homemaker and member of Woodridge Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.

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By Linda Lawson, 4:15 p.m. Sunday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Southern Baptist Women in Ministry Roundup

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--Members of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry approved constitutional revisions that will allow their organization to merge with the Louisville-based Center for Women in Ministry (CWIM).

Approval of the revisions -- as well as worship experiences and workshops around the theme "Welcoming the Stranger . . . Sojourners in the Fellowship of God" -- took place during SBWIM's eighth annual meeting June 9 and 10 at New Orleans' Hotel Intercontinental.

As SWBIM has changed and grown through the years, it has seen a need for more structure, said Betty McGary, outgoing president. But, she added, having that structure poses a danger.

"We in the Southern Baptist Convention have seen the very worst in what can happen when you have too much structure," said McGary, minister to adults at South Main Baptist Church in Houston. "Institutions are only as good as the people who hold them, and they are best when held lightly."

In addition to providing for the SBWIM-CWIM merger, the changes were designed to provide for more membership involvement on the steering committee; more continuity of leadership; increased visibility and influence of the organization; and greater clarity or consistency of language, explained Edgar Tanner, a steering committee member from Sugar Land, Texas.

Major revisions included changing the name of the "steering committee" to "executive board" and revising the responsibilities of some of the officers.

Another change calls for the inclusion of five ex-officio members on the executive board. Those members are to be the executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; the chair of the Southern Baptist Alliance's Women in the Church Committee; the pastor of Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church or other church/agency that may house the Center for Women in Ministry; the president of Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention; and the president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

During one of the meeting's sermons, Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, retired executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, explored what it means to be a stranger.

"It's good to have experienced being a stranger and to recognize that so many times being a stranger and being accepted in the family of God is the difference in our attitudes and our mindsets," she said. "Often we exclude ourselves when we didn't have to be excluded."

Hospitality is a gift of the spirit that allows Christians to reach out to those who may be strangers, Crumpler said, adding that hospitality is different from mere entertainment.

"Entertainment is a type of bondage, while hospitality is freedom," she said. "Entertainment seeks to impress, while hospitality serves and ministers. Entertainment puts things before people, while hospitality puts people before things."

Crumpler invited individuals at the meeting to become "servant barrier destroyers," who as members of God's family help those who need to become part of the family.

"My beloved Southern Baptist Convention is fragmented," said Crumpler, who has announced her candidacy for SBC first vice president. "There is a deep yearning for family in our hearts. The wounded spirit of Southern Baptists needs to be lanced and opened to the healing air of God's grace. Only this can enlarge the family."

During its annual meeting, SBWIM recognized its new steering committee officers.

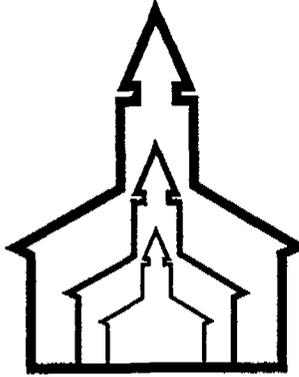
The leaders for 1990-91 are Carolyn Bucy, minister to youth, Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, president; Cheryl Collings, minister of youth, McLean Baptist Church in McLean, Va., vice president; Pam Tanner, minister of music and worship, Williams Trace Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, program chair; Cindy Johnson, minister at large, First Baptist Church of Rockville, Md., recorder; Nancy Campbell, clinical pastoral education, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, treasurer; and Sheila Black, church and community ministries, Mecklenburg Baptist Association in Charlotte, N.C., membership chair.

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By Kathy Palen and Anita Bowden -- 4:30 p.m. Sunday

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.  
June 12-14, 1990  
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

SBC Press Representative  
Dan Martin  
News Room Manager  
Marv Knox  
Features Manager  
Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FMB/CZECHS

NEW ORLEANS, June 9--Responding to new opportunities in Eastern Europe, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted June 9 to establish fraternal relationships with Soviet Baptists and authorized opening of work in Czechoslovakia.

The board, meeting on the Tulane University campus just before the annual Southern Baptist Convention, approved the transfer of George and Veda Rae Lozuk from South America to become fraternal representatives to the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in Moscow. The Lozuks, along with six couples being sought to work in Czechoslovakia, are among 88 new, full-time workers the board is seeking to reinforce its present force of 10 now assigned to Eastern Europe ministries.

Harriet Gilbert of St. Simons Island, Ga., vice chairman of the board's Europe, Middle East and North Africa committee, said the vote was especially meaningful to her because her own son-in-law, Petr Macek, a Czech, was pastor of a Czech Baptist church for 17 years.

In other actions the trustees voted to take about \$800,000 from current cash on hand to make up the shortfall in the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which closed May 31 at \$80,197,870.78. The full \$81 million goal had been budgeted, said Carl Johnson, vice president for finance, and transfer of the funds will enable the board to fund all overseas capital projects set up under the budget.

The board also transferred \$3 million into a global fund from which missionary housing and strategic capital projects will be funded worldwide. Johnson said the money was part of that originally budgeted for new missionaries. It became available because fewer missionaries have been appointed than anticipated when the budget was adopted.

The board's strategy committee adopted a statement affirming the importance of the role of missionary wives "in their biblical role of Christian homemakers and in their God-called responsibilities as missionaries."

The statement, approved in committee but reported to the full board, said the balance can be clearly seen in the New Testament, citing 1 Timothy 5:14, Titus 2:5, Acts 2:17-18 and Galatians 3:26-29.

"In the determination of missionary deployment," the statement said, "the Foreign Mission Board has stat d, 'Adequate care and attention for children is of primary spiritual importance.' This statement will be given full weight in assisting all missionary parents, and especially mothers, in defining the use of their time."

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As the board has sought to concentrate more of its missionary energies directly toward evangelism and starting of churches, some missionary wives have felt torn between the needs of their family and their desire to be more involved with their husbands in starting of new churches.

Another aspect of the role of women on the mission field was addressed in a report by Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel. Citing the significant evangelism contributions made through the board's history by such women as Josephine Ward and Bertha Smith, Spurgeon said "the issue of women's ordination has built walls in human hearts that are harmful to Christ's mission.

"The Foreign Mission Board has repeatedly stated that ordination is not an issue in the appointment of missionaries," he said. "Yet many consecrated women do not believe that they have a place in the world mission enterprise because of the garbled messages they have heard."

He concluded: "I urge you to join with me in blowing a trumpet, with no uncertain sound, that Southern Baptists are continuing to send both women and men, married or single, to share the gospel with a lost and dying world."

The board's final session of the June meeting was to take place June 13 in the Superdome, where trustees will approve the appointment of 34 new missionaries. The group will include trustee Ray England, pastor of First Baptist Church, Winchester, Ky. He and his wife, Leslie, will be appointed missionaries to the Philippines.

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By Bob Stanley - 3:50 p.m. Sunday

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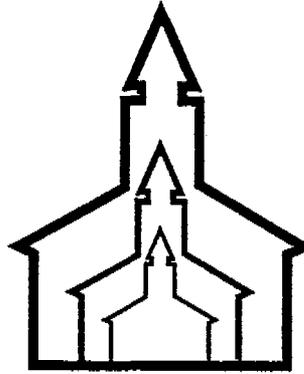
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Alvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Mary Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FMB belief guidelines revised

NEW ORLEANS, June 9--A Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustee committee has adopted guidelines to help missionary candidates write clearer statements of belief during the application process.

The trustees' Mission Personnel Committee adopted the guidelines during the board's June 8-9 meeting at Tulane University prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in the Louisiana Superdome.

The guidelines stem from trustee action last August creating a committee to annually review the missionary appointment process. The guidelines will be listed in a cover letter to accompany a "Sharing of Christian Beliefs" questionnaire traditionally used in the Foreign Mission Board's screening of missionary candidates.

The two-page questionnaire, which has undergone periodic revision by the agency's staff in the past, has asked applicants to state their beliefs about God, Jesus, the Bible and other doctrines as well as Southern Baptist cooperative work.

Now, the guidelines will list specifics to be addressed in each section of the questionnaire.

The section on the Bible, for example, previously asked candidates to: "Describe your views of the Bible. How do you use the Bible in your personal life?" Now, the guidelines for the Bible section ask candidates to address: "Inspiration, authority, reliability, purpose, miracles, historical narratives, use in your personal life."

Regarding Jesus Christ, the new guidelines ask for comments on his nature, uniqueness, birth, life, death, resurrection, second coming and "your relationship to Him."

Trustees also expanded the questionnaire to include a separate section on cooperative Southern Baptist work, which previously was part of the section on the church. The cooperative work guidelines ask missionary candidates for their views on association, state and national conventions, Cooperative Program, and "your involvement." The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' longstanding channel for churches to fund foreign and home missions and other denominational causes.

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The Mission Personnel Committee, in adopting the guidelines, "did not have a desire to fit anybody into a certain mold," said its chairman, Paul Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Geyer Springs in Little Rock, Ark.

But the committee did want missionary candidates "to be more definitive in writing their beliefs," Sanders said, "so the staff and trustees know what (the candidates) believe about basic Baptist doctrines."

Sanders stated that Foreign Mission Board staff members handle most of the screening of missions applicants and that the staff often has had to seek amplification of initial written statements.

Harlan Spurgeon, Foreign Mission Board vice president for mission personnel, agreed that staff often has requested clarifications from missionary candidates.

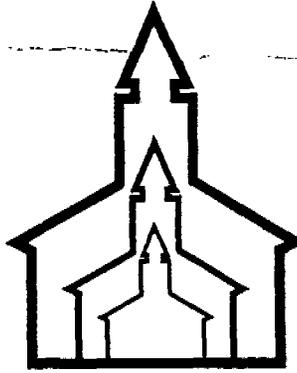
Spurgeon noted that the proposed guidelines were drafted by staff members.

The trustee committee, before its vote to adopt the guidelines, expanded them to include the matters of creation and salvation. Spurgeon said the guidelines are neither "an adding to nor a taking from" the standards missionaries traditionally have been called to meet.

Sections on personal witnessing and the Baptist Faith and Message underwent little change. The old and new forms asked applicants to relate an encounter in which they had led someone to faith in Christ, for example, and to affirm their agreement with the statement of beliefs adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and reaffirmed in more recent conventions.

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By Art Toalston - 4:05 p.m. Sunday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Parks addresses trustees

NEW ORLEANS (June 9)--An air-clearing address by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks ended in prayer rather than confrontation during a meeting of the board's trustees.

Trustee chairman William Hancock of, Louisville, Ky., called staff and trustees to prayer after Parks spoke frankly about ill will he felt had arisen among some trustees following an open letter he wrote May 15 to Southern Baptists.

The letter urged Baptists to rise above their continuing controversy or risk losing opportunities to reach 3.5 billion people for Christ worldwide. It said the controversy was eroding missionary support and appointments, taking the focus off missions and creating an image of Southern Baptists as a people of controversy rather than evangelism and missions.

Trustees, both openly and behind the scenes, had questioned the conclusions and timing of Parks' letter, written about a month before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention which opens Tuesday in the Louisiana Superdome.

In his address, Parks did not change his view that the 11-year-old controversy is damaging missions.

But he sought to give trustees insights into his lifelong commitment to the Bible and missions, clear up misunderstandings, and remove animosity which he said would interfere with the missions sermon he would preach on foreign missions night at the SBC meeting Wednesday.

"We must have the freedom of God's spirit moving among us that night," he declared. "We must. Otherwise it will do irreparable damage to us as a people," added Parks, who conceded he was pursuing a subject some trustees did not want him to pursue.

"I would plead that somehow we could resolve this 'something against me' kind of feeling," he said. "I believe it is biblical. I believe it is necessary for the spirit of God to move among us and to bring us together."

Before trustees and staff prayed in groups all over the room for about 10 minutes, Hancock urged all who held animosity toward another to reconcile it "before this day is done."

Asked later if Parks' address and the prayer session ended rumored trustee action on Parks' letter, Hancock said, "As far as I'm concerned, it's history. I've been praying the Lord would give us the wisdom to bring a positive response rather than reaction."

Parks' address directly responded to views expressed by some trustees that his letter was political, that it seemed to blame them for the crisis in missions, and that it seemed to indicate he placed missions ahead of biblical teaching and correct doctrine.

He assured trustees he did not say and did not mean that the trustee board itself was to blame for the problems. "That has never been in my heart, and I want you to accept that and believe that," he said.

As for politics, Parks said: "If I'd wanted to be political I would have done a much better job than that. I was not trying to be political. I was trying to say to Southern Baptists that missions, in my estimation, is hurting. And every time we get together and irresponsibly tear at each other until our image is again negative to the world, this hurts our witness again. And somehow, some way, Southern Baptists, let's quit doing that. That's what I'm trying to say."

Parks told trustees of his personal spiritual development, noting: "I'm putting my heart out here and letting you look at it."

He outlined his call to missions and said it has been rooted in Scripture since he was 12 years old. Everything the Foreign Mission Board does, he said, "is biblically based." The board's main purpose "is evangelism that results in churches" and it seeks missionaries committed to the Bible and evangelism, he said.

"I am as aware and committed as anyone among Southern Baptists to the fact that you cannot have strong evangelism and missions without sound biblical doctrine," he said. "Make no mistake about that. That's who I am."

But he warned that Southern Baptists must maintain both strong biblical belief and the cooperative missions approach which was the reason for the formation of the SBC in 1845.

Parks said many other Baptist bodies have sound doctrine but no commitment to a cooperative world missions program. "There are 40 Baptist denominations in the United States today. Only one of them is committed to a cooperative mission the way we as Southern Baptists are...That's us. We're the only one," he said.

"I'm coming today to say solid biblical belief and strong commitment to missions are both essential if we are going to continue to be who we have been. We cannot have only one. We must have both."

Parks said that he and board staff, missionaries and trustees are all responsible for Southern Baptists knowing those facts. Southern Baptists, he said, "have entrusted us with a sacred trust, a holy trust" of foreign missions. "And we must not damage, weaken or change directions of that cause. For, if we do, Southern Baptists are irreparably damaged."

Parks noted that some trustees felt "I was saying that everything that is wrong in the world and in foreign missions is because of the controversy. That's not so at all. I did say, and I believe very, very deeply that the controversy is hurting missions. I think it's hurting a lot of other things."

"I say that as a description of what I see happening rather than as a judgment on what I see happening," Parks continued.

He cited examples from his own experience which he said indicate that the controversy is undercutting missionary appointments and giving to missions. "I'm well aware there are other factors" that affect those things, he explained. "But 'a' factor -- not 'the' factor, not the only factor -- but a factor of significance in my judgment is that the controversy is hurting us in our mission support (and) in the number of missionaries coming at the very time of our greatest opportunity."

Parks also cited input from missionaries which indicate Southern Baptists are becoming known overseas as a people who fight. He quoted a missionary who wrote: "I didn't see how I could do anything about the controversy. I've tried to ignore it, but it makes me angry that what's going on there is making it harder to share the Gospel here."

"Somehow, some way," Parks said, "we must deal with our differences in a Christian way that will not say to the world these who are telling us that God loves us don't even love each other."

At a dinner honoring trustees completing service, Parks and C. Mark Corts, immediate past trustee chairman, joined arms in a gesture of friendship. Corts, who had responded to Parks' open letter to Southern Baptists with one of his own, said he wanted to "reaffirm to all of you my love and appreciation for Keith Parks."

Parks, who presented the Winston-Salem, N.C., pastor with a plaque for 10 years of service on the board, praised Corts for his cooperative spirit and hard work on behalf of missions.

Both appeared to be reassuring trustees and others there was nothing personal about differences expressed in the two open letters. Corts' letter questioned some of Parks' conclusions and the timing of his letter.

In farewell comments, Corts urged both trustees and staff to overcome suspicion by learning to "put yourself in other people's shoes," focus on the priority of winning the world to Christ, and share openly their feelings and convictions.

Ultimately, Corts said, "when you've done all you can do, you just have to put it in God's hands."

1990  
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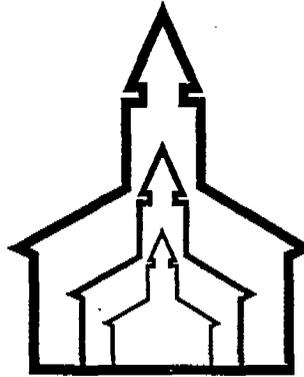
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Mary Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Baptist Religious Education Association

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 -- Southern Baptist religious educators will have to become infected with an "epidemic of quality" to meet the needs of the 1990s, stressed a Texas minister to the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association Sunday at the Sheraton Hotel.

Bill Taylor, associate pastor/minister of education at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, said that religious educators must be "unmerciful" in demanding church ministries function with a high degree of quality. He added that education ministers also must be "unyielding" in their insistence that church programming reflect sound principles of religious education.

A concern for quality is becoming increasingly important in the business world, emphasized Taylor. Churches should not be held "any less accountable," he said.

Religious educators will be confronted with a changing society and must learn to "love change" in order to maintain viable ministries, said Taylor. Therefore, they need to be "open to fresh ideas" and be "flexible in structure," he said.

Taylor predicted vast technological advances will confront society in the 1990s. The decade also will witness an increase in the numbers of senior citizens and single parents, he said.

In the midst of technological advances and changing demographics, there also will be a greater interest in moral stability and spiritual issues, Taylor said. He warned, however, that the new focus on spirituality may lead people into cults rather than traditional Christianity. Churches, he said, should be prepared to meet the spiritual yearnings of society.

"We had better move into discipleship as fast as we can," said Taylor, noting that many Southern Baptist churches have neglected to teach doctrine and polity.

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By Pat Cole, 6:35 p.m. Sunday

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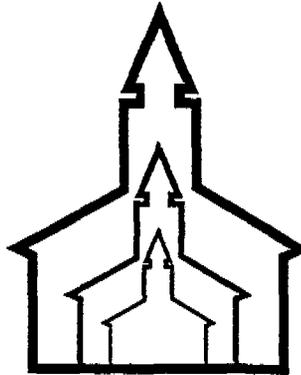
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman's Missionary Union Sunday Afternoon

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 -- Southern Baptists' heart and impulse for missions must be protected from "peripheral activities," a former medical missionary said during the 102nd opening session of Woman's Missionary Union.

Drawing analogies from WMU's theme "Hearts of One Accord," Joann Goatcher said Southern Baptists must avoid being diverted from the task of missions.

"We have seen this in others who once had a heart for missions and then were diverted by other issues, resulting in harm to the body," Goatcher said.

The woman's auxiliary was one of nine Baptist groups meeting in advance of the 133rd session of the Southern Baptist Convention which begins a 3-day run Tuesday at the Louisiana Superdome.

About 35,000 messengers are expected to elect a successor to President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.; reconsider a basic budget of \$137,332,523 and debate a proposal to reduce funding by 87 percent of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Goatcher, a physician and medical consultant for the Foreign Mission Board, said that just as the physical heart can be "short circuited," the spiritual heart also receives warning signals.

"The analogy with our spiritual heart is easily seen," Goatcher said. "Other signals and activities can arise which can divert or block the signal from our Lord. But when they occur, hearts will not be in one accord and harm will be suffered."

As a physician, Goatcher said she knows the importance of the body fighting off cells which try to destroy it. In the same way, she said spiritual hearts bound together strengthen Christians.

"As our hearts are bound together in one accord so we too can be alert to repair the harm and heal the hurt to the body of Christ when damage occurs or enemy cells attack or go out of control."

A spirit of harmony and heartbeat for missions is a "global challenge and global opportunity" today, Goatcher said. "We must lift our eyes to a whole world and not just to our local needs.

"We are all a part of that body of Christians known as Baptists," Goatcher said. "When a part of that body is damaged, invaded by enemy or uncontrolled cells, or diverted by peripheral activities, our spiritual hearts cease to receive that impulse from Christ our head and the whole cause of Christ suffers. Dearly beloved sisters, may it not be so with us."

During the opening session, Marjorie McCullough, national WMU president from Alexandria, La., introduced Dellanna O'Brien as the organization's new executive director. The 1990 meeting is O'Brien's first as head of WMU

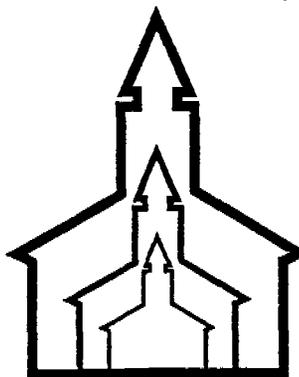
Beverly O'Reagan, president of Louisiana WMU, introduced those attending the meeting to missions in New Orleans as she moderated a "Missions Kaleidoscope." On the program were Richard Wilson, director of Christian social ministries; Mary Dan Kuhnle, director of Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center; Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church; Tobey Pitman, director of Brantley Memorial Center; and Gwendolyn Williams, director of urban ministries for Grace Baptist Church.

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Scott Collins -- Sunday, 6:30 p.m.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday Church Music Conference

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--A preview of the new Baptist Hymnal and several concerts highlighted the opening sessions of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference Sunday at First Baptist Church.

Musicians heard concerts by the Louisiana Baptist All-State Youth Choir, the church orchestra of First Baptist in De Ridder, La., and well-known Christian artist Kurt Kaiser of Waco, Texas.

Following the theme of "The Mission . . . Worship and Witness", conference attendees were greeted by Mark Edwards, the group's president and minister of music at First Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn.

A preview of the new Baptist Hymnal, to be released in March of 1991, was led by Wesley Forbis, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department.

This hymnal was not produced for the church music department, but — instead for the people in our churches," he said, adding that the hymnal committee reviewed over 4,000 hymns submitted to come up with the 625 pieces of music in the new hymnal.

Forbis announced that for every new hymnal purchased, one copy will be given to a mission church. Commenting on the ability of Southern Baptists to sing, Forbis said that although our denomination is involved in a controversy, he has noticed that "when someone starts the music, we all sing together."

Participants then sang from a "sampler" of hymns from the new hymnal, the first singing by a volunteer group.

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

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By Eddy Oliver - 7:10 p.m. Sunday

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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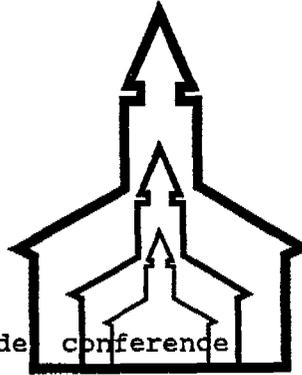
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Musicians gather for 'Prelude conference'

NEW ORLEANS, June 9 -- Musicians from throughout the country gathered at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel for the first-ever 'Prelude' Conference prior to the 34th annual session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

Sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Music Service, the conference included numerous choral reading sessions by various publishers, along with major concerts by several Christian artists and the premiere of three musicals.

About 300 persons attended the gathering, which was "eclectic by design," according to Mike Wilkins, coordinator of the Music Service. The goal of the conference was to "unite Southern Baptists from every part of the denomination and unify us in proclaiming Jesus as King through diverse musical tastes."

The musicians were among nine groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention which opens its 133rd session Tuesday in the Louisiana Superdome.

Wesley Forbis, director of the church music department of the Sunday School Board, presented information on the new Baptist Hymnal, scheduled for release in March of next year. During a devotional time, he commented "I wish I had an hour or so to tell you more about the greatest hymnal Southern Baptists will ever have."

The new hymnal will have 625 pieces of music, Forbis said. "You'll be impressed with the variety offered." On March 11-14, 1991, 8,000 people will gather in Nashville for Praising II, which will introduce the hymnal.

'Prelude' was held in conjunction with the Church Music Conference, which began Sunday afternoon at First Baptist Church. Next year, 'Prelude' will take place on May 30 through June 1 at the Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, in Atlanta.

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By Eddy Oliver -- 5:30 p.m. Sunday

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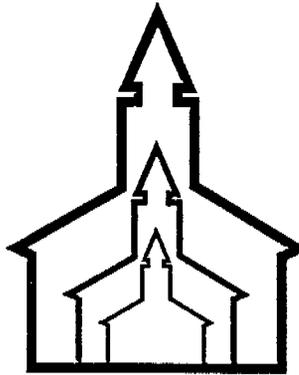
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Religious education association Sunday evening

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--Ministers need to realize the "uniqueness" of their calling in order to build healthy church staff relationships, a veteran pastor told the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association Sunday at the Sheraton Hotel.

Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, for 30 years, said church staff members must function in an environment of respect for the role of each minister on the staff. He emphasized that ministers should "take the calling you have and use it to the best of your ability and don't compete" with other church staff members.

Smith was part of a panel discussion that also featured Bob Edd Shotwell, minister of education and administration at Hyde Park for 22 years, and Joe Carrell, minister of music at the church for 16 years.

Churches are "built by long tenures of pastors and staff members," noted Smith.

Staff ministers at Hyde Park avoid a hierarchical line of authority, opting instead for a "parallel" view of ministerial responsibilities, he said.

In addition to performing their duties well, ministers should also strive to be "loving, humble and sensitive" in their relationships with other staff members, observed Smith. "I call it just being Christian."

Shotwell stressed ministers must view their churches as the place God has called them to serve. He added that ministers should adapt themselves to each place of service.

"When God calls us to a place of service, he calls us to fit into the structure and pattern of where we serve," he said.

Ministers must also seek to be "servant leaders," said Shotwell.

"We are going to have organizational structures, but servant leadership is how we serve."

Carrell said an "element of trust" among ministers is essential for good staff relationships. Ministers, he pointed out, need the "freedom to do the things God called you to do."

The minister of music also stressed that ministers must emphasize the "priority of people" over programs, projects and performances.

All three ministers underscored the importance of open communication among church staff members and the necessity of weekly staff meetings.

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By Pat Cole -- 10:20 p.m., Sunday

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

June 12-14, 1990

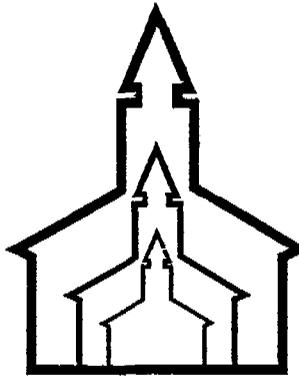
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Marv Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hispanic ministers Sunday

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--The Southern Baptist Convention's two principal presidential candidates offered Hispanic ministers the chance Sunday either to "make complete the course correction" or "turn attention away from an internal power struggle" in the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, each addressed the opening session of the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers' Conference at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Chapman underscored his belief in the "inspired, infallible, inerrant word of God," and he expressed his desire to "enlarge the tent" to include all Southern Baptists who share his convictions on the inspiration and authority of the Bible.

"I want to encompass all Southern Baptists who believe in our perpetuation of allegiance to God's perfect word," he said.

Chapman added that he wanted to perpetuate that belief "through the institutional life of Southern Baptists," particularly its seminaries.

Noting that no denomination ever had reversed a "drift leftward" away from belief in inerrancy, Chapman said he was thankful that Southern Baptists appeared to be the first to approach a complete change in course.

"My heart's prayer is that we would make complete the course correction and return to the beliefs of our forefathers concerning God's perfect word," he said.

Vestal said the 11-year controversy within the SBC has diverted Southern Baptists' attention from their need to evangelize the United States' growing ethnic population.

"While we as a denomination have been embroiled in an internal struggle, America has been changing, and we are losing touch with the character and nature of our country," he said.

Vestal told the Hispanic Southern Baptist ministers it is time to "turn attention away from an internal power struggle and together, together, together turn our attention to a lost world that needs Jesus Christ."

--over--

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Drawing on personal experience, Vestal told how he led a black woman to become a Christian while he was sharing the gospel door-to-door in a poor New Orleans neighborhood as part of a pre-convention evangelistic emphasis. He also told about two Korean men making professions of faith when he preached at a local mission earlier on Sunday.

"They didn't know about the controversy. They didn't care about the controversy. They were just waiting for someone to tell them the story of Jesus," he said.

The appearance by Chapman and Vestal at the conference was thought to be the first time two opposing presidential candidates had spoken on the same program at a convention-related meeting. The two pastors spoke at the invitation of Daniel Sotelo of Fresno, Calif., president of the Hispanic Ministers Conference, and Bob Sena of Atlanta, conference coordinator.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, said the role of Hispanics in the Southern Baptist Convention is no different than the role of Anglos.

"We're all under the same marching orders. We're all under the same commitment to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," he said.

Lewis challenged the Hispanic Baptists to double both their membership and their number of churches by the turn of the century. He said there should be at least 5,000 Hispanic Southern Baptist churches with a total membership of about one million by the year 2000.

"Honestly, if we do less than that, we will have failed our Lord," he said.

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By Ken Camp -- 8:20 a.m., Monday

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

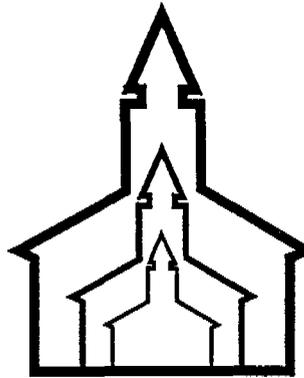
June 12-14, 1990

"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Marv Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, Jun 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clower at directors of missions meeting Sunday afternoon

NEW ORLEANS, June 10 -- Declaring himself a "free moral agent under God," comedian Jerry Clower told associational directors of missions Sunday he's sick of negativism and power politics in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I love ya'll 'cause you ain't no pessimists," the Grand Ole Opry star told about 500 people attending the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie.

Clower used humor to address issues in the denomination's 11-year-old internal fight. He said he decided to speak about the Southern Baptist controversy even though he had refused to comment on national scandals that have plagued prominent television evangelists in recent years.

He recalled being approached by a television reporter with questions about the fall of televangelist Jim Bakker. "I ain't got a dog in that fight," Clower told the reporter as he declined to be interviewed.

However, when it comes to the SBC, "I've got a dog in that fight," said Clower, who has been a Southern Baptist for 50 years.

"I love y'all," Clower told the directors of missions. "Not just anyone can say that. I can because I've paid my dues."

He related how he was saved through a home missions project and has participated in all phases of church life since then. "I made the motion to hire the associational missionary," he quipped. "I'm on your side."

Clower said people sometimes ask him what he believes about the Bible, as a way to find out where his political loyalties lie. "I didn't know you could be a Baptist and not believe the Bible," he retorted.

Although not calling names, Clower implied that some of the denomination's more conservative leadership have chastised him for making fun of the inerrancy issue. He said he has "done been called to Dallas" to explain comments he made in the past.

Clower said he refuses to get involved in writing letters back and forth and prefers to meet in person to clarify such issues. "And they always want to tape it," he said.

"But that doesn't bother me because I tell the truth. If you always tell the truth you don't have to worry about what you say."

--over--

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Clower said he believes the issue of inerrancy was created as something to argue about. "Somebody thought up the word inerrant, and that's what we're arguing about now."

He declared that he was taught to revere the Bible from the time he enrolled in BYPU and still reads the Bible regularly. "That's why I'm a Baptist," he asserted.

However, the Bible is not the greatest thing in his Christian experience, he said.

"Watch my lips: I do not worship the Bible," Clower declared. "I had a personal experience with Jesus Christ when I was 13 years of age. I am in love with and worship Jesus."

"Let's don't take our focus off Jesus," he urged. "Folks are going to die and go to hell while we decide who believes the Bible."

Clower said the SBC controversy is not about the Bible. "This isn't about Scripture. It's about power."

He described reading about events at Southern Baptist agencies and the SBC Executive Committee that upset him. "The devil's got us doing something that's not important," he said. "Negativism can destroy our convention."

Clower said television evangelists got in trouble because they lacked accountability for their money and ministries. The same should not be true for Southern Baptists, he said.

However, he lamented the lack of support recent elected leadership has shown for the Cooperative Program. "I ain't voting for nobody to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention who don't support the Cooperative Program," he said.

Clower said his church gives 30 percent of its income to the denomination's unified giving plan for missions and theological education.

"If you want to be president of our convention, don't be no independent Baptist," Clower shouted.

Clower also addressed critics of the denomination's seminaries. His place on the program followed a message by Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Don't let anyone hurt him," Clower said of Leavell. He urged the crowd to keep Leavell from being criticized by trustees in the same way Roy Honeycutt, President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., was recently criticized by a first-term trustee.

The 25-year-old trustee, Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo., accused the 63-year-old Honeycutt of not believing the Bible.

"That's the most unchristian thing I ever heard said about another Christian in all my life," Clower said. "You don't put your finger in nobody's face and say that."

"We need to find out who put that fellow in a position where he could make such an accusation and treat someone like a dog."

Clower quipped that if Johnson were so smart, "we need to put him in charge of everything."

"How can you look into the face of a seminary president and say, 'You don't believe the Bible?'"

"We ain't going to let nobody do our preacher that way at the East Fork Baptist Church," Clower said. "We're autonomous."

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He said autonomy means his church has a "trash can doctrine."

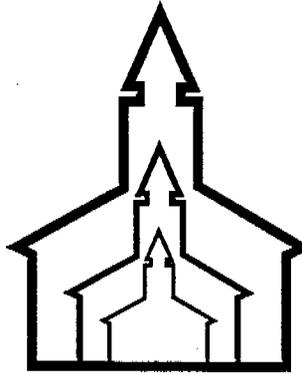
"Make any kind of resolution you want to this week. We'll take it back, look it over and if we don't want to do it, we'll trash can it."

He poked fun at pastors who rule their churches with absolute authority. "Don't be sending me word about what I've got to understand from the Holy Spirit," he said, explaining that in Baptist polity "the preacher ain't got no more vote than my 19-year-old daughter."

"Don't send me word out of your study that we're going to move the church if we ain't discussed it and voted on it," he said. "One pope in Rome is enough."

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By Mark Wingfield, 9:45 p.m. Sunday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pastors' Conference Sunday night

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--"It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error," Adrian Rogers said Sunday night, in the closing sermon of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"Unity is a wonderful thing, good and pleasant. But beloved, it must be the unity of the spirit," the pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn., and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention said to 8,000 in the Louisiana Superdome.

"Unity, yes--but unification and uniformity at the price of peace, absolutely not," he continued. "We have some today who would jettison truth on the altar of cooperation."

The pastors were one of nine Baptist groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention which starts a three-day run Tuesday in the Superdome.

In a sermon based on the I Kings story of the disagreement between Micaiah and Ahab, Rogers said in the second of five points that "It is better to speak truth that hurts and then heals than to speak falsehood that comforts and then kills.

"Your task is to say what the Lord says, it is not your job to make it palatable," he told the preachers. "You were not called to fill a pew, but to fill a pulpit and preach the gospel. There is no way to preach the truth and be loved by everybody. In the Bible, anybody worth anything had enemies."

Rogers' third point in a sermon he called Truth or Consequences was "It is better to be hated for telling truth than loved for a lie.

"It is better to stand alone with truth than to be wrong with the multitude," he gave as his fourth point about truth.

He said he did not want his sermon to be perceived as one of "rancor, because I believe in unity. I want unity, and I pray for unity."

To strive for truth, Rogers said, "Sometimes it is necessary for denominations to stand alone. If denominations won't stand, sometimes churches must stand alone. Sometimes individuals must stand alone, because it is better to stand alone than to be wrong with the multitude."

Rogers, former president of the Pastors' Conference, urged people who believed they were members of a liberal church, "to saturate it with your absence--get out of there.

--over--

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"It is better to ultimately succeed with truth than to temporarily win with a lie," he said in closing. "God's word cannot fail, God's truth cannot fail, and sin cannot win. Be careful to line up with the truth. Be men of courage."

Bailey Smith, of Atlanta, also a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention who is now a full time evangelist, preached the sermon just before Rogers, telling the pastors, "Preaching the Lord Jesus Christ made America great and it is time we turned back to those Godly standards."

"We need to say with Pontius Pilate, 'I find no fault in him'." he continued.

Smith said pastors need to preach that they find no fault in the miracle of Jesus' birth, the majesty of the cross, the magnificence of His resurrection, and the mightiness of his return.

"One day, He won't be pushed around any more," Smith concluded. "He's coming again with power."

Manley Beasley, an evangelist from Euless, Texas, preached the first sermon of the opening session of the Pastors' Conference.

"In the behavior of man, we find out what he believes," Beasley said. "When you refuse to believe God, whether you understand or not, you make a choice to believe a lie."

"When you believe a lie, you cease to be a vehicle for the glory of God," Beasley said in closing. "May God have mercy on us that we believe the truth."

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., is president of the 1990 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

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By Jim Lowry -- 10:30 p.m., Sunday

1990  
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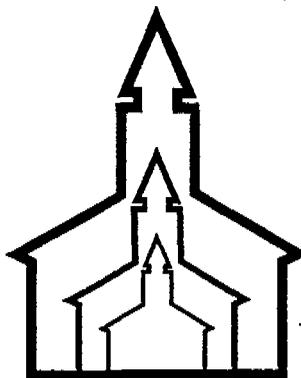
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOMs Sunday afternoon

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--Seminary president Landrum Leavell told associational directors of missions Sunday he won't leave the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

"Some talk about leaving the convention. I ain't leaving. I was here a long time before some of them boys," he said in an apparent reference to young pastors who have criticized Southern Baptist seminaries.

"I am not going to lose my joy," Leavell said. "I'm too busy to get upset by these little petty politicians running around in every direction."

Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, made the comments while speaking to the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie. The missions directors were among nine Baptist groups meeting in advance of the 133rd annual session of the SBC which opens a three-day run Tuesday at the Louisiana Superdome.

Maintaining joy is a crucial element of walking worthily with God, Leavell said, speaking from the first chapter of Colossians.

A worthy walk requires doing the Word of God, not just studying it, Leavell said.

"We must become involved in the things God is involved in," he declared. "It's not that we're just able to say the right things about the Word of God but that we're able to do them."

"The Holy Spirit does not strengthen human beings in order that we might boast about our strength or be idle."

Leavell lamented that there are too many passive Christians in Baptist churches today.

"Millions of Christians know the Great Commission but are doing nothing about it," he said. "Knowledge is important but it is not the end."

"There are very few Baptists in our congregations who have any intentions of following Jesus. They're going through the motions."

"They've got their minds made up," he said. "This is why our worship is so dry. There's no spirit of expectancy. They have no intention of changing."

This malaise has created a "decadent kind of Christianity" in America that parallels what happened in Europe's churches 50 years ago, Leavell said.

To prevent the further spread of this problem, Leavell urged directors of missions to be role models of joy.

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He told the group to follow the three R's of basic Christianity by recognizing their sinful condition, repenting and receiving the help God offers.

In business sessions, the directors of missions approved the reports of a stewardship committee and a committee on retired directors.

Everett Anthony, director of missions for Chicago Metro Association, presented the stewardship report, which included five recommendations approved by voice vote.

Anthony noted associations have faced a "growing shortfall" of money available for missions.

"We felt we were not securing the kinds of resources that were needed," he said.

This has been a point of conflict with some state conventions who believe associations have gained more financial support than state conventions in recent years, Anthony added.

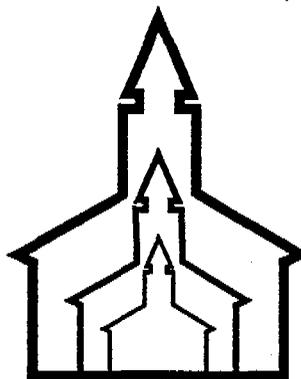
The five-point recommendation (1) affirms the role of the association in missions, (2) requests agencies and state conventions to recognize the Baptist association as a full partner in missions in all written material, (3) commends the Home Mission Board and the Stewardship Commission for making progress in assisting associations with financial promotion, (4) pledges associational support for developing creative financial strategies, and (5) calls for communication of these ideas.

Approval of the report on retired directors creates a special membership category and recognition for retirees.

The group postponed voting on another recommendation that would create an annual prayer retreat for directors of missions and state convention executive directors.

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By Mark Wingfield, 8:15 a.m. Monday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WMU approves record budget,

NEW ORLEANS, June 9--The executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Saturday approved a record \$12.5 million budget, seven new staff positions and reorganization plans for its program division.

The board of the women's auxiliary also set goals for the 1991 and 1992 missions offerings.

The board adopted a budget of \$12,582,676 for 1990-91. The new budget represents an almost 10 percent increase from the current budget of \$11.4 million. The budget increase will primarily pay for new staff positions and the renovation required to provide office space for them, said board officials.

Seven new staff positions were approved -- photographer, financial secretary and five professional and support personnel for editorial and field servicing work.

The board also approved a reorganization of the Missions Program System, the division charged with the responsibility for field servicing, publications and language work.

Under the reorganization, three new sections will replace the current Publications Section and Interpretation Section. The new sections are the Age-Level Involvement Section, the Churchwide Involvement Section and the Associational Relations Unit.

Staff members who work with a particular target audience, such as children or the entire church, will be more closely grouped together.

The WMU board also set mission offering goals. The 1991 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 1991 is \$88 million. This represents a \$2 million increase over the 1990 foreign missions offering goal.

The 1992 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for 1992 is \$41 million. This goal reflects no increase over the 1991 home missions offering goal.

In other business, the board approved the 1990-91 investment goals and guidelines, and approved the executive board report from last year.

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By Susan Todd -- 9:40 a.m., Monday

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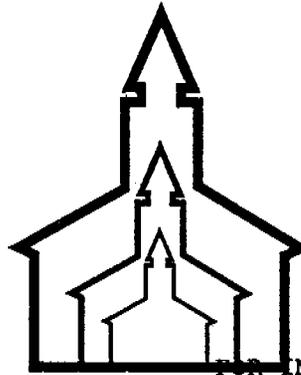
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Woman's Missionary Union Sunday night

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--An author from another denomination Sunday urged 4,000 Southern Baptist women to "pray for hearts of one accord."

The press is not wanting to write a story of accord, charged Ruth Tucker, a member of the Reformed Church in America and author of eight books. Speaking to the national annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union, she challenged Southern Baptists to "go forward to serve Him (Jesus) and seek to avoid the disharmony and disunity that the world would emphasize."

The women's auxiliary was among nine Baptist groups, meeting in advance of the three-day SBC which opens its 133rd meeting Tuesday in the Louisiana Superdome.

Tucker has featured pioneer Southern Baptist missionary Lottie Moon in her new book, "Guardians of the Great Commission: The Story of Women in Modern Missions." She said it's no secret that Southern Baptists "are struggling through some hard issues -- the inerrancy issue for one, the women's issue, often viewed as feminists vs. traditionalists or as career women vs. homemakers."

She said it concerns her that some individuals seem to thrive on discord, sometimes pitting one individual against another, without any valid reason for doing so.

Tucker said she disagrees with views expressed in a recent article by a fellow author Elisabeth Elliot, who contrasted Eve and Mary as "the ultimate extremes of womanhood."

She thinks Eve and Mary were probably a lot more alike than they were different, adding: "I think we can learn a lot by seeing them as simply two women who have a lot in common with all of us today."

Mary, she said, was a sinner like we all are -- and Eve "was not as bad as theologians and commentators, most of them men, have made her out to be.

"We can see ourselves in both of them -- as Eve, who could have made the right choice, went astray, and as Mary, who had the potential for making the wrong choice, did what was right."

What if they had each made the opposite choices? she asked.

She then read portions of her two fictional stories on the two women which she said will open a new book, "Right Choices: Women in Transition."

In her fictional version, Eve throws down the forbidden fruit and urges Adam to flee Satan with her. They escape, living happily in Eden where "all was happiness -- no sickness, no sadness, no death."

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Tucker's story of Mary portrays her as loving Joseph so much she concludes she cannot risk losing his love by telling him of her pregnancy.

In her despair, she turns to a woman with a bad reputation who has sex with men for pay and also accepts pay from women who don't want to have babies.

Mary goes to the woman, finds her gentle and understanding -- and agrees to come back the next night.

Heart pounding, head spinning and with "the coins weighing heavily in her pocket," she follows the woman into the back room.

Without ever specifically saying Mary had an abortion, Tucker tells of three days of illness and fever. When Mary recovers, her cheery disposition is gone but she and Joseph marry -- the humdrum of their life broken only by a trip to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. Stroking her abdomen, she remembers what might have been. "Her muffled sobs broke the stillness. Otherwise, it was a silent night in Bethlehem."

In an interview after the program, Tucker said she is pro-life and uses the reversed story of Mary to help people see "the evil of abortion." She said she has appeared on Pat Robertson's 700 Club and will be teaching at Fuller Theological Seminary in California this summer.

The speaker drew other examples of people who have had "a lot to say to us about the WMU's program theme, 'Hearts of One Accord.'"

"We all know it is much easier to get along with the dead than it is with the living," she said. "We all love Martin Luther and John Calvin and John Wesley, but if they were living today, we would have some real problems."

Tucker said the same would be true of Lottie Moon, whom she described as "more beloved in the grave than she was when she was alive -- a tough lady with a single-minded desire to reach out with the gospel."

Although she admitted she personally would have some discomfort with Lottie Moon today, she called her "one of my great heroes of the faith" and said she has delighted in sharing her story "with the whole church."

Tucker said "supermom" Susanna Wesley, with 19 children, the middle one being John, might tell women today that "life is complicated and women don't necessarily fit neatly defined roles -- whether homemaker or career woman, traditionalist or feminist, or married or separated or single or widowed or divorced. And we should not let these things polarize us."

Earlier in the meeting, missionary Debbie Moore of Hope, Ark., who has worked in Liberia since 1982, urged women and men in the audience to "please pray for Liberia -- pray that God's peace will replace the confusion and conflict in that country today."

WMU President Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La., said word had been received that most of Southern Baptists' missionaries have been able to leave the country. She joined Moore in asking Southern Baptists to pray for Liberian Baptists and others caught in the current warfare.

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU's new executive director, introduced the organization's two living former executive directors, Alma Hunt and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, and two former presidents, Helen Fling and Dorothy Sample.

Joann Goatcher, a physician and former missionary to Thailand, gave the theme interpretation. The Centurymen, directed by Beryl Red, sang.

The women's auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention was to conclude its meeting with three sessions Monday.

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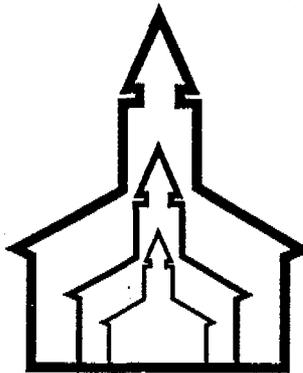
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Campus ministers meeting Sunday

NEW ORLEANS, June 10--Campus ministers can play a vital role uniting the Southern Baptist Convention, Dan Yearly, pastor of University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla., told about 100 campus ministers Sunday at the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers.

Speaking on the topic, "Creating and Maintaining Good Denominational Relationships," Yearly challenged campus ministers to closely examine the importance of their role in student ministry and teach students to love one another regardless of the circumstances.

"Understand the beauty of the ministry that God has given you and consider the uniqueness of it at this time in history," Yearly said. "You have your hand on the pulse beat of all that we are going to be (as Southern Baptists).

"You may well be the one person who can change the course of our denomination because you work with students," Yearly said. "Students are learning how to think for themselves...they haven't lined up yet and bought somebody else's party line. Therefore I believe your ministry is the strategic one. I guarantee if you give me an opportunity with students, I believe I can change the world."

Yearly said the "overarching ministry" of campus ministers should be modeling the love of Jesus Christ to students.

"You've got to model love to them. You've got to show them love. You've got to teach them love. You must measure every statement, every program, every concept, every communication, under the authority of God's love."

What campus ministers do today could impact a generation of Southern Baptists, Yearly said.

"There is no ministry on earth that is world-changing, there is no ministry on earth greater than the ministry in which you are involved," Yearly said.

Yearly was one of three speakers featured at the two-day meeting at the Quality Inn in New Orleans' Midtown area. Others Sunday included Molly Marshall-Green, associate professor of theology and associate dean of the School of Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Tom Logue, former director of student ministry for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock, Ark.

The campus ministers, who will close their meeting Monday, is one of nine Baptist groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention which opens a three-day run Tuesday in the Louisiana Superdome.

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Marshall-Green, who spoke on the topic, "I Have Called You Friend...Intimacy With God," called on campus ministers to "draw near" to God.

She said their commission is simple, "make others friends of God."

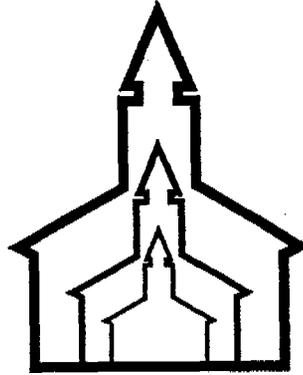
"If we cultivate a friendship with God we will better know who we are," Marshall-Green said.

Logue, who called the campus minister "the most important position in Southern Baptist life," said a strong support system is essential to carrying out their campus ministry.

Campus ministers attending the annual meeting could attend conferences ranging in topic from "Maintaining Spiritual Passion," to "Improving Skills in Assessing Students' Needs."

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By Tim Yarbrough -- 11:30 a.m. Monday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Baptist Religious Education Association Monday Morning

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Persons who live with "unresolved shame" hold attitudes that are sometimes confused with Christian values, a Southern Baptist family ministry specialist told the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association Monday at the Sheraton Hotel.

Douglas L. Anderson, director of the family ministry department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., said children who grow up in households where they are consistently made to feel ashamed become "shame bound" adults. The tendency for shame is particularly prevalent in families where there is alcoholism, drug addiction, abuse or neglect, he said.

Such children, he said, fail to develop healthy self esteem and thus become codependent on others for their sense of self worth. Some of their behavior traits include putting others first, giving of themselves, avoiding conflict and emphasizing meekness and longsuffering, he said.

While these characteristics sound like Christian values, there are distinct differences between Christianity and codependency, Anderson stressed.

Christian faith teaches that persons are to get their worth from God, unlike codependency which leads persons to get their self worth from other human beings, noted Anderson. Christian faith, he said, also emphasizes persons should get "direction from God" in choosing their behavior patterns. Codependent persons are driven by an "inner compulsion," he said.

"Codependency is a religion of works," observed Anderson. "Christianity is a religion of grace."

During his address, Anderson said he had gained many of his insights on codependency from a new Broadman Press book by Sarah Hines Martin titled "Shame on You!"

In another address, Gary Hauk, manager of the Sunday School Board's family enrichment section, said churches need to underscore the importance of family life as well as evangelism and missions.

Families will attend churches where "their needs are being met," he said. Churchgoers today have little denominational loyalty and are not reluctant to switch denominations if a church fails to minister to them effectively, said Hauk.

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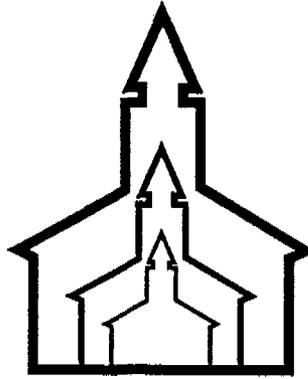
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In shaping family ministries, ministers must consider that modern families have many demands on their time, Hauk pointed out. In today's world, "fast food isn't fast enough," he said.

During their meeting, the religious educators elected as officers for 1990-91: Katie Grogan, director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware's department of church administration and family ministry, Columbia, Md., president; Bill Gambrell, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., president-elect; Robert L. Lamb, professor of Christian education, Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C., vice president; Hoyt R. Wilson, minister of education and administration, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., eastern vice president; R.W. Bobby Martin, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Texas, central vice president; Larry Burrow, minister of education and administration, Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif., western vice president; and Joe Haynes, growth/administration consultant, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, secretary/treasurer.

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By Pat Cole, 12:55 p.m. Monday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hispanic ministers Monday morning

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Hispanic Southern Baptist ministers were challenged Monday morning to "become an integral part of Southern Baptist life" and accept the responsibility to evangelize other Hispanics.

Daniel Sotelo, president of the Hispanic Ministers Conference and pastor of Templo Bautista in Fresno, Calif., encouraged the ministers to remain faithful in running toward the goal of equal rights, respect and responsibility within the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We are in a marathon. I think we've made the first ten miles, but the next 22.2, we must watch every marker and not let down because our goal must be reached," he said.

"Reaching the goal will demand every drop of energy from all of us. The goal is to become an integral part of our Southern Baptist Convention life and to reach our nation for Christ."

Fermin Whitaker, regional coordinator with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., urged the Hispanic Baptists to accept the responsibility of reaching other Hispanics with the gospel. Too often, he said, Anglos have been more willing than Hispanics to start new Hispanic congregations.

"The challenge before us in the '90s is for every Hispanic church to start at least one new mission."

Hispanic churches need to grow in stewardship, in pastoral training, in discipleship, in willingness to try new evangelistic strategies and in independence, he said.

"There are 50-year-old relationships between missions and their sponsoring churches," he said. "It is time for some of our missions to say to their sponsors, 'Thank you for what you've done, but it's time for us to be a church.' It is time to take on our own burdens and budgets."

In their annual business session, the ministers elected Yamil Fernandez, pastor of Community Baptist Church in Santa Anna, Calif., as conference president. He defeated Lionel Reyes, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispano Americano in N w Orleans.

Reyes later was nominated for the first vice presidency, but he and Ray Carbajal, associational director of ethnic missions in Miami, Fla., received an equal number of votes.

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Rolando Ruiz, pastor of Hispanic American Baptist Church in Lioburn, Ga., who had nominated Reyes for both the presidency and first vice presidency, then proposed that the fellowship name Carbajal as first vice president and Reyes as second vice president. His motion passed without opposition.

Sotelo, the fellowship's outgoing president, was elected secretary-treasurer.

--30--

.By Ken Camp -- 1:20 p.m., Monday

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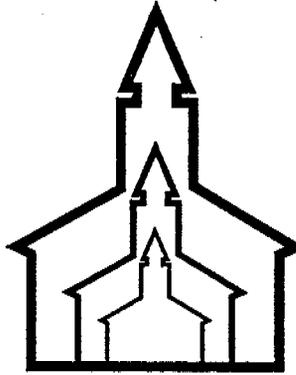
Dan Martin

News Room Manager

Marv Knox

Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman's Missionary Union Monday Morning

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--With a unanimous standing vote, members of the Woman's Missionary Union Monday re-elected Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La., and former foreign missionary to a fifth term as president of the Southern Baptist missions auxiliary.

"It has been fun," McCullough told an audience of nearly 4,000 attending the Monday morning session. "I have grown in many ways, and WMU is very much a part of my family."

Pattie Dent, Clinton, Miss., was also re-elected to a fifth term as recording secretary.

The group voted to change the WMU's bylaws to comply with Alabama law and to "bring the bylaws into conformity with WMU practices." Among the changes is a requirement by Alabama law that registration records be kept for each annual meeting.

In addition, the bylaw changes also mandate that the organization's president must have served on WMU's Executive Board sometime prior to her election.

During a theme interpretation, Foreign Mission Board medical consultant Joann Goatcher drew comparisons between the 1990 theme "Hearts in One Accord" and WMU's missions emphasis.

"The heartbeat for missions must begin at home and flow out to a lost nation and lost world," Goatcher said. "The first place it can be blocked is right in our own hearts and our own churches. It will not go past the church door if there is unforgiveness, a closed hand and a hardened heart."

Drawing an analogy between the flow of blood from the heart to the rest of the body with the support of missions from local churches, Goatcher asked women to consider "what happens if one church decides not to give to missions or pray for missions? What if several churches decided not to support missions with their money or their prayers?"

In answering her questions, Goatcher said, "More of the work would be left undone, more of the lost world would never hear, and greater pain would be suffered by our Lord."

"God is in the business of dissolving blockages and removing barriers if we will but let him," Goatcher said. "Heart attacks can be prevented. So can a malfunctioning mission heartbeat."

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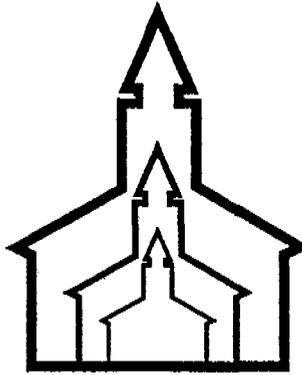
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"May we be willing to allow God to use Woman's Missionary Union to be an instrument through which God's grace can freely flow to our hometown, our state, our nation and to all the world." The women's auxiliary also heard the testimonies of six home missionaries, ranging from migrant missions in Arkansas to resort work in Lake Tahoe, Calif.

In a "Missions Kaleidoscope," Beverly Hammack, director of the missions ministries division of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, introduced those attending the meeting to the six missionaries. On the program were Karen DeWitt, a chaplain at the Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth, Texas; Deborah Wohler, home missionary in Lake Tahoe; Karen Gross, home missionary at the Migrant Mission Center in Hope, Ark.; Pamela Mungo, director of Church Extension Ministries for the New England Baptist Convention; and Gwendolyn Williams, director of urban ministries for Grace Baptist Church, New Orleans.

--30--

By Scott Collins -- 2:40 p.m. Monday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Pastors' Conference Monday Morning

New Orleans, June 11--Recounting the story of the deaths of his wife and child seven years ago, Dwight "Ike" Reighard shared with fellow Southern Baptist pastors Monday how he dealt with adversity.

"The difference is how you respond when you find yourself in those circumstances," said Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.

Reighard told of coming into God's presence through adversity.

"With some of the theological teaching going on today," said Reighard, "I wonder if we've missed the point of the passage in Matthew where the house built on rock withstands the elements.

In times of disillusionment, said Reighard, "God can work a unique purpose in our lives." He warned the audience to "watch out for cut and dried theologies" which say that adversity is caused by unconfessed sin. "We know it's not true."

Reighard noted the treasures to be gained from adversity, likening them to jewels.

There is a "diamond of discernment" where a person can "choose to become better or bitter ... cynical or compassionate ... have an end or a beginning," he explained.

Other jewels Reighard mentioned included the emerald of empathy, the silver of submission, the gold of growth, the ruby of refinement, and the pearl of praise.

Reighard's advice to those in adversity was "do not say why," and "don't look at what God does or allows, but who God is."

The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference was one of nine Baptist groups meeting in advance of the Southern Baptist Convention's 133rd session which starts three days of activities at Louisiana Superdome.

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., and a former pastors' conference president, told of his own feeling of adversity when he became pastor at Roswell Street.

It was a "fractured fellowship," he said, recalling he "literally cried over being there."

--over--

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And the response, not audible but certain, he said, was "I cannot give you any people to love until you love the people I've given you."

At that point, he said, he loved that congregation and has remained there 25 years since.

Stan Coffey, another former pastors' conference president and pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, asked the crowd if they were ready for battle against sin, against Satan, and for souls. He said there are many in the work of God "who are not fit for the work of God."

There are those with "partial dedication," he said. "Unfruitfulness" was another on Coffey's list of those unfit.

"Any person not consistently witnessing is not fit to do battle," he said.

"Unkept vows"...about stewardship, or keeping separate from the world, for example, is another thing that shows unfitness, Coffey continued, along with "faintheartedness."

When Christians are fit for that battle, said Coffey, "God fights the battle for us."

The closing speaker for the Monday morning session of the pastors' conference was Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, Dallas, Texas. He said that God is "father until...this massive Superdome lies in the rubble...until America lies buried in the dust as well...until the Southern Baptist Convention is nothing more than an asterisk of a footnote of esslesiastical history...until the earth melts from the burning heat of the gaze of his eyes..."

Patterson recounted the story of John Merrick, dubbed the Elephant Man because of his gross disfigurement. Patterson said a lady of the stage, meeting Merrick and seeing qualities in him, gave him perhaps his first kiss since his mother died when he was 12. Patterson said the same kind of thing happened when Jesus from heaven came "kneeling down to plant upon our lips the kiss of the divine."

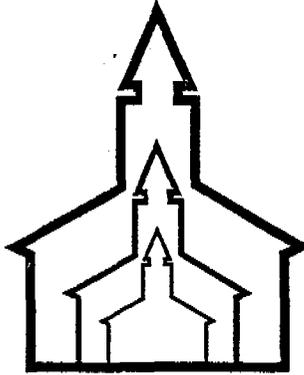
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By Tim Nicholas -- 1:45 p.m. Monday

1990  
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"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Alvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative  
Dan Martin  
News Room Manager  
Marv Knox  
Features Manager  
Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



1. WOMEN IN MINISTRY OFFICERS--Southern Baptist Women in Ministry officers, elected during the organization's June 9-10 annual meeting, are (from left) Nancy Campbell, treasurer, a chaplain in training at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, Texas; Cindy Johnson, recorder, minister at large at First Baptist Church, Rockville, Gaithersburg, Md.; Sheila Black, membership, church and community ministries in Mecklenburg Baptist Association, Charlotte, N.C.; Cheryl Collins, vice president, minister of youth at McLean Baptist Church, McLean, Va.; Carolyn Cole Bucy, president, minister to youth at Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas; and Pam Tanner, program chair, minister of music and worship at Williams Trace Baptist Church, Sugar Land, Texas. (SBC photo by Jim Veneman.)
2. OUT WITNESSING--A resident of Flower Gate Apartments (left) talks with Joy Martin (center) of Calvary Baptist Church, Paragould, Ark., and Mary Pennington (right), an employee of the Louisiana Baptist Convention who also lives in Flower Gate Apartments. The two Southern Baptist women participated in the SBC's door-to-door witnessing effort June 9. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)
3. BLIND SINGER--Charles Couey leads congregational singing during worship time at the Southern Baptist Convention Conference of the Blind's organizational meeting June 10. Couey is a layman from Nashville, Tenn. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)
5. CHAPMAN BRINGS GREETINGS--Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, brings greetings to participants in the June 10 annual meeting of the Hispanic Ministers' Conference. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)
6. VESTAL BRINGS GREETINGS--Daniel Vestal (right), pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, Dunwoody, Ga., brings greetings to participants at the June 10 annual meeting of the Hispanic Ministers' Conference held in the Roland Q. Leavell Chapel at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

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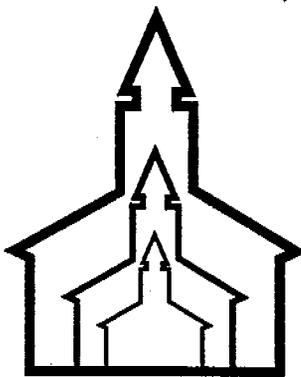
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday morning forum

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--"The Big Lie" was one of the mass movement strategies used to take control of the Southern Baptist Convention, a Baptist university president told the Southern Baptist Convention Forum Monday morning at the Sanger Theater.

Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, received a standing ovation from a crowd of more than 1,200 after examining the denomination's "fundamentalists" in a "historical and psychological context."

Reynolds described them as "ambitious malcontents" with a goal "to control and manipulate a large mass of people to satisfy their own unhealthy personality needs."

He stated he was "not making individual clinical diagnoses, however appealing that might be; rather, I am seeking to portray the characteristics of yet another mass movement in history in which there is significant sociopathology."

Among Reynolds' academic credentials is a doctorate in psychology from Baylor.

The forum, now in its seventh year, is a pre-convention alternative for moderates to the Southern Baptist Pastors Conference, which has become the domain of SBC conservatives.

"The leaders of the fundamentalist movement possess classical mass movement personality characteristics," Reynolds said, "in that they have demonstrated time and again that they have an unfulfilled craving for work, power, recognition and goals that cannot be found in their ordinary pursuits."

Reynolds also tapped a 1974 book by former SBC President Jimmy Draper, "The Church Christ Approves," for his portrait of fundamentalism, he said. Draper wrote: "Fundamentalism is more dangerous than liberalism because everything is done in the name of the Lord. In the name of the Lord, the fundamentalist condemns all who disagree with him... He uses the Bible as a club with which to beat people over the head, rather than a means of personal strength and a revealer of God. To the fundamentalist, the test of fellowship is correct doctrine. If you do not agree with his doctrinal position, he writes you off and will not have fellowship with you... The fundamentalist tactic is simple: Hatred, bitterness, and condemnation of all whom they despise."

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SBC fundamentalists, like such mass movement leaders as Hitler in the past, "know that 'The Big Lie' will work," Reynolds said, "because most people are innately trusting and therefore have a limited capacity to fathom deception on a grand scale."

Thus conservatives needed "both an issue and a worthy adversary in order to rally the masses to their cause," Reynolds said. They "concocted the Bible as the issue and resurrected the 'liberal' label to create a worthy adversary."

Conservatives targeted Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges in an effort to make sure that future leaders of the denomination are "properly indoctrinated," Reynolds said.

And conservatives "began to raise up some victims among our teachers and institutional and agency heads," he said. "These actions were entirely consonant with mass movement strategy since individuals must be identified and victimized from time to time to keep the hatred and fires burning in the bellies of the mass movement members."

Conservatives also have built their strength through "their ability to quickly recruit and totally absorb the many in our convention seeking absolute answers and affirmation in a rapidly changing, highly technological society and world where they felt that everything that once seemed to be 'nailed down' is coming loose," Reynolds said.

The Baylor president said he is "doubtful that the leaders and many followers of the fundamentalist camp will change their behavior any time soon. It would be like the loss of life itself to those who are the most psychologically afflicted."

Reynolds warned moderates, "At some point, even those among us who consider ourselves strong and resilient may rationalize our cowardice and capitulate if we are not constantly alert and totally unyielding to such ungodly tactics."

Someday the movement will face its downfall under the continual strain to reward more and more people "who are primarily ambitious in their personal careers," Reynolds said, quoting Adolf Hilter's words: "The more posts and offices a movement has to hand out, the more inferior stuff it will attract, and in the end these political hangers-on overwhelm a successful movement..."

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By Art Toalston -- 2:30 p.m. Monday

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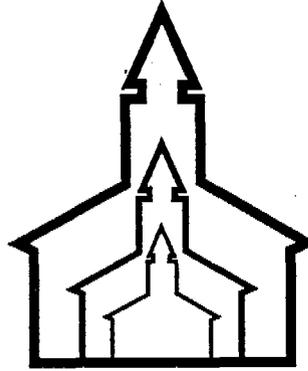
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peace Fellowship meeting

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Seminarian Glenn Hinson confided to the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Monday that he is angry but determined to love his enemies.

Hinson, professor of history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said he is angry about a number of events, including the "misrepresentation and abuse of my colleagues," the "control imposed on the Sunday School Board," the "blocking of the appointment of an outstanding couple to the mission field because the woman is ordained" and the appointment of trustees who "literally hate the institutions they are appointed to serve."

Hinson made his comments to 150 people attending a fellowship luncheon at the Clarion Hotel. He has previously come under attack for his outspoken criticism of Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

To deal with anger, Hinson said Christians must acknowledge it then admit they are powerless and helpless in dealing with "what is probably our most powerful emotion--anger." Rather than seeking revenge, Hinson said to "unload on God who can handle it."

Hinson said he identifies with the psalmist who prayed for God to curse his enemies, but he also recognizes Jesus' command to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

That command, he noted, "is not separated even by a comma.

"Prayer is the way, the only way, to love enemies. This is not praying for ourselves and against our enemies. It is bringing the person with ourselves before God."

Praying for enemies is "not a method for cowards," Hinson said, because it involves resisting the evil people do to themselves and to others. He noted that "God's love transforms the energies of hate into energies of God's peace."

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America is a network of Baptists committed to justice and peace. The group's board of directors includes representatives from 11 Baptist conventions. Ken Sehested of Memphis its executive director.

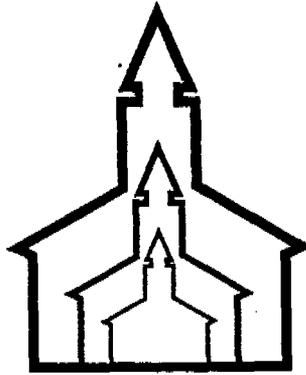
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By Sarah Zimmerman, 4:25 p.m. Monday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOMs meeting wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 -- More unchurched people will be reached by the compassion of cooperating churches than by demanding a strict loyalty to the Bible, an associational director of missions told his peers in their two-day annual meeting.

Russell Bennett of Louisville, Ky., made that statement in his president's address to the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions. The group met at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie, La., preceding the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other speakers addressing the theme of "Walking Worthily" were comedian Jerry Clower; Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

"I don't think people go to hell because of brothels and gambling dens," said Bennett, director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association. "They go to hell because Christians don't love.

"People seldom enter the kingdom of God because of some eloquent speaker, but because some loving soul has cared for them.

"We do not need high pressure preaching to increase guilt so that people are immersed again and again. Rather we need churches that extend love to outsiders," he said.

Bennett said he knows this is true because it is how he became a Christian. He recounted being raised in a non-Christian home "on the back side of the railroad tracks.

"I was an adolescent nobody the ushers treated like somebody. Without kinsmen or money they let me into their choir. Without culture or maturity they welcomed me into their homes. They said God loved the likes of me.

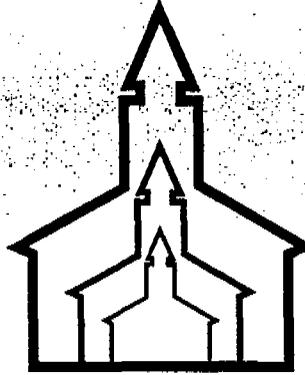
"I trust God because I trusted them, and time has proved them right."

Carter echoed that theme by encouraging directors of missions not to become so caught up in doing good that they forget to do the greatest good.

Tensions in the Southern Baptist Convention are "not between evil and good but because we fail to realize there are times when it is wrong to do good," he said.

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DOMS meeting wrapup -- Page 3

Anthony noted associations have faced a "growing shortfall" of money available for missions. "We felt we were not securing the kinds of resources that were needed," he said.

The recommendation affirms the role of the association in missions and requests agencies and state conventions to "recognize the Baptist association as a full partner in missions and assist in developing creative financial strategies."

Approval of the report on retired directors creates a special membership category and recognition for retirees.

The proposal for a prayer retreat for directors of missions and state convention executive directors came out of the Convocation on the Baptist Association held last August at Ridgecrest, N.C.

The retreat is to be held immediately after next year's SBC meeting in Atlanta with an agenda of "prayer and dialogue concerning our partnership in global missions."

Each state will be allowed to send one director of associational missions and the convention's executive director.

In a business session Bennett was re-elected to a second one-year term as president.

Other officers elected were Glenn Hickey, Little Rock, Ark.; first vice president; Larry Martin, Boston, second vice president; Lawrence Clegg, Ponchatoula, La., secretary; Phil Hall, Albia, Iowa, treasurer; and Grayson Glass, La Marque, Texas, newsletter editor.

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By Mark Wingfield, 4:35 p.m. Monday

The pastor used the biblical account of Jesus visiting the home of Mary and Martha to illustrate. Martha, concerned about doing good, became upset with Mary for taking time to talk with Jesus rather than bustling about to prepare a meal.

Carter cited four times when it is wrong to do good: (1) when the right thing is done in the wrong spirit, (2) when people conclude that doing good makes them good, (3) when the good one person does is instituted as the norm everyone else must follow to do good, and (4) when doing good diverts a person from doing the best.

"Southern Baptists at times need critics," he said. "But we need critics who know how to speak the truth in love. It is possible to do the right thing in the wrong spirit."

Also, God often "has more than one right way to do the same thing," Carter said. "Of course, there are some things that are non-negotiable. There's only one way to be saved."

But in the denomination's current conflict "there is room in the kingdom of God for both kinds" of people, he declared.

"The greatest enemy most of us confront in doing the best is not doing the worst; it's doing good. Our greatest enemy is doing good but secondary things.

"God forbid we go down in history as the denomination that fought over who believes the Bible while the world went to hell."

Earlier, Leavell told the group a worthy walk requires doing the Word of God, not just studying it.

"We must become involved in the things God is involved in," he declared. "It's not that we're just able to say the right things about the Word of God but that we're able to do them."

Clower, a star of the Grand Ole Opry and Southern Baptist layman, used humor to address issues in the denomination's 11-year-old internal fight.

Declaring himself a "free moral agent under God," Clower said he's sick of negativism and power politics in the SBC.

"I love y'all because you ain't no pessimists," he told the DOMs. "I'm on your side."

Although not calling names, Clower implied that some of the denomination's more conservative leadership have chastised him for making fun of the inerrancy issue. He said he has "done been called to Dallas" to explain comments he has made in the past.

"Watch my lips: I do not worship the Bible," Clower declared. "I had a personal experience with Jesus Christ when I was 13 years of age. I am in love with and worship Jesus.

"Let's not take our focus off Jesus," he urged. "Folks are going to die and go to hell while we decide who believes the Bible."

In business sessions, the directors of missions approved the reports of a stewardship committee, a committee on retired directors, and a proposal to hold a prayer retreat for associational directors of missions and state convention executive directors.

Everett Anthony, director of missions for Chicago Metro Association, presented the stewardship report, which included five recommendations.

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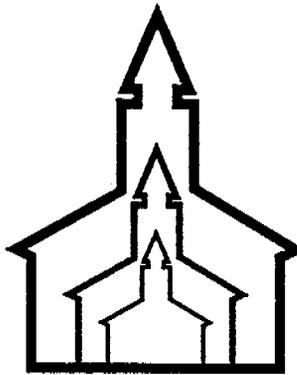
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rapha Luncheon

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--National drug czar William J. Bennett told about 3,000 Southern Baptists that America's drug problem is "fundamentally a moral and spiritual problem" and praised a comprehensive program unveiled Monday to help local Southern Baptist churches deal with drug abuse prevention and recovery in their congregations.

The program, called "Drug Free For Good!", helps churches start support groups for drug and alcohol abusers as well as for their family members. It also teaches churches how to help people recovering from drug abuse.

Bennett thanked Rapha (Hebrew for healing), a Houston-based organization offering Christian-oriented psychiatric and substance-abuse hospital care nationwide, for being "allies in this all-important effort" to fight drug abuse.

"The President asked for helping hands, and you put up your hands and asked others to also," Bennett told the Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballroom audience. The luncheon's head table housed many of the key leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative wing.

In presenting an appreciation plaque to Bennett, director of National Drug Control Policy, Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., urged churches to address the drug abuse problem by caring about the pain of the person in the pew.

"A church is to be a place where hurting people are healed," Vines said. "Somehow in our minds, we have believed that if people walked within the door of the household of God, all their pains and all their hurts are excluded."

After 15 months on the job, Bennett said he is encouraged because he sees less drug abuse in America than he did five years ago.

However, he said he also continues to see the "face of evil" in drug abuse. As examples, he mentioned a police report about a mother who for three days left her 1-year-old child in the care of her 4-year-old child so the mother could procure money to support her drug habit. He also cited a police report of a mother who handed over her teen-age daughter to a drug dealer as payment for the mother's drug debt.

"For those who, because of modernity, believe that issues of right and wrong don't apply in society, one needs only to take a closer look at the drug problem," Bennett said.

--over--

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"Never has the condition of our young people been worse," he said. He mentioned a New York Times story saying that today's teens, because of such situations as drug abuse, are less emotionally healthy than were their parents.

He said these young people need "guidance and principle" instead of relying solely on medical care to rehabilitate them.

"Maybe the decade of the '90s will be a time when we talk directly about right and wrong," he said.

"The most important thing as to whether people will or will not use drugs is their family values," he said. "It's important for churches to recognize their critical role toward prevention, then when that fails, (toward) treatment and recovery."

He said he has heard many people undergoing drug abuse treatment refer to crack as "the devil." "This comes up too many times to be ignored," he said.

Rapha founder and president Robert McGee, in discussing the program which Rapha has piloted in various Southern Baptist churches around the country before unveiling it formally at the Monday luncheon, said drug abuse primarily is "a pain problem. They (drug abusers) use chemicals to deal with the pain in their lives." Rapha drafted the program after meeting with 80 Southern Baptist pastors last October.

"In God's eyes, the local church is not to be the secondary solution to the drug problem but to be the primary vehicle for the drug problem to be addressed," McGee said.

"We need not have a surface solution but something that deals with real life in a real way." He advocated churches starting support groups for codependent persons, for families that must deal with addiction, and for fathers who are grappling with parenting issues.

McGee said when communities introduce programs to deal with the drug problem, "tragically local churches are conspicuously absent when it is our territory."

Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston and a key leader in Rapha, said more than 500 people in his church are involved in various support groups dealing with everything from eating disorders to drug abuse-related matters.

He urged Southern Baptists not to just shoot people "with the gospel gun" and tell them they must be saved before the church can help them with their hurting.

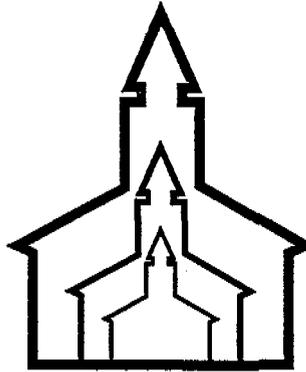
Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., said five percent of all addicts live on Skid Row and "the rest are in your pews." He said his church on Sunday nights conducts a 15-week program addressing substance abuse as well as codependency.

Randy Rial, son of Dickson Rial, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Dallas, told the group that Rapha helped cure him of his cocaine problem.

Luncheon moderator Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Ga., claimed 250,000 persons have been baptized into Southern Baptist churches because of Rapha.

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.  
June 12-14, 1990  
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Avril C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative  
Dan Martin  
News Room Manager  
Marv Knox  
Features Manager  
Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pastors' Conference Monday afternoon

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, urged Southern Baptist pastors Monday to defend the veracity of the Word of God and "hold the line when you can."

When the first president, trustee, or dean allowed a professor to question, doubt and explain what the Bible says, that's where they went too far, Bisagno said. "That is where the battle lines were drawn."

In a business session at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga., was elected president; Ruffin Snow, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., vice president; and David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La., secretary-treasurer.

Immediately before his election, Lee addressed the Pastors' Conference on how men fail God.

Bisagno, former president of the pastors' conference, listed seven reasons why he believes the Bible is the perfect Word of God.

"I believe the Bible is God's Word because it presumes to be," Bisagno said. "More than 3,000 times the Bible says, 'Thus saith the Lord'."

Secondly, "I believe the Bible is God's Word because of its protection," he said. "The Bible has been more attacked and analyzed than any other Book in the world, and the more it is attacked, the more it survives. You cannot destroy the Word of God."

Because of God's protection of His Word, "It has emerged in the pristine purity and power we have it today."

"I believe the Bible is the Word of God because of its prophecy," he continued. "Only God can predict the future."

"I believe the Bible is the Word of God because of its perfection," Bisagno said. "The Bible is a library of 66 books written over 4,500 years by 40 different people from different countries, many speaking different languages. It stands before us as a complete Bible."

"I believe the Bible is the Word of God because of its proficiency, that is, its exactness and perfectness," he said. "I believe the Bible is the Word of God because of its power."

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Finally, Bisagno said he believes the Bible is the Word of God because of its purity. "There is no way to overstate the disdain God has for the person who tampers with the integrity of the Word of God."

O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., warned against "those among us who pollute and those who pervert the pathway to Christ's presence.

"We should be alarmed that one of four Southern Baptist churches couldn't win one person to Christ last year," Hawkins said.

Hawkins told of a circus he visited as a child where a tall clown turned out to be a short man on stilts. He named the legs of the clown pollution and perversion, warning repeatedly, "There is a clown among us," who seeks to pollute the pathway to God's presence.

Avery Willis, consultant in the church training department of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, was the opening speaker for the afternoon session, calling the pastors to a time of prayer and solemn assembly.

"If you will make God's house a house of prayer and your life an altar of prayer, God will set it on fire," Willis said. "A solemn assembly of prayer and confession are needed for corporate confession of the nation and our churches.

"If God's people get right, he will heal this land," Willis concluded.

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By Jim Lowry--6:35 p.m. Monday

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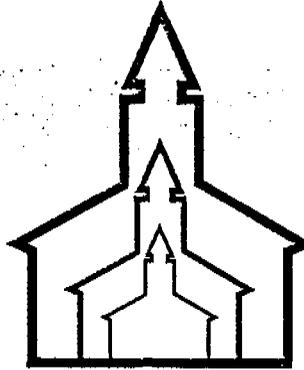
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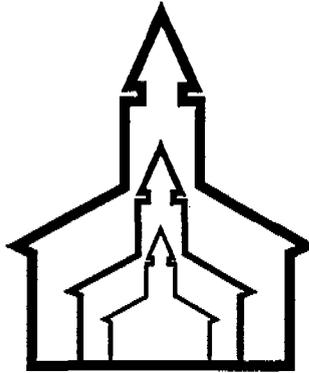
3. BLIND LEADER--Charles Couey, a layman from Nashville, Tenn., leads congregational singing during a worship service at the organizational meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Conference of the Blind, June 10.  
(SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)

4. WARM HANDSHAKE--Dellanna O'Brien (left), executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, warmly greets WMU members as they enter the New Orleans Convention Center for the auxiliary's annual meeting, June 10-11.  
(SBC photo by Clay Allison.)

7. SBREA OFFICERS--Newly-elected officers for the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association include (front row, from left) Joe Haynes, secretary-treasurer, growth/administration consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; Bill Gambrell, president-elect, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; R.W. Bobby Martin, central vice-president, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Texas; (back row, from left) Hoyt R. Wilson, eastern vice-president, minister of education/administration, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Katie Grogan, president, director of the department of church administration/family ministries, Baptist Convention of Maryland-Delaware; Robert L. Lamb, vice-president, professor of Christian education, Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.; Larry Burrow, western vice-president, minister of education/administration, Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif.; and Merle T. Basden, executive director of the SBREA board of directors.  
(SBC photo by Van Payne.)

10. FORUM COMMITTEE--Members of the Southern Baptist Forum's 1990 steering committee are (from left) Cecil E. Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas; John H. Hewett, pastor, First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C.; Gene Garrison, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Molly Marshall-Green, associate professor of Christian theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Richard Groves, pastor, Wake Forest Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Peter R. Jones, pastor, First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.; Jon Stubblefield, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; and Jann Clanton (not pictured) of Waco, Texas.  
(SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)

3p  
34. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES--Conservative Morris Chapman (left) and moderate Daniel Vestal, who were expected to be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, greeted each other prior to addressing the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers' Conference in New Orleans June 10. Chapman is pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas,



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman's Missionary Union Monday afternoon

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 -- The Missions Challenge Committee paving the way for Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust effort said in 1976 that the "battle for missions is won or lost in the local congregation."

If this is so, Southern Baptist churches must get back to basics or risk losing the battle, a missions educator warned a Woman's Missionary Union audience Monday.

Monte Clendenning, conference coordinator for the World Missions/Evangelism Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, told more than 2,000 attending the afternoon session at the New Orleans Convention Center that she sees danger signs that could hinder the denomination's effort to share the gospel message with all the world:

1. Eighty-eight percent of Southern Baptists' 14.9 million church members are not enrolled in ongoing missions education organizations.

2. Southern Baptists have not reached their missions offering goals for "many, many years" now. In 1988, she said, 87 percent of the total missions giving in the SBC came from the 71 percent of the churches with WMU organizations.

As the women's auxiliary enters its second century, Clendenning said, "we must assess anew our role in missions education in our churches. On the one hand," she said, "Woman's Missionary Union is as strong, or stronger than it ever has been. On the other hand, winds of distraction are swirling around us, as we hear such statements as:

-- "Only older women are active in WMU in my church."

-- "Other women's organizations -- not missions oriented -- are springing up in our large church."

-- "My church leadership is not missions minded."

-- "The climate in our convention is distracting."

Clendenning urged going "back to the basics" of the four tasks that the convention has assigned to WMU: teach missions; engage in mission action and personal witnessing; support missions; and interpret and undergird the work of the church and the denomination.

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"As our culture changes in this century and world conditions bring exciting new challenges overseas and at home," she said, "we need to look closely at our methods and structures and be willing to alter them if by change we can better involve our people for world evangelization."

Without missions education, she warned, three obvious things will happen:

-- "We will have a missions illiterate people. We are beginning to experience that in many of our churches."

-- "A decline in the number of career missionaries. Our mission boards report this is already beginning to happen."

-- "Reduction in financial and prayer support for our entire missions enterprise."

The speaker noted that missions praying seems to be deepening in the convention, but she said giving has not increased sufficiently to offset inflation and devaluation of the U.S. dollar overseas.

She quoted John Mills, for more than 30 years a missionary and administrator for work in Africa, who asked: "Have we taken seriously what Jesus said about denying ourselves or have we tried to win the world with leftovers? How can we claim we are a missions-minded people when we spend more than 96 percent of every dollar put into the collection plate on ourselves in the United States?"

Earlier, Dellanna O'Brien noted in her first report as WMU executive director "that our God is a God of endurance, encouragement and unity." Using illustrations from recent missions trips to view work both in the United States and Africa, she said these qualities also are evident in the missionaries she met. Many are beginning to see dividends after years of patient work and encouragement among a handful of followers.

She also emphasized the importance of "keeping missions education alive in the hearts of our children.

"The hope of our convention is the commitment of its young people," she said.

O'Brien said that as she and WMU President Marjorie McCullough rode down one of Dakar, Senegal's highways, their missionary host pointed out a dry, brown hill to their right. "That hill will turn a brilliant green when the rains come in a few weeks," the missionary said.

"My mind's eye painted the mound of earth an emerald green," O'Brien said. "Can it be that the dry season in our denomination is almost over and we will soon see the sprouting of new growth? May we know the cool refreshment of unity!"

During the session four state WMU organizations received plaques and six young women were honored as national Acteen panelists.

State WMU plaques went to Florida for largest numerical increase; Texas, for largest number of organizations; Hawaii, for largest percentage membership increase; and Alaska for largest percentage increase in the number of organizations.

Panelists honored were Dorena K. Flick, Dewey, Okla.; Angie Jones, Milton, Fla.; Lisa Renee Maxey, from Jonesboro, Ga., but a church member in Forest Park, Ga; Amy Moeller, formerly of Iowa but now of Arnold, Mo.; Regina Plemmons, Houston; and Wendy Ann Rigdon, Garland, Tex.

Wendy said she felt called to be a missionary veterinarian in Africa. She will leave June 27 to work in Ghana as Acteen activator abroad.

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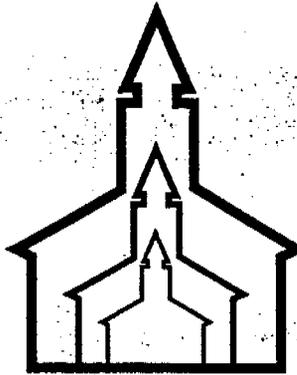
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Arvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative

Dan Marlin  
News Room Manager

Marv Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Committee Monday PM Meeting

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 -- The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee tabled a motion Monday that would have allowed the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to publish a written response giving reasons why its budget should not be cut by 87 percent.

Instead, the Executive Committee voted to re-affirm its February action listing "Some Reasons for the 1990-1991 budget allocations to support Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State."

The committee, in its pre-convention session at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, also expressed support for SBC President Jerry Vines' decision to delete about one-third of a minority report on the subject because it was "out of order" under Roberts Rules.

Both votes passed by an estimated 53-15 vote, according to Sam Pace of Lawton, Okla., chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

Before the Executive Committee met, Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee, had requested permission to speak to the Executive Committee and distribute copies of his written response to the budget cut proposal.

Pace said the Executive Committee officers discussed the request, but declined to add it to the agenda, unless the committee voted to do so.

Wallace Jones, pastor of Fe Fe Baptist Church in St. Louis, Mo., made the motion that the BJCPA written response be published in the convention's daily news bulletin "in the interest of fairness."

Jones asked for permission to distribute copies of the written response, and for five minutes time for members to read the two-page document.

The BJCPA response listed ten statements in the "Some Reasons..." document that it claimed were factual errors, mistakes, false, misleading, or inaccurate.

Some of the statements which the BJCPA claimed were erroneous, and the BJCPA's response, included;

-- That the SBC would in 1990-91 contribute more money to the BJCPA than any other denomination. (The BJCPA responded that the American Baptist Churches has given \$57,000 in 1990-91 compared to the \$50,000 proposed by the SBC.)

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-- That James Dunn, executive director of the BJCPA, said he was still a member of People for the American Way, even though he had resigned in 1984. (The BJCPA claimed Dunn resigned in 1983 and neither he nor any other staff member has any affiliation with that organization.)

-- That the BJCPA has not followed the best interests of Southern Baptists on a number of legislative matters. (The BJCPA listed four legislative issues and claimed it has always sought to represent the best interests of the SBC.)

-- That there has been a "notable lack of (financial) accountability" by the BJCPA to the SBC. (The BJCPA countered it has presented to the board open ledgers revealing every contributor, and a full certified audit to the SBC.)

Thomas, who wrote the statement, said there were other problems with the "Some Reasons" document besides the factual errors. In a statement issued to news media Thomas said the "Some Reasons" document included "unjustified personal attacks on former and current staff members."

Thomas said he and others at the BJCPA were "grieved" that the Executive Committee would not allow a correction of the errors in the document to be published.

Thomas said the document would be used as the Executive Committee's rationale to slash the budget of the BJCPA by 87 percent and to expand the program assignment of the Christian Life Commission. He claimed the vote on these issues "will be based largely on false and misleading information."

Ed Drake of Dallas, who made the motion to table the matter, argued that even though Thomas had claimed the "Some Reasons" document contained "factual errors" does not mean that these "errors" exist.

In other business during their pre-convention session, the Executive Committee heard reports that the Hyatt Regency Hotel would be the headquarters hotel for the 1991 convention in Atlanta; that Cooperative Program unified budget receipts through May of 1990 were two percent ahead of the budget and probably would hold at that rate until the end of the fiscal year; and that the SBC Radio Television Commission has paid its \$10 million indebtedness down to \$7.3 million, ahead of schedule, and is in the best financial situation in many years.

In brief remarks to the Executive Committee, Vines expressed thanks for the committee's response to his request to give SBC messengers in New Orleans "a clearcut, up-and-down vote, relative to the Baptist Joint Committee."

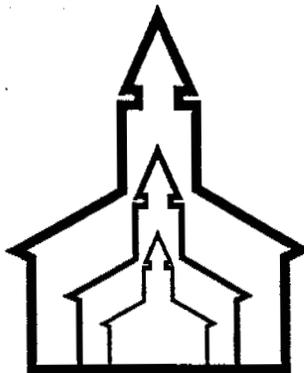
Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, said he had tried personally and as president "to separate personality from issues."

"There are individuals with whom I vigorously disagree," he said. "I have sought earnestly to affirm them as Christian brothers and sisters. . . . When you boil it all down, though we may differ on other issues, all of us desire to see people come to know Jesus Christ as personal saviour and to see our churches made up of born-again believers, growing in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

"In those instances where I have failed, I ask your patience," Vines said. "In those instances in which I have erred, I ask your forgiveness. In these days, I ask your prayers and good will."

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By Jim Newton and Robert O'Brien, 6:15 p.m., Monday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hispanic ministers

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--The Southern Baptist Convention's two principal presidential candidates offered Hispanic Baptist ministers at their annual fellowship meeting the chance either to "make complete the course correction" or "turn attention away from an internal power struggle" in the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, each addressed the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference in New Orleans, June 10-11.

Other speakers challenged the Hispanic ministers to "become an integral part of Southern Baptist life" and accept the responsibility to evangelize unchurched Hispanics.

Chapman underscored his belief in the "inspired, infallible, inerrant word of God," and he expressed his desire to "enlarge the tent" to include all Southern Baptists who share his convictions on the inspiration and authority of the Bible.

"I want to encompass all Southern Baptists who believe in our perpetuation of allegiance to God's perfect word," he said. Chapman added that he wanted to perpetuate the belief "through the institutional life of Southern Baptists."

Noting that no denomination ever had reversed a "drift leftward" away from belief in inerrancy, Chapman said he was thankful that Southern Baptists appeared to be the first to approach a complete change in course.

"My heart's prayer is that we would make complete the course correction and return to the beliefs of our forefathers concerning God's perfect word," he said.

Vestal said the 11-year controversy within the SBC has diverted Southern Baptists' attention from their need to evangelize the United States' growing ethnic population.

"While we as a denomination have been embroiled in an internal struggle, America has been changing, and we are losing touch with the character and nature of our country," he said.

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Vestal told the Hispanic Southern Baptist ministers it is time to "turn attention away from an internal power struggle and together, together, together turn our attention to a lost world that needs Jesus Christ."

Drawing on personal experience, Vestal told how he led a Black woman to become a Christian while he was sharing the gospel door-to-door in a poor New Orleans neighborhood as part of a pre-convention evangelistic emphasis. He also told about two Korean men making professions of faith when he preached at a local mission earlier on Sunday.

"They didn't know about the controversy. They didn't care about the controversy. They were just waiting for someone to tell them the story of Jesus," he said.

The appearance by Chapman and Vestal at the conference was thought to be the first time two opposing presidential candidates had spoken on the same program at a convention-related meeting.

The two pastors spoke at the invitation of Daniel Sotelo, pastor of Templo Bautista in Fresno, Calif., president of the Hispanic Ministers Conference; and Bob Sena, pastor of First Spanish Baptist Church in Atlanta, conference coordinator.

Sotelo encouraged the Hispanic ministers to remain faithful in running toward the goal of equal rights, respect and responsibility within the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We are in a marathon. I think we've made the first ten miles, but the next 22.2, we must watch every marker and not let down because our goal must be reached," he said.

"Reaching the goal will demand every drop of energy from all of us. The goal is to become an integral part of our Southern Baptist Convention life and to reach our nation for Christ."

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said the role of Hispanics in the Southern Baptist Convention is no different than the role of Anglos.

"We're all under the same marching orders. We're all under the same commitment to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," he said.

Lewis challenged the Hispanic Baptists to double both their membership and their number of churches by the turn of the century. He said there should be at least 5,000 Hispanic Southern Baptist churches with a total membership of about one million by the year 2000.

Fermin Whittaker, regional coordinator with the Home Mission Board, urged the Hispanic Baptists to accept the responsibility of reaching other Hispanics with the gospel. Too often, he said, Anglos have been more willing than Hispanics to start new Hispanic congregations.

"The challenge before us in the '90s is for every Hispanic church to start at least one new mission," he said.

Hispanic churches need to grow in stewardship, in pastoral training, in discipleship, in willingness to try new evangelistic strategies and in independence, he said.

Oscar Romo, director of the language church extension division, Home Mission Board, commended Hispanic Southern Baptist growth. He noted that the SBC has more Spanish-speaking congregations than any other Baptist body.

However, he urged Southern Baptists to begin more English-speaking Hispanic churches to reach upwardly mobile young Hispanics and to start new congregations in metropolitan areas.

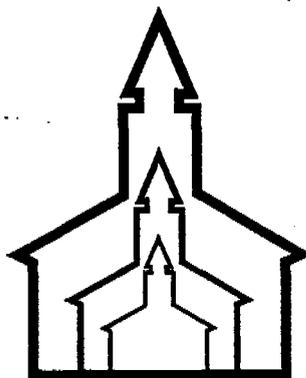
"If we are to enrich our denomination, we need to reach the urban areas, particularly the Mega Focus cities, where there is the greatest concentration of Hispanics. Today, 85 percent of Hispanics in the United States live in metropolitan areas," he said.

In the annual business session, the ministers' fellowship elected Yamile Fernandez, pastor of Community Baptist Church in Santa Anna, Calif., as president.

Other officers elected were: first vice president, Ray Carbajal, associational director of ethnic missions in Miami, Fla.; second vice president, Lionel Reyes, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispano Americano in New Orleans; and Sotelo, secretary-treasurer.

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By Ken Camp -- 8:05 p.m. Monday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Monday Church Music Conference

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Church musicians presented awards, elected officers and heard several concerts at the 34th annual session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference Monday at First Baptist Church.

During a business session, musicians presented the W. Hines Sims award to Jane Manton Marshall who teaches choral conducting and music theory at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

They also memorialized Carl Perry, emeritis minister of music at West Hills Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and Tom Westmoreland, retired director of the music department for the South Carolina Baptist Convention in Columbia.

New officers elected were Dot Pray, keyboard consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson, vice president of the denominational division; Lynn Madden, minister of music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., vice president of the local church division; and Betty Bedsole, professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., vice president of the music educators division.

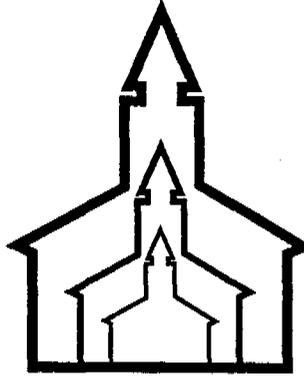
During Monday's session, attendees heard concerts by the Celebration Ringers of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., the senior adult choir of First Baptist Church in Clinton, Miss., Randy Edwards, percussionist from First Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., the Seminarians from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, choirs from Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., and First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla., along with Dick Baker of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas.

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By Eddy Oliver -- 7:45 p.m. Monday

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"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Southern Baptist Religious Education Association Wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 -- The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association focused on preparing for the future and building relationships during its 35th annual meeting June 10-11 at the Sheraton Hotel.

The 1990s will require Southern Baptist religious educators to become infected with "an epidemic of quality," said Bill Taylor, associate pastor/minister of education at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas. Religious educators will have to be "unmerciful" in demanding church ministries function with a high degree of quality, he said. At the same time, he insisted that educators must also be "unyielding" in their insistence that church programming reflect sound principles of religious education.

Religious educators will be confronted with a changing society and must learn to "love change" in order to maintain viable ministries, said Taylor. Therefore, they need to be "open to fresh ideas" and be "flexible in structure," he said.

In addition to technological advances and changing demographics, the 1990s will witness a greater interest in moral stability and spiritual issues, Taylor predicted. He warned, however, that the new focus on spirituality may lead people into cults rather than traditional Christianity. Churches, he said, should be prepared to meet the spiritual yearnings of society.

"We had better move into discipleship as fast as we can," said Taylor, noting that many Southern Baptist churches have neglected to teach doctrine and polity.

The religious educators also heard from a trio of ministers from Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, who discussed building good staff relationships.

Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park for 30 years, pointed out staff members have a unique calling which they bring to their positions. Ministers serve best when there is an environment of mutual respect for the role of each staff member, he said. He emphasized that ministers should "take the calling you have and use it to the best of your ability and don't compete" with other staff members.

Ministers at Hyde Park avoid a hierarchical line of authority, opting instead for a "parallel" view of ministerial responsibilities, he said.

Joining Smith in the presentation were Bob Edd Shotwell, minister of education and administration at Hyde Park for 22 years, and Joe Carrell, minister of music at the church for 16 years.

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Shotwell said ministers should strive to adapt themselves to each place of service and must remember God has called them to a particular position.

"When God calls us to a place of service, he calls us to fit into the structure and pattern of where we serve," he said.

Carrell maintained an "element of trust" among ministers is essential for good staff relationships. Ministers, he said, need the "freedom to do the things God called you to do."

Carrell also stressed ministers must keep in mind the "priority of people" over programs, projects and performances.

All three ministers advocated the need for open communication among church staff members and the importance of weekly staff meetings.

Two Southern Baptist Sunday School Board staff members emphasized the importance of healthy self esteem in cultivating personhood and relationships.

Low self-esteem is often the result of "unresolved shame" that children carry with them into adulthood, said Douglas L. Anderson, director of the family ministry department at the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn..

Adults who are "shame bound" often grow up in families where there is alcoholism, drug addiction, abuse or neglect, he said. Such persons, he added, tend to become codependent on others for their self esteem rather than develop their own sense of self worth.

Gary Hauk, manager of the Sunday School Board's family enrichment section, said ministers must be able to differentiate between their God-given vision of ministry and the expectations of other people.

For a minister, vision is "permission to live out a calling higher than myself," he explained.

Ministers with low self esteem are particularly vulnerable to excessive worry over the expectations of others, Hauk observed. Yet he noted that "Jesus is in the business of setting us free."

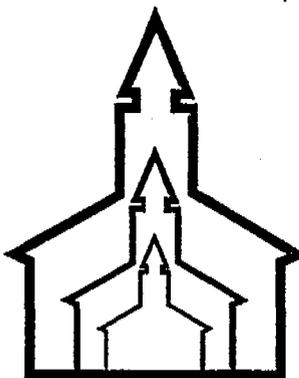
During their meeting, the religious educators elected as officers for 1990-91: Katie Grogan, director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware's department of church administration and family ministry, Columbia, Md., president; Bill Gambrell, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., president-elect; Robert L. Lamb, professor of Christian education, Gardner-Webb College, Boling Springs, N.C., vice president; Hoyt R. Wilson, minister of education and administration, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala, eastern vice president; R.W. Bobby Martin, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Texas, central vice president; Larry Burrow, minister of education and administration, Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, Riverside, Calif., western vice president; and Joe Haynes, growth/administration consultant, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, secretary/treasurer.

The association presented distinguished leadership awards to Annie Ward Byrd, retired editor at the Sunday School Board; Thurman Prewett, retired director of religious education for the Shelby County Baptist Association, Memphis, Tenn.; and Jack Naish, retired minister of education at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta. Distinguished leadership awards were also presented posthumously to two longtime denominational workers, Don Trotter of the Sunday School Board and Norman Godfrey of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

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By Pat Cole -- 8:40 p.m., Monday

"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### SBC Forum

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--The theme of the Southern Baptist Convention Forum, "Recapturing the Future," became one of recalling past frustrations during the six sermons that headlined the Monday meeting.

Attendance stretched beyond 2,000 for afternoon addresses by Randall Lolley and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler. Lolley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greensboro, N.C., was the target of SBC conservatives before his resignation as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., in 1988. Crumpler, retired executive director of the denomination's Woman's Missionary Union and wife of a Cincinnati Baptist pastor, is a candidate for first vice president of the convention in behalf of SBC moderates.

Daniel Montoya, a Gravette, Ark. pastor who broke ranks with conservatives last year, also addressed the meeting of SBC moderates in New Orleans' Saenger Theater. Montoya has announced his intention to challenge some 30 nominations to SBC boards and agencies when the convention convenes June 12.

Montoya said his involvement in the conservative movement became "not a search for piety" but an exercise in "vendettas, blackballing, threats, kingmakers and a ministry of money."

He urged the forum audience to pray for "other misguided zealots like myself."

Lolley likened leaders of the conservative faction controlling the SBC to cowboys. "They rule from their saddles," he said. "Never expect a cowboy to do a shepherd's job. Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd.' Shepherds lead sheep and die for them if they have to."

Lolley reminded the forum of the conservatives' 1984 SBC resolution listing limits on the role of women in the church. The resolution noted that women were "first in the Edenic fall" and that women "are not in public worship to assume a role over men." Lolley called it "the saddest Baptist document that has ever been passed in my lifetime."

"Anybody . . . can write just as strong a resolution against men," Lolley said. "For example, the Bible says: 'Sin came into the world through one man' (Adam). The first liar was a man (Gen. 3:10). So was the first murderer (Gen. 4:8)."

The author of the 1984 resolution "was not a literalist. He was a selectionist," Lolley said.

--over--

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"Every sect has established itself in this same way, whether 'the Moonies,' 'the Mormons,' Jim Jones in Guyana or Father Divine in New York," Lolley added. "They select a few texts, disregard their context, bend their interpretation and make them normative for faith and practice."

Crumpler warned that Southern Baptists are losing their credibility because of their longstanding controversy. The effort that Southern Baptists are putting into debating the Bible should be redirected toward "hiding it in our hearts," she said, "and following its commands."

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., echoed Crumpler's sentiments. News accounts focusing on Southern Baptists before the onset of the controversy in 1979 "reflected in one way or another 'these people are fools for Christ's sake,'" Pollard said. "Now media reports declare us only to be fools who have lost our purpose and turned on each other."

Once the denomination was growing by 200,000 people a year, Pollard said. "Now we're almost losing more people than we're gaining." And, he recounted, a key convention rally in 1979 in the Houston Astrodome to boost the denomination's "Bold Mission Thrust" goal of sharing the gospel worldwide by the year 2000 was undercut "before 24 hours had elapsed" by the start of the controversy.

Other speakers during the forum were Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla.; John Killinger, distinguished professor of religion and culture at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Garrison reminded that Christ calls his followers "not necessarily to win but to be faithful. Not every battle is Armageddon." Through their faithfulness, he said, moderates somebody may see the convention return to peace.

Killinger observed that Baptists have faltered by "trying to use Christ instead of falling down and worshipping him. That's where all the problems in the SBC are coming from -- people who don't know what Christianity is all about ... people forgetting that Jesus is Lord."

Reynolds, focusing on the "historical and psychological context" of the denomination's "fundamentalists," charged that they have used "The Big Lie" as part of a mass movement strategy to take control of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reynolds described them as "ambitious malcontents" with a goal "to control and manipulate a large mass of people to satisfy their own unhealthy personality needs."

Reynolds tapped a 1974 book by former SBC President Jimmy Draper, "The Church Christ Approves," for his portrait of fundamentalism. He said Draper wrote: "Fundamentalism is more dangerous than liberalism because everything is done in the name of the Lord. In the name of the Lord, the fundamentalist condemns all who disagree with him... He uses the Bible as a club with which to beat people over the head, rather than a means of personal strength and a revealer of God. To the fundamentalist, the test of fellowship is correct doctrine. If you do not agree with his doctrinal position, he writes you off and will not have fellowship with you... The fundamentalist tactic is simple: Hatred, bitterness, and condemnation of all whom they despise."

--over--

SBC fundamentalists, like such mass movement leaders as Hitler in the past, "know that 'The Big Lie' will work," Reynolds said, "because most people are innately trusting and therefore have a limited capacity to fathom deception on a grand scale." He charged that conservatives "concocted the Bible as the issue and resurrected the 'liberal' label" to create an adversary.

Voted onto the forum's nine-member steering committee were Jan Aldredge Clanton, chaplain at Hillcrest Baptist Hospital in Waco, Texas; John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C.; and Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and a longtime foe of the conservative movement, was named the forum's "Prophet of the Year." First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., received the forum's "Church of the Year Award." The church was cited as a "flagship church ... not only in size but in mission and ministry."

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By Art Toalston -- 8:50 p.m., Monday

1990  
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Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

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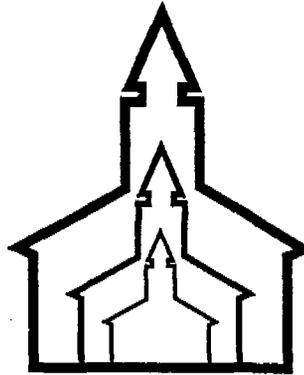
'The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied'

SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Marv Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Woman's Missionary Union wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Missions is to Southern Baptists what the heart is to the human body, about 4,000 members of Woman's Missionary Union were told at their annual convention June 10-11.

To illustrate the convention theme, "Hearts of One Accord," the WMU called on Joann Goatcher, a physician and former missionary to Thailand, to do its theme interpretation. Sounds of a heartbeat reverberated through the hall of the New Orleans Convention Center in time to the animated pulsations of a heart flashed on two large overhead screens.

"The heartbeat for missions must begin at home and flow out to a lost nation and world," Goatcher said. "The first place it can be blocked is right in our own hearts and our own churches. It will not go past the church door if there is unforgiveness, a closed hand and a hardened heart."

Drawing an analogy between the flow of blood from the heart to the rest of the body with the support of missions from local churches, Goatcher asked women to consider "what happens if one church decides not to give to missions or pray for missions? What if several churches decided not to support missions with their money or their prayers?"

In answering her questions, Goatcher said, "More of the work would be left undone, more of the lost world would never hear, and greater pain would be suffered by our Lord."

"We were once known as a people of evangelism and missions," Goatcher said. "Now we are known even internationally as a people of controversy. My beloved sisters, while the men spend their time arguing, I pray to God that we will not stand by while three and a half billion people are in need of Christ."

The women's auxiliary marked its 102nd year by welcoming its new executive director, Dellanna O'Brien, and unanimously re-electing Marjorie McCullough of Alexandria, La., to her fifth term as president. Both are former missionaries.

Pattie Dent, Clinton, Miss., was also re-elected to a fifth term as recording secretary.

Speakers during the two-day meeting mingled cautious optimism with warnings about possible trouble ahead for the missions support base which WMU represents in Southern Baptists' 37,700 churches.

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Several urged Southern Baptists to work harder to make unity a reality in the strife-torn Southern Baptist Convention.

Monte Clendenning, conference coordinator for the World Missions/Evangelism Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, said she sees danger signs that could hinder the denomination's effort to share the gospel with all the world:

-- Eighty-eight percent of Southern Baptists' 14.9 million church members are not enrolled in ongoing missions educational organizations.

-- Southern Baptists have not reached their missions offering goals for "many, many years" now. In 1988, she said, 87 percent of the total missions giving in the SBC came from 71 percent of the churches with WMU organizations.

As WMU enters its second century, Clendenning said, "we must assess anew our role in missions education in our churches. On the one hand," she said, "Woman's Missionary Union is as strong, or stronger, than it ever has been. On the other hand, winds of distraction are swirling around us, as we hear such statements as:

-- "Only older women are active in WMU in my church."

-- "Other women's organizations -- not missions oriented -- are springing up in our large church."

-- "The leadership is not missions minded."

-- "The climate in our convention is distracting."

Clendenning urged "going back to the basics" in missions education, but being flexible enough to look closely at our methods and be willing to alter them if by change we can better involve our people for world evangelization."

Earlier, executive director O'Brien emphasized the importance of "keeping missions education alive in the hearts of our children. The hope of our convention is in the commitment of its young people," she said.

O'Brien said as she and WMU president McCullough rode down one of Dakar, Senegal's highways, their missionary host pointed out a dry, brown hill to their right. "That hill will turn a brilliant green when the rains come in a few weeks," the missionary said.

"My mind's eye painted the mound of earth an emerald green," O'Brien said. "Can it be that the dry season in our denomination is almost over and we will soon see the sprouting of new growth? May we know the cool refreshment of unity!"

It was an author from another denomination, Ruth Tucker, of Grand Rapids, Mich., who delivered one of the most startling messages.

Tucker underscored the urgent need for accord. The press is not wanting to write a story of accord, she charged. She urged Southern Baptists to "go forward to serve Him (Jesus) and seek to avoid the disharmony and disunity that the world would emphasize."

Tucker has featured pioneer missionary Lottie Moon in her new book, "Guardians of the Great Commission: The Story of Women in Modern Missions."

She said it's no secret that Southern Baptists are "struggling through some hard issues -- the inerrancy issue for one, the women's issue, often viewed as feminists vs. traditionalists or as career women vs. homemakers."

She said she disagrees with a recent article by fellow author Elisabeth Elliot, who contrasts Eve and Mary as "the ultimate extremes of womanhood."

She thinks Eve and Mary were a lot more alike than they were different, adding: "I think we can learn a lot by seeing them as simply two women who have a lot in common with all of us today."

Mary, she said, was a sinner like we all are -- and Eve "was not as bad as theologians and commentators, most of them men, have made her out to be.

"We can see ourselves in both of them -- as Eve, who could have made the right choice, went astray, and as Mary, who had the potential for making the wrong choice, did what was right."

Quoting her fictional stories which reverse the women's decisions, Tucker portrayed Mary as loving Joseph so much she couldn't tell him about her pregnancy. In her despair, she turned to a woman who accepted pay from women who didn't want to have babies.

Without ever specifically saying Mary had an abortion, Tucker told of Mary's subsequent illness, her marriage to Joseph -- and finally her regrets as her sobs broke the stillness of a silent night in Bethlehem.

In an interview afterward, Tucker said she is pro-life and uses the reversed stories to help people see the "evil of abortion."

The closing speaker of the WMU meeting, Keith Parks, of Richmond, Va., told participants Baptists must quit "deceiving themselves" by allowing their culture to interpret Christianity, rather than allowing their Christianity to guide culture. Parks is president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We have assumed some things about Christianity," Parks said. "We have assumed that Christianity is a comfortable lifestyle."

Parks said that if Baptists will correct the cultural misconceptions and focus on the reasons for missions "we will have hearts of one accord."

During the session four state WMU organizations received plaques and six young women were honored as national Acteen panelists.

State WMU plaques went to Florida for largest numerical increase; Texas, for largest number of organizations; Hawaii, for largest percentage membership increase; and Alaska for largest percentage increase in the number of organizations.

Panelists honored were Dorena K Flick, Dewey, Okla; Angie Jones, Milton, Fla., Lisa Renee Maxey, from Jonesboro, Ga., but a church member in Forest Park, Ga; Amy Moeller, formerly of Iowa but now of Arnold, Mo.; Regina Plemmons, Houston; and Wendy Ann Rigdon, Garland, Tex.

Wendy said she felt called to be a missionary veterinarian in Africa. She will leave June 27 to work in Ghana as Acteen activator abroad.

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By Scott Collins and Bob Stanley -- 8:10 a.m. Tuesday

1990  
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SBC Press Representative

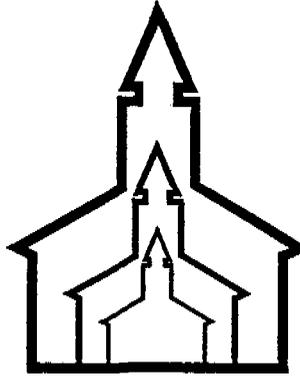
Dan Martin

News Room Manager

Marv Knox

Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Pastors' Conference Wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Truth, adversity, and defense of the veracity of the Word of God drew the attention of speakers at the 1990 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference which attracted about 20,000 people to the Louisiana Superdome.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of suburban Memphis, Tenn., told the pastors, "It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error."

"Unity is a wonderful thing, good and pleasant. But beloved, it must be the unity of the spirit," explained Rogers, three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention and former president of the Pastors' Conference.

"Unity, yes -- but unification at the price of peace, absolutely not," he continued. "We have some today who would jettison truth on the altar of cooperation."

"Your task is to say what the Lord says, it is not your job to make it palatable," he told the pastors. "You were not called to fill a pew, but fill a pulpit and preach the gospel. There is no way to preach the truth and be loved by everybody. In the Bible anybody worth anything had enemies."

"It is better to ultimately succeed with truth than to temporarily win with a lie," he said. "God's word cannot fail, God's truth cannot fail and sin cannot win. Be careful to line up with the truth. Be men of courage."

Charles Stanley, former SBC president, closed the conference with a message concerning fighting discouragement. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, cited Moses's experience at the burning bush.

"He learned to walk in the continuing awareness that he was walking in the presence of God," Stanley said.

Stanley said pastors ask how long they have to live in adversity. "Until God is finished with his purpose with you," he said, adding that a preacher of the gospel has no privilege to "walk away and still be obedient to God."

He added, "There is something worse than being in a bad situation. That's being out of the will of God in a good situation."

Stanley and the others speaking during the final session shared the stage with a 10-foot Bible which was used for a dramatic presentation of biblical characters.

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In addition, two men gave their testimonies. Ron Boswell, a member of the Foreign Mission Board staff, encouraged pastors to consider foreign missions. "There will be no pulpit committee" for overseas work, he said. "The search committee will be one person -- the Holy Spirit."

In another testimony, David Lagroan, a member of First Baptist Church, Crosby, Texas, told of being saved out of an alcoholic family. He began to sing and brought the crowd to its feet to help him with "I'm Just a Sinner Saved by Grace."

John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, urged Southern Baptist pastors to defend the veracity of the word of God and "hold the line when you can."

Bisagno, former president of the Pastors' Conference, listed seven reasons why he believes the Bible is the perfect word of God.

When the first president, trustee, or dean allowed a professor to question, doubt and explain what the Bible says, that's where they went too far, Bisagno said. "That is where the battle lines were drawn."

Bisagno said he believes the Bible is the word of God because of its purity. "There is no way to overstate the disdain God has for the person who tampers with the integrity of the word of God."

John McArthur, pastor of the Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., spoke on being a "man of God." He said that a man of God is known by what he flees from, citing greed and all that goes with it. "No man who prostitutes the word of God for personal gain is a man of God," he said.

McArthur said the other marks of a man of God are what he follows after, fights for, and is faithful to. If he follows after the godly life, fights evil, and "keeps the commandment" these are signs of the man of God, he said.

"You are a guardian of the holy treasure of Scripture," said McArthur, who noted that a church which wants a pastor should find out "how well he guards the inerrant treasure of God."

A man of God is a waiter, not a chef, said McArthur. He suggested God would say of the gospel, "I cooked it, you serve it without messing it up."

Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., said in times of disillusionment "God can work a unique purpose in our lives."

He warned the audience to "watch out for cut and dried theologies" which say that adversity is caused by unconfessed sin. "We know it's not true."

Reighard noted the treasures to be gained from adversity, likening them to jewels. There is a "diamond of discernment" where a person can "choose to become better or bitter ... cynical or compassionate ... have an end or a beginning."

Reighard's advice to those in adversity was "do not say why," and "don't look at what God does or allows, but who God is."

Bailey Smith of Atlanta said pastors need to preach that they find no fault in the miracle of Jesus's birth, the majesty of the cross, the magnificence of his resurrection, and the mightiness of his return.

"Preaching the Lord Jesus Christ made America great and it is time we turned back to those godly standards," Smith said. "We need to say with Pontius Pilate, 'I find no fault in him.'"

Morris Chapman, candidate for SBC president, spoke to the Pastors' Conference on the topic of John 3:16. "We live in a world in bondage to a personal devil," said Chapman. "And the time is running out. The whole world needs to hear the message of John 3:16."

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, said that God's love is longer than the longest night of agony, an everlasting love. "God gave us his son in vicarious death," he said.

"The red river of God's redemption that runs from Genesis to Revelation is the blood of our Lord." He added, "We are saved by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and none other."

In a business session, the pastors elected Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga., as their 1990-91 president; Ruffin Snow, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., vice president; and David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La., secretary-treasurer.

--30--

By Jim Lowry and Tim Nicholas, 7:50 a.m., Tuesday

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SBC Press Representative

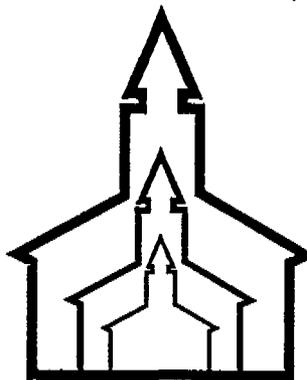
Dan Martin

News Room Manager

Marv Knox

Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman's Missionary Union Monday Evening

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Baptists will have "hearts of one accord" with each other and with Christ when their lives are "wasted for Jesus," the president of the Foreign Mission Board said Monday night at the closing session of Woman's Missionary Union.

Emphasizing the 1990 theme of "Hearts of One Accord," Keith Parks, of Richmond, Va., speaking in the absence of Baptist World Alliance Executive Director Denton Lotz, told participants at the WMU meeting Southern Baptists must quit "deceiving themselves" by allowing their culture to interpret Christianity, rather than allowing their Christianity to guide culture.

"We have assumed some things about Christianity," Parks said. "We have assumed that Christianity is a comfortable lifestyle."

In addition to allowing culture to influence the gospel, Parks said Baptists have forgotten the reason for foreign missions, which is to give themselves for Jesus Christ.

Parks said if Baptists will correct the cultural misconceptions and focus on the reasons for missions "we will have hearts of one accord."

Challenging the Baptist women to continue their financial support of foreign missions, Parks said Southern Baptists must raise their annual giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

"If we are at one accord with God we will share the money he has entrusted to our care," he said.

"Our hearts will be of one accord to the degree we individually and collectively love God with all our hearts and love ourselves," Parks said.

During the theme interpretation, foreign missions medical consultant Joann Goatcher quoted from Parks' recent letter calling for Southern Baptists to "forget our controversy" for the sake of 3 1/2 billion lost people.

"We were once known as a people of evangelism and missions," Goatcher said. "Now we are known even internationally as a people of controversy. My beloved sisters, while the men spend their time arguing, I pray to God that we will not stand by while 3 1/2 billion people are in need of Christ."

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Comparing the heart's role of sustaining life for the human body to the role of missions in the local church, Goatcher said Baptists "must not allow barriers to be erected, blockages to occur, conflicting signals to distract us or our hearts to be hardened."

"If we are healthy we will be praying, going, giving and living as branches of the true vine, obedient children of a loving Father who gave his Son for us," Goatcher said.

A "Missions Kaleidoscope" featured the missions involvement of the Wakefield family from Missouri. The family includes four brothers -- two foreign missionaries, a pastor and a lay pastor. In addition, two second-generation children are also involved in missions work.

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By Scott Collins -- 11:00 p.m. Monday

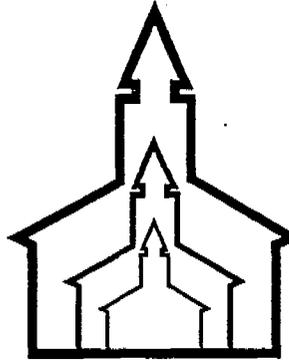
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Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Motions: Wednesday evening

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Messengers during the Wednesday evening session of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention referred 15 motions to the convention's Executive Committee for study and consideration.

The referrals were recommended by the convention's Committee on Order of Business.

Messengers referred a motion that would amend the SBC constitution to require that all convention trustees and commissioners be at least 30 years of age.

Two similar motions call for the amendment of the convention's constitution to require all SBC messengers to be at least 18 years of age.

Another referred motion proposed all elections, as well as all motions and resolutions, be placed on ballots and sent to all participating SBC churches so elected messengers there could vote.

Three motions would in some way amend the SBC constitution or bylaws to prevent a member of a non-cooperating Southern Baptist church from serving on a convention committee.

Also referred was a motion asking the Executive Committee to study the terms "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" to determine the scope and definition of the word "cooperation" as it relates to the SBC.

Another motion would amend SBC bylaws to provide "fellowship states" with a greater chance of having representation status on SBC committees, boards and institutions.

A motion that would limit representation from Southern Baptist churches that are affiliated with other denominations also was referred.

Two similar motions would allow Baptist state conventions to nominate their members to SBC committees. One motion would allow this action for the Committee on Nominations, and the other would allow it for the Committee on Committees.

Another motion called for the engagement of an "independent, non-religiously affiliated" accounting firm to collect and supervise the tabulation of all ballot votes at future SBC annual meetings.

Also proposed and referred to the Executive Committee was a motion that would amend the process for the signing of messengers' letters.

Another motion called for changing the name of the SBC to the Cooperative Baptist Convention.

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By Kathy Palen -- 9:10 p.m. Wednesday

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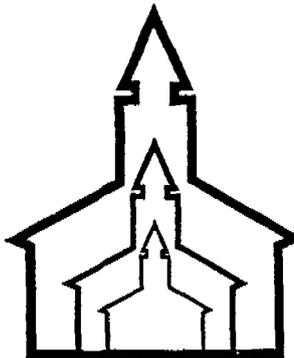
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Alvin C. Shackelford  
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Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Mary Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Midwestern Seminary luncheon

NEW ORLEANS, June 13-- President Milton Ferguson stressed the importance of "walking in the truth" in an address to 260 alumni and friends attending the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni luncheon Wednesday at the Clarion Hotel.

"Midwestern Seminary is indeed a place to walk in the truth," Ferguson said. "At the seminary, we seek the truth and are committed to the truth.

"We do not fear facing any claim to the truth," he continued. "In fact, we believe that free men and women, with conscience unbound, should be open to all claims to the truth. For how can we be free to choose what is right if we are always protected or coerced so as never to encounter what is wrong?

"The gospel of Jesus Christ, the power of God in him who was and is the truth, sets us free from the fear of untruth. ... We draw our strength from him and we find our common unity in him.

"So, at Midwestern, we seek the truth, believing that the truth of God ... is the final authority. It is the beginning and the end. It is sufficient for all of us," the seminary president continued. "We need no Pope, no council, no external reference to tell us what that truth means nor to set for us the limits within which it operates." He added: "These last 12 years have been tumultuous times in Southern Baptist life ... I have sought to follow, the best that I could, the way of truth as I understood it, always coming back to the commitment that the truth is its own authority.

"I do not presume to claim that I am always right ... We are learners, all of us, seeking truth and walking in the way of truth as best we understand it ... Let us join hands, and let us be open to the truth."

Also during the luncheon, the seminary's national alumni association presented awards to two Midwestern graduates as alumni of the year and named one person an honorary alumnus of the institution.

Recognized as alumni of the year were Vernon W. Armitage, pastor of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo., and John W. Dowdy Jr., director of the missions/evangelism division of the Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo. Named honorary alumnus was Paul M. Lambert, former dean of students and director of denominational services for the seminary.

During a business session, Donald R. Kammerdiener was named president-elect of the alumni association. He is executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Also during the meeting, David Johnson, assistant professor of religious education at Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., and pastor of Horseshoe Bend Baptist Church in Horseshoe Bend, Ark., began his duties as the 1990-91 alumni president.

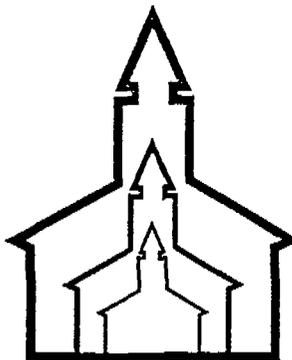
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By Brenda J. Sanders -- 8:30 p.m. Wednesday

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20. BINA COVERAGE--For the sixth consecutive year, the Baptist Telecommunication Network carried live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the SBC annual meeting, held this year at the Louisiana Superdome, June 12-14. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)

26. PARADE OF FLAGS--A parade of state flags was part of the Home Mission Board presentation, June 12, as president Larry Lewis shared his annual report with messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention. (SBC photo by Morris Abernathy.)

27. SONG LEADER--Tim Holder, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Texas, leads SBC messengers to join their voices in congregational singing during the June 13 morning session of the denomination's annual meeting. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

28. CONVENTION PREACHER--Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., delivers the annual convention sermon during the June 13 morning session of the SBC meeting in the Louisiana Superdome. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

37. THEME INTERPRETATION--A portrayal of Moses' receipt of the Ten Commandments was part of a June 11 theme interpretation during the 55th annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. The theme of the event was "The Pathway to God's Presence." (SBC photo by Morris Abernathy.)

39. VESTAL SPEAKS--Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., addresses the breakfast meeting of Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, held in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, La. (SBC photo by Kent Harville.)

The following letter from President George Bush was read to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Wednesday night by SBC President Jerry Vines.

SENT BY: Xerox Telecopier 7020 ; 6-13-90 ; 4:18PM ;

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1990

I am delighted to send my warmest greetings to everyone gathered in New Orleans for the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

For more than 350 years, the American people's faith in God has been a powerful force for maintaining high standards of morality and justice in our society. Our churches, as guardians of that faith, help to shape our national conscience.

Today, the Southern Baptist Convention is a vital source of spiritual strength, guidance, and fellowship for millions of Americans. By helping these Americans to draw closer to God and to one another, you have enriched their lives beyond measure. By encouraging your members to engage in voluntary service to others -- especially among the less fortunate -- you have set a wonderful example for all Americans.

This meeting of representatives from Southern Baptist congregations across the country provides a splendid opportunity to celebrate and to reaffirm your love for God and for the community of believers He has granted you. May the members of the Southern Baptist Convention community continue to grow in faith and friendship, and may your love for one another bear witness to that of our Creator.

With best wishes for a productive and rewarding meeting,

*George Bush*

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

June 12-14, 1990

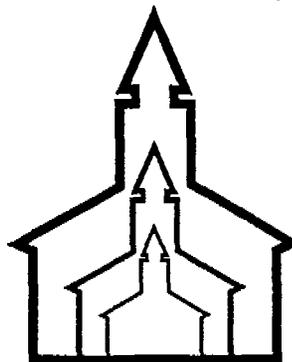
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Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southwestern Seminary luncheon

NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 13 -- People remain the heart of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the school's president told about 1,250 alumni and friends attending the National Alumni Luncheon at the Hyatt Hotel Wednesday.

Seminary President Russell Dilday, who underwent triple-bypass surgery two months ago, said he has gained a better understanding of the heart's importance to the body. Dilday said the operation had also helped him understand why so much importance has been placed on the heart. "The inspired writers of Scripture centered on the heart as the center of the soul and spirit," he said.

"The future of Southwestern is indeed bright because the heart of Southwestern is its people," Dilday said.

"If we believe in the eternal omnipotence of our Lord, we can have confidence for the future."

Dilday said Southwestern is "peculiarly, providentially poised to be — the force to move our convention beyond this time and finish what we have been going through."

The president applauded the work of Southwestern's faculty, calling them the "heart of all we do" and he said accusations against the teachers through the years have been unfounded.

The Southwestern National Alumni Association this year recognized six graduates as distinguished alumni. Honored were Clint Ashley, president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta; Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.; Marvin Griffin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Austin, Texas; Essie Mae Maston, wife of the late T.B. Maston, Fort Worth, Texas; Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board; and Scott Tatum, professor emeritus at Southwestern.

Elected as officers for 1991 were Cecil Sims, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore., president; Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, vice president/president-elect; and Jay Chance, vice president for public affairs at Southwestern, secretary.

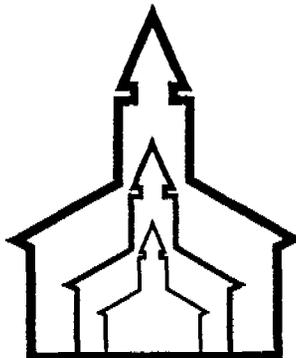
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By Scott Collins -- 4:15 p.m., Wednesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday Morning Business Session

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention voted Wednesday to refer a motion calling for the removal of an SBC seminary trustee to that school's board of trustees.

Messengers agreed to refer a motion by W. Lamar Wadsworth of Baltimore, Md., that Jerry Johnson be removed as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., wrote a 16-page article criticizing Southern Seminary president Roy Honeycutt and five professors.

Wadsworth's motion to refer was approved after his original motion that the convention remove Johnson immediately was ruled out of order by SBC President Jerry Vines.

Vines called upon James P. Guenther of the law firm of Guenther and Jordan, the convention's legal counsel, to explain the basis for the ruling.

Guenther said although the SBC constitution and bylaws do not provide a procedure for removing a trustee from office, common law and Robert's Rules of Order require that a trustee be given a notice and a hearing before he is removed from office. He added it would be impossible to provide Johnson with those fundamental protections during the SBC annual meeting.

Upon announcing his ruling, Vines explained that a motion from Wadsworth to refer the matter would be in order and offered the messenger the opportunity to take that action.

After making the motion to refer, Wadsworth deferred to Honeycutt, who had indicated to Vines a willingness to speak in favor of the motion. The seminary president said SBC bylaws and the seminary's charter call for such matters to be handled by the school's board of trustees.

In other business, Dwight Reighard, chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, announced committee action on other motions.

Four motions were ruled out of order. Those motions called for prohibiting SBC presidential candidates from campaigning; requesting the SBC Executive Committee to provide an explanation of the document concerning budget allocations to support religious liberty; instructing convention officers to identify by name the "inerrant, perfect Bible"; and addressing political ethics and contributions.

Two motions -- one on a national health care plan and the other on cultic associations -- were referred to the SBC Committee on Resolutions.

Seven other motions were referred to various SBC entities for consideration.

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By Kathy Palen -- 2:35 p.m. Wednesday

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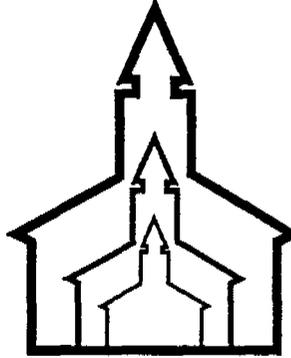
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elections

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--David Atchison, a Nashville, Tenn., layman, was elected recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Wednesday morning, defeating Martin Bradley of Nashville who had held the post for 12 years.

Atchison, who received 9,206 votes to Bradley's 8,044, was nominated by Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas.

While Bradley had been elected annually without opposition in recent years, Coffey told the messengers he felt the need for wider participation among the leadership. Atchison is the son of Joe W. Atchison of Rogers, Ark., a director of missions and trustee of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Lee Porter, registration secretary, won another one-year term by defeating Bob Mowrey, a Nashville pastor, by a vote of 13,242 to 5,448.

Coffey, who also nominated Mowrey, said he was doing it for the same reasons.

Porter has served as registration secretary for 12 years.

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By Roy Jennings, -- 1:10 p.m. Wednesday

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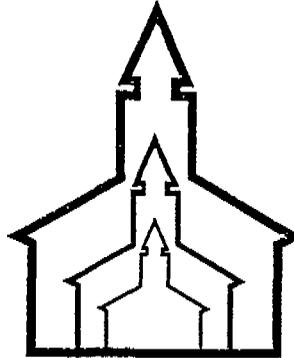
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25. FAMILY SUPPORT--Morris Chapman (second from right) is surrounded by family members as he addresses the press corps during a presidential news conference, June 12. They are (from left) Chapman's son Chris, his daughter Stephanie and her fiancé, his brother Ron (behind Chapman), and his wife Jodi.  
(SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)

24. NEWS CONFERENCE--Morris Chapman, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, answers questions from press representatives during an evening news conference, June 12. Chapman is pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.  
(SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)

23. EVANGELISTS' OFFICERS--Officers elected during the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists include (front row, from left) Bailey Smith, president, of Atlanta, Ga.; Steve Hale, vice president, of Evansville, Ind.; (back row, from left) Ron Pledger, secretary-treasurer, of Commerce, Ga.; Pat Roper, assistant music director, of Greenville, S.C.; Perry Neal, parliamentarian, of Montgomery, Ala.; and Mike Speck (not pictured), music director, of Tulsa, Okla.  
(SBC photo by Morris Abernathy.)

34. SONS AND DAUGHTERS--Listening to a speech at the rally sponsored by Sons and Daughters of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11, are (from left) Lisa Welch, a semester missionary serving at Friendship House in New Orleans, La.; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; and Chris Walker, a summer missionary from Magnolia, Ark.  
(SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)

36. EMOTIONAL RESPONSE--SBC messengers express an emotional response to convention proceedings during the denomination's 1990 annual meeting.  
(SBC photo by Morris Abernathy.)

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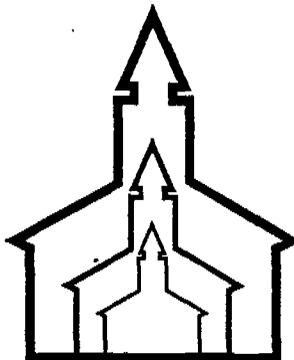
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--Ministers' wives were encouraged Tuesday to "inherit the blessing."

Addressing the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon, Shirley Dobson told the 1,027 women, "Many of you think the burden you're carrying is too heavy but what you are doing has eternal significance.

"While you're out doing the Lord's work, don't neglect your own families," said the wife of James Dobson, family psychologist. She added mothers should fervently and consistently pray for their children, arrange quality time to spend with them, and create family traditions that give "a sense of identity and uniqueness to a family."

"Whether we like it or not, we are the thermostats of our homes. We determine the temperature," continued Dobson, a member of the board of directors for Focus on the Family, a non-profit radio program providing counseling and advice for Christian families. "The woman's responsibility in the home is to provide a sense of warmth, beauty, and relaxation.

"I believe we are in a civil war of values right now," she said. "We must gear up the foundation of our family. . . . Who is going to provide that if we don't as mothers?

"You've been pulled in all directions; the phone never stops ringing," Dobson said understandingly. "I also know how it is to live in a fish bowl. . . . Sometimes, you just don't want anyone watching."

But ministers' wives should remember the task to which God has called them -- being a part of their husbands' ministries and providing a warm atmosphere at home, she reminded.

In other action, 1990 SBMW President Lynda Estep passed the gavel to Carole Hughes, wife of John E. Hughes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Independence, Mo. Other 1991 officers are Margaret Carter, wife of Charles Q. Carter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., vice president; Margaret Murchison, wife of Roger Murchison, minister at First Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga., secretary-treasurer; and June Baggett, wife of Hudson D. Baggett, editor of The Alabama Baptist, Birmingham, corresponding secretary.

--30--

By Breena Payne -- 8:40 a.m. Wednesday

## Biographical Sketch

Morris H. Chapman

Born NOV. 21, 1940

Morris Chapman has been pastor of the historic 7,700 member First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, since February, 1979. He was elected by the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio to preach the Convention Sermon in Las Vegas (1989). He served as President of the SBC Pastors' Conference (1986) and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene. He served as Chairman of the Committee on Order of Business of the Southern Baptist Convention (Dallas, 1985). Dr. Chapman is the author of Youth Affirm: The Doctrine of Christ, Convention Press, 1984 and compiler of Jesus: Author and Finisher, Broadman Press, 1987. He preaches on radio and television weekly.

In 1984, with a growing burden for revival, Dr. Chapman led the Wichita Falls congregation in a Revival Prayer Ministry. Over a period of five months church members prayed by name for each of the 36,000 Southern Baptist churches along with the SBC agencies and institutions.

During the eleven years Dr. Chapman has been pastor in Wichita Falls the Cooperative Program percentage of the annual budget has increased from 12 percent (1979) to 14 1/2 percent (1989). The total amount given through the Cooperative Program in 1989 was \$367,111.18. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions in 1989 was \$55,613.58. From 1984 to 1986 First Baptist Church responded to the challenge by the Baptist General Convention of Texas to triple the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions for two consecutive years. The 1984 gift of \$15,661 was more than tripled to \$47,022 in 1985 and in 1986 the offering was tripled again to \$142,456.

Prior to accepting the Wichita Falls pastorate, Dr. Chapman pastored the First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico where he served two terms as President of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, 1976-78. During his five-year ministry in Albuquerque, the church, in her determination to maintain a dynamic evangelical witness in the heart of the city, purchased two downtown city blocks and built a three million dollar educational complex. He has also served on the Foreign Mission Board and was a member of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas 1979-84.

Dr. Chapman is a native of Kosciusko, Mississippi and a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton. He received the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. While attending seminary, he was the recipient of the Stella P. Ross Memorial Award in evangelism. In 1985 Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri conferred an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology Degree upon Dr. Chapman.

He is married to the former Jodi Francis of Memphis, Tennessee. She served for eight years on the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (1982-90) and served as a member of the SBC Peace Committee (1985-87). They have two children, Christopher, age 25, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and Stephanie, age 21, a senior at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

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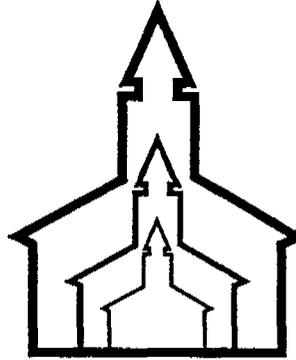
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday election wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--Southern Baptists elected three new officers during the first day of their annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome.

The new officers are Morris Chapman, president; Douglas Knapp, first vice president; and Fred Lowery, second vice president.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Chapman received 58 percent of the vote (21,471 votes) compared to Vestal's 42 percent (15,753 votes).

More than 38,000 messengers had registered by the first officer election period on the program. In the presidential election, 97 percent of those messengers cast ballots.

Knapp, a retired missionary to Tanzania who now lives in Gainesville, Fla., defeated Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive director of Woman's Missionary Union who retired last year to marry and become a pastor's wife in Cincinnati.

Knapp received 60 percent of the vote (16,348 votes) compared to Crumpler's 40 percent (10,688 votes). In the race for first vice president, 70 percent of registered messengers voted.

Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La., defeated two candidates for the second vice president's post: Raymond Boswell, a layman from Highland Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., and Steve Tondera, a layman from First Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Lowery received 64 percent of the vote (6,347 votes) compared to Boswell's 14 percent (1,407 votes) and Tondera's 22 percent (2,178 votes).

In the race for second vice president, 26 percent of registered messengers voted.

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By Mark Wingfield, 8:50 p.m. Tuesday

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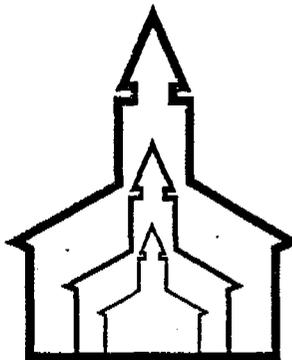
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17. SUPERDOME CROWD--More than 38,000 registered messengers filled the lower and middle tiers of seats and spilled over into the third tier at the New Orleans' Superdome on June 12 as the Southern Baptist Convention conducted its opening day of business during the 1990 annual meeting. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

19. MINISTERS' WIVES OFFICERS--Officers elected during the annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon include (from left) Linda Estep, president, of Columbia, S.C.; Rhonda Kelley, vice president, of New Orleans, La.; Janet Wicker, secretary, of Lubbock, Texas; and Darlene Herring, assistant secretary, of Memphis, Tenn. (SBC photo by Morris Abernathy.)

21. BALLOT VOTE--Leroy Jones, messenger from First Baptist Church, Alvord, Texas, casts his vote in the Southern Baptist Convention presidential election, June 12. More than 37,000 messengers voted during the election. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

35. MONTOYA VOTES--David Montoya, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gravette, Ark., and a member of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations, raises his ballot aloft to vote in opposition to the Committee on Nominations' report. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

16. OPENING DAY--The crowd of more than 38,000 registered messengers participating in the Southern Baptist Convention's opening business session made the 133rd annual meeting the denomination's third largest in its 145-year history. Messengers conducted business and heard a variety of reports in the Louisiana Superdome. (SBC photo by Van Payne.)

12. AWARD WINNERS--Winners of awards presented by the Black Church Extension Division of the Home Mission Board include (front row, from left) Sallie Carey of Oak, Calif.; Fran Harvey, San Jose, Calif.; E.W. McCall Sr., La Puente, Calif.; (back row, from left) Newton Carey Jr., Oak, Calif.; Eddie James, Greenville, Miss.; Larry E. Elliott, Jacksonville, Fla.; Willie T. Gaines, San Jose, Calif.; and David T.P. Perrin, District Heights, Md.  
(SBC photo by Morris Abernathy.)

14. PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICERS--Officers elected during a June 11 business session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference are (from left) Ruffin Snow, vice president, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.; Richard Lee, president, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga.; and David Hankins, secretary-treasurer, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La.  
(SBC photo by Dutch Bickley.)

15. CURRENT SBC OFFICERS--Current Southern Baptist Convention officers are (from left) Ernest B. Myers, second vice president, executive director-treasurer of the Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno; Jerry Vines, president, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Junior Hill, first vice president, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.  
(SBC photo by Van Payne.)

18. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS--Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., delivers the president's address during the June 12 morning session of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, La.  
(SBC photo by Mark Sandlin.)

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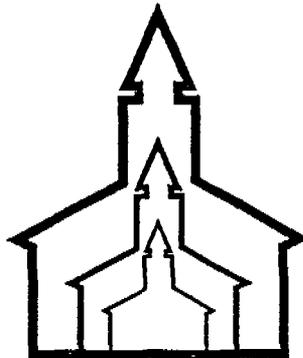
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Committee on Nominations Report

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention voted to adopt the report of the convention's Committee on Nominations despite challenges to several nominees and to the committee's chairman.

The report included 263 individuals nominated to serve on the boards of trustees of the 24 entities related to the 14.9 million member denomination.

Chairman Roland Lopez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in McAllen, Texas, recommended four changes be made in the committee's report as released through Baptist Press in late April.

Lopez recommended the replacement of two nominees, both of whom are members of his congregation. Because of a failure to make contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program, that church is no longer considered to be a "cooperating" Southern Baptist church and thus its members may not be elected to serve on SBC boards or commissions.

On those same grounds, Lopez's own service as chairman of the Committee on Nominations came under question. SBC President Jerry Vines, in consultation with the convention parliamentarians and legal counsel, held that Lopez could serve in that office since his church was a "cooperating church" at the time of his election.

The committee recommended that Home Mission Board nominee Wencelago Rangel be replaced by J. Walter Carpenter of Houston and Education Commission nominee Antonio Villalobos be replaced by James Stewart of El Paso, Texas.

In addition, the committee recommended the addition of Joe Wedan of Chanute, Kan., as a member of the Brotherhood Commission and John Bisagno of Houston as an at-large member of the Baptist World Alliance.

David Montoya, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gravette, Ark., and a member of the Committee on Nominations, announced in May that he had prepared a minority report containing more than 30 "alternate nominations" to the committee's report.

Montoya's attempt to present those nominations was scuttled when Vines refused to reverse a ruling that only one challenge to the committee's report could be made at a time.

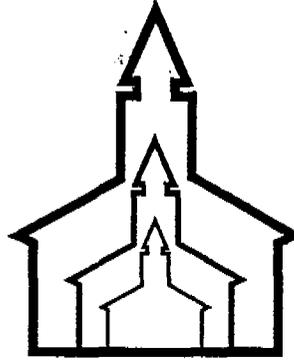
Two attempts to amend the report -- one made by Montoya and the other by Floyd Parker of South Carolina -- both failed.

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By Kathy Palen

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Presidential election results

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- Morris Chapman was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention Tuesday, defeating Daniel Vestal.

Chapman is pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta and was an unsuccessful candidate for SBC president last year.

Chapman received 21,471 votes, or 57.68 percent, compared to 15,753 votes for Vestal, or 42.32 percent.

Messenger registration stood at 38,241 at the time of voting, with 97 percent of messengers casting ballots in the presidential election.

Chapman was nominated for the office by John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston.

Bisagno characterized Chapman as the candidate who would "best guard our unwavering fidelity" to Scripture. The issue of who believes the whole Bible -- a concept often termed inerrancy -- has been at the center of the denomination's 11-year-old internal fight.

"We hold in our hands the opportunity this day to put this issue to rest once and forever," Bisagno said in his nominating speech. "Let there be no question in any mind: the election of one man and that one man alone will ensure the perpetuation of our historic Baptist loyalty to the Word of God.

"We are the first denomination in history to turn the corner, to come home to our conservative roots," Bisagno said. "We've come home; let's stay home."

Vestal had been nominated by Phil Lineberger, pastor of Richardson Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

He characterized Vestal as a family man, a God-called man, a soul-winner and a Bible-believing pastor.

Vestal believes in "a cooperative, inclusive mission to reach the world with the gospel," Lineberger said.

"For Daniel Vestal the Bible is not a war of words but a way of life," he declared. "It is not a bone of contention but a sword of truth."

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By Mark Wingfield, 4:15 p.m. Tuesday

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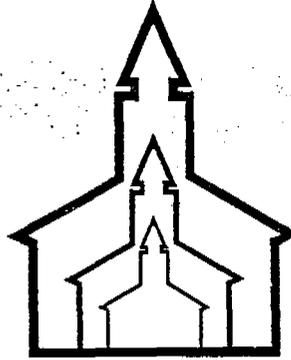
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8. DOM OFFICERS--Newly-elected officers of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions are (front) Russell Bennett, president, of Louisville, Ky.; (second row, from left) Grayson Glass, newsletter editor, La Marque, Texas; Glenn Hickey, first vice president, Little Rock, Ark.; (back row, from left) Lawrence Clegg, secretary, Ponchatoula, La.; Larry Martin, second vice president, Boston, Mass.; and Phil Hall (not pictured), treasurer, Albia, Iowa.  
(SBC photo by Morris Abernathy.)

9. CAMPUS MINISTERS' OFFICERS--Officers elected during the June 10-11 annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers include (front row, from left) Woody Hammett, president, of South Carolina; Randy Deering, president-elect, California; (back row, from left) Virginia Bridges, vice-president for publications, Alabama; Dwain Gregory, vice-president for membership, Colorado; Robert Turner, vice president for administration, Arkansas; and Lynn Davis (not pictured), vice president for programs, Maryland.  
(SBC photo by Van Payne.)

11. MUSIC OFFICERS--Newly-elected officers and executive council members of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference are (front row, from left) Thomasene Owensby, east denominational division, of Atlanta, Ga.; Betty Bedsole, vice president of the music educators division, Louisville, Ky.; Paul Richardson, journal editor, Louisville, Ky.; Dot Pray, vice president of the denominational division, Jackson, Miss.; Gary Ingle, west educational division, Bolivar, Mo.; (back row, from left) Gara Stark, vice president of the local church division, Mineral Springs, Texas; Clark Measels, publications editor, Jefferson City, Tenn.; Wendell Boerteje, east local church division, Knoxville, Tenn.; Louis Ball, secretary-treasurer, Jefferson City, Tenn.; Mark Edwards, president, Nashville, Tenn.; and Bob Hatfield, president-elect, Birmingham, Ala. Not pictured are Bill Roper, east local church division, Montgomery, Ala.; Bill James, west local church division, Dallas, Texas; Emerson Porter, west local church division, Allen, Texas; Bobby Jones, west denominational division, Jefferson City, Mo.; and Lloyd Mims, east educational division, Louisville, Ky.  
(SBC photo by Van Payne.)

13. HISPANIC OFFICERS--Officers elected during the June 10-11 meeting of the Hispanic Ministers' Conference are (from left) Daniel Sotelo, secretary-treasurer, pastor of Templo Bautista, Fresno, Calif.; Yamil Fernandez, president, pastor of Community Baptist Church, Santa Anna, Calif.; Ray Carbajal, first vice president, associational director of ethnic missions, Miami, Fla.; and Lionel Reyes, second vice president, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispano Americano, New Orleans, La.  
(SBC photo by Van Payne.)

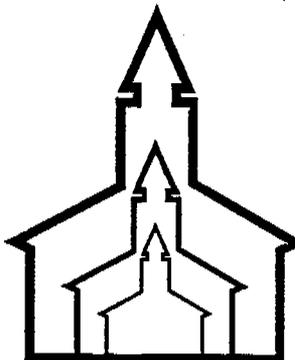
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Music Conference Wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Southern Baptist musicians focused their attention on the theme of "The Mission . . . Worship and Witness" at a two-day conference preceding the 133rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A preview of the new Baptist Hymnal and numerous concerts highlighted the sessions at First Baptist Church.

The new hymnal will be released in March of 1991, said Wesley Forbis, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, Nashville, Tenn.

"This hymnal was not produced for the church music department, but instead for the people in the churches," he said, adding that the hymnal committee reviewed over 4,000 hymns submitted to come up with the 625 pieces of music in the new hymnal.

Forbis announced that for every new hymnal purchased, one copy will be given to a mission church. Commenting on the ability of Southern Baptists to sing, Forbis said that although our denomination is involved in a controversy, he has noticed that "when someone starts the music, we all sing together."

Participants sang from a "sampler" of hymns from the new hymnal, the first singing by a volunteer group.

During a business session, musicians presented the W. Hines Sims award to Jane Manton Marshall, who teaches choral conducting and music theory at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

They also memorialized Carl Perry, emeritus minister of music at West Hills Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and Tom Westmoreland, retired director of the music department for the South Carolina Baptist Convention in Columbia.

New officers elected were Dot Pray, keyboard consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson, vice president of the denominational division; Lynn Madden, minister of music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., vice president of the local church division; and Betty Bedsole, professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., vice president of the music educators division.

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By Eddy Oliver -- 8:36 a.m. Tuesday

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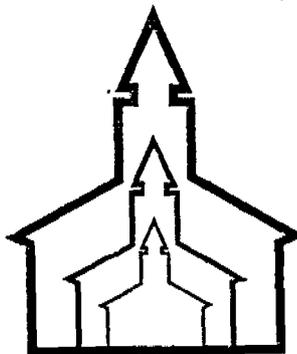
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Alvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Mary Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



CORRECTION

SBC Forum story moved at 8:50 p.m. Monday. Third graph -- It's  
David (not Daniel) Montoya.

Thank you

The News Room

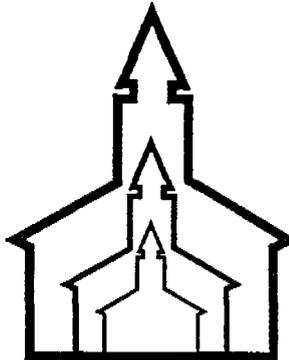
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Campus Minister Wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--The diversity of membership of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers (ASBCM) is what makes it unique among Southern Baptist organizations, Raye Nell Dyer, outgoing ASBCM president said Monday.

"Whether we call ourselves campus ministers or BSU directors, church staff persons or friends of student ministry, whether we serve in the east or the west or the north or the south, whether we are employed nationally or on the state level, whether we are male or female, we are all in this together. We are all a significant part of the student ministry family," she said.

Dyer, a campus minister and hospital chaplain in Galveston, Texas, closed the organization's annual two-day meeting by affirming role of ASBCM as a "community of faith" on campus. The meeting attracted more than 100 people.

She encouraged campus ministers to learn from one another by "sharing dreams, ideas, struggles, joy, ministry, laughter, love and tears."

Officers for 1990-91 were installed at the close of the meeting. They were president, Woody Hammett, University of South Carolina, Columbia; president-elect, Randy Deering, area director of student ministry, Orange County-San Diego, Calif.; vice president of administration, Robert Turner, campus minister, Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia; vice president of membership, Dwain Gregory, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.; vice president of programs, Lynn Davis, campus minister, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and Salisbury State; and vice president of publications, Virginia Bridges, director of campus ministries, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Recognized for 34 years of service as a campus minister was Fred Witty. Witty has served as campus minister at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City since 1956.

Speaking on the topic of "No Greater Love Than This...Ministry In Jesus' Name," was Doug Ezell, pastor of Napoleon Avenue-Parker Memorial United Methodist Church, New Orleans.

Ezell, a licensed professional counselor, told campus ministers they are in many instances the first role model that college students have apart from their parents.

--over--

"God is calling us to be models for them as they move into adult life," he said. "They are looking for somebody to help them move into the next stage of life."

Ezell said for counselors to have something to share, they must stay close to God.

He recommended three ways to stay close to God: prayer, Bible reading and study and fellowship with other believers.

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By Tim Yarbrough -- 7:35 a.m. Tuesday

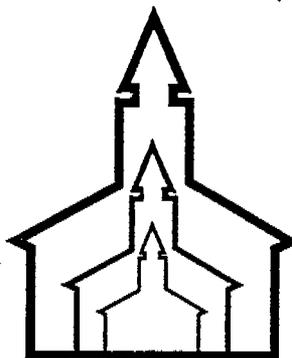
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Work Banquet

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Churches cooperating to start new churches is the hope of evangelizing America, speakers at a new work banquet said Monday night.

The banquet, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship, was held at the New Orleans Sheraton Hotel on the eve of the denomination's annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome.

Three speakers who are currently involved in church starting urged the group of about 600 people to foster cooperation among Southern Baptists to begin new congregations.

Joe Ratliff, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, said Texas has become a new mission field that needs more black congregations. "We are losing the battle," he said.

"The state of Texas in the year 2000 will look more like me than like most of you," the black pastor told the predominantly white crowd. "Unless we lock arms together -- black, white and yellow -- we will not win this nation to Christ."

Cooperation requires that existing churches open their facilities to new work, a Hispanic pastor told the gathering.

Jorge Navarro, pastor of Iglesia Bautista in Nuevo Nacimiento, Calif., issued an appeal for churches with large buildings but declining congregations to open their facilities to growing ethnic churches that have no place to meet.

His own church, which has grown to a membership of 900 in nine years, has only four rooms for Sunday school but offers 40 classes. Worship is held in three services in a small building.

"There are some churches with buildings of 200 capacity that have only eight to 10 people in attendance," he said, yet these churches will not open their buildings to ethnic congregations.

"We don't start more Hispanic missions because we don't have more churches willing to have Hispanic works," Navarro said.

Dorothy Williamson, church planter strategist with Pearl River Baptist Association in Carriere, Miss., said church starting is the best way to enjoy going to church.

--over--

"If you want to be happy in a church, be in it the first two years and then leave," she quipped.

Williamson, who has started five churches in Virginia and Mississippi since 1980, also emphasized the necessity of cooperation. "If you don't work together you won't get anything done," she said.

Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis told the assembly that church starting is "the greatest part of God's work."

He reported that the denomination started 1,306 new churches in 1989, according to reports on the Uniform Church Letter. However, he said state conventions and the HMB have identified 20,000 places across America where additional congregations are needed.

He called for Southern Baptists to start 1,500 new works per year in order to reach the goal of having 50,000 congregations by the year 2000.

Ralph Smith, chairman of the HMB's board of directors and pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, spoke of his own commitment to church starting.

"Several years ago I decided that the business of the church was making disciples for Jesus Christ," he said. After reflection and study, Smith said he determined church starting was the best way to make disciples.

"If I can win somebody to Christ, that's one disciple and it's wonderful. But if I can build another church, I've got a whole multiplication table. That's even better."

Hyde Park has started five missions that now average a combined attendance of 700 each week, he said. "Building missions will never hurt a church. It will only bring more people to Christ."

Eight people received awards for their role in starting new churches.

Black church extension awards were given to Eddie Jones, pastor of Victory Temple Baptist Church in Greenville, Miss., and Lonnie Dawson, pastor of New Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

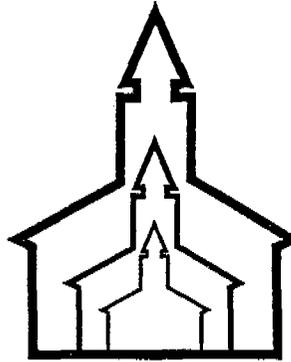
Language church extension awards were given to Navarro and Michael Thomas, pastor of New Vision Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

New church extension awards were given to Ramond O'Quinn, pastor of Harmony Baptist Mission in Graceville, Fla., and David Dean, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sudbury, Mass.

Associational missions awards were given to Doyle Braden, director of missions for California's Orange County Baptist Association, and Lawrence Clegg, director of missions for four associations in Louisiana.

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By Mark Wingfield, 11 a.m. Tuesday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Sons and Daughters Rally

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--Four Southern Baptist leaders challenged college and seminary students Monday night to stay within the Southern Baptist Convention, working to effect change and further mission efforts.

Speaking to about 400 people gathered for a rally sponsored by the Sons and Daughters of the Southern Baptist Convention, the heads of three of the denomination's missions organizations and one of the candidates for the convention's presidency pointed to Southern Baptists' continuing commitment to missions and the need for the current generation of Southern Baptist students to carry on that commitment.

The SBC's organizing purpose, continuing cohesiveness and future hope revolve around the denomination's cooperative mission effort, said R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Missions Board, Richmond, Va.

Calling the SBC's cooperative plan of giving the envy of every mission group in the world and the best plan yet developed for Christians to support missions, Parks said, "I plead with you not to destroy this plan until you come up with a better plan."

As to the future of the denomination, Parks told members of Sons and Daughters, a group of students organized around the goal of ending strife within the SBC, "I hope you do better in the future than we're doing in the present."

Every Christian owes an unpayable debt to God, said Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta and a candidate for the SBC presidency.

"The older you grow as a Christian," Vestal continued, "the more you realize you owe to the past. The more you grow as a Southern Baptist, the more you realize you owe to those who have given their lives to forging Baptist distinctives."

In addition, Christians owe a debt to the world, he said, urging those present to commit themselves to paying that debt to an unbelieving world.

Whether or not he wins the presidential race, Vestal said, he is recommitting himself to the "grand and glorious responsibility" of missions. But, he added, if in the "providence of God" he is elected president, he will do all he can to "enlist all Southern Baptists -- not just part of the denomination, but all of the denomination -- to pay a debt to a lost world."

--over--

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Although also invited to speak during the rally, Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and the other major presidential candidate, declined, citing other commitments.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Missions Board, Atlanta, told the crowd he believes the greatest days for Southern Baptist home missions are at hand.

"We have the money," Lewis said. "We have the manpower. We have the vision."

But, he added, "We need you. God needs you. America needs you."

Lewis encouraged students who are unhappy with the way things are going within the SBC to become involved and try to change those things.

There are a number of ways to effect that change, he said, "but holding our missionaries hostage is not one of them."

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., commended the Sons and Daughters organization for having a clear focus on prayer and a focus on the future, rather than on the past.

O'Brien said one troubling aspect of the current SBC controversy is the effects it could have on young people.

But she reminded the students present that there is "no more noble cause than that of world evangelism" and encouraged them to play a part in that effort.

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By Kathy Palen--9:40 a.m. Tuesday

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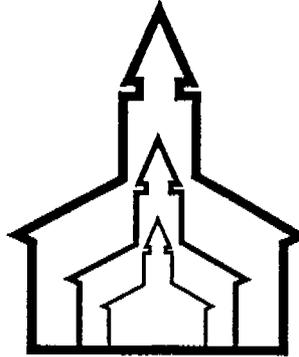
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Opening Session Tuesday

NEW ORLEANS, June 11--The 133rd session of the Southern Baptist Convention opened a three-day run Tuesday at the Louisiana Superdome as the denomination's third largest meeting in its 145-year history.

More than 33,000 messengers were registered to participate in the convention's opening business session. The number was expected to rise still further for Tuesday afternoon's SBC presidential election that, for the 12th year, is a heated contest between denominational factions that have operated under "conservative" and "moderate" labels.

Previous SBC attendance records were set in Dallas in 1985, with 45,519 messengers, and 1986 in Atlanta, with 40,987 messengers.

Denominational wrangling started during the convention's opening moments as a North Carolina messenger made a motion to switch the times of the Tuesday afternoon election and the Tuesday morning SBC presidential address.

By placing the presidential vote before any sermonizing, the messenger said, Southern Baptists could take a "first small step to depoliticize the convention" and begin returning it "to our historic principles of evangelism and missions."

SBC President Jerry Vines ruled the motion out of order, stating that the agenda times are fixed, according to the convention's by-laws.

Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., is completing his second one-year term, the maximum consecutive service in the post allowed under SBC rules.

Vines' co-pastor at the Jacksonville church, Homer Lindsay Jr., gave the first address of the meeting, speaking on this year's convention theme, "The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied."

"No church can rise any higher than its leadership," Lindsay said. "The pastor is the key to the success or failure of a church."

Lindsay said the pastor must be "God's man" at home, in the community and in the church.

In family settings, a pastor must be sure "that he doesn't preach one thing in the pulpit and live another thing at home."

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In the community, the pastor "must be known as the man who stands against sin and stands for the Lord Jesus Christ," Lindsay said. "When he walks into a shop, when he walks into a meeting place, it is immediately known this is the man of God."

In the church, Lindsay said, "We must get into our prayer closets and let the Holy Spirit teach us, that when we step into the pulpit we can feed God's sheep."

Lindsay added, "We pastors need always to be reminded that we are not the head of the church, that we are an underling, that we are nothing but a servant, that the head of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ and it is the Lord that has placed us there."

Mark Short, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, welcomed the messengers to Louisiana in behalf of the state's Southern Baptists. Junior Hill, SBC first vice president and an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala., responded to the welcome and voiced his hope for the week while Southern Baptists are in New Orleans.

"May every hotel employee who serves us, every taxi driver who escorts us, every waiter or waitress who waits on us, every newswriter who observes and writes about us be able to say, 'Those Southern Baptists love Jesus and practice what they preach,'" Hill said.

Music during the convention's opening session was provided by a 200-voice choir and 80-piece orchestra from First Baptist, Jacksonville. The choir was directed by Rodney Brooks, the congregation's minister of music.

For the fifth year, Barry McCarty is serving as convention parliamentarian. McCarty, a Church of Christ layman, is president of the Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary.

Also for the fifth year, McCarty is being assisted by John Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention; Jimmy Draper, former SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas; and Joe Reynolds, a Houston attorney. A new member of the parliamentary team this year is Jimmy Jackson, pastor of the Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala.

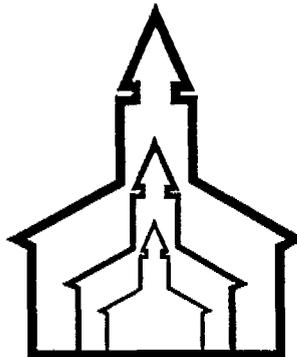
Vines told messengers that a book on parliamentary procedure by McCarty has been published by Broadman Press, Southern Baptists' publishing arm. The title is "A Parliamentary Guide for Church Leaders."

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By Art Toalston -- 11:25 a.m. Tuesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President's address

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--The Southern Baptist Convention must be alert to the tendency toward "organizational overload and doctrinal error" or be destined for the "garbage dump of denominations," convention president Jerry Vines said Tuesday.

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., delivered his presidential address on "the glory of the church" at the opening session of the three-day meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

"Those denominations that affirm the inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility of scripture have a bright future. But those that do not are destined for the garbage dump of denominations," Vines said.

"It is better for Southern Baptists to debate and settle the issue of scriptural inerrancy today than to someday debate whether homosexuals are suitable in our pulpits."

Unless churches remain vigilant in protecting doctrinal integrity and local identity, he said the denomination could become a "mustard tree monstrosity with bureaucratic branches infested with blasphemous birds."

While denominational loyalty is desirable, Vines said it must not supplant loyalty to Christ and the Bible.

Furthermore, he stressed that the choice of Sunday School literature used, the degree of financial support for cooperative missions endeavors and the organizations present in a congregation all are prerogatives of local churches.

Churches must not allow themselves to be intimidated by "bureaucratic bullies" because of their choices, he said.

At the same time, Vines said that congregational independence should be tempered by interdependence on like-minded churches cooperating in missions and benevolence.

"We can do together what we cannot do alone," he said.

Vines pointed to glory of the church universal, the church local, the church denominational and the church eternal.

The local church has the responsibility to carry out ministries both of internal edification and outward evangelization, he said.

--over--

"The church that has no soul-winning ministry is only half a church," he said.

The church universal has Christ as its head and its foundation, and it will one day become the church eternal, presented in glory to God as the Body and Bride of Christ, he said.

"If you try to build a church on any foundation other than the Lord Jesus Christ, it is destined to fall," Vines said. "It is his church and he will build it."

Vines is completing his second one-year term as president of the 14.9 million member denomination. His successor was to be chosen Tuesday afternoon.

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By Ken Camp -- 1:10 p.m., Tuesday

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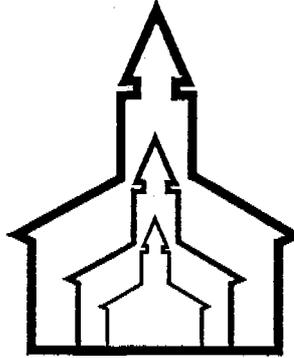
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Motions: Tuesday Morning

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--Thirteen motions were introduced Tuesday morning during the first business session of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome.

A motion introduced by Linda Austin of Victoria, Texas, would call upon the SBC Executive Committee to instruct the Southern Baptist Annuity Board to determine the best way to "exert positive pressure" on its insurance carrier, the Prudential Insurance Co., to remove itself as a corporate sponsor of Planned Parenthood.

Another motion addressed the issue of racism and proposed specific Southern Baptist action.

The motion, introduced by Dale Cross of Decatur, Ga., stated: "In acknowledgement of our past and present sins of racism against black persons in America and in recognition of the historic role of Southern Baptists as participants in a culture of racial segregation, I move that the convention request all denominational agencies to incorporate, as part of our 1995 sesquicentennial celebration, a special emphasis on education, repentance and reconciliation regarding racism and that we instruct the convention anniversary committee to plan a special event or events which would symbolize our commitment to repentance and reconciliation with our African American brothers and sisters and our determination to work for the eradication of racism in our nation and in our world."

The possible establishment of a SBC accrediting agency was the subject of a motion by David B. Wood of Roanoke Rapids, N.C. The motion would instruct the SBC Executive Committee to appoint a committee to study the feasibility of establishing such an accrediting agency for Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges.

A motion by John M. Tubbs of Cobbs Creek, Va., would allow Baptist state conventions to nominate their members on the SBC Committee on Nominations. A similar motion, introduced by John Lennon of Virginia's Blackwater Baptist Association, would allow state conventions to elect their members on the SBC Committee on Committees.

Two other motions dealt with SBC elections. David Mitchell of Meridian, Miss., introduced a motion to prohibit candidates for convention president from campaigning or publicizing their candidacy. Wayne Harrison of Norton, Va., proposed that all elections, as well as all motions and resolutions, be placed on ballots and sent to all participating SBC churches so that elected messengers there could vote.

--over--

Other motions would:

-- Amend the SBC constitution to require that each SBC agency trustee or commissioner be at least 30 years of age.

-- Call upon the SBC officers to convey to President Bush and the U.S. Congress a request that the government provide a limited national health care plan for Americans who are uninsurable or who cannot afford the cost of health insurance.

-- Request the SBC Executive Committee to give an explanation of its action in relation to the document "Some Reasons for the Southern Baptist Convention 1990-91 Budget Allocation to Support Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State."

-- Amend SBC bylaws to provide "fellowship states" with a greater chance of having representation status on SBC committees, boards and institutions.

-- Call upon the SBC Executive Committee to study the terms "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" to determine the scope and definition of the word "cooperation" as it relates to the SBC.

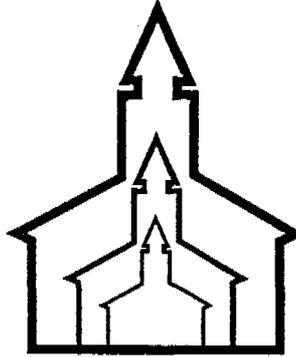
-- Limit representation from Southern Baptist churches that also are affiliated with other denominations.

--30--

By Kathy Palen--1:40 p.m. Tuesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Committee - Part 1

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 -- Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention defeated a motion Tuesday morning to strike a recommendation of the Executive Committee to transfer the SBC's religious liberty program to its Christian Life Commission (CLC).

The vote was 14,789 to 12,629 and cleared the way for messengers to vote on the recommendation during the Executive Committee's afternoon report.

Messenger Frank Ingraham of Franklin, Tenn., asked messengers to strike the committee's recommendation, commend the CLC for its work and encourage CLC trustees in their "presentation of SBC insights on morality and social ethics to our government in Washington, D.C."

Historically, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a nine-denomination First Amendment/religious liberty organization in Washington, has handled Southern Baptist concerns on religious liberty. The Christian Life Commission is the SBC's moral concerns agency.

The BJCPA, to which the SBC relates through an 18-member Public Affairs Committee, has been the center of controversy in recent years on such issues as school prayer. It has survived five attempts in the last six years either to defund it or to alter the method by which its funding is provided.

Messengers will consider in the Tuesday afternoon session another recommendation of the Executive Committee to cut by more than 87 percent the SBC's allocation to the BJCPA's 1990-91 budget.

The vote on Ingraham's motion followed extensive discussion from the floor about the wisdom of linking the SBC's social concerns and religious liberty programs.

Executive Committee member Bill Harrell of Martinez, Ga., who introduced the recommendation, said transfer of the religious liberty program to the CLC would provide "a distinctive Southern Baptist voice in Washington" to deal with moral and religious liberty issues.

Ingraham said the Executive Committee's approach would "unsaddle a joint voice in Washington and double-saddle the CLC" with an extra burden beyond its current heavy program assignment in moral concerns.

--over--

"These issues of morality and separation (of church and state) do not mix," Ingraham said. "They remind me of crossing an antelope with a jack rabbit. You don't know what you'll get but you know you won't like it, and it's bound to have horns."

Others, including former SBC president Charles Stanley of Atlanta, Ga., spoke against the substitute motion.

Stanley said it was "unthinkable that Southern Baptists do not have an agency charged with protection of religious liberty and church-state issues."

Ron Sisk, a messenger from Tiburon, Calif., and former CLC staff member, said the Executive Committee recommendation would be a poor use of Southern Baptist resources and damage the BJCPA.

The BJCPA, he said, "has 50 years experience in dealing with religious liberty. If it ain't broke don't fix it."

In other action at the morning session, messengers approved six other recommendations of the Executive Committee.

Messengers okayed a change in SBC Bylaw 16 on the Committee on Committees to remove the possibility of cronyism.

Previously, the bylaw prevented the committee from nominating a member from the current or previous year for a first term on the board of an SBC entity. The change rules out such nominations for a committee member's spouse.

Messengers also approved an SBC sesquicentennial celebration for June 9, 1995, to precede the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga.

The recommendation asked that the SBC Pastors' Conference and the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary be invited to participate.

Messengers accepted by common consent requests from the floor that the SBC Forum, Women in Ministry and music conference be added to the invitation.

The 1995 SBC will adjourn at noon on Thursday, June 22, to allow messengers to travel to Augusta, Ga., for a celebration to commemorate the founding of the SBC there on May 10, 1845.

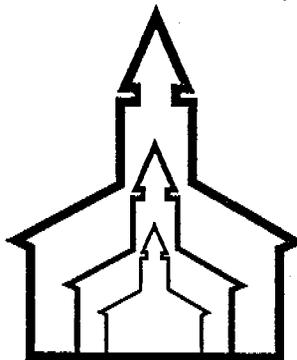
Messengers also voted to approve the Hawaii Baptist Convention for membership on the Executive Committee and other appropriate SBC committees and make minor changes in the program statements of the SBC Brotherhood Commission and SBC Historical Commission.

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By Robert O'Brien -- 2:03 p.m., Tuesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday Morning Resolutions

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- Forty-three resolutions on a wide range of subjects including the environment, companies contributing to pro-abortion organizations, the doctrine of priesthood of believers and a variety of social and denominational issues were submitted Tuesday morning by messengers to the 133rd session of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Louisiana Superdome.

Four environment-related resolutions -- the largest number on any subject -- advocated use of recycled paper by SBC agencies and institutions and called for increased action on environmental concerns.

A resolution submitted by Bob Albritton of University Baptist Church in Montevallo, Ala., asks that "individuals, churches and other Baptist groups be encouraged to make an environmentally responsible ethic a part of our lifestyle and evangelistic witness."

Two resolutions address patronage of companies which contribute to pro-abortion organizations.

One, submitted by Paul Wall of Central Baptist Church in Lenoir, N.C., expresses "displeasure" at the "apparent support" of Planned Parenthood by the Prudential Insurance Company which was recently selected as the medical insurance carrier for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

A second resolution by Tony Crisp of Allens Creek Baptist Church of Waynesville, N.C., calls on SBC entities, churches and individuals "to suspend patronizing corporations and businesses which support pro-abortion organizations until such contributions are halted."

Affirmation of the doctrine of priesthood of believers -- the belief that every individual Christian has direct access to God -- was called for in two resolutions submitted by Hugh Wamble of Wornall Road Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., and Lamar Wadsworth of Woolford Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore, Md.

Wamble urged "all who preach, teach or write for publications" to help people understand the emphasis of Baptists on "the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion and the priesthood of the believer."

A variety of moral and social issues including opposition to child pornography, capital punishment and a national lottery were addressed in proposed resolutions.

--over--

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A resolution on tax relief and equity for families submitted by Barrett Duke Jr. of Arapahoe Road Baptist Church in Littleton, Colo., calls on the U.S. Congress and President George Bush to "adopt policies which encourage the establishment and development of strong families by eliminating all discrimination in the tax code against the traditional family and reducing the federal tax liability on families with children.

The export of tobacco and liquor, homosexuality and civil rights, media influence regarding alcohol and youth and AIDS and sex education in public schools also were the subjects of proposed resolutions.

On the international front, the plight of hostages in Lebanon was addressed in a resolution proposed by Harold Skaggs of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky., where Peggy Say, sister of hostage Terry Anderson, is a member.

The resolution urges prayer for the hostages and their families as well as for government leaders working to secure the hostages' freedom.

Truman Leach of East Jena Baptist Church in Jena, La., called for a reaffirmation of the 1987 report of the SBC Peace Committee and call on leaders elected in future years to follow guidelines of the report.

Opposition to creedal commitments and support for religious liberty also were addressed in proposed resolutions.

Other resolutions urge following of biblical guidelines in dealing with conflict among Southern Baptists, urge candidates for convention office to meet twice yearly for prayer and urge greater inclusiveness in selecting Southern Baptists to be featured on the convention program.

Support for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.,, the ACTS television network of the Radio and Television Commission and a student organization, Sons and Daughters of the Southern Baptist Convention, were offered in resolutions.

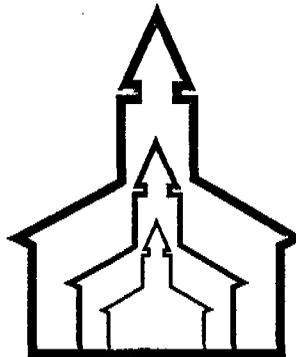
Additional resolutions topics included Satanism/Halloween, Annuity Board insurance plans, cooperation with para-church evangelical groups, foreign missions and South Africa, masonry, international decade of Bible reading and church discipline.

-30-

By Linda Lawson -- 2:30 p.m., Tuesday

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SBC Press Representative  
Dan Martin  
News Room Manager  
Mary Knox  
Features Manager  
Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBC Day Camp

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--People who eat monkeys, boa constrictors and guinea pigs need to hear the gospel, said Southern Baptist missionary Curtis Ferrell of Quito, Ecuador.

Addressing 291 children attending the Brotherhood Commission's SBC Day Camp at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Ferrell, a general evangelist, said "People there need Jesus Christ just like you do."

"I want the kids to have an awareness that even though people are different they need Jesus Christ in their lives," explained Ferrell, who is attending Broadmore Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., during furlough.

While observing a condor feather, a musical instrument, and some Ecuadorian clothes, children in grades 1-6 learned that not everyone is just like them. At least one child has already learned that lesson.

Noel Clark, 8, lives in the Philippines where his parents are Southern Baptist missionaries. Though active in Royal Ambassadors, the Brotherhood Commission's missions education program for boys in grades 1-9, Clark was attending his first SBC Day Camp.

"I would like the kids to learn what I have learned . . . that people are different," said Noel, whose family is attending First Baptist Church, Houston, during furlough. It's the differences, he continued, that make being a missionary fun.

At least one other day camper had first hand experience in missions. Ken Wilson, 7, from Gold Coast Baptist Church, Green Acres, Fla., said being with missionaries in day camp is, "Terrific. I like the things they do and the things we learn." But it isn't all new to him.

"I already am a missionary," he said. "I told a kid about Jesus who didn't go to church at all."

"We are looking forward to a lot of these kids one day becoming missionaries," said Ferrell. "Hopefully some experiences like this will expose them to missions and the need for missionaries overseas."

SBC Day Camp coincides annually with the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The purpose is to give the children a place to learn about missions, play games and have fun during the day while their parents are here attending convention business," said James Warren, Brotherhood Commission editor for Crusader magazine.

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"Sometimes this is the only opportunity children ever have to hear missionaries first hand if they don't have ongoing missions education programs in their church," said Warren. "The Brotherhood Commission uses this to teach boys and girls about missions.

First Baptist Church of LaPlace, La., was the host church which planned each day's activities. In addition to 291 day campers, 30 workers from First Baptist and 12 RA camp staff workers from Louisiana served as counselors.

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By Jim Burton -- 1:55 p.m. Tuesday

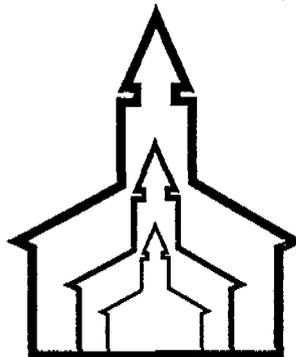
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Presidential election

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- Daniel Vestal and Morris Chapman were nominated for election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention Tuesday afternoon.

Both men had previously announced that they would be willing to be nominated, and each had received support from opposing sides in the denomination's 11-year-old internal fight.

Vestal is pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta. Chapman is pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Vestal was nominated first by Phil Lineberger, pastor of Richardson Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"I've come here as one of you to nominate a man as president of the Southern Baptist Convention who is one of us," Lineberger said.

He called Vestal a family man, whose wife and children model Christian charity and spirit.

Vestal is also a God-called man, Lineberger said. "Since 16 years of age, a fire has been burning in his bones to preach the good news of Jesus Christ."

Further, Vestal is a "soul-winning man who caught the spirit of evangelism early and never lost it," he said.

Vestal is also a missions-minded man, his nominator declared. "He believes in a cooperative, inclusive mission to reach the world with the gospel. He believes it is better to give than to receive."

Finally, Lineberger characterized Vestal as a Bible-believing man. "For Daniel Vestal the Bible is not a war of words but a way of life. It is not a bone of contention but a sword of truth.

"We stand at one of the most unique places in the history of the world, with walls crumbling down everywhere," Lineberger said. "God has provided us the greatest open door for the evangelism of the world.

"Let's elect a man who has committed to take us through that door together," he urged.

--over--

Chapman was nominated by John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston.

"My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus, it is with God-given confidence ... that I rise to nominate Morris Chapman as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"To you who struggle even at this late hour, I say, hear my heart. I too have struggled, not only with Scripture but with how best to guard our unwavering fidelity to it," Bisagno said.

"We hold in our hands the opportunity this day to put this issue to rest once and forever. Let there be no question in any mind: the election of one man and that one man alone will ensure the perpetuation of our historic Baptist loyalty to the Word of God.

"That alone is the issue," Bisagno declared.

He characterized Chapman as pastor of a church that for 11 years has been in the top 1 percent of churches in Cooperative Program giving and in baptisms.

"To all who burn with a passion for a lost world to hear the gospel proclaimed, ... this is the hour for which you have waited," Bisagno said. "This is the place for you to stand. There is room here for you. This can be our finest hour.

"We are the first denomination in history to turn the corner, to come home to our conservative roots," Bisagno said. "We've come home; let's stay home."

Following the nomination, the messengers voted their choice by ballot to succeed outgoing president Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.

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By Mark Wingfield--3:15 p.m. Tuesday

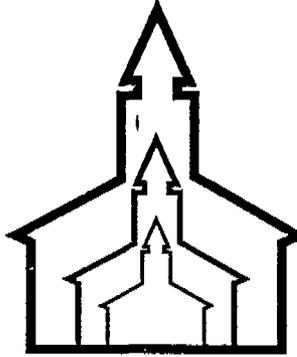
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Witnessing blitz wrap-up

NEW ORLEANS, June 11 -- In one day of door-to-door witnessing of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Baptists recorded 521 professions of faith before the annual meeting.

"I think it was tremendous," said Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "All the people I'm talking with say it was worthwhile."

This year's event attracted 1,334 volunteers compared to 2,025 people who witnessed before the annual meeting in Las Vegas last year. However, the number of professions of faith exceeds the Las Vegas total by 50.

In addition, the New Orleans volunteers contacted 14,011 homes, discovered 2,818 prospects and enrolled 391 people in Sunday school.

This year's totals do not include results from three associations. The director of missions for the associations could not be reached for his report.

Ramsey said he was especially pleased with the participation of 25 National Baptist churches. They recorded 205 professions of faith, and one church surveyed a subdivision to lay groundwork for a new church.

Throughout southern Louisiana and Mississippi, 113 churches participated in the event. Volunteers from 29 states were matched with local church members to canvas neighborhoods, asking for responses to a religious opinion survey.

The survey asked residents about their religious preference, why American families are under stress and if it is possible to know for certain that a person has eternal life.

Philip Pinckard, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans, said he liked using the survey approach.

"It's a very natural way to lead to asking questions about the person's spiritual life," Pinckard said. "We'll use it in the future."

The witnesses were told in a Friday afternoon rally that people in New Orleans are "very religious."

"The people of New Orleans believe most everything we believe, they simply don't know how to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," said Buford Easley, pastor of Williams Boulevard Baptist Church in suburban Kenner.

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Volunteers found a strong Catholic influence among residents. Fred Oaks, pastor of Quitman Baptist Church in Quitman, Ark., and his wife Linda said they found many people who think to be a Christian "all you have to do is be a good person."

At least two passers-by stopped surveyors to ask what they were doing. A mail carrier, a Jehovah's Witness, said he was surprised to see Baptists knocking on doors.

Another woman stopped Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis to inquire about the activity. Kneeling outside her car and talking through the rolled down window, he led her to accept Christ as Savior.

Not all residents were as eager to listen. Bob Martin, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Paragould, Ark., said people were usually cordial, but many did not allow the volunteers to ask the survey questions.

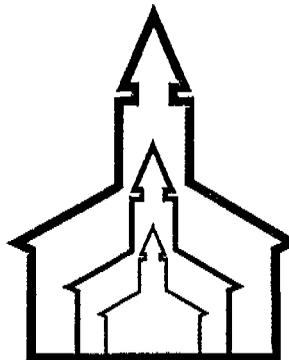
Ramsey is already enlisting people for next year's evangelism effort before the convention in Atlanta.

"I'm dreaming of the day when every person who comes to the Southern Baptist Convention has such a desire to win people to Jesus Christ that they come early to do that," he said. "That's when we'll penetrate America with the gospel."

The witnessing efforts were sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the convention's host state convention.

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By Sarah Zimmerman, 3:30 p.m., Tuesday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Committee Report -- Part 2

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention voted Tuesday afternoon to add a religious liberty function to the SBC's Christian Life Commission (CLC).

They approved the recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee on a show of hands.

But another show of hands was not decisive on a motion to amend the SBC's 1990-91 Cooperative Program allocation budget, which contained a 40 percent increase in funds for the CLC and an 87 percent decrease for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA).

Messengers voted by paper ballot on an amendment by messenger Frank Ingraham of Franklin, Tenn., after SBC President Jerry Vines ruled the show of hands was not clearcut.

The amendment lost by a vote of 17,915 to 13,608.

Ingraham's amendment called for the BJCPA, the CLC and the SBC Public Affairs Committee to receive only 1.89 percent increases in line with increases for other SBC entities in the \$137.3 million Cooperative Program budget proposal.

The CP budget proposal includes an increase in the CLC budget from \$897,508 to \$1,262,836, a decrease for the BJCPA from \$391,796 to \$50,000, and an increase of 5.47 percent for PAC, from \$23,704 to \$25,000.

Historically, the BJCPA, a nine-denomination "First Amendment/religious liberty organization in Washington, has handled SBC religious liberty concerns. The CLC is the SBC's moral concerns agency.

Tuesday's action to add religious liberty to the CLC program statement leaves three entities -- the CLC, BJCPA and PAC -- with religious liberty functions related to Southern Baptists.

The BJCPA, to which the SBC relates through the 18-member PAC, has been the center of controversy in recent years on such issues as school prayer. It has survived five attempts in the last six years either to defund it or to alter the method by which its funding is provided.

On Tuesday afternoon, messengers, again by a show of hands, approved an Executive Committee recommendation to delete PAC's program statement.

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That action would not end the PAC, which will continue to function under a set of guidelines drawn up by the Executive Committee. The committee recommended deletion of the program statement because only SBC agencies have program statements.

Ingraham, speaking to his amendment said it would restore the budget to its original state but would not change the amount of money involved.

He said the cooperative fellowship of states and churches is also involved, an apparent reference to reports that some individual states and churches are considering bypassing the Cooperative Program and give directly to the BJCPA if the SBC slashes its budget.

Executive Committee member Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City, Tenn., defended the committee's recommendation. He said it was not something that originated as a substitute but was part of the original budget recommendation.

Sullivan said it would be illogical to give a program assignment to the CLC and then not provide funds for the new assignment.

He also said, in response to Ingraham, that it would be illogical to think any state would abandon the Cooperative Program and the missions and evangelistic ministries it supports.

Henry Green, a messenger from Cocoa, Fla., said the BCJPA "has served our denomination well" and said it is biblical that Baptists serve together cooperatively but unbiblical "when a group of people come together to railroad issues through to destroy the cooperative spirit."

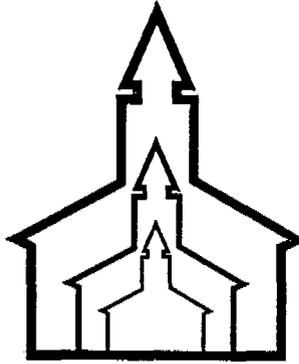
After the ballot vote, the convention approved a final Executive Committee recommendation to honor Darold H. Morgan, who retired March 1 after 18 years as president of the SBC Annuity Board.

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By Robert O'Brien and Bob Stanley -- 6:30 p.m. Tuesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday Afternoon Resolutions

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- Thirty-seven resolutions were submitted by Southern Baptist Convention messengers Tuesday afternoon, bringing the 1990 total to 80, the largest proposed in recent years.

The second highest total since 1979 was 74 by messengers to the 1985 SBC meeting in Dallas.

All resolutions were referred to the 10-member Resolutions Committee which will publish its first report Wednesday.

Alcohol and tobacco advertising generated the largest number of resolutions Tuesday afternoon with five while four dealt with abortion.

A call for "sensible advertising and family education legislation which would require rotating health messages in alcoholic beverage advertisements" was sounded in a resolution by Marshall Albritton.

Ken Wilson of North Central Baptist Church of Gainesville, Fla., proposed that Southern Baptists oppose the advertisement of all alcohol and tobacco products.

Three other resolutions expressed opposition to signs and advertisements for alcohol products in the Louisiana Superdome.

Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., proposed a resolution on sanctity of human life which opposes abortion except to save the life of the mother and calls on Southern Baptists "to work for the adoption of pro-life legislation in their respective states."

Welch, a leader of anti-abortion efforts in Florida, also expressed opposition to "all efforts by the United States Congress to limit the rights of states to restrict abortion on demand" and opposes testing of drugs and technologies "which will make the practice of abortion more convenient and widespread." The resolution also supports a ban on federal government research in the use of fetal tissue.

Bruce Copeland of First Baptist Church of Troy, Texas, submitted two resolutions on protection for the unborn and for life.

Opposition to government support through the National Endowment for the Arts to art termed offensive and obscene was expressed in two resolutions.

A third commended Sen. Jesse Helms, a Republican and Southern Baptist from North Carolina, for leading opposition to the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Other moral and social issues addressed in resolutions included world hunger, pornography and euthanasia.

Skeet Workman of Calvary Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, asked messengers "to go on record as opposing the legalization of euthanasia in America."

A resolution of appreciation for a June 4 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the Equal Access Act was proposed by D. Leslie Hollon of Wornall Road Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo. The act allows students in secondary schools to have the same access to school facilities for religious organizations as other non-curriculum groups.

Support for the role of pastors and encouragement to pastors whose churches which have reached numerical plateaus or which are declining were expressed in two resolutions.

A resolution by Greg Burton of Casky Baptist Church affirms small churches and urges continued efforts by SBC agencies to meet their needs.

Other topics included designating October 1990 as a month of prayer and reconciliation, call for solemn assembly, love to Jewish people, Liberian civil war, home schooling and Hurricane Hugo relief.

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By Linda Lawson -- 7:30 p.m., Tuesday

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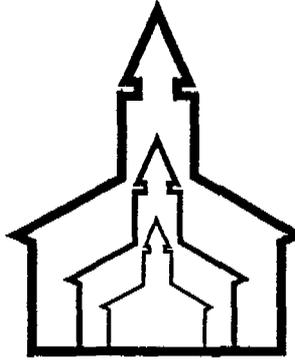
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Presidential News Conference

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--Whether the inerrancy issue is settled in the Southern Baptist Convention depends upon the response of the 42 percent of messengers who voted against Morris Chapman, the newly elected president said Tuesday night.

Chapman held a news conference in the Louisiana Superdome hours after the day of his election as president of the 14.9-million member denomination.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta, in balloting on the opening day of the denomination's annual meeting. The vote was 21,471 to 15,753.

In nominating Chapman, Houston pastor John Bisagno said Chapman's election would settle the inerrancy issue "once and forever."

However, after the election Chapman said that decision rests with the 42 percent of messengers who voted against him. He noted that outgoing SBC president Jerry Vines said last year the inerrancy issue had been settled.

"The large majority of Southern Baptists believe the issue is settled," Chapman said. "Whether or not the issue is settled in its most practical form is largely up to those who have been voting otherwise, who have insisted that we are not a group who have believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

He underscored that the split isn't as great as the 60-40 vote indicated. At least 90 percent of Southern Baptists adhere to inerrancy, he maintained.

Asked whether the other 10 percent should leave the convention, Chapman said he couldn't say. "I wouldn't presume to speak for those who hold different theological beliefs. The choice would have to be made by those persons."

In a prepared opening statement to the news conference, Chapman said he wanted to "enhance the cooperative spirit among Southern Baptists while standing steadfastly for biblical truth."

Looking back at the past 12 years, Chapman said Southern Baptists "have been sending signals to leaders of our agencies and institutions that as to doctrinal integrity we need to come home to the faith of our fathers.

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"Southern Baptists are a people of the book. We must perpetuate that belief through the institutional life of our beloved convention," he said.

Chapman said during the next year he wants to meet with the presidents of every SBC agency and institution "to listen to their heartbeat and let them hear mine.

"For peace and harmony to be effective throughout the rank and file, elected officials and paid personnel must gain a better understanding of each other," he said. "I think we've had too many press conferences and not enough personal conferences."

In meeting with those presidents, Chapman said he would emphasize his desire to "keep theological parameters in place and remove any political parameters."

He affirmed the 1987 Peace Committee report. His wife, Jodi, who was seated beside him at the news conference, served on the Peace Committee.

"The Peace Committee report was adopted overwhelmingly. It is more of a convention statement than a committee statement," Chapman said.

"The Peace Committee has done a great thing for all Southern Baptists for at least two reasons: they've helped describe what we meant all along by infallibility and inerrancy and asked us to go beyond perceived political parameters."

He declared he wants to "be a part of opening communication between trustees and administration." He affirmed trustees as the appropriate people to deal with questions raised about particular agencies and institutions.

Chapman said he does not favor "a wholesale housecleaning of any kind" in those institutions.

Asked about his own appointments to the committee on committees, Chapman said, "My commitment in the appointive process is to appoint those persons who believe in the perpetuation of allegiance to the perfect word of God and those who believe within the parameters of the Peace Committee report."

Reporters asked Chapman about dissension among his own congregation and messengers to the convention from that church. During the first day of the convention, at least one messenger from Chapman's church spoke against issues favored by the conservative leadership.

"The vast majority of my church and those attending the convention from my church have a great love for their pastor and great support for their pastor," Chapman replied.

Asked about the future of Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, Chapman said that in most instances the press has been "fair and honest."

"By and large, I believe they have had an honest desire to report the truth. I do believe that Baptist Press and the Baptist state papers can be of great help to us in returning our convention to harmony and peace without compromise on the infallibility and inerrancy of the Word of God."

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By Ken Camp and Mark Wingfield, 8:15 p.m. Tuesday

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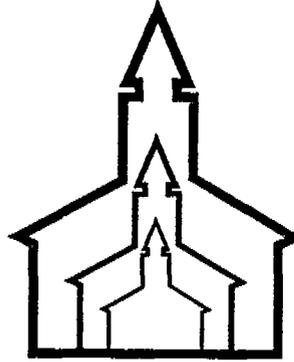
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Motions: Tuesday Afternoon

NEW ORLEANS, June 12--Several of the 26 motions introduced during the Tuesday afternoon session of the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention reflected messengers' frustrations with the day's other proceedings.

But the motion receiving the most response from messengers called for the removal of an SBC seminary trustee. A large number of messengers greeted with a prolonged standing ovation a motion by W. Lamar Wadsworth of Baltimore, Md., that Jerry Johnson be removed as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., wrote a 16-page article critical of Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt and five professors. Johnson has refused to resign his trustee post.

Following action to add religious liberty to the program assignment of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, J. Rodger Clark Jr., a messenger from Louisville, Ky., proposed that the convention sever all financial support to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as soon as legally possible. The Washington-based BJC has served as the Southern Baptist voice on religious liberty issues for more than 50 years.

Three motions focused on a controversy surrounding the chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations. Chairman Roland Lopez is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in McAllen, Texas, which is no longer considered to be a "cooperating" Southern Baptist church because of its failure to make contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program.

In response to questions about Lopez's service as chairman, SBC President Jerry Vines ruled Lopez could serve because his church was a "cooperating church" at the time of his election as chairman.

In slightly different ways, each of the three motions would amend the SBC constitution or bylaws in such a way as to prevent a member of a non-cooperating church from serving in such an office.

In a related action, Alan Wilder of Red Bank, Va., announced his intention to introduce a motion to rescind the adoption of the Committee on Nominations report.

Several other motions addressed issues related to small churches and their pastors, such as studying the possibility of subsidizing those pastors' health insurance programs and involving those congregations more in SBC annual meetings.

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Motions: Tuesday afternoon -- Page 2

Other motions called for:

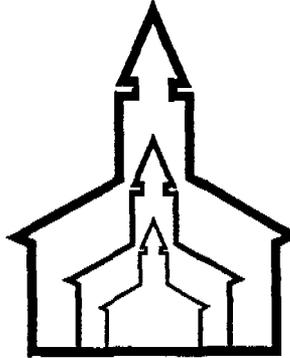
- No SBC entity to be used for political activity.
- All SBC messengers to be at least 18 years of age.
- Appointment of specific types of individuals to various SBC committees.
- Terminating the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's policy that prohibits financial support being given to a woman serving as pastor of a local church.
- Providing support for churches that are involved in Christian day school ministry.
- The removal or covering of all advertisements for alcohol and tobacco products in meeting halls for future SBC annual meetings.
- Changing the name of the SBC to the Cooperative Baptist Convention.

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By Kathy Palen -- 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jodi Chapman interview

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- Jodi Chapman feels equally at home lending support to her husband or giving service to her denomination.

Chapman, wife of newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman, says she looks forward to encouraging her husband of 27 years in his new responsibilities. Yet her role as the wife of the SBC president is not her first taste of denominational life.

Chapman served on the SBC Peace Committee from 1985-88 and recently completed eight years of service on the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. She sees advantages in having both marital partners active in denominational service.

"It broadens our perspective on SBC life," she says. "I understand a lot of things (about the SBC) a lot of wives would not."

She anticipates being the wife of the SBC president might be similar to being "the pastor's wife of the largest church in the world." The task, however, does not overwhelm her.

"I love people and that's what it's all about," she says.

During her husband's pre-convention travels, Chapman, who is employed as a registered nurse, rarely had the opportunity to accompany her husband. Yet she found those few travel experiences enjoyable because she "met all types of people from all types of churches." In the future, she wants to accompany her husband when he is on the road as much as time permits.

Chapman realizes being the SBC president's wife will raise her profile. She does not, however, relish the idea of being looked upon as the model minister's wife.

"Sometimes you are thrust into that position," she acknowledges. Therefore, she says, she will be aware that her words and actions may have an influence on others.

The Chapmans, the parents of two grown children, are not adverse to giving each other advice regarding denominational activities, says Jodi. However, she notes that both are determined to make their own decisions.

Chapman says making the transition from her role as a pastor's wife to a denominational activist was tough at first.

"You are more independent when you get out there on you own," she observes. "You don't have anybody to rely on except the Lord."

--over--

Chapman notes few women serve on important committees either in the secular world or in church life. Yet she senses no particular pressure to perform well because she is a woman.

"I am just who I am and I don't go in with any preconceived ideas," she says.

At First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, where her husband is pastor, Chapman sees her role as "encouraging other people to be leaders." She teaches Sunday School, sings in the choir and participates in Woman's Missionary Union.

Yet she says she is careful not to inappropriately place herself into a position of leadership. "I am not the associate pastor," she emphasizes.

Regarding the future of the SBC, Chapman would like the denomination to experience "contentment and peace." She adds that Southern Baptists have indicated their desire for a more conservative denomination through their voting for the past 12 years.

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By Pat Cole, 8:10 a.m. Wednesday

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

June 12-14, 1990

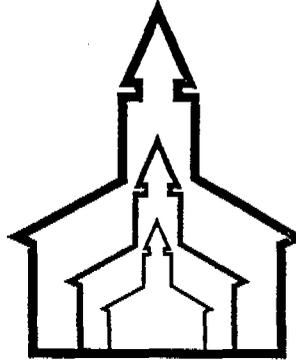
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Alvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Marv Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday evening reports

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- The new president of the Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas, is asking Southern Baptists to spend at least one day in prayer and fasting for the commission.

Jack Johnson, former executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Baptist Convention, Phoenix, asked people attending the Tuesday evening meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Louisiana Superdome to have the day of prayer and fasting by Sept. 30, the end of the church year.

The call for prayer and fasting does not indicate problems at the commission. Rather, Dick McCartney, executive vice president, reported that the commission's debt is under control and all short-term debt has been cleared.

McCartney also reported a "new spirit of optimism" among the commission's staff and trustees. "This optimistic spirit is making it possible for us to realize the potential for using electronic media to spread the gospel to our world," McCartney said.

Johnson asked for the day of prayer and fasting to make that potential a reality.

In another Tuesday evening report, messengers were reminded that this is the last decade of Bold Mission Thrust, the plan to present the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive committee, Nashville, Tenn., said reaching Bold Mission Thrust goals will require a "sharp focus and bold action. . . In the urgent now we have the opportunity and challenge to respond with unprecedented faith and works."

Also, Arthur Walker, secretary-treasurer of the Commission on the American Baptist Seminary, Nashville, presented the seminary's annual report. The commission is the cooperative effort between Southern Baptists and National Baptists to provide education for African-Americans preparing for church vocations.

The commission's major event in the last year has been permission to use classroom space of the World Baptist Center of the National Baptist Convention. It is the first new classroom space for the commission in 30 years, Walker said.

--over--

The report of the Historical commission was presented by Lynn E. May, Jr. the commission's executive director. He said the commission's purpose is the "collect and preserve material and make it available to study so Baptists can preserve their history."

He noted that the commission is planning now for the convention's 150th anniversary in 1995.

Earlier, the messengers heard a theme interpretation in which Larry Wynn, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga., offered a four-fold pattern of church growth.

First, Wynn said "prayer must be primary. The most important thing you can do is to spend time in your study on your knees."

Second, Wynn challenged those attending the evening session to turn obstacles into opportunities.

Third, celebration must be contagious, Wynn said. "Folks, let's get serious that Jesus Christ is who he said he is. We must celebrate a risen savior, not a funeral."

Finally, Wynn said soul winning must be central. "The reason our baptisms are declining is because we are not sharing the gospel," he said. "Bold Mission Thrust is every born again Baptist confronting our world with the news that Jesus saves."

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By Sarah Zimmerman and Scott Collins, 8:15 a.m. Wednesday

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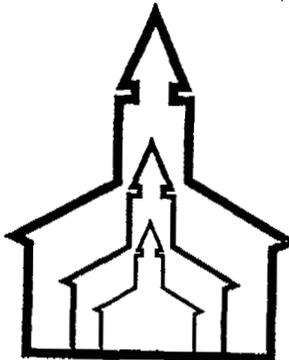
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Home Mission Board Report

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- A top Home Mission Board official and four of its most successful church planters challenged Southern Baptists Tuesday night to get serious about winning America for Christ.

Charles L. Chaney, vice president for extension, said the board is ahead of the pace needed to meet its Bold Mission Thrust goal of having 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000. Last year it started new churches at the rate of three and a half churches every day, he noted.

But he urged the 12,000 messengers at the home missions emphasis to come back next year and be able to say, "We're building four a day!"

Chaney listed three reasons why he asked participants at the SBC session to commit themselves anew to higher levels of church-starting:

1. "Because of our constant obligation to the lost." Some have estimated that as many as 170 million Americans do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior, he said. This means that there are only four other nations in the world with greater unsaved populations than this country, he said.

2. "Because of the current opportunity we have in this nation." For the first time, one denomination has the numerical strength and ethnic diversity to reach the nation for Christ, he said, "and that's Southern Baptists." With congregations encompassing 97 native groups and 101 different languages, including 1,300 black churches, Chaney said "we can address this whole nation."

3. "Because of our commitment to the Great Commission." Chaney traced the development of churches as the Holy Spirit led disciples in the early church, noting that wherever the disciples went they made other disciples and planted churches.

He told of a Methodist evangelist named C.C. McCabe who was on his way to the Northwest to plant churches in 1881 when his train stopped in Chicago. In a paper he bought there, the well-know atheist Robert Ingersoll was quoted as saying that churches were dying throughout the land and soon all will be dead.

McCabe sent Ingersoll a wire that read:

"We're building one church for every day of the year, and we purpose to make it two."

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The Methodists were a singing lot, Chaney said, and soon had a song that ended, "We're building three a day."

Sixty years later, in 1941, Chaney said, a Wisconsin pastor went to a door and met Robert Ingersoll III. He led him to Christ, and two weeks later Ingersoll's descendant was baptized.

"My friends," Chaney said, "we have to come back next year and say we're building four a day!" At the close of the service, those willing to commit to leading their church to start new congregations were asked to check a card on the back of the program and give it to home missionaries standing by the exits.

Preceding Chaney's appeal, four other church planters from Florida, New England, Louisiana and California told how they are helping to start new congregations.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., said he and his wife and four-month-old daughter arrived in California in 1980 with no money and all their belongings in a U-Haul truck.

He went to a real estate office, told the man he needed a place to live, and in two hours got a condominium with the first month free. "That man became our first member," he said.

From that humble start, the Saddleback Valley church has grown to the point where it had 7,600 attending on this past Easter Sunday.

Today, Saddleback has 15 daughter churches that run 300 to 400 in attendance and baptize 50 to 60 each a year.

"Not one has a building," he said. "Don't use not having a building as a reason for not starting a church."

Saddleback has used 51 different buildings in its brief history. Having a building too soon can restrict the size of a church, he said. Instead of putting money into buildings, he advised, put it into people.

To reach the Baby Boomer generation, he said, it is going to take churches that are inherently different from most of today's traditional churches. He thinks each traditional church should start a new church, and let that church find its own way to reach out to its target community.

Others who told of their work were G. Franklin Beam, church planter strategist for the South Florida region, Sunrise, Fla.; Ignatius Meimaris, missionary and language missions director for the Baptist Convention of New England, Northborough, Mass.; and Kenneth Weathersby, pastor of Douglas Avenue Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

At the beginning of the service, board president Larry Lewis presented its first annual plaque to the church that has baptized the most people in the past year. It went to Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

Presenting the plaque to Dr. and Mrs. Jackson, Lewis noted that North Phoenix has led the convention in baptisms during seven of the 10 years in the 1980s: 1981, '82, '83, '86, '87, '88 and '89. In 10 years, the church has baptized more than 11,400 people.

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By Bob Stanley--8:25 a.m. Wednesday

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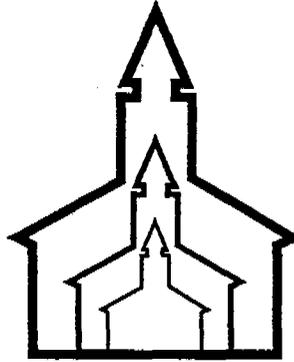
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday a.m. opening session

NEW ORLEANS, June 13 -- Southern Baptists began the second day of their three-day annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome with an appeal for sacrificial giving.

Stewardship Commission president A.R. Fagan of Nashville, Tenn., urged messengers to set a new trend in giving to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified offering for missions and theological education.

"We're all aware that in the past several decades our support for missions has continued to decline," Fagan said. "Little by little, more of the gifts that have been received by our churches have been kept in our churches."

"God has set before us this day an open door, when barriers are falling down all around this world. It is time for us to give sacrificial attention to our giving."

Fagan said the SBC has 1,658 more missionaries serving than 10 years ago. However, if churches had given last year at the same level as they did 10 years ago, an additional \$55 million would have been given.

"We don't need to reverse the trend," he declared. "We need to set an entirely new plateau of giving. That cannot be done by votes at this convention."

Fagan's report was one of a series agency leaders made to messengers.

Lewis Drummond, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., told messengers: "There's a new spirit among our students. A new spirit exists on the entire campus. God is at work among us."

"Now, it's true we have a path before us to tread. But God is clearly leading and enabling us."

"We've rounded a corner and we have set our face like a flint," Drummond said. "We shall not be deterred. We shall become the kind of Baptist-committed, Bible-believing seminary you want us to be."

Drummond reported an enrollment of 1,075 students last year with applications for admissions running 20 percent ahead of last year. The seminary has added five professors who are "utterly committed to God's word and world evangelization," he said.

The seminary has taken "decisive action on every single concern of our accrediting agencies," Drummond stated.

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In the report of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, president Milton Ferguson said the school is about the business of reconciliation.

He reported how trustees, administration and faculty of the Kansas City school found reconciliation in working through the Peace Committee report.

"In that process we discovered we have more in common in our relationship with Jesus Christ than we might have differences," he said. "A miracle happened."

Arthur Walker, executive director of the SBC Education Commission, Nashville, Tenn., noted the agency is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

"Education has been part of the work of the Southern Baptist Convention since before the inception of the convention itself," he said. "As we see so many and so much of education coming under the influence of secular humanism ... it is even more important that Southern Baptists ought to emphasize their educational institutions."

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By Mark Wingfield, 10:35 a.m. Wednesday

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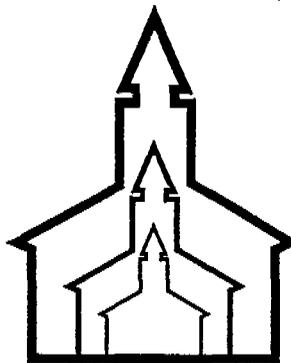
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brotherhood breakfast

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Comedian Jerry Clower affirmed the accomplishments of Christian young people in presenting the Jerry Clower Award Wednesday to Howard E. Ammons, winner of the 1990 National High School Baptist Young Men's Missions Speak Out competition.

Clower spoke to 215 people at the annual Brotherhood Breakfast at the Hyatt Regency following Ammons winning speech. Ammons is a junior at Mooresville Senior High School and a member of Peninsula Baptist Church, Mooresville, S.C.

Fourteen states and 125 young men participated in the sixth national competition sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission. In addition to the speak out winner, the first recipients of the 1990 Award of Merit International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders were recognized at the breakfast.

Clower, a Southern Baptist who is a member of East Fork Baptist Church, Liberty, Miss., told the crowd not enough is said about America's young Christians who live their faith.

"We try to get the one who has been in jail the longest and killed the most guards and raped the most folks and been on the most dope and then was gloriously saved," Clower said. "But let me tell you something more powerful than that. When a young person reaches the age of accountability, win him to Jesus and don't never have to let me go through all that, that's a heap more powerful.

"Two percent of the young people in this country are sorry, but 98 percent of the young people are beautiful," Clower said. "You know what the problem is, the 2 percent that's sorry are getting all the publicity and 98 percent that are great, they ain't saying nothing about them.

"If a boy reaches the age of accountability and commits his life to Jesus he doesn't have to spend one hour of his life serving the devil," Clower said.

Clower lauded Southern Baptists as a Christian people whose strength comes from their local churches.

"I ain't lost my Christian joy and I ain't going nowhere either," Clower said. "I've been a Southern Baptist for 50 years, I've heard those who talk about leaving...I don't know where they're going.

--over--

"We can be so silly sometimes. See, East Fork Baptist Church is autonomous. We have what we call the 'trash can' doctrine. We send messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention and bring back reports and we study 'em and pray over 'em. But 50 percent of us plus one will adopt 'em, 50 percent of us plus one will say, 'we don't like that. Trash can doctrine, and there it goes.

"(The) local church is where it's at," Clower said. "That's where you have your RAs. The older I get the more I'm convinced the local church ought to be the first place of Christian service for any Christian. And it's well known that I don't support nobody who wants to be elected to nothing that don't believe in giving to the Cooperative Program."

In his winning speech, "Mission Projects and Me," Ammons said he found by participating in missions projects that "(missions) is not only the missionaries, and it is not only my pastor who are supposed to do the work of the Lord."

Ammons said Matthew 28:19-20 has taught him that all Christians are called into missions.

"I get excited every time I read that because it tells me that not only do I want the Lord, but the Lord wants me, too," he said.

The first 1990 Award of Merit International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders were recognized for "their commitment to teach missions to boys through RAs" by James H. Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

The Legion was started as a way to recognize RA leaders for their life-long commitment to missions education for boys, Smith said.

Recipients of the Legion award and states they represent were:

Texas--J. Ivyloy Bishop, 74, First Baptist Church, Plainview. Bishop was a conventionwide RA secretary from 1943-1955 for the Woman's Missionary Union. He has served in various RA capacities in Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Marion "Cotton" Bridges, 59, First Baptist Church, Plano. Bridges is -- interim RA director for Texas Baptist Men and Region 3 RA director and RA director for Collin Association. He also has served in RAs at First Baptist Church, Seminole; and First Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church, Abilene, as well as in Region 14.

Herb Weaver Jr., 54, First Baptist Church, Houston. Weaver is state vice president of RAs for Texas Baptist Men. He has been an RA director for Union Association since 1979 and was an RA curriculum writer for five years. Weaver has served a number of churches as RA counselor or director.

Oklahoma--Edward Hurt, 82, First Baptist Church, Shawnee. Hurt was convention-wide secretary from 1955-1967. He was RA secretary during the transfer of RAs from WMU to the Brotherhood Commission.

John W. Henson, 71, Checotah Baptist Church, Brush Hill. Henson has been RA director of Muskogee Association since 1980. He served from 1961-80 as RA counselor and director at First Baptist Church, Norman and as RA director of Union Association. Henson has served Oklahoma Baptists on the state RA committee, as a volunteer counselor and unit director at Camp Hudgens and as a certified leadership trainer.

Dave Prichard, 65, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. He has been RA director for 15 years, a member of the RA sports committee and unit director at Camp Hudgens. Prichard also has served as a certified leadership trainer.

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North Carolina--Bill Jackson, 69, First Baptist Church, Asheboro. Jackson served as a professional RA worker in North Carolina from 1946-1968. He served as guest editor of Ambassador Life magazine from 1953-1955.

Bob Foy, 46, Peninsula Baptist Church, Mooresville. Foy has served as member of the state RA committee, High School Baptist Young Men's director and RA director for the Mecklenburg and South Yadkin associations. He as served as a counselor at Peninsula Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, Mooresville and at Shamrock Baptist Church, Charlotte.

Florida--R.A. Carlton Jr., 68, South Patrick Baptist Church, Satellite Beach, Fla. Carlton is RA director of the Brevard Association and has served Florida Baptists on state RA camp staffs and as a Brotherhood consultant. His RA work also includes Miami, Royal Palm and Gulf Stream associations.

Missouri--Jesse Cunningham, 82, South Haven Baptist Church, Springfield. Cunningham is minister of senior adults and has served Missouri Baptists as state RA trainer, as RA congress track events supervisor and on the state RA committee. He started RA work in 1935.

South Carolina--William R. Montague, 61, Eau Claire Baptist Church, Columbia. Montague has served as RA counselor/director at his church since 1954. He has served South Carolina Baptists as chairman of the RA basketball league for Columbia Metro Association and as counselor trainer and RA director of the old Fairfield Association in Columbia. He has been a counselor at McCall RA Camp every year since 1960.

Georgia--Michael L. Rivers, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Athens. Rivers serves on the state RA/High School Baptist Young Men's advisory committee and as regional RA/HSBYM director.

Posthumous Legion awards honored those who were actively involved in RA-related work at the time of their death, they were: Jim Bethea, Montgomery, Ala., who had served as an associate in the Brotherhood department of the Alabama Baptist State Convention; Norman Godfrey, Memphis, Tenn., who had served 12 years as first vice president of the Brotherhood Commission and who had been a professional worker in Tarrant Association, Fort Worth, Texas, before becoming an RA consultant at the Brotherhood Commission in 1960; and Glendon McCullough, Memphis, Tenn., who had served seven years as executive secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood Commission. McCullough also served as RA secretary in Georgia and interim RA secretary in Kentucky.

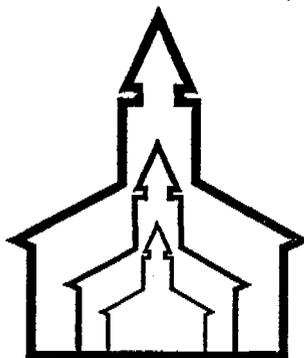
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By Tim Yarbrough -- 11:40 a.m. Wednesday

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SBC Press Representative  
Dan Martin  
News Room Manager  
Mary Knox  
Features Manager  
Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Registration story

NEW ORLEANS, June 13 -- The 1990 Southern Baptist Convention drew the third-largest crowd and the second-largest Tuesday registration in the denomination's 145-year history.

As of 10 a.m. Wednesday, registration stood at 38,416. That compares to 45,519 in Dallas in 1985 and 40,987 in Atlanta in 1986.

This year's registration patterns compared closely to the 1988 convention in San Antonio, Texas, said registration secretary Lee Porter, when a total of 32,727 messengers registered.

Hourly checks of registration from the opening of registration lines Sunday until 6 p.m. Monday night appeared almost identical to the pattern established in San Antonio, Porter said. After 6 p.m. Monday, the New Orleans registration jumped ahead of San Antonio.

The increased flow of registrants continued Tuesday, giving the New Orleans convention the second-highest Tuesday registration in history. Almost 9,000 messengers registered on that day.

"In most of the past eight to 10 years, we've registered 3,000 to 5,000 people on Tuesday," Porter said. "The only exception was in Dallas where 10,000 people registered on Tuesday morning."

Tuesday was the opening day of the three-day annual meeting. Most of the convention's contested elections -- including the race for president and a vote on changing agency program statements and budgets regarding religious liberty -- were scheduled for Tuesday.

"Many of these messengers who registered on Tuesday came from small churches in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama," Porter explained.

The high registration total created a problem Wednesday morning, when a business session had to be delayed due to the lack of a quorum. At least 9,604 messengers were needed to meet the 25 percent quorum stipulated in SBC Bylaws.

Based upon Porter's estimates at 10 a.m. Wednesday, the largest number of messengers came from Texas (4,550) followed by Georgia (3,950), Louisiana (3,550), North Carolina (3,400), Alabama (3,150) and Mississippi (3,100).

Other registration estimates by state are:

Alaska, 75; Arizona, 125; Arkansas, 1,200; California, 325; Colorado, 115; Connecticut, 25; Delaware, 10; D.C., 60; Florida, 2,600;

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Hawaii, 40; Idaho, 10; Illinois, 350; Indiana, 260; Iowa, 40; Kansas, 160; Kentucky, 2,250; Maine, 3;

Maryland, 310; Massachusetts, 25; Michigan, 110; Minnesota, 20; Missouri, 1,600; Montana, 20; Nebraska, 15; Nevada, 55; New Hampshire, 10; New Jersey, 55; New Mexico, 180;

New York, 80; North Carolina, 3,400; North Dakota, 40; Ohio, 310; Oklahoma, 1,050; Oregon, 25; Pennsylvania, 90; Puerto Rico, 5; Rhode Island, 10;

South Carolina, 2,260; South Dakota, 30; Tennessee, 2,650; Utah, 40; Vermont, 10; Virginia, 2,050; Washington, 50; West Virginia, 125; Wisconsin, 20; Wyoming, 10.

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By Mark Wingfield, 11:50 a.m. Wednesday

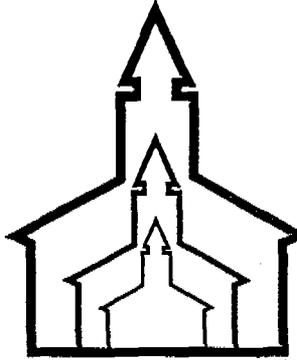
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday Morning Resolutions

NEW ORLEANS, June 13 -- Resolutions urging laws against the possession of child pornography and calling Southern Baptists to environmental stewardship were adopted without debate Wednesday morning by messengers to the 133rd session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting at the Louisiana Superdome.

While the two resolutions were adopted as presented by the Resolutions Committee, the eight minutes allocated to resolutions were punctuated by questions and points of order concerning rulings on motions by the Committee on Order of Business.

SBC President Jerry Vines said the time for the business session was allocated between motions and resolutions to allow the 10-member Resolutions Committee to begin its report.

The resolution on possession of child pornography notes that the United States Supreme Court in a 1990 decision, *Osborne v. Ohio*, ruled that "private possession of child pornography is not protected by the First Amendment and can be made illegal by the states."

The resolution urges Southern Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for the enactment of legislation.

The resolution also asks the Christian Life Commission and other appropriate entities to call on the U.S. Congress "to amend federal child pornography statutes applying to federal land and facilities."

Southern Baptists also are asked to "insist that law enforcement officials and prosecutors at the federal, state and local levels vigorously enforce and prosecute child pornography and other pornography statutes to the fullest extent of the law."

The resolution on environmental stewardship attributes environmental problems such as "pollution, human extravagance and wastefulness, soil depletion and erosion and general misuse of creation" to "the sinfulness of the human race."

While Christians are "fobidden to worship the creation," they are "called to be faithful stewards of that which is entrusted to us," the resolution states.

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Southern Baptists are urged to publicly recognize their responsibility to be stewards of the environment and "seek ways personally and corporately to care for the earth and all who dwell therein."

Finally, Southern Baptist people, churches and other groups are "encouraged to make an environmentally responsible ethic a part of our lifestyle and evangelistic witness."

In the Thursday morning business session, messengers will consider resolutions on tax relief and equity for families and on government support of obscene and offensive "art" proposed by the committee in its report published in the Wednesday SBC Bulletin. Other resolutions will be proposed and published Thursday.

Resolutions Committee chairman Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C., told messengers they proposed a record 87 resolutions Tuesday which were referred to the committee for consideration.

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By Linda Lawson, 12:50 p.m. Wednesday

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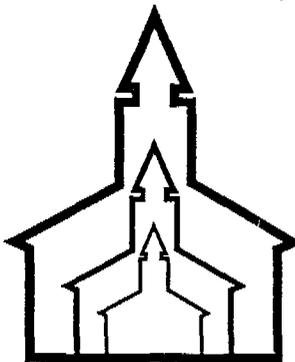
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Baptists Committed Breakfast

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Saying he was defeated but not demoralized, Daniel Vestal Wednesday appealed for moderate and conservative Southern Baptists to schedule a formal dialogue on the future of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta, on the previous day lost the election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention to Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, by a 58-42 percent margin.

Vestal told about 700 persons attending a breakfast sponsored by Baptists Committed to the SBC about his personal reactions to the election, possible scenarios for the future of the convention, and appeals to those who have been involved in the 12-year struggle within the convention.

"Now is not the time to despair," Vestal told his supporters. "Now is the time to fill your life with hope-filled tasks."

He urged the Executive Committee of Baptists Committed to provide a forum, perhaps a retreat for invited participants open to the press, for formal dialogue on the future of the SBC.

It was one of seven appeals Vestal issued during his first public appearance following the convention presidential election. He issued the following specific appeals:

-- To Morris Chapman and the presidents of the SBC for the past 12 years who now control the denomination, asking them to "broaden the tent of involvement" in the SBC as they have suggested publicly.

-- To pastors of prominent SBC churches such as John Bisagno of Houston, Joel Gregory of Fort Worth, Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla.; Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., and others asking that they live up to their promise "of a historic new day" in the SBC.

-- To the trustees of SBC agencies, urging them to affirm, trust and support denominational leaders and stop embarrassing publicly "these good and Godly men."

-- To those who voted for Chapman, asking them "to accept the rest of us as brothers and sisters and stop accusing us and implying we do not believe the Bible just because we don't agree on interpretation of Scripture or support your political movement."

--over--

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-- To those who voted for him (Vestal), appealing for them to practice Christian charity, and focus their attention on a sovereign God and on the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

-- To all Southern Baptists, pleading for Baptists "to let the love of Jesus Christ fill our hearts so that it overflows to other people."

Vestal, who was greeted with three standing ovations during the breakfast, confessed he did not expect the kind of outcome in the election the previous day. Vestal received only 15,753 votes (42 percent) compared to Chapman's 21,471 (58 percent).

Vestal said he could offer no reason or explanation for the wide vote margin, even though he had questioned the reason why all day and all night.

Vestal said the election was not about believing the Bible as the infallible word of God. "The election yesterday was about the future -- whether we will be a united convention that recaptures a vision for cooperative missions and evangelism.

"That vision failed," Vestal said. Even though they failed in the election, and in the appeal for the convention to refocus its attention on missions and evangelism, Vestal said he and those who supported him have done "what is right."

Vestal said he and others involved in "Baptists Committed" have sought to reach out for peace, reconciliation, openness, fairness, trust, and freedom. "We have called for a return to the priesthood of all believers, for congregational polity, for cooperative missions, for religious liberty and separation for church and state, for unity in diversity..."

The key question now is, "Where do we go from here?" Vestal offered five possible scenarios for the future:

1. The present leadership could moderate enough to bring us back together by balancing the appointments to SBC committees and boards.
2. The present SBC leadership could maintain "its present rigid posture" and some churches would leave the SBC and affiliate with American Baptist Churches and/or the Southern Baptist Alliance.
3. Southern Baptists might return to a "societal" approach, creating mission societies that could receive and distribute funds to mission causes.
4. New organizations might develop to provide continuing educational and political involvement.
5. State conventions might secede from the SBC or change the way in which they support national agencies through the Cooperative Program budget.

Vestal stressed he was not advocating any of the five scenarios, but only echoing ideas he had heard in recent months.

Each individual Baptist must decide for himself or herself what the future holds. "No pope, no presbytery, no president, and no judge can tell us what to do," he said.

"Each of us under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit must follow the dictates of our conscience. Don't look to me to tell you what to do -- look instead to God."

Vestal said each Baptist church and congregation must also decide for itself about the future. "This is the Baptist way."

--over--

Jimmy R. Allen, chairman of Baptists Committed, urged the 700 attending the breakfast to return home and organize effectively on the state convention level.

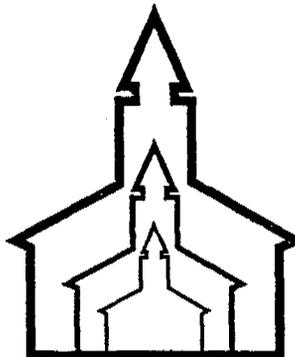
"Meanwhile, the battle moves home to your state convention," Allen said. "You may think the battle is at Southern (Baptist Theological) Seminary, but it is also at your university and your alma mater," said Allen, president of Faith and Family Communication Ministries.

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By Jim Newton, 12:05 p.m., Wednesday

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La  
June 12-14, 1990  
'The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied'

Alvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative  
Dan Marlin  
News Room Manager  
Mary Knox  
Features Manager  
Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Committee

NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 13 -- Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention completed a series of votes Wednesday to alter the SBC's historic relationship to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA).

By a show of hands, messengers adopted a Cooperative Program budget recommendation of the Executive Committee which includes an 87.2 percent cut of the BJCPA's budget. The action decreases the BJCPA's 1990-91 budget from \$391,596 to \$50,000.

Before this action, the BJCPA had survived five attempts in six years to either defund it or to alter the method by which its funding was provided.

The previous day messengers voted 17,915 to 13,608 to defeat an amendment to the recommendation to restore the cut.

The amendment, by messenger Frank Ingraham of Franklin, Tenn., called for the BJCPA, the SBC Christian Life Commission (CLC) and the SBC Public Affairs Committee (PAC) to receive 1.89 percent increases in line with increases for other SBC entities in the \$137.3 million Cooperative Program budget proposal.

Besides slashing the BJCPA budget, the CP budget proposal, as finally passed, increases the CLC budget by 40.7 percent to \$1,262,836 and the PAC budget by 5.47 percent to \$25,000.

The CLC increase was granted after messengers approved an Executive Committee recommendation to add a religious liberty function to the SBC's moral concerns agency.

That action passed by a show of hands after messengers defeated, 14,789 to 12,629, another motion by Ingraham to strike the committee's recommendation. Ingraham is an attorney and former member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Historically, the BJCPA, a First Amendment/religious liberty organization in Washington, has handled religious liberty concerns for Southern Baptists. The BJCPA, made up of nine Baptist denominations, has had a 53-year relationship with the SBC through the 18-member PAC.

The BJCPA has been a center of controversy in the SBC's 11-year-old political/theological debate on such matters as school prayer and the relationship of religious liberty to moral and social concerns.

--over--

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In a news conference James Dunn, executive director of the Joint Committee, said he expected interested Southern Baptist individuals, churches and state conventions to more than cover the loss of funding with direct gifts.

In a related action, messengers approved an Executive Committee recommendation to delete the PAC's program statement.

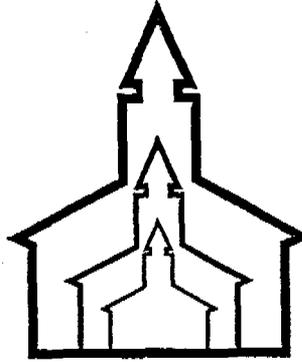
That action does not end the PAC, which will continue to function under a set of guidelines drawn up by the Executive Committee. The committee recommended deletion of the program statement because only SBC agencies have program statements.

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By Robert O'Brien, 1:25 p.m. Wednesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Convention Sermon

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--By repenting of pride and returning to desperate prayer, Southern Baptists can prepare the way for the winds of God's spirit to bring a modern-day reawakening, a leading Southern Baptist pastor declared Wednesday.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., and former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference said the hope for Southern Baptists lies in the same kind of moving of the Spirit of God that empowered the early-day church at Pentecost.

In the annual convention sermon, he called on his denomination, like the people of the prophet Zechariah's Old Testament day, to "despise not" the day of small things.

Before God can pour out his spirit, Wolfe said, his people must "genuinely repent of our pride."

For too long, he said, "we have trusted in our pride, our self-sufficiency and in our might" instead of in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Wolfe likened today with that when Zechariah came back from exile in Babylon with a small band that hoped to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. After 16 years, the temple was still in ruins, and Zechariah 4:1-10 records how the prophet was awakened by an angel who showed him that the task of rebuilding the temple could be accomplished -- "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

The prophet was told that God's spirit has the power to remove the mountains of obstacles that prevented accomplishing the task, Wolfe said.

Today Southern Baptists face mountains that will never be leveled by human power -- "mountains that God wants to level."

One of these, he said, is the "mountain of desertion," the loss of almost half the denomination's members to non-residency as they move away to another city or drop out and fail to attend any church.

On any given Sunday, Southern Baptists can count only about 4.5 million in attendance in their 37,000 churches, the speaker said.

He identified decline and division as other Southern Baptist mountains that need to be leveled.

Most Southern Baptist churches have either plateaued or declined in their membership, he said.

--over--

As for the mountain of division, Wolfe denied that the controversy is to blame for current problems and declines in the convention.

"I have one word for that, and it's baloney!" he declared to instant applause. "Southern Baptists were declining long before the controversy ever came on the scene."

Where would we be today if we hadn't taken God's word seriously? he asked. "I don't like controversy any more than you do," he said, "but as a convention we have spoken -- let's move on to reach this world for Jesus Christ.

"Praise God," he added, "Southern Baptists have had the courage to do what had to be done...Now we need to quit questioning each other's motives. We may not agree but we don't have to say it's satanic in the eyes of God." (It was an apparent reference to a response that Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday was reported to have made when questioned at a news conference about the methods used to gain control of the convention.)

Wolfe said he sees hope for the convention in the promises of God. "There has never been a time when we were more in need of a fresh outpouring of the Spirit," he added.

He said he believes that Southern Baptists can be of one accord about a perfect Bible and a perfect Savior. "I understand diversity in methodology, but I am absolutely unmovable on some things that are precious to the heart of God. I cannot meet you anywhere but at the feet of a perfect Savior with a perfect Bible in hand."

Wolfe recalled the Great Awakening of 1857 in which a million converts were added in the United States and another million in Great Britain.

He said this same kind of "wind of God" can blow today, with revival that could bring over 18 million to God.

But for this to happen, Southern Baptists must return to genuine repentance for "our pride," "our might" and our dependence on "our self-sufficiency," Wolfe said.

Along with such genuine repentance must come a return to desperate prayer, Wolfe continued. He praised the call to prayer and solemn assembly which has come from representatives of many Southern Baptist agencies.

Solemn assembly involves both individual and corporate admission of sin and asking God for forgiveness, he explained.

Such repentance, he said, can bring the power of God's spirit sweeping through the denomination so that church declines can be reversed and the fires of evangelism will burn brightly and the pews will be filled again.

Quoting evangelist William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, he closed with a plea to "send the fire, send the fire, send the fire, Almighty God!"

The convention audience responded with a standing ovation.

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y Bob Stanley -- 3:05 p.m. Wednesday

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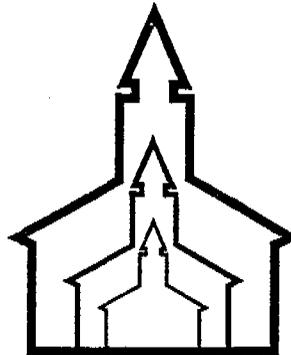
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Seminary Reports

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Two Southern Baptist seminary presidents Wednesday fielded questions from messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention which related to the denomination's political/theological controversy.

Russell Dilday of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and Roy Honeycutt of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky., responded to questions following annual progress reports on their seminaries.

Messenger Michael Haley of Lakeland, Fla., who said he overheard a press interview with Dilday, asked him to clarify whether he had labeled Tuesday's SBC actions as "Satanic."

Dilday said he had not referred to the SBC meeting but to methodology used during the past 12 years in the SBC controversy.

"The comment I made in answer to press questions yesterday," Dilday said, "was that the methodology used in the takeover of the convention in these past 12 years -- the crass, secular, political methodology -- does have Satanic, evil qualities of which I am desperately opposed."

Dilday added: "I did indicate that if Satan were interested in the destroying of the work of an evangelistic body such as this, the outcome we have seen in these 12 years would indeed be the kind of quality we would see in that intervention."

Michael Westmoreland White, a 1990 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from Louisville, asked Honeycutt if recent charges against him had not already been "laid to rest" by the SBC Peace Committee.

He referred to charges of "doctrinal infidelity" made against Honeycutt and several faculty members by seminary trustee Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo.

Honeycutt responded that he could not speak for the Peace Committee, a group formed to study theological issues related to the controversy.

But he said Southern Seminary's trustees had taken the Peace Committee study seriously and had voted 41-11 in 1986 that there were "no charges worthy of dismissal" represented in the committee's concerns.

--over--

In his report to messengers, Dilday lauded his faculty and staff "who this past year, despite criticism and unfounded accusations, continue to serve our Lord and the churches of this convention with an admirable consistency."

He said most of the seminary's students were "12 and 13 years old when the controversy, which has so deeply divided our denomination, began a decade ago. They have grown up assuming that this is a normative pattern of Southern Baptist life."

Dilday called it "ironic" that Southwestern Seminary is experiencing a growing appreciation "in the larger, evangelical Christian world" while it has been "the target of criticism and reproach from within our convention family."

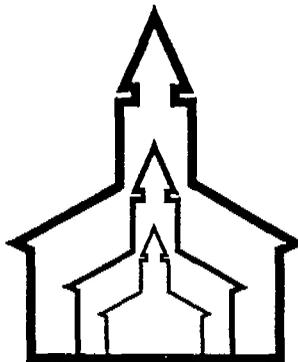
He said Southwestern was ranked first on a list of seminaries in a survey conducted by Christianity Today, a leading evangelical theological journal. He said five of the six SBC seminaries were ranked in the survey's top 20.

Dilday and Honeycutt both reported emphasis on missions, evangelism and biblical fidelity by seminary students, faculty and staff during the past year.

Their reports preceded a combination video and live report by the SBC Sunday School Board on its growth in services to churches over the past 100 years.

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By Robert O'Brien -- 4:00 p.m. Wednesday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Sellers Home reunion

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--The Sellers Home reunion seemed a likely place to find pieces of the past. But for the two women who were more interested in the past than future, it wasn't to be.

Sellers Home, in New Orleans, is a maternity care center and adoption agency operated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The home, which was begun nearly 60 years ago, serves a nationwide constituency.

Rita Smith, 19, of Ball, La., came looking for her mother.

"It was just a long shot," she said. "A very, very long shot."

Smith was adopted by Betty and Richard Moore of Sieper, La., when she was 5 weeks old. She has been trying for some time to locate her biological mother, but the files are closed and can only be opened if both the child and the mother consent.

"It kills me to know that the files are here, and there's nothing I can do about it," Smith said. "It at least feels good to know that she was here, and she walked in this building. Even if I don't ever meet her, this is the closest I'll ever be to her."

Walking where her biological mother has walked is nothing new to Smith. Two years ago, Smith found herself a single high school junior and pregnant. But unlike her biological mother, Smith chose to keep her child.

Smith married and had a baby boy one month later. She credits her adoptive parents with the fact that she has been able to complete high school. Her mother kept 2-year-old Jonathan while Smith attended classes and held down two jobs. But much of the motivation came from her biological mother.

"I feel like I was left," she said, "like I lost out a lot with her. When I got pregnant, (knowing about my mother) made me stronger."

But not every adopted child feels the same way. Julia Walsh of Polkville, Miss., has a 33-year-old son who has had a happy life after being adopted. Walsh doesn't regret her decision to place her son up for adoption after a six-month-stay at Sellers.

"It's been a happy story for me," Walsh said. "I had every confidence that (Sellers) would place him with good parents."

A few years ago Walsh learned the story from the point when she left Sellers Home.

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Through Home Life, a Southern Baptist magazine for and about families, Walsh learned of adoptive birthrights. Both Walsh and her son filed for information about the other.

"The saddest day of my life was the day I handed that baby to the lady who was in charge of the nursery, but the happiest day of my life was the day he came driving up in my yard," Walsh said.

As soon as Walsh and her son determined they were in fact mother and son, the adoptive mother sent Walsh a large box of pictures of her son's life.

"When his mother would write me, she'd call him our son."

Walsh and her biological son have developed a close relationship over the last 11 years. She came to the reunion hoping to share her happy story with others.

"I was hoping, by some chance, I might meet one or two of the girls here today," she said. "I wanted to say to them that I hope things turn out as happy for you as it did for me."

Another group she wanted to see was also noticeably absent. Walsh hoped others she had gone through pregnancy with would attend the reunion. But none of them did.

Pat and Bob Hodges of Ragley, La., came back to Sellers to show off their "new baby pig."

Almost 21 years ago, the Hodges got the call from Sellers Home saying they were the proud parents of a baby girl. Robbie was to be their second child. Matt, a 2-year-old at the time, had also come from Sellers.

"We decided not to tell anybody we were going to get another baby," Pat Hodges said. "We told my mother we were going to a hog sale. When we got home, we called my mother out to the car to see our new 'baby pig'."

The Hodges, like many others attending the reunion, left pictures of their adopted children on a table in the foyer of the home.

But chances are that none of the more than 200 visitors enjoyed the reunion more than Lucille Ladd of Baton Rouge, La. Ladd worked at Sellers Home for 25 years before her retirement as a Southern Baptist home missionary.

"It's so rewarding to think that you've done something for the children and for the families," Ladd said after she had visited with children and their families.

"The most shocking thing is that some of them are 30 and 32 years old," she said laughingly.

"They're so happy. All of them."

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By Susan Todd -- 7:20 p.m., Wednesday

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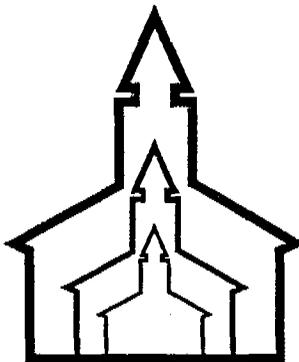
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLC Washington Expansion

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, outlined plans for extensive expansion of their office in Washington, D. C., following adoption Wednesday of a \$300,000 increase to their budget.

Land said the action of the Southern Baptist Convention to add religious liberty and separation of church and state issues to his agency's program statement would greatly strengthen Southern Baptists' influence in the nation's capitol.

He discounted as unfounded any fear that the Christian Life Commission would send messages to Congress that would conflict with the voice of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which represents nine Baptist bodies on religious liberty and church state separation issues.

Both Land and James Dunn, executive director of the BJC, answered questions during press conferences following SBC actions which cut the budget of the BJC by 87 percent and increased the budget of the CLC by 40 percent.

Dunn said the action would free the BJC to raise money from other sources, to reorganize its board to give more representation to other Baptist groups, and to project a more sophisticated agenda.

"It will also free us of a certain amount of harrassment." Dunn said. He added that the BJC plans to continue its operation as it had in the past.

Dunn said there is a possibility the BJC and CLC might send conflicting messages to Congress, but "we will just have to live with that."

The CLC, which is also assigned to handle social and moral concerns for Southern Baptists, will maintain its national headquarters in Nashville but greatly strengthen its operations in Washington.

Land announced plans to add three members to the staff of the CLC's Washington office: the general counsel/Christian citizenship director, a news media director, an administrative assistant, plus the current director of government relations, Jim Smith.

Land said about 35 percent of the agency's \$1.2 million budget would support the new Washington office. The CLC is negotiating for more office space within walking distance of Capitol Hill, he added.

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"My perspective," said Land, "is that we have a two-pronged assignment: to speak to Southern Baptists as the denomination's prophetic conscience on moral and social issues, and to ascertain what Southern Baptist views are and bring those Baptist convictions to bear before policy-making groups in Washington."

Land said the CLC will follow the wishes of the SBC as stated in convention-adopted resolutions such as those on abortion and prayer in public schools.

Land said, however, he personally supports the 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions on prayer in public schools, and believes that since the Supreme Court has upheld the equal access clause that Baptist clamor for public school prayer will lessen.

He stressed the CLC would focus on issues and would not endorse candidates for political office.

Land said that since the CLC opened its Washington office in 1987, it has cooperated in writing at least four joint statements with the BJC on such issues as child care legislation.

"Before yesterday's action (by the SBC), we could not address the religious liberty and church state separation issues," Land said. "Now we can, and this frees us to work more closely with the Baptist Joint Committee on joint statements."

Land pointed out that both he and Dunn have always been careful to point out they do not speak for all Southern Baptists, or represent Southern Baptists. "No one can do that," he said.

He predicted that the number of times there might be conflict between the CLC and BJC will be far fewer than most people might suppose.

"No one is more committed to religious liberty and separation of church and state than I am," Land said. "I lived for three years in the United Kingdom (Great Britain) and understand how the establishment of religion has stunted the growth of non-conformity churches."

Land predicted the greatest threat to religious liberty in the last half of the 20th century will come from the violations of the "free exercise of religion clause" in the First Amendment that would impinge on individuals' right to exercise their religious faith freely.

He said the recent "Peyote case" in which the Supreme Court ruled against Native American Indians' use of peyote in religious rites was a "terrible travesty that must be overturned."

Oliver S. (Buzz) Thomas, general counsel for the BJC, said earlier that misinformation has been circulated before the convention on the BJC's position on the "Peyote case." He denied the BJC has advocated use of illegal drugs in religious ceremonies.

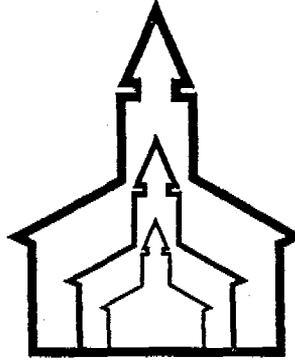
Thomas said he helped draft a petition for a hearing to protect the free exercise of religion, but did not defend the use of peyote in religious rites.

Both Dunn and Land opposed the use of tax money for religious schools. "There seem to be some folks," said Dunn, "who believe you can take a little tax money as if you could be just a little bit pregnant."

Dunn said he plans to continue his strong stand on religious liberty and church-state separation just as he has in the past. "My commitment is to do the job God has called me to do, and I haven't heard God call me elsewhere."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Evangelists' conference

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 -- After hearing four sermons about the work of evangelists, the message was summed up in three words: "Just do it."

Darrell Gilyard received a standing ovation as he challenged 1,000 people attending the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists meeting Wednesday afternoon.

"It's time to stop talking about it, preaching about it, singing about it and complaining that people in your church just won't visit," said the pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

"If in the average church we would put as much effort into reaching the lost as we do a good choir special, we'd turn our world upside down," the black minister said.

After the conference, participants were given Bibles and tracts to share with people in New Orleans as they rode taxis, shopped and ate. Jay Strack, outgoing president, said "people expect more than fussing and fighting when Baptists come to town."

Plans for evangelists to witness in the French Quarter after the program were thwarted by lack of transportation to the area known for its night life and impromptu entertainers.

Earlier in the afternoon, salesman Zig Ziglar of Dallas, urged evangelists to keep their message simple. The author and motivational speaker said he always communicates on the seventh grade level.

"What could be more simple, more eloquent, more true than 'God is love' or 'Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so?'" Ziglar asked.

The most effective witnessing tool, Ziglar said, is to "believe Christ is Savior and Jesus is Lord." He said selling is the transference of feeling and urged evangelists to transfer their feelings about their Savior to others needing Christ.

Steve Hale, evangelist from Evansville, Ind., outlined results of revival: close, clean and compassionate fellowship, commitment to God's commission and cheerfulness.

When revival comes, Hale said, Christians experience oneness in purpose. He said the reason "we can't get people to come to church is simply because they've been, and they've seen division and malice."

--over--

Revival results in honest financial dealings and generous giving. Hale noted that the average American Christian gives 2.5 percent of his gross income to the cause of Christ.

Cheerfulness is another result of revival, Hale said, and noted he would "rather have a problem with shouting than a problem with snoring."

If cheerfulness is a result of revival, thankfulness is its prerequisite, said Homer Lindsay, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

"Teach your people to love Jesus. The only way to teach your people to love Jesus is to teach your people to be thankful," Lindsay said. "The missing element in many of our churches is a deep, abiding love for Jesus. When they love Jesus, they obey him. Only the love of Jesus will motivate people and keep them going."

Joel Gregory echoed the need to know Jesus. The pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, said pastors must be "determined to not know anything other than Jesus Christ and him crucified."

He said if pastors consider themselves slick, logical, humorous, learned or clever, someone will come along who supercedes them in that area. But nothing will be able to supercede the message of "Christ and him crucified."

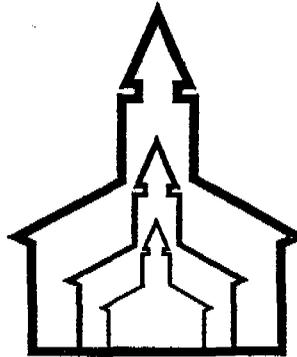
Next year's officers for the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists are Bailey Smith, Atlanta evangelist, president; Hale, vice president; Ron Pledger, Commerce, Ga., secretary-treasurer; Ronny Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark., pastor-advisor; Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., parliamentarian; Mike Speck, music evangelist, Owasso, Okla., music director; and Pat Roper, Greenville, S.C., assistant music director.

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By Sarah Zimmerman, 8:10 p.m. Wednesday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Committee election

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) re-elected its slate of officers Wednesday afternoon at a meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

In other developments, the committee processed requests that its September meeting include a spiritual solemn assembly for its members and a discussion of the Washington office of Baptist Press (BP), news service of the SBC.

A concluding prayer session included prayer requested to express concern and love for moderates hurt by conservative victories at the SBC meeting in New Orleans and that trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary "be led by the Holy Spirit," hear God's voice and do his will in their relationship with seminary president Russell Dilday.

Officers elected unanimously to second one-year terms were Sam Pace, director of associational missions, Lawton, Okla., chairman; Paul Pressler, Houston appeals court judge, vice chairman; and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hills Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., recording secretary.

Pressler brought up the Baptist Press question when he suggested that the SBC Christian Life Commission be asked "to submit to us in September the name of the person they would like to head the Baptist Press office in Washington."

BP's Washington office has been housed at the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for 33 years. It is one of five offices which relate to the national BP office located at the Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn.

SBC messengers in New Orleans approved Executive Committee recommendations to cut the BJCPA's budget by 87 percent, add a religious liberty function to the program statement of the SBC Christian Life Commission, and raise the CLC's budget by more than 40 percent. Historically, the BJCPA has handled religious liberty concerns for Southern Baptists.

An Executive Committee document expressed strong belief that the BP Washington bureau should shift from the BJCPA to the CLC. But neither the Executive Committee nor the CLC has announced specific actions related to the transfer.

--over--

The Executive Committee's opinion on the transfer was expressed in a document it adopted expressing "Some Reasons for the Southern Baptist Convention 1990-91 Budget Allocation to Support Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State."

The document stated that \$155,000 of the funds cut from the BJCPA and given to the CLC "will allow the CLC to house and operate the Baptist Press Washington office."

Dilday's relationship to Southwestern Seminary trustees surfaced when Don Taylor, a seminary trustee, asked for prayer to guide the trustees in how to respond to comments Dilday made Wednesday during the seminary's report to the SBC.

Dilday, responding to a question from the floor, said "the methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years -- the crass, secular, political methodology -- does have Satanic, evil qualities of which I am desperately opposed."

Taylor, a layman from Asheville, N.C., characterized Dilday's remarks as degrading. He asked the committee to pray that the Southwestern trustees "will have stamina to do what needs to be done" in regard to Dilday.

T.C. Pinckney, an Executive Committee member from Alexandria, Va., asked for prayer for moderates.

Pinckney, who expressed pleasure at the outcome of actions at the SBC meeting, said conservatives should pray for those "Southern Baptists who aren't part of the conservative group who look at this convention with pain in their hearts."

"We differ in substance, but share their hurt and raise them up before the Lord," Pinckney said.

The Executive Committee also agreed to a request by Larry Keith Otis of Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss., to reaffirm the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust goal to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to the whole world by A.D. 2000 and beyond.

Eight new Executive Committee members introduced at the meeting included Otis, a businessman; Steve Choplin, a power and light company executive from Long Leaf Baptist Church, Wilmington, N.C.; J.C. Mitchell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Winter Park, Fla.; James Lee Oliver, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Moore, S.C.; Joe H. Reynolds, an attorney from Second Baptist Church, Houston; Lee Roberts, a businessman from Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

Also, Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, and newly elected SBC president; and David Atkinson, a layman from Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, and newly elected SBC recording secretary.

Chapman and Atkinson are members of the Executive Committee by virtue of their office.

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By Robert O'Brien -- 8:50 p.m. Wednesday

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.

June 12-14, 1990

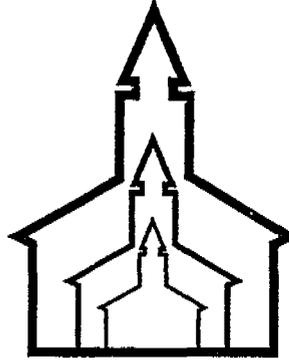
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Alvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative

Dan Martin  
News Room Manager

Marv Knox  
Features Manager

Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Seminary Alumni & Friends Banquet

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told the school's alumni Wednesday that despite uncertain times in the denomination he will devote "every ounce of my energy to keeping the dream alive at Southern Seminary."

In an address before a record-setting crowd of 1,865 at the school's annual alumni and friends banquet, Honeycutt stressed he plans to "live with hope no matter how hopeless times may seem."

Despite the denominational controversy, he said he can maintain hope because "biblical hope means to wait on God."

Honeycutt's remarks came on the heels of a controversy-ridden trustee meeting at the seminary in April and after election of a conservative president of the Southern Baptist Convention for the 12th straight year. The denomination's seminaries have been a primary target of criticism for conservative forces in the denomination who have controlled the SBC presidency.

Although the seminary's trustees voted in April to affirm Honeycutt, they passed resolutions critical of two professors and gained several key offices on the board of trustees. Just prior to the meeting, Honeycutt and several professors came under attack in a 16-page document written and circulated by seminary trustee Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo.

"I intend to face realistically and pragmatically where we are in the denomination," said Honeycutt. He acknowledged there will be little use for supporters of the seminary to try to change the denomination through the annual presidential election. "Political forces," he said, are now firmly in control of presidential balloting.

Nevertheless, he emphasized the seminary needs alumni support "now as never before in the history of this seminary."

Honeycutt said the seminary needs "more adequate funding" and "new sources" of funding. He predicted Cooperative Program receipts will become "less dynamic month by month and year by year."

"Whether or not we are able to maintain the vision, I think it is worth keeping alive" as long as possible, he said.

Southern Seminary has never tapped the full resources of its alumni, he said. Southern alumni are not powerless in the midst of the denominational struggle, he maintained.

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"We simply need to redefine the ways we use power and the objects we seek to achieve," he said.

Honeycutt pledged to work "creatively and cooperatively" with the seminary's trustees. Yet he vowed not to do anything which would violate his conscience.

The trustees, he said, can "make or break" the seminary. Honeycutt said he will remain as president as long as "God gives me grace" and as long as he has trustee support.

Honeycutt promised to continue "reaching out to all Southern Baptists" in his leadership of the seminary.

Prior to the address, outgoing national alumni association president Floyd Roebuck of Georgia read a statement of affirmation and support for the Southern faculty, staff and students. The statement, prepared by the national alumni association's officers, promised continued affirmation and expressed "distress over recent charges leveled against our beloved institution."

In response, Bill J. Leonard, president of the seminary's faculty association, expressed appreciation for alumni support. He said: "No matter what others may say about SBTS, we have done good work. You are testimony to that."

Also during the banquet, the seminary presented its annual distinguished alumni awards to four graduates: Marjorie McCullough, president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Alexandria, La.; John P. Newport, vice president of academic affairs and provost at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; James L. Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas; and Grover F. Tyner Jr., retired missionary to the Philippines, Stone Mountain, Ga.

In addition, Emmanuel McCall, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division, Atlanta, was elected president-elect of the seminary's national alumni association.

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By Pat Cole-- 8:35 p.m., Wednesday

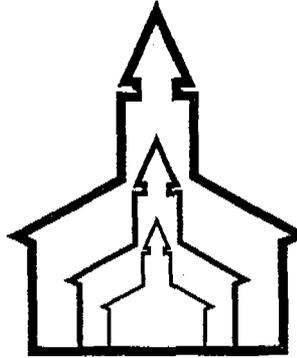
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday Evening Session

NEW ORLEANS, June 13--Though he did not appear before the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention as originally indicated, President George Bush sent a letter commending Southern Baptists for their exemplary voluntarism.

SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., read Bush's letter during the Wednesday evening convention session at the Louisiana Superdome.

"Today, the Southern Baptist Convention is a vital source of spiritual strength, guidance and fellowship for millions of Americans. By helping these Americans to draw closer to God and to one another, you have enriched their lives beyond measure," the letter stated.

"By encouraging your members to engage in voluntary service to others -- especially among the less fortunate -- you have set a wonderful example for all Americans."

In April, Dwight "Ike" Reighard, chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, announced that his committee issued an invitation for Bush to speak to the convention in New Orleans.

Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., said they issued the invitation after a Bush aide let the committee know about the President's desire to speak to Southern Baptists.

However, one month later, Bush declined the invitation citing "scheduling conflicts." The announcement followed public disapproval by some Southern Baptists of Bush inviting gay and lesbian leaders to a White House ceremony.

Also during the Wednesday evening convention session, Thomas D. Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., was elected to preach the convention sermon at the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, June 4-6.

He defeated Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., who was nominated from the floor.

Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark., was chosen as alternate convention sermon preacher. Jack Price of Dallas was elected as convention music director.

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During the traditional presentation of officers, newly elected president Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, said he expected Southern Baptists to "love one another" and "learn to work together" in the year ahead.

"I believe we will come together as a great convention built on the truth of God's holy word," he said.

God wants churches to grow, and both edification and multiplication are essential parts of church growth, according to the theme interpretation by Ron Lewis, church growth consultant, Nashville, Tenn.

"When you come to the edge of all the light you have in the area of church growth and you step out into the darkness, one of two things will occur," he said. "Either you will find something solid to stand on, or God will teach you how to fly."

Convention messengers approved the report of the Denominational Calendar Committee, which included setting aside Jan. 9 to March 10, 1995, for a "Share Jesus Now" evangelistic emphasis, and setting May 7, 1995, as "Sesquecentennial Sunday" in the SBC.

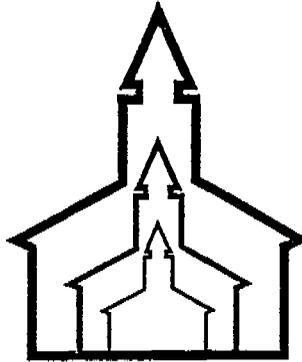
Music was provided during the Wednesday evening session by the choir and orchestra from Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and by the Cathedrals Quartet from Stowe, Ohio.

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By Ken Camp -- 8:40 p.m., Wednesday

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Mary Knox  
Features Manager  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foreign Mission Board Report

NEW ORLEANS, June 13 -- Southern Baptists must do the right thing while God has provided the right time, the president of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board (FMB) said Tuesday night.

"This is the right time, and we must not do wrong at the time God has called right," Keith Parks told messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Parks was the keynote speaker in the board's annual report to the convention, which featured the appointment of 34 missionaries.

To do the right thing, Southern Baptists must make greater sacrifices, Parks said. He compared Southern Baptists to the Ceausescu of Romania. The former Communist dictator and his wife were executed last Christmas day after living an opulent lifestyle while their countrymen starved.

"He and his wife lived in obscene opulence, the fur coats, diamond-encrusted heels of shoes, golden faucets in their bathroom, three-page menus for their daily meal and menus for their dogs while people starved in the streets outside their palace," Parks said.

"God has given to Southern Baptists much wealth. We will be more guilty than the Ceausescu as we shamelessly wallow in self-indulgent luxury while a lost and dying world goes into eternity with no knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"Just as God has judgment on them, God will pass judgment on us who have the wealth of the world at our disposal but have refused to share the gospel with the people of the world.

"You and I have taken our luxuries and wasted our wealth, not only on ourselves, but on our religious activities," Park said.

"This is God's right time," he declared. "We must not do wrong.

In his challenge to the missionaries, Parks explained why he believes this is the right time. "Everything has been prepared for the spreading of the gospel in a way that I submit to you has not been true since that right time when God sent Jesus," he said.

He cited changes in Eastern Europe and Asia as examples of God's timing. Public rallies are now held all over the Soviet Union and in once atheistic countries, he said. "In Bulgaria 1,000 attend and 100 make public decisions. In Czechoslovakia 10,000 attend and 1,000 make public decisions."

He cited further openness in Cambodia, Vietnam and Sub Saharan Africa, where half of the population could be Christians by the year 2000 if current trends continue.

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These opportunities mean Southern Baptists must respond beyond anything ever done before, Parks said. "Make no mistake about it. Every religion and philosophy in the world is well aware and trying to capitalize on this new openness."

Parks said there have been other times in history when the time was right for missionary expansion but Christians did the wrong thing.

"In 1258, the fate of Islam hung by a thread, and only Egypt was strong. The great Mongol empire, led by Kublai Kahn, stretched from the Black Sea to the Pacific Ocean."

In 1266, Parks said, Kublai Khan sent word by Marco Polo for the Christian church in Rome to send 100 men to teach Christianity to his court.

"It could have been a turning point in the history of the religions of the world," Parks noted. "But the Christians of the world were so busy fighting among themselves that it was 28 years before not 100, but one reached the great court. Already retired, the great Kublai Khan said, 'It is too late; I have grown too old in my idolatry.'"

Today, Southern Baptists face similar open doors in missions, Parks reported. "There are great unreached people groups waiting. We have set our commitment to reach 300 of them; we now have people assigned to 19.

"There are 47 other groups approved that represent a population of 260 million people -- the equivalent of the United States population -- with virtually no witness.

"What about the people of the villages of this world, of the cities of this world who have never had an opportunity to know about Jesus Christ?" he asked. "Those villages still wait.

"All over this world 66 percent of the people do not even claim to be Christian, and 26 percent of the world has not even had a chance to hear the gospel.

"I ask you one question: Did the Lord Jesus Christ die for all the world?"

"Do you want to send a message to the villages of Africa, the cities of Asia?" Parks asked. "Or shall we simply send the message, 'There's no one to come'?"

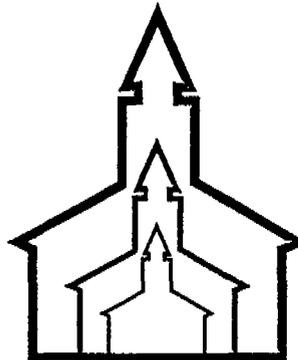
This was the second time the mission board has held an appointment service during the convention's annual meeting.

Messengers were introduced to each of the 34 individuals appointed and also saw video profiles of some.

This was the third of six foreign missions appointment services scheduled for 1990. The 34 appointees join more than 3,700 missionaries serving in 116 countries.

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By Mark Wingfield, 8:15 a.m. Wednesday



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### New Orleans Seminary Alumni Luncheon

NEW ORLEANS, June 14--President Landrum P. Leavell II shared with more than 2,200 alumni and friends his concerns for the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Wednesday at a luncheon.

Four distinguished alumni also were honored and new national alumni officers were elected at the luncheon.

Leavell, who was greeted by participants with a standing ovation for his contribution to the seminary throughout his 15 years of presidency, said the challenge of sharing Christ with New Orleans given to the seminary when it was founded "is vastly greater today than it was in 1917" because of the city's constant change.

To meet the spiritual needs of both the city and seminary students, Leavell explained, the seminary now requires all students to take Continuing Witness Training before they graduate, and all Master of Divinity students must take MasterLife before graduating. CWT is a program to train Christians how to share Christ with others, and MasterLife is an in-depth discipleship program for Christians.

"Anyone's contribution to the work of the kingdom of God is 100 percent dependent on one's personal walk with God," he said. "It's our concern for students' spiritual growth that led us to endow the first chair of discipleship." Other programs geared toward students' spiritual growth are endowed lecture series and an annual campus revival.

"If any student graduates from here spiritually dry, . . . it's his own fault," Leavell said. "New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is going to be judged by (the lives of) its graduates."

Economically, "the health of the institution is robust," he told alumni, as the seminary "pays all its bills on time and is in the black."

The seminary's main, current concern, Leavell continued, is finding faculty to fill vacancies in the areas of New Testament, theology, and childhood education.

As far as new programs, however, New Orleans Seminary "remains on the cutting edge." With several extension centers throughout the South and Puerto Rico, the seminary now boasts about 300 students in their Marietta, Ga., center alone, which is "larger than the average size of accredited seminaries in the United States and Canada," he said.

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James R. Futral received the 1990 Distinguished Alumni Award for his effective, long-term pastoral leadership. Futral is the pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss. A pastor for over 25 years, he has served churches in Mississippi and Texas, and has just completed two terms as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He received the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary in 1978 and 1980, respectively.

Alfonso Olmedo was recognized as a distinguished alumnus for his effective missionary service. Olmedo is a former vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and a retired pastor who has served as president of the Argentine Baptist Convention. After retiring from service in Argentina, Olmedo served a hispanic congregation in Chicago for several years, and is currently the pastor of a Hispanic congregation in Hemet, Calif. Olmedo received his Bachelor of Theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1945.

Adrian Rogers received the Distinguished Alumnus award for Southern Baptist Convention leadership. Rogers is the pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn., and the first alumnus to be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Rogers received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1958.

Dr. Arthur L. Walker Jr. was recognized with the same award for his professional service for the denomination. Walker has served as executive director-treasurer of the SBC's Education Commission for 12 years, and has been recognized as an outstanding leader in Christian education for both Southern Baptists and Alabama Baptists. He received his Doctor of Theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1956.

New alumni officers elected were R. Alan Day, pastor of First Baptist Church, Edmond, Okla., president; Donald Glenn Bouldin, pastor of Briarlake Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., president-elect; O. Wyndell Jones, executive director-treasurer of Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, secretary; and James Randall O'Brien, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., treasurer.

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By Breena Paine--10:15 a.m. Thursday

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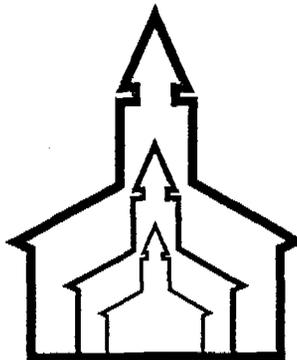
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday Morning Agency Reports

NEW ORLEANS, June 14--James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, told Southern Baptist Convention messengers Thursday that his agency will serve Southern Baptists in church-state matters "whether they ask us to or not."

Earlier in the convention, messengers voted to reduce SBC funding to the joint committee by 87.24 percent and to expand the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's program statement to include religious liberty matters.

In response to a question concerning the future of the joint committee, Dunn said some restructuring of the committee's board and staff will be necessary in light of SBC actions, but the BJC will remain strong.

"Baptists at the local church level believe not only in religious liberty and in its essential corollary, separation of church and state, but also in the non-partisan, non-political, non-endorsing posture the Baptist Joint Committee has taken," he said.

"We're going to serve Southern Baptists whether they ask us to or not."

Dunn said the joint committee would continue its work "with strong support from individuals, churches and state conventions."

He reported that the BJC staff is working to oppose federal aid to parochial schools and parochial pre-schools; it is working to secure charitable deductions for non-itemizing tax-payers; and it is seeking to "correct" the Supreme Court's recent Oregon v. Smith decision.

The Supreme Court's ruling not only denied Native Americans the right to use peyote in worship, but also stipulated that the state not be required to demonstrate a "compelling state interest" before intruding in religion.

"Every believer's liberty is endangered when any believer's liberty is denied," Dunn said.

Earlier in the convention, a messenger questioned the actions and statements of Oliver "Buzz" Thomas, general counsel for the BJC, related to the court decision, accusing the committee of supporting the use of illicit drugs. Dunn urged messengers to "do their homework" and read materials published by the joint committee.

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"Common decency and common sense require that any of us at least check the facts before engaging in attacks like the one yesterday on Mr. Thomas. Calumny is not Christian," he said.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, assured messengers his agency faithfully will provide a Southern Baptist voice in Washington, and it will "take seriously" its new religious liberty assignment.

"We are a nation in moral crisis," Land said. "Our nation needs to hear a sure and certain word from our Lord through Southern Baptists."

Land underscored CLC opposition to "direct use of the public treasury" to support sectarian education at the pre-collegiate level.

He also applauded Supreme Court support for the Equal Access Act granting high school student-led religious groups the same rights of assembly in school facilities as other non-curriculum-related student groups.

Paul W. Powell, presenting his first report to the SBC as president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, assured the convention of his agency's pro-life stance. Earlier, messengers had questioned the relationship between Prudential, the board's insurance carrier, and the Planned Parenthood organization.

Powell explained that when the Annuity Board initiated its relationship with Prudential, it looked only at the parent corporation, Prudential Insurance, not any subsidiaries such as the Prudential Foundation.

He went on to point out the Prudential Foundation's support for Planned Parenthood extends only to providing basic health services for poor women, not to paying for abortions. He added that the Annuity Board will continue to encourage Prudential not to support financially any pro-choice activities by Planned Parenthood.

Representatives of other agencies reported:

-- Market value of the corpus of assets managed by the Southern Baptist Foundation increased 41.4 percent over the previous year. Over the past five years, assets have grown at an annual compounded rate of 20.8 percent.

-- Students and graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., have helped plant more than 1,800 new churches, and church planting continues to be a key emphasis at the seminary.

-- By the end of the month, 500 volunteers serving through the Brotherhood Commission will have been involved in disaster relief and rebuilding on St. Croix.

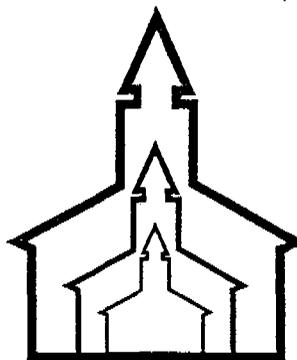
-- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary recorded more than a 10 percent increase in enrollment in 1988-89 over the previous academic year.

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By Ken Camp -- 11:50 a.m. Thursday

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Motions Round-up

NEW ORLEANS, June 14--Messengers to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention dealt with more than 35 motions during the annual three-day meeting in New Orleans.

The motion receiving the most visible response from messengers called for the removal of a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustee. A large number of messengers gave a lengthy standing ovation to a motion by W. Lamar Wadsworth of Baltimore, Md., that Jerry Johnson be removed immediately as a trustee of that institution.

Johnson, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., wrote a 16-page article critical of Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt and five professors. Johnson has refused to resign his trustee post.

Wadsworth's original motion was ruled out of order because, according to the convention's legal counsel, it would be impossible to provide Johnson with the fundamental protections of a notice and a hearing during the SBC annual meeting.

But following that ruling, Wadsworth was given the opportunity to introduce a second motion, referring the proposed action to Southern Seminary's board of trustees. Messengers approved that second motion by a show of hands.

The lack of a quorum on Thursday prohibited the convention from conducting business and thus from acting on a number of motions.

One of those motions, introduced by David Martin of Cary, N.C., called for the convention to sever all financial support to the Washington-based as soon as legally possible. Martin made the motion following convention action to add religious liberty to the program assignment of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and to cut the SBC contribution to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by 87 percent.

Other motions left pending:

-- Addressed the issue of racism and proposed specific SBC actions in response to it.

-- Asked for support for churches that are involved in Christian day school ministry.

-- Proposed the SBC Public Affairs Committee be instructed not to endorse political candidates.

-- Sought greater recognition of and participation by smaller churches during the convention's annual meetings.

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-- Recommended the appointment of a woman to the Committee on Order of Business and of a disabled person to the local arrangements committee for future SBC annual meetings.

-- Called for the removal or covering of all advertisements for alcohol and tobacco products in meeting halls for future SBC annual meetings, as well as ground-floor seating for people over 60 years of age.

Messengers referred to the SBC Executive Committee three motions focusing on a controversy surrounding the chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Chairman Roland Lopez is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in McAllen, Texas, which no longer is considered a "cooperating" Southern Baptist church because of its failure to make contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program. In response to questions about Lopez's service as chairman, SBC President Jerry Vines ruled Lopez could serve because his church was a "cooperating church" at the time of his election as chairman.

In slightly different ways, each of the three motions would amend the SBC constitution or bylaws to prevent a member of a non-cooperating church from serving in such an office.

Other motions referred to the Executive Committee called for:

-- Requiring all SBC trustees and commissioners to be at least 30 years of age.

-- Studying the terms "cooperating Baptist church" and "in friendly cooperation with" to determine the scope and definition of the word "cooperation" as it relates to the SBC.

-- Allowing Baptist state conventions to select their members on the SBC Committee on Nominations and Committee on Committees.

-- Engaging an "independent, non-religiously affiliated" accounting firm to collect and supervise the tabulation of ballot votes at future SBC annual meetings.

-- Requiring all SBC messengers to be at least 18 years of age.

-- Placing all future SBC elections, motions and resolutions on ballots to be sent to participating Southern Baptist churches so elected messengers there could vote.

-- Changing the convention's name to the Cooperative Baptist Convention.

-- Amending SBC bylaws to provide "fellowship states" with a greater chance of having representation status on SBC committees, boards and institutions.

-- Limiting representation from Southern Baptist churches affiliated with other denominations.

-- Amending the process for the signing of messengers' letters.

Messengers also referred a number of motions to other SBC agencies. Those motions dealt with:

-- The possible establishment of an SBC accrediting agency. The motion, which was referred to the Southern Baptist Education Commission, calls for a study of the feasibility of establishing such an accrediting agency for Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges.

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-- Instructing the Southern Baptist Annuity Board to determine the best way to "exert positive pressure" on its insurance carrier, Prudential Insurance Co., to remove itself as a corporate sponsor of Planned Parenthood. That motion -- as well as one asking for a study of the possibility of subsidizing the health insurance programs of pastors of small churches -- was referred to the Annuity Board.

-- A request to terminate the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's policy prohibiting financial support from being given to a woman serving as pastor of a local church. The motion was referred to the HMB.

-- A call for no SBC agency or institution to be used for political activity. It was referred to all convention entities.

Four motions were ruled out of order. Those motions called for prohibiting SBC presidential candidates from campaigning; requesting the SBC Executive Committee to provide an explanation of a document concerning budget allocations to support religious liberty; instructing convention officers to identify by name the "inerrant, perfect Bible"; and addressing political ethics and contributions.

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By Kathy Palen -- 1:15 p.m. Thursday

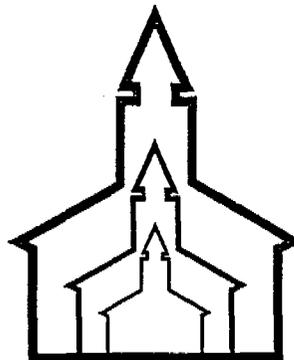
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Resolutions Wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 14 -- In an unprecedented development at a Southern Baptist Convention meeting, twelve of 14 resolutions proposed by the Resolutions Committee could not be considered by messengers due to lack of a quorum Thursday morning.

Messengers adopted two resolutions Wednesday on possession of child pornography and environmental stewardship.

With an estimated 38,456 messengers registered, SBC registration secretary Lee Porter said 9,614 were needed for a quorum which, according to SBC bylaws, is 25 percent of registered messengers.

Dwight Reigherd, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, estimated that between four and five thousand messengers were present 9 a.m. when the miscellaneous business was scheduled. At 10:45, when attendance had not increased, officers agreed a quorum would not be reached and announced no business could be done.

John Sullivan, a convention parliamentarian and executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, told messengers, "It is my conviction if our churches and institutions send us to the convention to do business, we should be as interested in doing business today as any other day of the convention meeting."

Mark Corts, chairman of the 10-member Resolutions Committee and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., said he "will explore if there is any way to get mileage out of these" 12 resolutions proposed by the committee but never considered.

"I would like to seek some way to get distribution for these resolutions as an expression of the committee," said Corts.

He added that he considers the committee report an expression of messenger concerns because those proposed by the committee were drafted by drawing from the record 87 submitted by messengers.

"We felt the messengers would respond favorably to our report," said Corts. "We gave careful, timely consideration" to the concerns of messengers."

Because the SBC Executive Committee is designated to act on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention between sessions, some questioned privately whether the Executive Committee could consider the resolutions at its September meeting.

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Chief parliamentarian Barry McCarty told Baptist Press consideration by the Executive Committee would require a referral by the convention, a business action that could not be taken without a quorum.

"All business left over falls to the ground," said McCarty.

Of the two resolutions adopted without debate, one on possession of child pornography urges Southern Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for the enactment of legislation.

The resolution also asks the Christian Life Commission and other appropriate entities to call on the U.S. Congress "to amend federal child pornography statutes applying to federal land and facilities."

The second resolution adopted by messengers, on environmental stewardship, notes that while Christians are "forbidden to worship the creation," they are "called to be faithful stewards of that which is entrusted to us."

Southern Baptist people, churches and other groups are "encouraged to make an environmentally responsible ethic a part of our lifestyle and evangelistic witness."

Among the 12 resolutions unable to be considered by messengers were calls for government action on tax relief and equity for families, standards to prevent funding of so-called obscene and offensive art through the National Endowment on the Arts, restrictions on alcohol advertising and free exercise of religion.

The resolution on tax relief for families urges President George Bush to veto child care legislation passed by the House and Senate and schedule for conference committee "because it does not meet standards set forth in the 1988 resolution on child care reaffirmed in this resolution."

The 1988 resolution drafted jointly by officials of the SBC Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and adopted overwhelmingly by messengers expressed support for local and state rather than federal government regulation of institutional child care and urged Congress to explore options such as tax incentives "instead of proposing a new federal system with a regulatory role for the federal government." The 1988 resolution also called for any federal program of child care to "include adequate safeguards to maintain the separation of church and state."

On government support of obscene and offensive art, the Resolutions Committee proposed asking Congress and the President to "set standards which prevent funding of highly offensive, morally repugnant and sacrilegious 'art,' or, if such is not done, cease funding the National Endowment for the Arts."

The resolution on sensible advertising restrictions on alcoholic beverages proposed by the committee, notes that most Americans will see more than 100,000 television commercials for beer before they are old enough to buy alcohol.

It urges messengers to support "sensible advertising and family education legislation which would require rotating health messages in alcoholic beverage advertisements."

The committee-proposed resolution on endangerment of religious liberties criticizes a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision restricting an Indian man from smoking peyote as part of his religious worship practices.

While the committee emphasized it does not "condone the use of illegal drugs," it questioned the court reasoning in the case and warned the ruling could be used to restrict other kinds of religious practices. The resolution urges the Christian Life Commission, the Public Affairs Committee and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to work for legislation "to restore the full First Amendment religious liberty protection endangered by this ruling."

Abortion, a topic frequently addressed through resolutions in recent years, was the subject of two resolutions proposed by the committee.

One, on sanctity of human life, again opposes abortion except to save the life of the mother and expressed opposition to two issues not previously dealt with in resolutions, abortion drugs and technologies and research on uses of fetal tissue.

A second abortion-related resolution urged SBC agencies not to patronize businesses that contribute money to pro-abortion organizations.

Homosexuality, addressed in SBC resolutions adopted in 1980, 1985 and 1988, was also proposed this year to express opposition to efforts "to gain civil rights protection status for homosexuals on the basis of sexual preference."

Two resolutions proposed by the committee addressed the needs of smaller churches.

One called for continued efforts by SBC entities in meeting the needs of smaller churches while a second asked the SBC Annuity Board to seek ways to provide improved insurance services to employees of smaller churches.

A resolution on health care needs of people who are not insurable or who cannot afford medical insurance was proposed by the committee along with the traditional resolution of appreciation to the host city and people involved in arranging the annual convention meeting.

In addition to affirming the work of his committee, Corts expressed appreciation for the counsel of officials from the Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

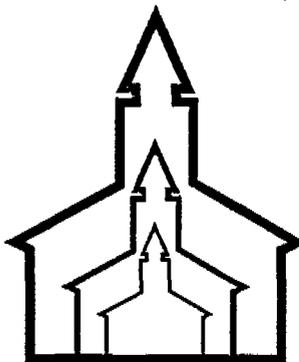
"They found basic areas of agreement without conflict on the issues we dealt with," said Corts.

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By Linda Lawson- 1:10 p.m. Thursday

1990  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.  
June 12-14, 1990  
"The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Alvin C. Shackelford  
SBC Press Representative  
Dan Martin  
News Room Manager  
Marv Knox  
Features Manager  
Southern Baptist Convention  
New Orleans, June 12-14, 1990



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBC Wrapup

NEW ORLEANS, June 14 -- With conservative forces capturing almost all major elective offices, messengers to the 133rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention moved their religious liberty function closer within the denominational umbrella, approved a basic operating budget of \$137,332,523 and took positions on child pornography and environmental stewardship.

The convention attracted 38,478 messengers, making it the third-largest in the 145-year history of the body, eclipsed only by 45,519 in Dallas in 1985 and 40,987 in Atlanta in 1986.

However, the messengers left so rapidly after the elections and mission reports that business on the final day was eliminated. Leaders couldn't find the 9,614 messengers, 25 percent of registration, minimum needed to do business.

Left in the wings were 12 proposed resolutions from the Resolutions Committee on such subjects as tax relief and equity for families, opposition to government support of obscene and offensive art, homosexuality and civil rights, sensible advertising restrictions on alcoholic beverages, endangerment of religious liberties, sanctity of human life and suspension of patronage of businesses which support pro-abortion organizations.

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of, Wichita Falls, Texas., won the presidency of the 14.9-million-member denomination by defeating Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, Atlanta, 21,471 to 15,753.

Joining the conservative standard bearer were Douglas Knapp, retired foreign missionary of Gainesville, Fla., as first vice president, and Fred Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., second vice president.

Knapp won over Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, 16,348 to 10,688, and Lowery over two laymen, garnering 60 percent of the vote on the first ballot. They were Raymond Boswell of Shreveport and Steve Tondera of Huntsville, Ala.

Conservative candidate David Atchison of Nashville unseated Recording Secretary Martin Bradley of Nashville, who had held the post for 12 years.

However, Lee Porter of Nashville won a 13th term as registration secretary by overwhelming Bob Mowry, a Nashville pastor, 13,242 to 5,048.

In a post election news conference, Chapman said the question of whether the biblical inerrancy issue is settled in the convention depends upon the 42 percent of the messengers who voted against him.

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"The large majority of Southern Baptists believe the issue is settled. Whether the issue is settled in its most practical form is largely up to those who have been voting otherwise, who have insisted that we are not a group who have believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

Meanwhile, Vestal appealed for moderate and conservative Southern Baptists to schedule a formal dialogue on the future of the denomination.

Upon recommendation of the convention's Executive Committee, the messengers transferred the primary religious liberty function from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to the Christian Life Commission, allowing the social action agency to address religious liberty issues as well as Christian social ethics.

At the same time, the messengers approved a budget which reduced the allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee by \$341,796, or 87 percent, and increased the allocation to the CLC by 40 percent, or \$365,328.

Two efforts by messengers to restore the cut failed.

Historically, the Baptist Joint Committee, a First Amendment/religious liberty organization representing nine Baptist bodies in Washington, has handled religious liberty concerns for Southern Baptists for 53 years.

However, the Joint Committee has been a center of controversy in the convention's 11-year-old political/theological debate on such matters as school prayer and the relationship of religious liberty to moral and social concerns.

In a news conference James Dunn, executive director of the Joint Committee and a Southern Baptist, said he expected interested Southern Baptist individuals, churches and state conventions to more than cover the loss of funding with direct gifts.

Richard Land, executive director of the CLC, said the messengers' action would greatly strengthen Southern Baptists' influence in Washington.

In contrast to other business, messengers approved without debate resolutions urging laws against the possession of child pornography and calling Southern Baptists to environmental stewardship.

The resolution on possession of child pornography urged Southern Baptists in 28 states and the District of Columbia which do not have laws prohibiting private possession of child pornography to work for the enactment of legislation.

The environment resolution encouraged Southern Baptist people, churches and other groups to make an environmentally responsible ethic a part of their lifestyle and evangelistic witness.

Messengers heard reports from 20 of their agencies which evoked responses ranging from questions to challenge and inspiration.

Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas, was asked by a messenger to explain a remark labeling a convention meeting Satanic.

Dilday said he had not referred to the SBC meeting but to methodology used during the past 12 years in the denominational controversy.

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"The comments I made was that the methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years -- the crass, secular, political methodology -- does have satanic, evil qualities of which I am desperately opposed." He added, "I did indicate that if Satan were interested in destroying the work of an evangelistic body such as this, the outcome we have seen in these 12 years would indeed be the kind of quality we would see in that intervention."

Following the report of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, President Roy Honeycutt of Louisville, Ky., was asked if recent charges against him had been laid to rest by the recently dismantled convention Peace Committee.

Honeycutt said he could not speak for the Peace Committee, a group formed to study theological issues, but his trustees had voted 41-11 four years ago stating there were no charges worthy of faculty dismissal in the Peace Committee's concerns.

Honeycutt also figured in a related motion calling for removal of seminary trustee Jerry Johnson, an Aurora, Colo., pastor, for his 16-page article criticizing the seminary president and five professors concerning their theology.

Messengers referred the issue to the Southern Seminary trustees after convention legal counsel said the convention constitution and bylaws do not provide a procedure for removing a trustee from office.

Presentation of the home mission and foreign mission reports provided messengers challenge and inspiration.

Charles Chaney, vice president of extension at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, urged messengers to accept a goal of starting four new churches a day.

Chaney said Southern Baptists currently are starting churches at the rate of more than three each day and are ahead of the mission board's goal of having 50,000 churches by the year 2000.

While commissioning 34 new foreign missionaries, Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., called on Southern Baptists to use their wealth in a more generous way to help spread the gospel around the world.

Pointing to changes in Eastern Europe and Asia as examples of God's timing, Parks said Southern Baptists must do the right thing while God has provided the right time.

In a major address, outgoing President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., urged messengers to remain alert to doctrinal error else the denomination "could become a mustard seed monstrosity with bureaucratic branches infested with blasphemous birds."

While denominational loyalty is desirable, it must not supplant loyalty to Christ and the Bible, he said.

In the annual convention sermon, Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., called for repentance of pride and a return to prayer essential before God's spirit can bring a modern day awakening.

Wolfe claimed Southern Baptists have trusted in their pride, self-sufficiency and might instead of the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Looking toward the 1991 convention on June 4-6 in Atlanta, messengers chose Thomas D. Elliff, pastor of First Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., and 1990 president of the Southern Baptist Pastors Conference, to preach the convention sermon.

Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark., was elected alternate preacher.