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### June 30, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 13

June 30, 1994

**Messengers** to the 1994  
Southern Baptist  
Convention June 14-16  
in Florida **elect** Orlando  
pastor **Jim Henry** as  
**SBC president.**



# 1994 annual meeting attracts more than 20,000 messengers

Southern Baptist efforts to change the world drew recognition in welcoming remarks and a city proclamation as the Southern Baptist Convention convened June 14 for its 137th annual session and 149th year. A total of 20,364 messengers, including approximately 600 Arkansas Baptists, registered for the three-day meeting.

Nap Ford, an Orlando city commissioner and mayor pro tem, told messengers the city issued a proclamation making June 14 "World Changers Day" in Orlando in honor of some 150 Southern Baptist young people who helped low-income Orlando residents.

World Changers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, work each summer to rehabilitate homes of low-income people.

Pat Williams, general manager of the Orlando Magic basketball team, greeted messengers with words of wisdom from Walt Disney.

Disney, the architect of the heart of Orlando's tourist attraction, had five secrets that allowed his dreams to become a reality, said Williams, a Christian layman. Those secrets, he said, apply to Christian efforts to change the world.

The secrets? Make what you do today pay off tomorrow. Free up your imagination to accomplish your goals. Build for lasting quality. Practice "stick-to-it-iveness — perseverance. Have fun.

"It's okay to have fun" even in Christian work, Williams said. "I'm convinced that the most winsome witness to a disbelieving world is a smile, joy and a personality that radiates fun."

Responding to Williams' greeting,

former SBC president James L. Sullivan, compared burgeoning growth in Orlando to his perspective of the growth of the Southern Baptist Convention he has witnessed in 68 years of ministry.

Orlando and the SBC have been around awhile but are figuratively "teenagers" in terms of where they have to go, he said.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is still young," said Sullivan, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board. "I have personally known two-thirds of all the presidents of the SBC in its history in my lifetime."

The veteran denominational leader urged different kinds of Southern Baptists to be both loyal to the SBC and show a willingness to learn to accommodate each other's differences.

"I'm a committed denominationalist," said Sullivan, who first started attending SBC meetings in 1934. "I will support the Cooperative Program as I've done since I was an 11-year-old boy." But, just as the Orlando metro area is divided into three parts, he said, continuing his analogy, the SBC is made up of three historic Baptist traditions.

People with different backgrounds, habits and ways of doing things "don't mesh easily," he explained, noting that his mother, father and childhood pastor each came from a different Baptist tradition.

"If we bring traditions into harmony and erase the extremism of each," he said, fantastic future advance can be made in reaching the world for Christ.

"We will continue to have differences," he said. "That's expected in a democracy."

"But we don't have to be twins to be brothers."

## Cover Story

SBC photo / Morris Abernathy



### New SBC president 3

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., was elected Southern Baptist Convention president on the opening day of the 1994 SBC annual meeting in Orlando. More than 20,000 messengers, including an estimated 600 Arkansas Baptists, participated in the June 14-16 gathering.

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# Jim Henry wins SBC presidential race

For the first time since conservatives took control of the Southern Baptist Convention 15 years ago, SBC messengers elected a president not endorsed by its top tier of leaders. Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., was elected SBC president over Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., by a vote of 9,876 (55.18 percent) to 8,023 (44.82 percent).

Many observers were surprised by Henry's election and virtually everyone was surprised by the margin of victory. Former SBC president Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., who had endorsed Wolfe, called the 55-45 margin "the most surprising thing."

In a news conference following his election, Henry said he has heard from many Southern Baptists who are tired of the 15-year convention controversy and want to move forward.

Henry emphasized, however, that his election marks a "shift in emphasis, not a repudiation" of the SBC's conservative direction. "I'm strongly committed, as I have been, to the conservative position — the inerrancy and infallibility of the Word of God," Henry told reporters. "This campaign hasn't changed that."

Henry said his presidential appointments will be drawn from "people who are committed to the Word of God and its inerrancy and infallibility, are active in their local churches and whose churches are actively involved in the SBC."

Concerning Southern Baptists who have felt disenfranchised during the conservative resurgence, Henry noted, "There are a lot of people who are Southern Baptist to the core but they feel like they haven't been heard.... They have felt some positions we (conservatives) have taken, they did not agree with politically, and some also questioned our commitment to missions.

"If people are committed to inerrancy, the Cooperative Program, evangelism and missions, if they have gone away and want to come back, we ought to talk to them," the new president remarked. "But they've got to come in where the mainstream of Southern Baptists are."

Looking toward the future, Henry said, "There are some more important things for us to do now, and we need to get on with that job." He said the SBC needs to get on with "reaching people for Christ, building strong churches, missions and keeping our conservative commitment to Christ.... There are some other themes besides inerrancy to move toward."

Henry's congregation has led the SBC



*New Southern Baptist Convention officers are (left to right) president Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; first vice president Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; and second vice president Gary Frost, pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church, Youngstown, Ohio.*

in Cooperative Program giving for the past three years. Average Sunday School attendance at First Baptist, Orlando, is 3,800 with annual baptisms averaging 333 each of the past five years.

Henry, a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, is a former trustee of the Foreign Mission Board and served on the SBC Peace Committee. He also has been SBC Pastors' Conference president, a Baptist Sunday School Board trustee and chairman of the SBC Spiritual Awakening Task Force.

***"We need to get on with...reaching people for Christ, building strong churches, missions and keeping our conservative commitment to Christ."***

**— Jim Henry**  
SBC president

Jack Graham, who nominated Henry for the SBC presidency, described Henry as a soul-winner and leading Cooperative Program supporter who is "one of us."

"He talks the talk and walks the walk," Graham affirmed. He said Henry "will not polarize us or politicize us, but mobilize us in taking the message of Jesus Christ to this world."

Tellers Committee chairman Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, said it was "an interesting election

with two wonderful men being nominated. Both are proven men, but the convention felt Jim Henry was the man to lead us for the next year or two."

Horne said the vote indicates Southern Baptists "are ready to go on and see what is before us."

Wolfe said he was surprised by his loss to Henry. He added, however, that "I have great love and admiration for Jim Henry. I'm praying for him that he will do an outstanding job as our president." Wolfe later was re-elected as chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

In other elections, messengers chose two Executive Committee members—one a native of China and the other a black pastor — as SBC vice presidents. Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., was elected first vice president by acclamation.

Gary Frost, pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church in Youngstown, Ohio, was elected second vice president in a run-off election with F. Murray Mathis of Murfreesboro, Tenn., after an initial ballot with four nominees. Other nominees were Bobby McFalls of Sanford, Fla., and Paul Blanchard of Louisville, Miss. Frost formerly served two terms as state convention president in Ohio.

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary since 1977, was re-elected by acclamation. Porter, associate pastor of St. Andrew Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., was nominated by Horne.

Recording secretary David Atchison of Brentwood, Tenn., also was re-elected by acclamation.

**Greg Stanley, pastor  
First Church, Warren**

This has been the most harmonious, positive convention meeting in recent years. I sense a real spirit of renewal in our midst. I truly believe we may have begun to "turn the corner" in the sometimes turbulent recent years.

There seems to be a genuine excitement in and anticipation of what our Lord is doing and wants to do among and through Southern Baptists. There is a hunger to get on with our main tasks of evangelism, missions, discipling and powerfully impacting a lost, broken, rebellious world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, in all its dimensions and ramifications.

I believe the best years for Southern Baptists are just ahead. Much of the harmonious, unified spirit was due to the fair, even-handed, good-humored presiding of Dr. Ed Young.

**Bob Harper, pastor  
First Church, White Hall**

The location of this convention has encouraged it to be a family-oriented convention with many families taking vacations prior to or after the SBC.

I wish our SBC family would move more toward a loving body of believers working together for the common good of all under Jesus' leadership. Too often we have a legalistic attitude instead of a loving attitude. Family includes acceptance, growth, togetherness and love, not just legalistic attitudes. I hope our convention moves toward a spirit of family love, since we only have one Father of us all.

**Rex M. Terry, member  
First Church, Fort Smith**

The convention spoke positively to several issues, including the CBF matter. I thank God that we have come to the day in our convention when we choose for president from two committed, conservative inerrantists.

**Rick Hyde, pastor  
Third Church, Malvern**

I was inspired and encouraged by this year's meeting—from the Pastors' Conference through the convention program.

President Young's firm, yet graceful (and at needed times, humorous) leadership was effective and appreciated.

Hopefully, the election of Jim Henry will bring a renewal of cooperation among Southern Baptists to carry out the Great Commission.

*I know*  
**HE IS ABLE**

2 Timothy 1:12

**Arkansas  
Baptist  
messenger  
evaluate  
1994 SBC**



**Claude Gibbs, pastor  
Central Church, Bald Knob**

The convention of 1994 in Orlando was an uplifting experience, filled with good things and encouragement. The music, the testimonies, the messages and especially the leadership of our president as he led our convention in a spirit of kindness, gentleness, fairness and patience was a wonderful experience.

Our convention will be stronger than ever because we are going in the right direction. Our commitment will be increased because we are challenged to soul winning and increasing the kingdom of God. Our churches will grow and give more to the Cooperative Program because we believe in missions. Our call to tell the world about Jesus will be greater than ever and we, as churches, will work together to please our Lord and fulfill the Great Commission.

I am truly grateful to be a Southern Baptist, an Arkansas Baptist and a part of a great body known as the Southern Baptist Convention. The highlight of the 1994 convention was from the beginning to the end.

**Bob Berry, administrator  
First Church, Benton**

For the first time in years I feel somewhat encouraged as I leave the convention. The overwhelming rejection of the "status quo" leadership was a truly significant statement by Southern Baptists. This was a clear message that the majority of Southern Baptists are tired of the partisan politics which has characterized the past 15 years.

With two blatant exceptions, I was most impressed with the presiding officer, Dr. Ed Young. He almost always sought to be fair. However, in squelching the man who spoke against the unfortunate actions at Southwestern Seminary, Dr. Young showed obvious prejudice. Furthermore, it was apparent that the chair was not going to allow Dr. Cecil Sims' motion to be voted on. The promise that everyone would leave knowing "God was in our midst" concerning the Southwestern trustees went completely unfulfilled.

The actions of the SBC Executive Committee concerning CBF funds was hypocritical and short-sighted. In a time when the budgets of missions organizations are being cut, when missionaries don't get pay increases and when capital needs on the mission field go unmet, it is hypocritical for an entity which receives virtually no CBF support to pressure other entities to turn down desperately needed funds from fellow Baptists in order to make a political statement.

I still believe that the SBC and the Cooperative Program can prosper and thrive. However, until both sides are willing to abandon the partisanship which polarizes the rank and file Baptist who loves God, the church and supports missions, troubles still lie ahead. My prayer is that Dr. Henry will help us all focus back on Jesus, not people and politics.

**Clayburn Bratton, member  
East Side Church, Fort Smith**

The convention was very positive and upbeat. Good program. Great spirit.

**Stuart Bell, pastor  
Forrest Park Church, Pine Bluff**

It was a privilege to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando. I came away from the convention with the strong conviction that Southern Baptists must speak the truth now in our great country. Time is short.

# The SBC: What does the future hold?

The election of Jim Henry as Southern Baptist Convention president.... The decision to reject Cooperative Baptist Fellowship funds.... Declining to investigate the firing of Southwestern Seminary president Russell Dilday.

Those were among the most far-reaching actions taken during the 1994 SBC. Yet each of those actions prompts questions related to the SBC's future.

■ Presidential election: What does Henry's election mean?

In addition to the obvious advantage of the convention being held in the city and state where Henry has served as a popular pastor for 16 years, some people saw Henry's election as a protest against Dilday's dismissal. Others viewed it as an affirmation of his church's strong Cooperative Program leadership while still others pointed to a desire to move beyond the 15-year practice of the convention's most prominent conservative leaders determining who would be the favored presidential candidate each year. Undoubtedly all of those factors contributed to Henry's successful presidential bid.

Whatever else his election suggests, it appears it is time to lay presidential politics aside in convention life. Henry, who clearly affirms the Baptist Faith and Message and the inerrancy of Scripture, also points to the Peace Committee report as a vital document in Southern Baptist life.

Among the Peace Committee recommendations adopted by messengers in 1987 was that all nominees for SBC leadership be individuals "drawn in balanced

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

faith from the broad spectrum of loyal, cooperative Southern Baptists, representative of the diversity of our denomination."

The Peace Committee document, which Henry helped draft, also called for the end of all "organized political activity" in convention life, including "political strategies developed by a group with central control."

While describing his election as a "shift in emphasis, not a repudiation" of the SBC's conservative direction, Henry's reaffirmation of Peace Committee principles may be a crucial step in helping restore peace in the SBC.

■ CBF funds: How will churches sympathetic to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship respond to the rejection of their missions gifts?

While Henry's election may be a step toward reconciliation, the messengers' decision to reject any funds channeled through the CBF will be viewed by many as a step in the opposite direction. The

action leaves Fellowship supporters with at least three choices: fund only CBF ministries, channel funds through the Cooperative Program or designate gifts to specific ministry causes. Each of those choices may dramatically impact CP funding for years to come. With the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board receiving more than \$2 million through the CBF last year, sacrificial missions giving may become essential in the days ahead to help maintain Southern Baptists' current level of worldwide missions involvement.

■ Dilday dismissal: What does the vote say to current and future trustees?

The vote against establishing a study committee to examine Dilday's firing was followed by SBC president Ed Young ruling two related motions out of order. One called for the resignation of the seminary's trustee officers; the other sought to affirm the trustees.

With no clear "yes or no" vote permitted concerning the firing, reasons for rejecting the study remain ambiguous. Some messengers obviously were supportive of the trustees' actions, some desired a stronger motion against the trustees and some simply wanted to put the whole matter behind them.

In a resolution addressing the issue, messengers urged all convention trustees and administrators to "demonstrate the attitude of love and service in the name of Jesus" in all future dealings. What more worthy goal can Southern Baptists set for any situation than to emulate Christ? May we all heed that admonition.

## Joyce Thomas: a dedicated denominational servant

"Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." This is the way the Virtuous Woman passage closes in Proverbs 31. Though the passage clearly refers to the virtues and values of a good wife, I find many things that would apply to the qualities of a good secretary. For example, her boss "doth safely trust in her" and "she will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." She "eateth not the bread of idleness" and her fellow workers "rise up and call her blessed."

All of the above could be said about Joyce Thomas, my secretary. For almost 30 years she has worked for Arkansas Baptists. She has responded with kindness and efficiency to the calls that have come to five executive directors, or executive secretaries, as they were called in earlier times. She has contributed so much to the Kingdom. All who have known her love her for her gentle and helpful spirit.

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABSC Executive Director

It is with a sense of great loss that I announce her retirement. She will be sorely missed by all with whom she has worked. Her husband, Jack, is retiring at the same time. We pray that the Lord will give them many wonderful years. There is literally nothing more that could be asked of a secretary than Joyce has given. What a

blessing to have such people like Joyce working in the name of the Lord and in the name of Arkansas Baptists.

Audrey Parker began working with Joyce on June 15 and will work with her until Joyce's retirement June 30. She will have the same kind of commitment that Joyce has had. Though it will take her a while to master the unique skills required for this position, you can count on the same kind of considerate and helpful service you have been accustomed to.

Nothing drives me to prayer more than the matter of getting the right people in positions that have been vacated by retirements and resignations. I wish you could know the many wonderful ways God has worked to bring together the team that we now have. We are committed to do whatever He calls on us to do for you. We appreciate the many ways in which you encourage us. We would especially request that you pray regularly for us.

# Youth surpass goal in chastity campaign

By Chip Alford

Baptist Sunday School Board

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—It's official. Southern Baptist youth have exceeded their goal for the nationwide sexual abstinence campaign, "True Love Waits."

The proof was clearly visible June 14 in a colorful display of 102,695 signed chastity cards in Orlando, Fla. Several hundred teenagers from seven states created the display which covered approximately 50,000 square feet of space outside the Orange County Convention Center.

Most of the cards were placed inside plastic holders which teens staked into the ground. Thousands of others were placed in a nearby media tent.

Campaign spokesman Richard Ross said he is "very, very pleased but not surprised" the Southern Baptist goal was met.

"It is one thing for adults to say that they think teenagers might make a commitment to abstinence. It is quite another thing to have physical proof that teenagers made that commitment," Ross said.

"I am convinced that this proof is going to make an impact on church leaders, on policy makers, on educators. Young people themselves have said 'True Love Waits and that is what is going to make a difference.'"

Despite the sweltering heat, 17-year-old Patricia Zamarron from Exchange Avenue Baptist Church in Oklahoma City said she was excited to help put up the display and about the impact it could have on the nation.

"We're out here to make a statement and it's up to the other young teenagers to listen to and acknowledge what we have to say. And I believe every teenager out here is smart enough to know True Love Waits for themselves, their family, their future spouse -- for respect."

The display of chastity cards in Orlando generated another round of heavy media coverage for True Love Waits, a campaign which already has reached an audience in the hundreds of millions, according to campaign organizers. Among those carrying reports on the event were Cable News Network (CNN), CBS News "Up to the Minute," USA Today, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Associated Press, British Broadcasting Company (BBC) and two newspapers based in London, England.

Sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and endorsed by 25 other denominations and Christian organizations, True Love Waits was launched last year. The campaign is designed to encourage young people to abstain from sex until marriage.

Young people also are invited to sign pledge cards which state: "Believing that



Southern Baptist youth help set up a display of more than 100,000 signed pledge cards in Orlando, Fla., for the "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence campaign.

true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, those I date, my future mate and my future children to be sexually pure until the day I enter a covenant marriage relationship."

That's a message Brad Branson was happy to share with his youth group at Thomasville Road Baptist in Tallahassee, Fla. Seventy-one youth from his church made the pledge.

## 'An awesome sight'

"I think it is a great statement to America and it is going to be even greater when other denominations join us next month in July. It's going to be an awesome sight," Branson said, referring to the national True Love Waits celebration planned July 29 in Washington, D.C. At that event, pledge cards from all participating denominations and Christian groups will be displayed on the Washington Mall near the U.S. Capitol.

Even the Washington event won't signal the end of True Love Waits, though. Convention messengers voted June 15 to make the campaign's message an annual emphasis. February will now be designated as "True Love Waits" month on the denominational calendar and the BSSB will provide materials to help churches carry out a yearly abstinence education program.

The campaign continues to spread to other countries, too. On the same day as the American celebration in Washington, national rallies will be held in Uganda and Canada. In addition, the Baptist World Alliance is taking the "True Love Waits" message to its membership of 165 Baptist groups representing more than 38 million

Baptists in 150 countries. Covenant cards signed by young people from around the world will be collected and displayed Aug. 1-6, 1995, during the Baptist World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In Orlando, SBC messengers also learned more about True Love Waits during the Sunday School Board's report to the convention. More than 1,000 teens rushed to the stage inside the convention center for a short program of music, drama and testimony. They were met by thunderous applause from messengers who gave the youth two standing ovations.

Before the program, the teens attended a rally where peers shared testimonies, including Robert Ladd from Tulp Grove Baptist Church in Hermitage, Tenn. — the church where the campaign was launched.

"In the beginning I decided I didn't really want to be a part of True Love Waits because I thought I was making a commitment to my community and church."

After talking with his youth minister, though, he said he realized the pledge to remain abstinent until marriage was a promise made to God. "The cards are just kind of like a public profession of faith."

Scott Ward, a member of the Thomasville Road Baptist youth group from Tampa, may have summed up the feelings of most teens participating in the campaign as he worked on the display.

"I was glad I made this decision because I think it is what God wanted me to do," he said. "I think everyone should stay pure until they marry. They'd be a whole lot happier. Maybe this display will encourage some people to think about that."

# Agencies directed to reject CBF funds

## Messenger action may cost mission boards up to \$2 million annually

ORLANDO, FL (BP/ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention has directed its agencies to no longer accept money channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting adopted a motion June 15 for SBC agencies and institutions to "maintain fidelity to the convention and avoid compromising the integrity of the Cooperative Program" by declining CBF funds. The CBF is a group of moderate Southern Baptists opposed to the convention's current leadership.

Earlier in the week, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee voted to stop taking CBF funds effective Sept. 30, 1994, and to "encourage" trustees of SBC entities to do the same.

Jack Wilkerson, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, acknowledged that "the impact of the recommendation on the Executive Committee is nothing" since only about \$15 has been channeled to the Executive Committee from the CBF so far this year.

The financial impact is significant for many other SBC agencies, however. Since its formation three years ago, the Fellowship has channeled about \$9 million in contributions from Baptist churches and individuals to the SBC agencies.

Last year, SBC agencies received more

than \$2 million through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, including \$1.6 million to the Foreign Mission Board and \$434,000 to the Home Mission Board.

Of 8,072 messengers voting, 4,730, or 58.6 percent, voted for the motion and 3,342, or 41.4 percent, voted against it. Mike Mitchell of Chamberlain Memorial Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., made the original motion. Two other messengers submitted similar motions.

Craig Kendall of Central Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., said the CBF and the SBC have "mutually exclusive visions....if we accept their money, we legitimize their claims and therefore their agenda."

Owen Bozeman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Milton, Fla., spoke against the motion, saying it could "severely disrupt the budget cycles" of SBC agencies.

Voting against the motion would be "in the interest of a kindly spirit," Bozeman said. "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship members are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Their gifts are Christian gifts. The CBF and SBC will soon part ways. Let us do so amicably. Let it die a natural death."

Some observers said the vote will speed a split between Fellowship-supporting congregations and the SBC, which many conservatives and moderates view as inevitable and even welcome. But others say the action changes little, and that

moderate churches that still want to support SBC causes will find other ways to deliver the money.

Fellowship coordinator Cecil Sherman said the new policy is intended to hurt the Fellowship's fund-raising ability, but he predicted Fellowship faithful will remain firm. "It may be so many churches will be intimidated back into their fold, and it may be they will move the other way," he said. "Churches can say, 'We'll do what we please.'"

Sherman described the new policy as "one more encroachment on the autonomy of the local churches." But supporters of the action — including Kendall, FMB president Jerry Rankin and SBC chief executive Morris Chapman — said it does not interfere with local-church freedom.

There are "adequate channels" for churches to send funds directly to the agencies, Chapman told messengers in his report. "If a church wishes to give to SBC causes, we simply ask them to give through our traditional channels."

Another motion related to the CBF was moved by Tony Lee Darnell of Missouri. His motion was for seminary students who are members of churches which do not support the Cooperative Program to be denied CP support in underwriting their seminary education. His motion was referred to the six SBC seminaries.

## Messengers make mileage mix-up moot matter

Alton Fannin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ardmore, Okla., was elected a local member of the Annuity Board trustees by a matter of miles.

Fannin was nominated during the Southern Baptist Convention Nominating Committee process, said Wade Burleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., and a member of the Nominating Committee. Fannin's nomination was replaced by Charles H. Armstrong Jr., a Dallas layman, before the SBC.

Burleson said he was told that a Nominating Committee subcommittee made the change because local members of the board of directors have to live within 100 miles of the Annuity Board. Burleson said he called the departments of transportation in Oklahoma and Texas and was told Ardmore is 93 miles from Dallas, making Fannin eligible for the post.

"This to me is a matter of principle and has nothing to do with people," Burleson said. He added, "We who are from Oklahoma do not like to lose to Texas."

Nominating Committee member Kenneth Barnett said the question was not miles from the outskirts of the two cities but miles from the Annuity Board office in Dallas to First Baptist Church of Ardmore. He said that distance is 107 miles.

SBC messengers rejected Barnett's argument and elected Fannin to the post. They elected the remaining slate of trustees for SBC agencies as proposed by the Committee on Nominations.

Arkansas Baptists elected to a first term of service include Joe W. Atchison, director of missions for Northwest Association,

Foreign Mission Board; Mickie Page, a member of South Highland Church, Little Rock, Home Mission Board; Cliff Palmer, a member of Immanuel Church, Rogers, Sunday School Board; Mark Tolbert, pastor of Wynne Church, Annuity Board; and Ed Saucier, pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith, Southwestern Seminary.

Arkansans elected to a second term of service include William R. Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, and Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, SBC Executive Board; Robert C. Foster, associate pastor of Dove Circle Church, Eureka Springs, Southern Seminary; and Ozzie Berryhill, a member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, Brotherhood Commission.

Arkansans elected to serve on the 1994 Committee on Nominations are Thomas E. Hatley, pastor of Immanuel Church, Rogers, and Bill Bledsoe, a member of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs. They were nominated by 1994 Committee on Committee members Terry Eaton, pastor of First Church, Decatur, and Mark Park, a member of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs.

Southern Baptist bylaws call for the SBC president to appoint the Committee on Committees, which then nominates the Committee on Nominations. Messengers vote on the Committee on Nominations which presents a proposed slate of trustees for SBC entities the following year.

In a pre-convention SBC Executive Committee meeting, David James, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Baptist Student Union department, was elected to serve on the Baptist World Alliance Youth Committee.





*Keith and Jane Byrd*



*Preston and Karen Pearce*



*Larry and Cheryl Cox*



*Ted and Brenda Daniels*



*Earl and Mona Hewitt*

## Arkansans commissioned in historic service

Five couples with Arkansas ties were among 55 foreign missionaries commissioned during a historic joint session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union June 12 in Orlando, Fla.

An estimated 13,000 onlookers gave a standing ovation after FMB trustees stood in a unanimous vote of approval for the missionaries' appointment.

The missionaries with Arkansas ties include Keith and Jane Byrd, Preston and Karen Pearce, Larry and Cheryl Cox, Ted and Brenda Daniels and Earl and Mona Hewitt.

The Byrds will serve in Belarus, one of the Commonwealth of Independent States of the former Soviet Union, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in several outreach ministries.

Byrd has served since 1990 as pastor of Calvary Church in Batesville. He is the son of Shirley Byrd of Norfolk and Robert S. Byrd of Mountain Home. He grew up in Norfolk and considers it his hometown and First Church there his home church.

He earned the associate of arts degree from Williams Baptist College, the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Byrd, the former Jane Chastain, grew up in Georgia, Virginia and Norfolk. She considers Norfolk her hometown and First Church there her home church. She attended Ouachita Baptist University and Midwestern Seminary.

The Byrds have two grown children. The Peaces will live in Romania, where he will teach in a seminary and they also will be involved in outreach ministries. He has been pastor of Fellowship Church in Batesville since 1990.

Pearce received the bachelor of science degree from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston and the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

He previously was activities director at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport,

La.; interim minister of youth at Wynne Church; interim associate pastor and evangelism intern at Calvary Baptist Church in Aberdeen, N.J.; and intern in the college and career ministry at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

Mrs. Pearce, the former Karen Calhoun, recently has been news anchor/disc jockey for KAAB-KWOZ Radio in Batesville. She holds the bachelor of arts degree from Georgia State University in Atlanta and the master of arts in religion and education degree from Mid-America Seminary.

The Peaces have two children: David Preston and Lauren Nicole.

The Coxes have been appointed as representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. They will be based in Germany and use their skills in CSI-related projects in developing nations.

Cox has served since 1988 as assistant to the president of Mississippi College in Clinton. They previously were Southern Baptist workers in Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso from 1975 to 1987.

He holds the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi College, the master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the master of agriculture degree from Mississippi State University and the doctor of philosophy degree in higher education administration from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. He formerly was a minister of education in Vicksburg, Miss.

Mrs. Cox, the former Cheryl Keathley, is the daughter of Montie Keathley of Memphis and Maurice Keathley of Hot Springs. Since 1992 she has been a teacher with Clinton Public Schools. She also taught in Mississippi. She received the bachelor of music education degree from Mississippi College.

The Coxes have four children: Jason and Jeremy, both students at Mississippi College; Amanda Bethany and Allison Joy.

The Danielses will serve in Venezuela, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in outreach ministries. They recently served as FMB

International Service Corps workers in Zimbabwe.

Born in Fordyce, Daniels is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Daniels of Poteau, Okla. He received the associate of science degree from Carl Albert State College in Poteau, the bachelor of science degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, the master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Daniels, the former Brenda Bolien, holds bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees from College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., and the master of religious education degree from Golden Gate Seminary.

The Danielses have two children: Yvonne Dylana and Hanna Elizabeth.

The Hewitts will live in Ghana, where he will serve as a physician and both will serve in a variety of outreach ministries. He will work at a hospital in Nalerigu. He was a missionary in Ghana from 1988 to 1993. Since 1993 he has been a physician with the Mississippi State Board of Health.

Hewitt holds the associate of arts degree from Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford and the doctor of medicine degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He also attended Southwestern Seminary.

Born and reared in Little Rock, Mrs. Hewitt, the former Mona Johnson, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Johnson of Little Rock. She considers First Baptist Church there her home church.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock and the master of arts in communications degree from Southwestern Seminary. Currently she is a part-time worker in the office of communications with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The Coxes will go to the field in July. The other four couples will go to Rockville, Va., in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

## Mission boards detail ministries, needs

By Barbara Denman

Florida Baptist Convention

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Southern Baptists are experiencing God through missions, Henry Blackaby declared during the June 15 joint presentation of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

God's activity can be seen from events of the past, said Blackaby, HMB special consultant for prayer and spiritual awakening. Referring to 1989, he recounted, "The heavenly Father began to work in the hearts of some agency prayer leaders. There came a spontaneous call to Southern Baptists for prayer and solemn assembly.

"Little did we know that within two months the walls of the Berlin wall would fall. God opened more doors in the next few months for the gospel than we had seen in years."

God is at work among Southern Baptists, Blackaby said. "It was not an accident that Jim Henry was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention. It was only a year later in Atlanta that Jim Henry led the convention in solemn assembly.

"God is mightily at work in the midst of us as a people. From one part of our nation to the other, I see God at work.

"He's calling us to be on mission with him," Blackaby said. "God has always been at work." He added, however, that, "God's people have not always been at work with Him."

God's work can be seen in volunteers numbering in the tens of thousands, teens willing to make a commitment of sexual abstinence and in the "opening doors in more countries than we have people to go through them," Blackaby said.

Throughout the FMB/HMB multi-media presentation that combined personal testimonies from missionaries, video, drama and song, the boards introduced



Henry Blackaby, Home Mission Board special consultant for prayer and spiritual awakening, emphasizes that God is at work among Southern Baptists.

God's work among Southern Baptists through missions.

### Answered prayers

Ignatius Melmaris, director of missions for Boston Baptist Association, is working in an area known as the graveyard of evangelicals. One Saturday a month, a group of six to 10 people drive through a targeted area in the city and pray that God will start a church in that location. Their prayers are being answered.

Debbie Brownfield and her husband are ministering in Ethiopia, providing relief to the famine-plagued people through health care and agricultural assistance.

David Dupree in LaVeGa, Dominican Republic, is preaching God and starting churches in that island country.

Troy Smith followed God into the inner city of Portland 16 years ago and has watched Him transform the lives of drug addicts, alcoholics, homosexuals and pimps through Smith's ministry.

A call for more support was issued by HMB president Larry Lewis. There has never been an obstacle that can't be overcome by prayer and sacrifice, Lewis insisted. "We'll never outgive our Lord. There's only one place on earth where you can invest and have eternal dividends — the kingdom cause."

FMB president Jerry Rankin asked, "As we're confronted with needs of a lost world, why should you be blessed to know Him?" while others in the world may never hear? "The needs of the lost world continue to call."

Citing the slaughter of the lives in Rwanda, government corruption and warfare, Rankin said missionaries are risking their lives to carry out their responsibilities. Their work is made possible "because you too have been responsible as called people with the resources."

Rankin said that 100 years ago, Lottie Moon wrote the Foreign Mission Board and begged for more help in light of thousands of needs. "We're still getting those letters today," he added.

Noting that there are 435 missionaries in Southeast Asia, Rankin said that equals one missionary per 6.8 million people.

As the service concluded with a commitment time, Rankin asked the crowd, "Will you now hear the voice of God?"

## MISSION BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

# HMB

HOME MISSION BOARD

- 1,500 church starts
- 4,882 missionaries
- 74,860 volunteers



FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

- 2,000 church starts
- 4,086 missionaries
- 12,000 volunteers

# Resolutions tackle health care, AIDS, RU-486

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Social issues ranging from health care reform and the RU-486 abortion pill to AIDS and outcome-based education were among topics tackled in a dozen resolutions overwhelmingly adopted by Southern Baptist Convention messengers.

Other resolutions called for increased awareness of world hunger needs, commendation of World War II veterans and affirmation of teens participating in Southern Baptists' "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence campaign.

The health care reform resolution voiced opposition to any legislation that includes "morally objectionable provisions" such as abortion on demand, distribution of contraceptives through school-based health clinics, rationing of health care on the basis of economic decisions or the violation of physician-patient relationships.

While emphasizing that "our Baptist heritage of insistence on limited government causes us to believe the need for reform does not mandate a government-controlled health care system," the resolution added that messengers "nevertheless encourage the President and Congress in their attempt to reform America's health care system."

## 'An issue of justice'

Describing health care reform as "an issue of justice," resolutions committee chairman Tommy Lee said committee members "stand in favor of some type of reform" despite reservations "about all that might be done in a government-controlled health care system."

The resolution opposing the RU-486 French abortion pill was adopted without discussion. Condemning "the blatant advocacy of RU-486 by the Clinton administration," the resolution also voiced opposition to "the testing, approval, marketing and sale of the abortion pill in the United States."

The resolution also urged Southern Baptists to support a proposed boycott against RU-486 manufacturer Roussel Uclaf, its parent company Hoechst A G and their American subsidiaries. The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission is among pro-life organizations calling for the boycott.

The AIDS resolution urged Christians "to follow Christ's example of compassion and reach out to those with AIDS and their families."

"It is not our intention as a committee in any way to castigate those who have

AIDS," Lee explained. "Let us reach out with compassion to all those who have AIDS no matter how they may have received it."

The resolution, which encouraged Christians to become better informed about the disease and affirmed those already involved in AIDS ministry, was amended to "also urge those not involved to become involved."

A resolution addressing religious harassment guidelines under consideration by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission warned that the proposed guidelines "pose a grave risk to religious freedom in the workplace." It called for religion to be deleted from the guidelines.

## Clinton offers response

President Clinton responded to the resolution prior to its adoption in a June 15 letter to CLC executive director Richard Land. Expressing his "strong commitment to protecting religious freedom," Clinton said religious freedom "is perhaps the most precious of all American liberties, and I intend to continue doing all I can to protect this liberty."

CLC staffer Jim Smith responded that the Clinton administration "is well known for its rhetoric and for not always following through on its rhetoric." Noting that "we are appreciative of his interest and concern," Smith added, "We also are interested in seeing action."

Lee described the EEOC resolution as "a very strong statement of this convention in opposition to these (proposed) guidelines."

A resolution concerning SBC trustees and administrators, an apparent response to the recent firing of Southwestern Seminary president Russell Dilday, urged convention trustees and administrators "to demonstrate the attitude of love and service in the name of Jesus which Paul commends."

Lee said the resolution was written to "acknowledge the wisdom and usefulness of the trustee system" while also calling "on both trustees and administrators to follow biblical guidelines in their performance of duty."

Describing "the philosophical underpinnings and goals" of most outcome-based education as "promoting multiculturalism, 'politically correct' social values and New Age philosophy," the anti-OBE resolution declared opposition to "educational experiments including those labeled 'Outcome-Based Education,' which risk the undermining of Judeo-Christian values, local control and traditional academic standards of excellence."

Messengers approved an amendment by David Crosby of Temple, Texas, who encouraged Southern Baptists to address education issues "more as encouragers and as insiders than as adversaries."

Emphasizing that Southern Baptists "historically have been involved in and supportive of public education," Crosby's amendment affirmed educators "who have maintained a faithful witness for biblical morality in our public schools."

Messengers also adopted a resolution concerning Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics as a response to the recent "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" document signed by Land, Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis and other evangelical and Catholic leaders.

Resolutions committee member Timothy George said the resolution was an effort to affirm "the need to stand with good people of moral concern" on key social issues while also reaffirming "our basic historic Christian and Baptist doctrinal commitments."

Acknowledging "the benefit of conversation with any religious group," the resolution encouraged ongoing conversation with Roman Catholics through the HMB's Interfaith Witness Department "while maintaining our Southern Baptist confession without compromise." The resolution also affirmed justification "by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone," the inerrancy of Scripture and Southern Baptists' commitment to evangelism and global missions.

An attempt by T.C. French of Baton Rouge, La., to amend the resolution to "reject all ecumenical efforts" was soundly defeated. His amendment sought to withhold any endorsement of "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" and to request all SBC agency heads to refrain from future endorsement of ecumenical documents.

Among other resolutions adopted, convention messengers:

- Affirmed the presidential theological study committee report as "a resource for a new denominational consensus rooted in the theological substance and doctrinal fidelity."

- Noted the 50th anniversary of D-Day by expressing gratitude to all World War II veterans, adding that it is God alone "who gives victory in battle."

- Applauded the more than 102,000 Southern Baptist youth who pledged sexual abstinence until marriage. It also called on adults "to be encouragers and role models as they live out their pledge."

- Urged Southern Baptists to redouble efforts to become aware of and involved in hunger and relief needs.

## Phone campaign produces prospects for new churches

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—A telephone blitz seeking to start three churches in the Orlando area was one of the newest additions to Cross Over.

On Saturday, June 11, calls were made from a 100-line phone bank based at First Baptist Church in Winter Park, Fla. Calls also were made from the offices of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., and Home Mission Board and Georgia Baptist Convention in Atlanta, many of them using WATS lines.

Callers asked if residents were involved in a local church. If they were not, callers told them about the new churches and asked for permission to mail them information about the church starts.

### Calls prove effective

Of the calls made from Orlando Saturday, 340 people expressed interest in the new churches, said Ronnie Reynolds, church starter strategist for the Greater Orlando Baptist Association.

Residents who expressed interest in the new churches will receive a letter thanking them for taking time to talk to the caller plus four other pieces about the new churches. They will receive a written invitation and another phone call inviting them to the first worship service before the new churches start in August and September.

Prior to the weekend phone campaign, Reynolds conducted area surveys and determined three locations where new churches were needed. One is in a primarily Anglo community near Disney World, another is in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood east of Orlando and the third is in an African American area known as Washington Shores.

New churches are needed, Reynolds said, because 70 percent of the 1.4 million people who live in the Orlando area are unchurched. Currently, Southern Baptists have one church for every 10,000 people.



Luana Moore (left) and Carol Cropley witness to Brian Foley during Cross Over Orlando. Foley was among 776 people led to faith in Christ during the effort.

## 'Cross Over Orlando' efforts reap 776 professions of faith

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—More than 770 people made professions of faith as a result of Cross Over Orlando, the two-day evangelism effort prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reports indicate 296 professions of faith from block parties, 223 from door-to-door witnessing, 136 from street witnessing and 121 from evangelistic rallies and "harvest Sunday" services.

Cross Over became a regular part of pre-convention activities in 1989. A record 1,267 professions of faith were recorded last year in Houston.

Cross Over's success, however, should not be measured solely by the number of professions of faith, said Darrell Robinson, vice president of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. In addition to seeing people become Christians, Cross Over helps equip Christians to witness and demonstrates new evangelism techniques. More than 1,200 people were trained during Cross Over this year.

Cross Over also creates a climate for evangelism by saturating the area with the gospel, Robinson said. During Cross Over, the plan of salvation was presented 5,380 times and at least 4,366 Bibles were distributed.

HMB president Larry Lewis said Cross Over demonstrates the need to share Christ "home to home, heart to heart and face to face."

Clarence Shell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, and evangelism associate Paul

McClung were among several Arkansas Baptists who conducted door-to-door surveys during Cross Over for First Baptist Church, Orlando.

Shell said "probably the most significant thing" about Cross Over is "saying to the people in the area that we really care about them." Shell said he and McClung "found two or three fairly good prospects" during their survey efforts.

"We were thrilled to be a part of Cross Over," he added.

April Lively of Douglasville, Ga., said she came to participate in Cross Over after reading a story about last year's event in Houston.

"I just wanted to come here and tell people about Jesus," said Lively, who describes herself as a shy person but was involved in leading two people to professions of faith.

"Once you do it (witness) a few times, it's something that comes naturally," she said. "I would like to see our church do something like a block party."

Organizers said they hope other volunteers also see the viability of such activities and ministries in their hometowns.

"It's so easy to go on a mission trip and not realize, 'Hey, our own hometown is a mission field,'" said missionary Bill Sims. "That's what these Cross Overs are getting people to see."

Mission Service Corps volunteer Bill Cox agreed. "The people that we trained here locally will go back into their churches as witnesses."

# Young prescribes spiritual healing for U.S.

By David Winfrey  
SBC Home Mission Board

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Calling America a strong but sick leader, Southern Baptist Convention president H. Edwin Young urged Southern Baptists to lead the country toward spiritual revival.

During his presidential address to convention messengers, Young also rejected the notion that the 15-year debate among Southern Baptists has been "some kind of preacher fight."

"We have been in a battle over the Bible," he declared. "The issue in this theological reformation has been what the Bible is."

Young, the pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, compared America to Naaman, the military leader of Aram, who had leprosy. Naaman was told he could be healed by washing seven times in the Jordan River.

Among America's ills Young listed are:

- 3,000 teen pregnancies daily, 80 percent of which are out of wedlock.

- Half of those pregnancies end in abortion.

- A teen attempts suicide every minute.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Young asked.



1992-94 SBC president Ed Young

Like Naaman, who asked whether he could have washed in other rivers back home, America is looking to remedies other than those from God, Young said.

"All of America is looking for sparkling rivers, appealing waters to wash in," he said, listing politics, education and

psychology as false saviors. "They've washed it all in these rivers, but there's one problem. They still are sick when they get through."

Revival has come historically through desperation, he said.

"It's a question of whether or not we are desperate enough in our sickness," he said. "It's whether or not we're ready to do business with the Lord Jesus Christ or we're going to just wander around and compromise and try all of these rivers with the rest of our society."

Turning his remarks to divisions in the denomination, Young said, "Over 14 years ago, we came to see by and large that we had a theological cancer.

"Everybody who is Southern Baptist needs to understand we have not been in some kind of preacher fight," he insisted. Declaring that the issue has been what Baptists believe about the Bible, he added, "We have decided that the Bible is the infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God.

"We have been told that we do not believe in this and we do not believe in that. Let me tell you our basic doctrines are in place," he continued, asking that the terms "fundamentalist" and "moderate" be abandoned.

## Messengers decline to investigate Dilday's

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—By a thousand votes, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention refused to investigate the March 9 firing of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Messengers did adopt a resolution encouraging trustees and administrators of all SBC institutions "to demonstrate the attitude of love and service" in their dealings, while acknowledging "the possibility of creative tension, conflict and differences of opinion."

Messengers turned down a motion to create a seven-member committee to study the "process used in dismissing Dr. Dilday with attention being given to the proper use of authority, due process, fairness and any other significant facts." The vote was 5,370, or 55.13 percent, against the motion and 4,371, or 44.87 percent, for the motion.

A motion requesting the resignation of Southwestern's three seminary trustee officers was ruled out of order.

When the Southern Baptist Convention opened its business session June 14, Cecil

Sims was the first messenger to speak. Sims, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention, made a motion to request the resignation of the Southwestern Seminary trustee chairman, vice chairman and secretary.

Next, Dan Robinson of Rocky Creek Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., made the motion calling for the study committee. Robinson said he was a graduate of Southwestern Seminary who wanted a "clear picture of what happened before we draw any conclusions."

A third motion was made by Randy Robertson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lawton, Okla. His motion was to "affirm and commend" the seminary trustees.

When the motions were discussed Tuesday evening, Robinson's was considered first. After the vote, the other two motions were ruled out of order. Southern Baptist Convention president Ed Young said Sims' motion was ruled out of order because it presented "practically the same idea" as Robinson's motion.

While ballots were being tabulated on Robinson's motion, Sims asked if he could make his motion again if Robinson's motion

failed. Young said Sims could not because messengers would speak on the issue by voting on Robinson's motion.

Likewise, the motion to affirm the trustees' action was ruled out of order because messengers addressed the issue with their vote on Robinson's motion.

"I understand the ruling and I accept it," Sims said later. "I appreciate that they did not refer my motion back to the trustees. That would have been like the fox watching the hen house."

Sims said he would have been pleased with an objective study committee, because it would call the trustees to "detailed accountability."

Robinson's original motion called for trustees to be deprived of their "privileges, duties and responsibilities as trustees" until the study was complete.

The trustees' actions do not meet the convention's requirements for their rights to be suspended, Young said, ruling that part of Robinson's motion out of order.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., said he was in favor of the motion "not because I do not trust the trustees, but because I do trust the trustees."

"We are not a part of that bigoted, hard, Ayatollah Khomeini, mean-spirited understanding of the fundamentalists. That's not who we are. That's a pejorative term," he said, adding that the term "moderate"...sounds like someone who is lukewarm."

"Let me try to say who I think we are. We are conservative, evangelical, Southern Baptists who believe in every fundamental of the faith that is taught in the inerrant Word of God."

Southern Baptists must also return to obedience to God, he added.

"On this foundation God will lead us again to do kingdom business all around the world," he said, noting that work already has begun abroad where the Foreign Mission Board logged record baptisms, church starts and mission volunteers last year.

"Those men and women of God, who around the world are introducing people to God, are experiencing in the foreign fields revival that has been unprecedented in the whole history of the kingdom of God," Young said.

"The world is asking the same question, over and over and over again: 'What can wash away my sins?'" Young emphasized. "And may we as Southern Baptists from every pew and in every pulpit of our 38,000 churches answer, 'Nothing but the blood of Jesus.'"

## dismissal

Southern Baptists would benefit, he said, from a "fair and kind committee" which studied the trustees' motivation.

Dwayne Brooks of Cedar Parks, Texas, said he favored the motion because "the trustees did the wrong thing at the wrong time in the wrong way." Young ruled his comments out of order.

O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, said approving the motion would create a dangerous precedent of the convention looking other the shoulders of elected trustees.

Ken Lilly, a messenger from First Church of Fort Smith, and a former Southwestern trustee chairman, agreed that elected trustees ought to be allowed to do their work without interference.

In May when Sims announced he would make his motion, he said he could not find a constitutional method for requesting the resignation of trustees.

During the convention, Larry Blackman of First Baptist Church of Hearne, Texas, made a motion to amend the convention's constitution so that trustees could be removed from office by a simple majority vote of messengers. His motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee.



Denominational leaders and youth involved in the "True Love Waits" campaign join hands to demonstrate "building bridges for a changing world."

## BSSB 'bridge builders' face challenges of the future

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Building bridges that span relationships, meet human needs and serve the needs of churches are necessary to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

As we "long to be like Jesus, we will become bridge builders," said drama worship consultant Ragan Courtney, who narrated the Baptist Sunday School Board's annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Building Bridges for a Changing World" was the focus of the multimedia presentation that mixed drama, video, personal testimonies and Christian recording artists.

But the highlight of the presentation came when 1,000 teens from seven states flooded the stage to demonstrate their commitment to "True Love Waits," a campaign that encourages teens to abstain from sex until marriage. The cheering group of teens recited the True Love Waits pledge while an ensemble sang the True Love Waits theme song.

Demonstration of the bridge building aspects of the BSSB's programs and services was provided by video and personal testimonies. Leclio Dornas, pastor of Primitiva Igreja Batista De Lins in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, told of board assistance in developing Sunday School materials. Marilyn and Bill Huber of Orlando said participation in the

board's Festival of Marriages gave them "reassurance of our love for each other."

David Blacksmith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sonoma, Calif., shared that all but five members of his congregation had participated in the "Experiencing God" discipleship course, "radically transforming the lives of his members."

Gatlin, a member of the Gatlin Brothers singing group who recently cut a solo gospel album, also praised "Experiencing God" and publicly thanked a Sunday School teacher for telling his wife about Jesus Christ. He is a member of Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tenn.

During his address, BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. said, "God built the bridges to us through Jesus Christ. Our task is to be bridge builders." Earlier, Draper was presented with an author's edition of his newly published book, *Bridges to the Future: A Challenge to Southern Baptists*.

Noting that one of every four bridges in America is considered unsafe, Draper said, "We're building bridges and ministries based on the solid foundation of the Word of God."

Draper also promised to build bridges which will last into the future and span multi-ethnic and multi-cultural gaps "until all the world has heard the story of Jesus Christ."

## Baptist ministers, laypeople emphasize that 'God is able'

Several Southern Baptist ministers and laypeople, including Arkansas Pam Vettero, shared testimonies throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Each of the speakers interpreted the convention theme, "I Know He is Able."

Jack R. Smith, associate director of the personal evangelism department of the Home Mission Board, said he found a sense of peace unlike anything he'd ever known before when he turned his cancer-related problems over to God.

"Folks, I went before the Lord and I had a prayer experience that was unlike any I had ever had," Smith recalled. During the prayer, he began to try to bargain with God. "When He got through with me, I didn't have one reason in the world why I ought to be allowed to live."

"Then I remembered when Jesus came to that place in His life when He said, 'Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet, not my will, but thine be done.' Folks, I really had to struggle to say that, but as soon as I did, there flowed over me a peace that I cannot explain."

Smith said he had surgery followed by seven weeks of radiation therapy. "The greatest thing," he said, "was not that He got me through that cancer — and I have a good prognosis now. The greatest thing is that any time you remember an empty tomb, remember He is able."

### Faith heals marriage

Burger King Corporation vice president Rachelle Hood-Phillips told messengers how her faith in God led to the restoration of her marriage.

She said that after her divorce had been finalized, she prayed, "Jesus, if you're real, please help me now because I can't hold on much longer." God's response was immediate, she said. "Since that prayer, my life has never been the same."

Shortly after that prayer, she and her ex-husband began to talk again and Hood-Phillips said all the obstacles to their reconciliation began to fall away.

Remarried now for eight years, Hood-Phillips said her husband recently asked her to pray for the salvation of 20 of his friends. "I tell you, God is able," she affirmed. "He is able to do exceedingly more than we could ever ask or imagine. I know, because He did it for me."

Northwest Baptist Convention executive director Cecil Sims said he found God's grace to be "not only sufficient, but overwhelmingly adequate" after his son's suicide. He said he did not truly understand the power and depth of God's sufficiency

until he experienced personal tragedy.

Thirteen years ago, Sims said, his 27-year-old son, David, took his own life with a handgun. Afterward, he and his wife and three other children "went through all the pain of self-examination and faced the normal questions: What did we do wrong? What else could we have done? Why did God not answer our prayers? Was this judgment upon our sin?"

"And in the midst of the years of heartache and ultimate heartbreak, God was teaching us to trust and not to question, to persevere and not to give up, to realize He was carrying us and not forsaking us," Sims related.

He told messengers to remember that through the most excruciating tragedy "God is ever-present. He will not forget you or put more on you than you can bear. His grace is sufficient."

Arturo Cobo, general coordinator for the Transit Home for Cuban Refugees in Key West, Fla., found faith in God and an opportunity for ministry to his countrymen through the efforts of a Florida Baptist church involved in outreach to Cuban refugees.

Cobo, a veteran of the Bay of Pigs invasion and Fidel Castro's prisons, told of the years of frustration he suffered as he tried to find happiness through a native Cuban religion that included making animal sacrifices to appease many gods and "saints."

Cobo asked Reinaldo Medina, pastor of White Street Baptist Church in Key West, to help him "get Satan and his demons out of my house and out of my life." They destroyed the stone figures of his traditional religion.

After his conversion experience, Cobo became involved with the refugee ministry of White Street Church, which resulted in the establishment of Transit Home. Cobo said the refugee center has helped more than 6,000 Cuban refugees, with more than 2,000 of them making professions of faith in Christ.

Karen Thomas, a crisis pregnancy counselor from Paducah, Ky., related how, as a young single woman 30 years ago, she began a career as a New York stage performer but unexpectedly became pregnant, dashing her dreams.

Seeking a solution to her situation at an abortion clinic, she said she "heard an inner voice" tell her to leave and give her child up for adoption. She did so, but could not stop grieving over giving up her son.

Finally, at the age of 38, she said, "Jesus

changed me and put me on His path." In 1992, while worshipping with her family, she felt impressed to search for her son. With the help of a woman who works to reunite adopted children with their birth mothers, her son was located within a year.

Four days later, her son, Mark, called. He thanked her for not aborting him and told her his adoptive family had given him a good life. She had begun to pray for the salvation of her son, and she now found out this prayer had been answered. He was a Christian.

"What followed was a wonderful reunion," she shared, "one in which all my wounds were healed, all the guilt washed away, and all the hopes and dreams of a young unwed mother were realized."

Mission Service Corps volunteer Bo Mitchell of Winter Haven, Fla., urgently spoke of the need for Christians to share their faith. A former radio broadcaster who once made a million dollars through investments in radio stations and oil wells, Mitchell now is assigned to the evangelism department of the Home Mission Board and travels the nation teaching Continuing Witness Training.

Mitchell told messengers his life had been an exciting one. However, he said he "was lost and on his way to hell" when he married his wife, Mickie, a Christian.

After joining a Baptist church and making a profession of faith, he received training at a Lay Evangelism School and went on a mission trip with a group of Florida laymen to Colombia, South America. Revival broke out, he said, and 243 people professed faith in Christ. "That changed the direction of my life forever," Mitchell said.

### God protects missionary

"God is able to take care of His people," missionary Thomas Smith affirmed. Smith shared about the harrowing experiences he faced when the country he serves, Sierra Leone, went through a military coup to overthrow the government.

One day, two local pastors came to the Smith home and warned them that danger was near. They urged the family to flee the country. Smith sent his wife and children to another town, but stayed with his ministry.

Fighting soon reached the city, and Smith fled along with his neighbors. "There were roadblocks set up by soldiers who were stopping people in vehicles and robbing them of their cars," he said.

But Smith said through it all "it seemed like no one ever saw me." He safely motored down the road and out of the city. "I know God is able to take care of His people, because that day He preserved this missionary," Smith said.

## Veteto: God fills void after child's death

By Brenda Sanders  
Midwestern Seminary

Praising God for His power to fill a painful spiritual void left by the death of her daughter, Arkansas Pam Veteto of Batesville shared a moving testimony with Southern Baptist Convention messengers. She was among nine Southern Baptists who shared theme testimonies during the three-day convention.

Veteto and her husband, Danny, director of missions for Independence Association, suffered the loss of their 8-year-old daughter, Shauna, in 1985 when the child died following surgery for a brain aneurism.

Shauna had made a profession of faith in Christ at age 6, and at age 7 she told her parents she thought God was calling her to be a missionary.

"As a proud mother, I was so excited. I could just envision God raising up another Lottie Moon in her," recalled Veteto.

A year later, when Shauna began experiencing severe headaches, the Vetetos took her to a neurologist and prayed that God would "help our little girl get better."

To their horror, the couple discovered a CAT scan showed a mass the size of a billiard ball at the base of Shauna's brain. Surgery to remove the aneurism was scheduled. "Our world was crashing in around us," Veteto recalled. "We could not understand why God was allowing this to happen."

### Seeking God's purpose

Grasping for answers and seeking to find God's purpose "in this horrible disaster," Veteto said she thought "maybe God would use this terrible ordeal to give Shauna a great testimony when she became older."

"We had faith each day that the physicians would tell us they did not



SBC first vice president Jay Strack (left) introduces Pam Veteto and her husband, Danny, director of missions for Independence Association. Mrs. Veteto was among several Southern Baptists who shared testimonies during the 1994 SBC to help interpret the theme, "I Know He Is Able."

know how, but somehow Shauna had been cured; the aneurism was gone. This, however, never happened," Veteto said.

Shauna's surgery did not go well and took much longer than expected. Shauna was extremely weak and in much pain for the next few days.

"As the mother of an 8-year-old, I had been able to kiss away her hurts, drive away her monsters and dry her tears," Veteto said. "Now I was completely helpless to come to her aid. All I could do was sit beside her bed and watch my child grow weaker and weaker."

Praying for God to grant them mercy, Veteto said, "I begged God to let my little girl live. However, this was not God's will."

Shauna died and although she believed her daughter was "now in the presence of the glorious God she loved so much," Veteto said she felt "alone, cheated and completely deserted."

"I prayed constantly for comfort and peace, for relief from the pain, but I could not get any relief from God," she shared. "I told God if I could just feel Him, if I thought He was even listening, if I thought He even cared, maybe I could get through this nightmare. It seemed as if God was silent, as if He had completely turned His back on me."

Veteto said she kept going to church

but found it difficult to sit in a pew without her daughter beside her. One day, she said, "I told God I was giving up. He knew how much I loved my daughter. He knew I could not make it without her and He had taken her anyway. So He should understand that I was giving up. I would not ask anything of Him any more and I expected Him not to ask anything of me."

In her hour of deepest despair, Veteto said, "I started feeling God's Spirit for the first time since Shauna's death. I really knew He loved me and would not leave me alone. He still had plans for my life."

"After some time, I told God I wanted to live abundantly again, but I had a huge void in my life and I asked Him to please help me fill that void."

### Foster care ministry

God answered that request "with one of the most joyful and fulfilling experiences I could ever imagine," she said. "He led us into the foster care ministry."

In the last eight years, more than 80 needy children have stayed in the Vetetos' home. "With each child," she said, "has come the opportunity to share God's love and concern."

"It is very exciting watching each child grow in body and spirit," Veteto noted. "We have had the opportunity to see several of these children come to a saving knowledge of Christ while in our care."

"I still believe in a God of miracles," she told messengers. "He has worked a miracle in me. Each time a child leaves my home, he takes a little part of me with him, but he also leaves a part of himself with me. God has taken a huge void and filled it with so many smiles, kisses and 'I love you's,' sometimes I think the void is about full and even overflowing."



## Missionaries underscore WMU's role of support

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Christians who expose themselves to the needs and pains of people will find their lives left with not only scars, but tender, new growth given by God.

Baptist women serving in their hometowns and missionaries serving in the world's painful places repeated that message throughout the June 12-13 national annual meeting of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Love stretches as far as it can and "then flings it on over" like a person doing a cartwheel, said Barbara Joiner, a WMU writer and speaker from Columbiana, Ala., who delivered theme interpretations each session based on the meeting's theme, "Growing in Love."

A young woman expecting her ninth child and who lived in poverty-stricken conditions within sight of the steeple of Joiner's church couldn't be helped until she saw the church's people instead of its steeple, Joiner said.

"Missions is God's love calling forth our love," said Heather Barron, a Baptist woman active in missions efforts in Lexington, Ky. She said His love allows Christians to follow Christ's example of making friends with outcasts and feeding the hungry — from Appalachia in the United States to the starving masses of Somalia.

Arkansas home missionary Diana Lewis of Benton, said her ministry taught her a lesson in sacrifice when poverty-stricken people she worked with in Dixonville responded with gifts of their own when they learned about starvation in Somalia.

The women scrimped and saved to collect \$30.88 to contribute to Southern Baptist hunger relief.

That money, part of \$2 million Southern Baptists have used to combat hunger, has made a difference in Somalia, said Ken Perkins, strategy coordinator for work in Somalia.

Thousands have died, said Perkins, recounting the story of a nine-pound, 3-year-old Somali girl he found near death on bare bed springs in a makeshift hospital.

Moved to tears, he gently caressed her cheek and "from somewhere down deep" she summoned a smile. She was dead the next day.

"We have cried like babies in the midst of hunger, pain and death for the past three years," said Perkins.

"But I want to let 50,000 people you have kept alive say thank you," Perkins added with emotion as he thanked the women for their prayers and support.

"If you stop doing what you're doing, we're coming home," said Perkins' wife, Beth. "We couldn't make it without you."

William Harrington, an SBC medical missionary in Tanzania, reminded the WMU audience of the divine power that allows missionaries to endure the heartaches they encounter daily.

***"Until we risk enough  
to be what we preach,  
the world will refuse to  
listen to the good news  
we claim to represent."***

— William Harrington  
Medical missionary to Tanzania

"Most of us recognize that we have faced difficulties which are greater than our human ability to overcome them, but repeatedly we have seen the faithfulness of God redeem many disastrous situations," Harrington pointed out. "It's awesome to realize that the Creator of the universe

has intervened in your work."

Christians aren't visible in the world until they begin living out their faith in love, he said.

"If we don't take risks, our conformity will continue to camouflage us, and we Christians will remain invisible. We can shout what we believe at each other or from the mountaintop, but until we risk enough to be what we preach, the world will refuse to listen to the good news we claim to represent," Harrington said.

Heberto Becerra echoed Harrington, declaring: "If we decide to return to the Scripture and to love and to the lordship of the Holy Spirit, the impact that this needy world would receive would move the very gates of hell.

"We are a people with the potential to set off a spiritual bomb stronger than those launched in World War II," said Becerra, a Spanish-speaking home missionary working in Plantation, Fla.

"The gunpowder is in the hands of men but the flames are in the hands of WMU. The order to detonate has been given. What are we waiting for?"

WMU members re-elected their two national leader who have served since 1991. Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., was re-elected national WMU president. Martha Wennerberg of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., was re-elected recording secretary.



Orlando mayor pro tem Frankee Hellinger (left), a former Southern Baptist missionary to India, presents a key to the city to Woman's Missionary Union executive director Dellanna O'Brien. The Orlando City Council proclaimed June 12 as "WMU Day."

## Diana Lewis: 'Needs are great; God is greater'

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

God wants to minister through you and me, home missionary Diana Lewis told participants at the national Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting. Lewis is director of the Dixonville Baptist Center, a Mississippi River Ministry sponsored by Central Association.

"What's unique about God is that places like Dixonville, Ark. and other needy Mississippi River Ministry areas are the kinds of places He ministered in when He was here on earth — places where people have little, materially, or where people were despised or outcast, where people were living with little hope about the future....and He touched the people nobody else wanted to touch," she declared.

"The other unique thing about God is that He wants to do that through you and through me," she said. "I guess that's why I'm ministering in a little out-of-the-way place at the end of a dead-end country dirt road out in the middle of nowhere."

Describing conditions in the area during her first visit there in 1990, Lewis said, "I met children who had never been to Vacation Bible School and children who didn't know the song, 'Jesus Loves Me.'"



Diana Lewis challenges WMU members to "see the needs of people."

"I met families living in houses with no running water and where you could see between the boards into the house," she added. "I met people who were hungry for love and acceptance."

Lewis said ongoing food and clothing ministries through the center not only

"help the people through their physical needs, but we've also begun to develop relationships with them to open them up to the gospel."

She said other ministries reaching area residents include children's Sunday School each week, women's Bible studies, educational classes on money management, first aid and health, adult education and literacy and feeding programs for needy children.

"Laypersons from our association's churches which do these ministries have found a place to use their unique gifts that God has given them," she said. "As I travel around Arkansas working with other churches, I encourage them to look beyond the walls of their church and see the needs of people in their community."

Some of the needs she has seen are "elderly people who must choose between food or medicine because they don't have enough money to pay for both; a child who trades for as much food as he can get at school because it may be the only meal he gets that day; families living in tents year-round and older people so lonely that they never leave their public housing apartments."

"The needs are so great and yet God is greater," Lewis affirmed. "And He wants to use us to meet those needs."

## O'Brien: 'Giants in the land' won't deter WMU

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—"Giants in the land" — including misperceptions about the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union — won't prevent WMU from moving into a new century of greater involvement, Delanna O'Brien said June 13.

O'Brien, national WMU executive director, gave the challenge in her annual report, basing her "giants" analogy on the biblical account of the Israelites failing to enter the promised land for fear of "giants in the land."

As WMU leads women into a promised land of more innovative missions approaches for a new century, it "stands at a moment of decision" to follow God's lead or fall short, she said, adding that "God beckons us into a bright future."

Besides the misperceptions, O'Brien said, modern-day equivalents to those giants for WMU include a world full of paralyzing needs and problems and options which compete for time and energy.

O'Brien cited "many giants of misperceptions about WMU and many fallacies" spread "to discredit WMU's purposes and work."

The misperceptions, she said, include

erroneous statements that: WMU has left its first love — missions — and become political; it's a feminist organization seeking to elevate the level of women; and it's a dying organization.

### Missions remains 'first love'

"No, we have not deserted our first love," she emphasized. "We have instead rededicated ourselves to the cause of missions, avoiding those things which would divide us and siphon off our energies. It's missions which has drawn us together and which is the banner we hold high."

On the charge of feminism, O'Brien said: "We are, obviously, an organization of and for women. But the purpose for which we exist is the cause of the crucified Christ and His passion for a lost world."

"We care deeply for the women in our world who suffer. We commit ourselves to bring lost women to Christ. We will continue to teach little girls that God, because of His love for them, died for their salvation, gifted them uniquely to be His followers and calls them to His service."

O'Brien noted that low attendance

at denominational meetings by young women — who have jobs and families — isn't a sign of impending death. "We are not dying," she insisted. "We are refreshingly alive."

She reported that membership in Baptist Young Women, the WMU-sponsored missions organization for women ages 18-34, has more than doubled since 1970.

Will WMU allow fear of the "giants" to cause timidity and paralysis to block its efforts to focus women of all ages in new ways to reach people for Christ in a changing world?

"Don't even think about it!" she declared, comparing WMU response to the response of the little boy in a national TV commercial standing up to a seven-foot basketball player and refusing to hand over his Pepsi.

The "giants" are out there, O'Brien acknowledged, but "we will not be dissuaded from the fact that God is in charge. He will lead us as He has in the past."

"We do not fear the giants because we face a land flowing with milk and honey," she affirmed.

# Pastors urged to reflect 'a heart for God'

ORLANDO, FL (BP/ABP)—Focusing on the theme, "A Heart for God," the 1994 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference featured 20 sermons and testimonies by former SBC presidents, a politician, an evangelist, a layman, a college football coach, an independent Baptist university president and pastors from across the United States.

Independent Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell praised Southern Baptists' conservative resurgence but gave no indication that he plans to join the new wave.

Classifying the "spiritual and theological restoration" of the Southern Baptist Convention as "nothing short of miraculous," Falwell said, "The spiritual renaissance of the SBC has caught the attention of the world."

Most preachers spend too little time in prayer, according to Falwell. He exhorted his audience to get up earlier and curtail late night television in order to find more time for prayer.

Falwell admonished listeners not to counsel, work, socialize, travel, dine or travel alone with "any woman who is not your wife, even your secretary." He told pastors to "speak often and positively of your wife...build your social life around her...maintain social courtesies...remember her tangibly on special days...and provide for her better than yourself."

Jack Kemp, former secretary of Housing and Urban Development, cited suffering fostered by society's "moral ambiguity."

"We face a crisis deeper than crime, deeper than the economy and much higher and bigger than political partisanship. We face a crisis of confidence in our very own ideals," said Kemp. "The answer to the tears and the fears of mankind is the law and the love of God. All mankind's problems are answered in the life of a babe born in a manger."

Preaching on the holiness of Jesus Christ and the unity found among the disciples of Jesus Christ, former SBC president Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., said the virgin birth is crucial to the existence of Christianity as a religion.

Outlining the pivotal nature of Christ's virgin birth, Rogers said, "If Jesus is not born of a virgin, He is not sinless. If He is not sinless, He is not worthy of the sinless sacrifice. If there's no sacrifice, there's no atonement. If there's no atonement, there's no new birth. Jesus was born of a virgin so that we might be born again."

Advising his listeners to have "a heart for the family and leadership," Tony Evans said the Bible has answers for hurting families. "God created the family as the

first institution of society."

Evans, pastor of Oakcliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, said "messed-up people make for messed-up families" that eventually result in a "messed-up world. If we want a better world, we must create a generation of better people through the church."

We are in a mess "because Christians have withdrawn from culture. We have turned it over to the sinners," said Evans. "Believers must have a heavenly perspective in a hellish environment. We must bring the Bible back to the culture" to save American families.

Introduced as "a family man of the first order," Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden said when he trusted Christ he committed his life "to the service of Christ through football. I am thankful for what God has done for me."

Admitting football is a priority, Bowden emphasized, "It is not *the* priority." The importance of FSU football comes after his church, family and God, he said.

Coaching college football 42 years has taught Bowden that trust and commitment are as important in a relationship with Christ as in having a winning football program. "God doesn't need my ability," he said. "He just needs my availability."

Calvin Miller, professor of communications and ministry studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, recounted how Jesus "commanded evil spirits to come out of a demon-possessed man, and cast them into a herd of swine."

"We're still afraid of demons. We let them define our culture for us," he said, exhorting listeners to be courageous in defining to the culture what morality is. "We need to come against our world with a strong defining witness" and quit worrying about being so "user-friendly," he declared.

The real issue is "Jesus Christ," and the world is saying "put up or shut up," said Rick Stanley, an evangelist from Fayetteville, Ga. Step-brother to Elvis Presley, Stanley described his life experiences that resulted in him and his two brothers moving into the Presley mansion in Nashville with their mother and step-father, Vernon Presley.

"Things went awry after awhile there," because Stanley said he began to listen to people who told him he was worthless and only used by people to get to Elvis. "After a wrenching time in the hospital after using drugs," Stanley said a long-time friend who prayed for him and later became his wife told him she had a dream about him dying and going to hell.

Stanley said he accepted Christ. "Everything in my life changed at that point," he said. "Don't ever be anybody's boy. Be God's man," challenged Stanley.

Christian motivational speaker Zig Ziglar said nothing of significance happened in his life until age 45, when he came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior, even though he was baptized at age 12.

Ziglar encouraged pastors to "preach with conviction" as he looked to his years as a salesman, saying, "Selling is a trans-



"The law and the love of God" are the answer to America's problems, Jack Kemp told participants at the 1994 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. Kemp is the former United States secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

ference of feeling. The pastor's product is faith in Jesus Christ.

"Everyone instinctively believes in God," stated Ziglar, yet man is in "rebellion and denial." We must "make the message so clear that everyone will know there is a choice," he said. "It is not the work you do, it is the work He has already done that is so important."

Larry Wynn, Georgia Baptist Convention president and pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga., said, "The greatest book ever written on church growth is the New Testament book of Acts."

Drawing comparisons between the early church and contemporary churches, Wynn said, "The No. 1 killer of Baptist churches is the word tradition." He said the biggest battles between a pastor and the congregation "make no difference in eternity."

"Focus on truth rather than tradition," said Wynn. "We are attempting to handle in business meeting what we ought to be handling in prayer meetings. Let's go back to our knees again and see what Jesus Christ can do through the power of prayer."

James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., advised his listeners to return to the "old-time religion."

"We're living in a jet-set, space-aged, modernized, computerized, energized world, and if something is old-fashioned or outdated we automatically discard it as useless, and that's a tragedy. But not everything old-fashioned is necessarily out of date," said Merritt, referring to the timelessness of the gospel.

"If my religion approaches the religion of Acts 2, I want all the old-time religion I can possibly get." Merritt said if today's churches want to move forward, they may need to move backward to the early church model.

"The world is on fire and the flames are out of control," said Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. "The flames of humanism, secularism and liberalism has smothered our country.... To know, worship, believe and serve God is the vision all believers should have."

The pastors' conference honored W. A. Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, for his lifetime of service to Southern Baptists.

Saying no one has stood taller for the inerrancy of Scripture than Criswell, conference president and Georgia pastor Ike Reighard, called on O. S. Hawkins to lead in a time of special recognition for Criswell.

Officers for the 1995 SBC Pastors' Conference elected by acclamation are James Merritt, president; David McKinley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Merritt Island, Fla., vice president; and Lee Mabry, pastor of Fortified Hills Baptist Church, Smyrna, Ga., secretary/treasurer.



Arkansas Baptist pastor Ronnie Floyd told Pastors' Conference participants that the greatest issue facing the SBC is winning people to faith in Christ.

## Floyd encourages Baptist pastors to 'stand tall for God'

By Russell N. Dilday  
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, urged pastors to "make a difference in our generation" during the opening session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Quoting statistics from the Home Mission Board, Floyd said Southern Baptist pastors "are not making a major difference in America. We baptized only 14,181 more people in 1993 than we did in 1949. This 4 percent increase in baptisms over the last 45 years...has occurred while America has exceeded growth of 75 percent."

"In 1949, it took 20 Southern Baptists to reach and baptize one person for the Lord," he noted. "In 1993, it took 44 Southern Baptists to reach and baptize one person for the Lord."

"Do you understand that if we would have continued having 20 of our people to reach and baptize one person for the last 45 years in this denomination, our population in the Southern Baptist Convention today in membership would be over 50 million people?" he asked. "Last year we would have baptized just under 2.5 million people rather than 349,073."

"We are not making a major difference in America," he emphasized. "In fact, evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention for the most part is between mediocre to nonexistent."

"May I say to you that the greatest issue in the SBC today is: What are we

going to do to win people to Jesus Christ in America and the world?"

Preaching from Daniel 4, Floyd said that the pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, "represents for us pagan America. His self-respect turned to self worship. The most dangerous religion in America today is the worship of self. How are we going to win the Nebuchadnezzars of our day who defy our God and who defy themselves?"

"If we are going to make a difference in our generation, there are two ways according to Daniel 4 by which we can make a difference," he declared. "We must be willing first to undergo the fiery trials of Christian leadership."

He said the second way to make a difference "is to unashamedly stand tall for God. There are two ways we are going to stand tall for God in our generation," he said. "First, we must stand against the moral relativism of our day. Moral relativism says that there are no moral absolutes and that anything you want to do is permissible for you to do. Second, we must stand for God, His Word and principles."

"There is only one way to be the Nebuchadnezzars of the 1990s to be won to Jesus Christ," he concluded. "The only way for this bureaucratic elephant that is named the Southern Baptist Convention to ever return to its dynamic days of soul-winning is when we determine in our hearts that we will unashamedly stand tall for God in our generation."

## \$136.5 million CP budget approved

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention messengers approved the 1994-95 Southern Baptist program allocation budget of \$136,539,730 during the opening session of the SBC's 137th annual meeting.

In action taken during the report of the SBC Executive Committee, Southern Baptists also adopted a challenge goal of \$150 million in honor of the SBC's sesquicentennial anniversary in 1995.

Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, urged Southern Baptists to support the Cooperative Program, a missions and ministry funding plan that has served Southern Baptists since 1925.

Noting that since its beginning the Cooperative Program has been a partnership with the SBC and Baptist state conventions, Chapman said, "The Executive Committee is steadfastly loyal to that partnership with state conventions."

## Annuity president details investments

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—To the best of its ability, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board is investing in stocks which are morally and ethically accepted by Southern Baptists, according to Annuity Board president Paul Powell. He reiterated in his June 14 report to the Southern Baptist Convention that the Annuity Board does not invest in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography or abortion.

In response to a motion at the 1993 convention in Houston to study the ramifications of the board owning stock in companies whose products or services are generally viewed as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of Southern Baptists, Powell said the board is attempting to find an "abortion free" fund for investing purposes.

In a survey of more than 2,000 annuitants, Powell said 128 responded they would be interested in investing their money in such a fund, with only 22 responding they would invest "all their money" in such a fund. He said that represents 1 percent of all annuitants. He said he believes the other 99 percent are "satisfied with our policies and practices."

"As fiduciaries we cannot impose our social standards on another if it adversely affects their earnings," Powell said. "We can offer alternative funds and we are monitoring some outside funds. If after a period they prove effective, we will offer such a fund on a voluntary basis."

Powell also encouraged Southern Baptists to remember the almost 4,000 ministers and widows who live below the poverty level. Because of Cooperative Program contributions of a little more than \$1 million, Powell reported that about 800 annuitants and/or widows receive an additional \$100 each month.

## World Changers aid area's needy families

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—As some 20,000 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention met in Orlando to discuss decisions concerning the convention's future, more than 150 youth came to Orlando to change the futures of 24 families in some of the poorest areas of the city.

More than 6,000 youth and leaders will participate in 22 World Changers work projects throughout the United States and Puerto Rico this summer. The Orlando project was held June 11-18 with youth from six states participating.

Youth in Orlando worked on 24 project sites in Parramore Village, one of the city's poorest areas, only a short distance from the Orange County Convention/Civic Center where messengers to the SBC met. The crews painted and replaced window and door frames.

Corey Canipe, 16, from First Baptist Church in Spruce Pine, N.C., noted, "The most important thing is being able to witness to the little kids," one of whom, he said, had never heard anyone say, "I love you."

## Bold Mission Thrust: 'Real or pretend?'

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention messengers were challenged June 15 to consider whether their 1976 commitment to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 was "real or pretend."

Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee, said while some churches and individuals have demonstrated risk and sacrifice on behalf of Bold Mission Thrust, others are focusing instead on themselves.

Calling Bold Mission Thrust a "Great Commission commitment," Mosley asked, "Is it still worthy of our risk and sacrifice?"

"Since 1976, Southern Baptists, under the banner of Bold Mission Thrust, have never given as much as 3 percent of their income," he noted. "Is that bold mission real or bold mission pretend?"

While the Bible states every Christian is to tell others about their faith, Mosley said since 1976 it has taken 40 Southern Baptists to lead one person to accept Christ as their Savior. Additionally, 6,000 Southern Baptist churches baptized no one in 1992-93.

He acknowledged that a 24-year goal may have been too much time, lulling people into thinking they had plenty of time to develop goals and plans.

"We must decide if, in our day, getting the gospel to every person in the world is real or pretend," Mosley said. "Let's get real. The time is late. Judgment is coming."



The Southern Baptist Convention exhibit hall was a popular gathering place for convention messengers during the SBC annual meeting held June 14-16 at the Orange County Convention/Civic Center in Orlando, Fla.

# SBC seminaries growing, presidents report

Southern Baptist seminaries have increased enrollment and expanded programs, the presidents said during their annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The report raised few questions concerning the recent dismissal of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Seminary or any other controversial issues, although one seminary president did renew his call for unity and reconciliation.

Among the areas of recent growth the presidents cited were:

- Golden Gate Seminary's addition of three campuses, in Phoenix, Ariz.; Albuquerque, N.M.; and Denver, Colo.

- Southern Seminary's establishment of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

- Southeastern Seminary's \$1 million endowment for the Bailey Smith Chair of Evangelism.

In his address, Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Seminary, said the school will continue to be "agents of reconciliation and unity among Southern Baptists."

Asked later about his comments on denominational unity, Ferguson said, "This emphasis is not new for me. I've been making this emphasis for the past 15 years."

During his address, William B. Tolar, Southwestern's acting president, thanked messengers for their prayers during the "last several months," referring to the period since Dilday's dismissal.

Questions from the floor included whether Southwestern's trustees were considering actions against students or professors whose churches fully support the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program but also support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Tolar said he knew of nothing about reprisals on students, adding that he had heard rumors concerning faculty members.

Tolar also was asked about preliminary findings of two accrediting agencies investigating Dilday's dismissal. He reported both the Southern Association of College and Schools and Association of Theological Schools had interviewed a "cross section of students, faculty, administration and trustees" related to the incident and were in the process of drawing up their report. He said it could be several months before their findings are released.

## Golden Gate Seminary

Henry T. Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was given the 1994 Alumni Achievement Award from Golden Gate Seminary.

Blackaby, who earned the bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees from Golden Gate, is a former alumni president and was alumni of the year for 1976. He coauthored the "Experiencing God" discipleship materials and its follow-up, entitled "Fresh Encounter."

## Midwestern Seminary

Milton Ferguson pledged that a continued emphasis on reconciliation will mark the final two years of his service as president of Midwestern Seminary.

Addressing approximately 125 alumni and friends during the institution's national alumni luncheon in Orlando, Ferguson said, "This may be our finest opportunity to prove the depth of our commitment and the quality of our love for Midwestern Seminary."

Alumni of the year honored by the seminary were Gary E. Farley, director of the office of town and country missions for the Home Mission Board, and Paul Swadley, pastor of South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo. Both are 1961 master of divinity graduates of Midwestern.

Honorary alumni included Burnell "Tony" Landers, a physician from Kansas City, Mo., and Bob Woolley, retired director of the Missouri Baptist Convention's church music department.

## New Orleans Seminary

Jim Henry, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a 1963 graduate of New Orleans Seminary, received a standing ovation as he entered the fellowship hall of his church, First Baptist, Orlando, for the annual meeting of the seminary's alumni and friends.

Seminary faculty, represented by Billy K. Smith, provost and academic dean of the graduate faculty, presented the 1994 distinguished alumnus award to Charles R. Barnes, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Also honored was Claude L. Howe Jr., professor of church history at New Orleans Seminary since 1959, who received a standing ovation for his 35 years of service. His retirement, effective July 31, was announced during the alumni meeting.

## Southwestern Seminary

Deviating from the printed program, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni honored former president Russell H. Dilday Jr. during their annual luncheon meeting June 15.

Alumni president Roberta McBride Damon of Richmond, Va., said the recognition was done at her initiative and she urged Dilday to be present, but he declined, saying he did not want to detract attention from the alumni who were to be honored.

"Russell Dilday is a man who is a Christian gentleman," Damon said. "He's a fine administrator and conservative theologian. He has brought Southwestern Seminary not only growth and prosperity but also a level of excellence not known before. We would be amiss if we did not honor him in some way."

She presented a plaque in absentia which she asked acting president William Tolar to deliver to Dilday. Following her presentation, the overwhelming majority of the approximately 650 in attendance gave a standing ovation in honor of Dilday.

Alumni honored three of their own with 1994 Distinguished Alumni presentations: William O. Crews, president of Golden Gate Seminary; Rebekah Naylor, Southern Baptist medical missionary to Bangalore, India; and Walter Reid, retired pastor of South Hills Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

## Southeastern Seminary

Southeastern Seminary's alumni association president Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., congratulated Southeastern alumnus and Southern Baptist Convention president H. Edwin Young, saying, "You have done an excellent job of leading us" at the SBC in Orlando.

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., was honored as the seminary's 1994 distinguished alumnus.

"We look at you as an example of exactly what we want to train: an expository preacher; an able, consistent personal evangelist; a great church growth man...a man who gets his church involved in world mission programs," seminary president Paige Patterson told Hunt.

## Southern Seminary

Southern Seminary will continue its heritage of preparing local church ministers in an atmosphere of academic excellence, seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr. told alumni.

During the meeting, four graduates were honored as distinguished alumni: Harold Bennett, retired president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; Winston Crawley, retired vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; Verlene Farmer, director of the Baptist Student Union at Langston (Okla.) University; and David Nelson, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky.

## Church news

**Malvern First Church** held a revival May 8-11 led by preaching evangelist William Blackburn of Fort Smith and music evangelist Kenny Daniel of Mountain Home. Pastor Verne Wickliffe reported the effort resulted in 55 professions of faith and 56 other decisions.

**Liberty Church** at Dutch Mills held a revival May 23-29 that resulted in two professions of faith. Lannie Younger was the evangelist and Harold Hull led the music.

**Pine Grove Church** of Sweet Home held a service June 5 to dedicate a playground that was built as a memorial to Dick Cole.

**Springdale First Church** music ministry will present its fourth annual Summer Freedom Celebration July 3 at 9:30 a.m. The presentation will include a portrayal of the founding fathers of America, a World War II drama and patriotic songs. Buster Pray is minister of music.

**Pine Grove Church** in Little Rock will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 14 with former pastor Harold O'Brian as speaker for the morning worship hour. A noon luncheon and afternoon program will conclude activities.

## Staff changes

**Mike Franklin** is serving as associate pastor of First Church of Alma, coming there from Cameron Church in Lawton, Okla., where he served as youth director for 13 years. He is a graduate of Cameron University in Lawton. Franklin and his wife, Lori, have two children, Jonathan and Sara Jane.

**Allen Elkins** joined the staff of Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro June 26 as minister to youth and college students. He was bivocational pastor of Oak Ridge Church, Austin. In addition, he previously served Walnut Street Church as part-time youth minister. Elkins is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and is attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary classes in Little Rock. Elkins and his wife, Renee, have a daughter, Katie.

**Brandon Massey** is serving as summer youth intern at Lake Village Church. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Troy Harris** is serving as bivocational pastor of Prosperity Church of Hampton. He was a member of First Church in Hampton.



**John Evans** began serving June 5 as pastor of Keo Church, coming there from Yarbro Church. A native of North Little Rock, he is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and attended Mid-America Seminary. Evans and his wife, Kerri, have two children, Callie and Sawyer.

**Eric Henry Vaughan** has joined the staff of University Church in Fayetteville as pastor to youth. He and his wife, Pamela Jayne, moved to Fayetteville from Jonesboro where he was youth and university minister at Nettleton Church. He previously was at First Church in Ozark and Rock Creek Church in Shawnee, Okla. Vaughan is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary extension classes in Shawnee.

**Steve Stanecart** resigned June 5 as youth minister of Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village to become pastor of Grand Mound Church in Centralia, Wash.

**Ernest V. Cooke Jr.** retired May 31 as minister of education and administration of Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village. His wife, Beverly, also retired as Baptist Student Union director at Garland County Community College in Hot Springs. The Cookes will continue to reside in Hot Springs Village.

**Jamey Day** will join the staff of First Church in Flippin July 1 as minister to

youth. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Day and his wife, Sherry, have a son, Hayden.

**Elisha Hise** and **Donnie Phillips** are summer youth staff members at First Church in Benton. Both are students at Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas.

**Gregory S. Love** has resigned as minister to youth at First Church in Osceola to serve as pastor of Mt. Tirzah Church in Newbern, Tenn.

**Lee Barnett** joined the staff of First Church in Murfreesboro June 19 as minister of music. He previously served as interim minister of music and youth for First Church in Marianna. Barnett is a recent graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

**Tom Phillips** is serving as bivocational pastor of Pindall Mission near St. Joe. He and his wife, Brenda, went there from Western Grove Church.

**Kim Bridges**, a student at Williams Baptist College, is pastor of First Church of Marmaduke. He moved there from Emmanuel Church in Piggott. Bridges and his wife, Lane, have three children, April, Melani and Lindsey.

**Ronnie Reeves** has begun his first service as a pastor and is serving Beech Grove Church near Paragould. He and his wife, Marianna, have two children, Kathryn and Carl.

**Kevin McCarty** has joined the staff of Shiloh Memorial Church in Texarkana as minister of youth. He previously was at Mandeville Church. McCarty is a student at Texarkana College.

## Obituaries

**Dale F. Taylor** of Harrison died June 9 at age 84. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he had been pastor of Omaha Church, Union Church of Harrison and First Church of Smackover. In addition, he had been a member of the administrative staff at Ouachita Baptist College (now University), Eastern New Mexico University, Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) and North Arkansas Community College. Taylor attended the University of Arkansas, OBU, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Survivors are a son, Frank Taylor of Carrollton, Texas; a sister; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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**JUSTINE WAITS**  
Master of Arts in  
Christian Education  
Pine Bluff



**RANDY WILLIAMS**  
Master of  
Divinity  
Melbourne

## ARKANSANS AT THE SBC



*I know*  
**HE IS ABLE**  
© Timothy 112

*Point of Grace, a popular contemporary Christian recording group, sang during the 1994 SBC Pastors' Conference. The group members are alumnae of Ouachita Baptist University.*



*Arkansas natives Charles and Nancy Browning, Southern Baptist missionaries to Jordan, greet guests at the International Missions Fair sponsored by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.*



*Tom Cox (center) of Mountainburg was elected vice president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. Other officers are president Ron Pledger, parliamentarian Bud Lee, secretary Marion Warren and associate music director Jerry Oliver.*



*Youth from First Church, Crossett, were part of a combined youth choir which provided special music for the opening session of the SBC annual meeting in Orlando Fla.*



*Recruiter Becky Wright welcomes prospective students to the Williams Baptist College booth in the SBC exhibit hall at the Orange County Convention/Civic Center.*



# Boyles blames 'passive preachers' for society's ills

By Chip Alford

Baptist Sunday School Board

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Christians are losing the battle for America's soul and "passive preachers" bear much of the responsibility, Bobby Boyles told messengers to the 137th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando.

"While we are supposed to be lighting the world, changing the world, it seems that it is falling through the cracks into the pits on sin," said Boyles, pastor of Eagle Heights Church in Oklahoma City, in the SBC's annual convention sermon.

As examples of America's moral plunge, he cited recent Supreme Court decisions which restrict prayer and other forms of religious expression in government offices and public schools and the growing acceptance of sinful lifestyles such as homosexuality.

Boyles said Christians who take a stand against sin are frequently met with protests from those who say, "You're trying to cram your morality or your religion or your lifestyle down our throat. Folks, I think it's time we woke up and realized we can't leave our churches unlocked anymore. Our children can't play outside anymore....We can't take a walk in the park because of fear of gang activity. It looks like they have crammed their

immorality down our throats. I'm tired of it."

Boyles traced the problem to "passive preachers."

"The problem in this nation is not with the prostitutes, the pimps, the punks, the pushers, but it's with puny, pampered, passive preaching from the pulpits of America....Nobody it seems is standing and preaching that the Word of God is the Word of God and hell is hot and heaven is high and sin is wrong and God and marriage are right. It's time to take a stand."

Boyles challenged preachers to preach the Word of God "no matter what the cost."

"Be a Baptist preacher, not a Baptist babysitter. Stand and preach the Word of God."

When he issues such a challenge, Boyles said he frequently hears comments like:

■ You can't preach on sin in today's society.

"You know what the Greek word for that is? 'Baloney.' Man, nobody wants to go to a doctor who won't tell him what's wrong with him," he said.

■ I just don't have the gifts.

"We don't lack the gifts, we lack the guts," Boyles said. "God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called."

■ You're going to get a lot of those

young guys in trouble preaching like that.

"Well, bless God, if a bunch of you older boys would have stood your ground and not backed down and made peace with every institution in town, we wouldn't have to be fighting these kind of battles now."

■ They won't like me if I preach like that.

"You got it. Anytime you stand in the Spirit of God and preach the spiritually inspired Word of God...anybody that is in the flesh is going to be bothered by it so you are going to be the target, so get ready."

Elijah, John the Baptist, the apostle Paul, Martin Luther and other religious leaders over the centuries have all endured suffering for preaching God's Word, Boyles said.

"And yes, you and I are going to have a few problems also, but welcome to wonderful company: Jesus was rejected and He is God Himself."

Despite the problem of passivity, Boyles urged preachers to remember Christians also have "a powerful promise."

"Preacher, you may not be a hero now, but when we get home, time and eternity will reveal which men of God really took a mighty stand. And with the banners of heaven waving and the trumpet of God sounding, you will be honored with your right reward. And when general Jesus steps up, He will take you by the hand and say, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant, well done.'"



## Southwest Baptist University

Southwest Baptist University (SBU), located in the heart of the beautiful Ozarks, has faculty position openings in both the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Programs. SBU is seeking faculty members in these areas who are willing to provide a quality education with a Christian difference. SBU's distinctive graduates are well known in the workplace for their expertise and caring attitude. Prospective faculty members in either area who would like to teach in such an academic environment please contact: Dr. Rosalyn Snellen, Associate Dean, College of Science and Mathematics, Southwest Baptist University, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613; phone (417) 326-1662.

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# Bulk of SBC motions referred for study

Attempts to change who can serve as trustees of Southern Baptist agencies were among 27 motions introduced during the Southern Baptist Convention.

Clyde Glazener of Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, introduced a motion for the Committee on Committees to be appointed by the president of each state convention. Currently, the Committee on Committees is appointed by the SBC president in conference with the vice presidents.

J.D. Strouth of Northeast Park Baptist Church in Evansville, Ind., made a motion that new members of the Committee on Committees, Committee on Nominations and Committee on Order of Business not be from the families, churches or places of employment of the respective committee members.

Rudy Yakym of New Life Baptist Church in Osceola, Ind., made a motion concerning members of the Committee on Nominations. Currently, at least one member representing each state cannot be employed full-time by a church or a denominational entity. Yakym's motion adds that the member cannot be the spouse of someone employed full-time by a church or denominational entity.

The three motions were referred to the SBC Executive Committee. Other motions referred to the SBC Executive Committee were:

■ That churches which do not send messengers to the annual meeting be able to vote for SBC officers, made by Wayne

Harrison of Belmont Baptist Church in Roanoke, Va.

■ That a standing committee be formed to act as a liaison and coordinating entity for schools operated by Southern Baptist churches, made by David Baker, Heartland Tabernacle of Belton, Mo.

■ That all missionary applicants "give testimony that they believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and that it is the absolute authority in all matters of faith and practice" and that applicants not be questioned about inerrancy, made by Carrol Johnson, First Baptist Church, Brownfield, Texas.

■ That state convention presidents draft a statement similar to the "Baptist Faith and Message" to serve as guidelines to SBC agencies and churches, made by Richard Tribble of First Baptist Church, St. Elmo, Ill.

Motions referred to the Brotherhood Commission:

■ That men be encouraged to be involved in Promise Keepers men's ministry, made by David Prather, Franklin Street Baptist Church, Centerville, Ohio.

Referred to the Home Mission Board:

■ That television commercials be used to share the gospel, made by Garry Burkaeki, Second Baptist Church, Indianola, Miss.

■ That gospel tracts be provided in the meeting hall during the annual meeting, made by Leroy Cole, West Highland Baptist Church in Andalusia, Ala. Cole made the same motion last year, and the Home

Mission Board responded by saying tracts were available in the exhibit hall. Cole said he wanted tracts in the meeting hall so messengers could pick them up on their way out.

Referred to the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board:

■ That a three-year pilot project switch the annual offering for home missions to Christmas and the annual offering for foreign missions to Easter, made by Pat Garland, First Southern Baptist Church of West Logan, W.V. Garland, a home missionary, said he made the motion to call attention to the need for increased financial support of home missions.

Referred to the Home Mission Board and Christian Life Commission:

■ That the document called "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" be recanted publicly and that convention officers be barred from signing such documents without prior consultations, made by Robert Good, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Hernando, Miss. Another motion on the same document was referred to the resolutions committee.

Referred to the Baptist Sunday School Board:

■ That prices of items in Baptist Book Stores be studied to determine why they are higher than other book stores, made by Ben Glosson, Southside Baptist Church, Hazlehurst, Ga.

■ That Sunday School curriculum include an annual emphasis on AIDS awareness and ministry opportunities and that pamphlets about AIDS be made available at no cost, made by Nathan Whisnant, Friendship Baptist Church, Hartfield, Va.

Referred to the Baptist Sunday School Board and Stewardship Commission:

■ That the Sunday School Board include a stewardship lesson once a quarter in its curriculum material, made by Babb Adams, First Baptist Church, Inverness, Fla.

A motion for all candidates for SBC offices to make a statement of faith indicating their belief on the truth of the Bible, abortion, homosexuality, women preachers and the role of their offices, was ruled out of order because it was in conflict with existing rules. The motion was made by Robert Lutz of First Baptist Church of Astor, Fla.

The only motions discussed by messengers concerned Russell Dilday's dismissal March 9 as president of Southwestern Seminary and whether SBC agencies should accept money from churches that is channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (see related articles on pages 7 and 12).

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# FMB trustees sell Hong Kong property

Action paves way for ongoing ministry following 1997 transition

By Robert O'Brien  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees took actions on missionary property in Hong Kong, noted Jerry Rankin's first year as FMB president and heard reports of worldwide advances in missions during their meeting prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla.

The board, meeting June 10-11 in Orlando, earmarked \$5 million for the purchase of apartments in Hong Kong for missionary housing. That amount will be more than repaid by the sale of a missionary residence, which cost the board \$35,586 in 1968, for its current market value of \$7.7 million.

Over the next two years, the Hong Kong mission will request trustee approval for a number of these types of transactions as the missionaries prepare for 1997 when China's government takes over Hong Kong, explained Fayc Pearson, area director for missionary work in East Asia.

Hong Kong missionaries will not leave or scale back, as some had feared, but shift resources from ownership of land and housing mainly to ownership of apartments and office space, Pearson said. That will save thousands of dollars because China says it will raise Hong Kong land taxes significantly. The shift also pre-empts any

legal questions regarding land ownership.

Currently 58 Southern Baptist missionaries work with 45,000 Hong Kong Baptists in 115 churches and chapels. Hong Kong Baptists have a goal of expanding to 200 churches with 100,000 believers by 2000.

Trustees also heard reports from Rankin and other FMB administrators on advances in worldwide missions. "The gospel isn't just a message. It's something that's happening" in a big way around the world, said Rankin, who just returned from his first overseas trip since becoming FMB president. He spent three weeks traveling across the African continent.

"What we saw in Africa - what's happening overseas - is what we're all about as a Foreign Mission Board," noted Rankin, who said the trip evoked memories of his 23 years in Asian missions before his election last year as board president.

Rankin urged Southern Baptists to avoid getting sidetracked by secondary issues and to remain firm in their support and

encouragement to more than 4,000 SBC missionaries serving in many difficult areas around the world.

Lewis Myers, vice president for World A strategies, reported "remarkable progress" the board has made in less than a decade in World A.

Today, he said, 14 percent of the SBC foreign mission force works in World A, that portion of the globe which has had little or no chance to hear the gospel message. "Five percent of our literature is produced for World A; 8 percent of our TV is focused on World A and 11 percent of our budget is spent in World A."

The FMB now focuses on 85 of 212 unevangelized people groups, far more than any other mission group, Myers explained.

"Only God knows what could be done in World A if we had all the personnel we need and they had all the financial resources they need, coupled with all the prayer resources latent in the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

## Al Mohler to preach 1995 convention sermon

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has been elected to preach the 1995 convention sermon.

John Greever, pastor of Pleasant Heights Baptist Church in Indianapolis, was elected alternate for the convention sermon.

John Glover, music minister at First Baptist Church of Atlanta, will be the convention music director.


They were nominated by the SBC Committee on Order of Business and elected by acclamation. The 1995 convention will meet in Atlanta June 20-22.



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## WMU

### **WMU executive board adopts coeducational missions proposal**

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—A recommendation to provide coeducational missions options - including organizations and resources - for adults, youth and children was adopted by the executive board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union during their meeting June 11.

The recommendation, presented by Evelyn Blount, executive director of the South Carolina WMU, prompted some discussion and questions from members of the board before unanimous approval.

In response to a question concerning perceived competition with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien noted she had already made Brotherhood president James Williams aware of the proposed recommendation and said, "This is a day when options are in order. We're simply trying to provide more options for churches to get their people involved in missions."

Williams said later that he was unaware of the specific details of the plan but added that WMU and Brotherhood "are committed to working together to develop coeducational missions education strategies."

Names approved for the new coed organizations were Adults on Mission, Youth on Mission and Children in Action. O'Brien stressed WMU's primary focus still will be to provide quality education for women, girls and preschoolers.

WMU board members also approved a recommendation of their long-range planning committee to engage in dialogue with administrators at Samford University to consider the development of a Women's Institute for Ministry at the school's Birmingham, Ala., campus. O'Brien said the development of a women's institute might include a graduate degree program and a continuing education approach.

The executive board also approved the long-range planning committee's recommendation that a national WMU volunteer service coordinator be secured by Jan. 1 to plan and direct a national volunteer program. O'Brien said the coordinator would be a volunteer who would provide their own living expenses.

In other business, board members voted to focus materials and projects for 1997-98 on racial and cultural prejudice.

The board approved a 1994-95 budget of \$14,635,000, a 3.9 percent revenue decrease from 1993-94, a goal of \$100 million for the 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and a goal of \$42 million for the 1996 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

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# HMB to study state CBF ties; affirms Lewis

By Martin King

SBC Home Missions Board

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—The executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board narrowly approved a study of how the HMB should cooperate with "state conventions that channel designated funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other non-SBC entities."

The motion to conduct the study was made by Greg Martin of Long Beach, Miss., near the conclusion of the June 13 executive committee meeting and was a surprise to most committee members as well as HMB president Larry Lewis.

"I was not aware this action was coming and did not have any part in initiating it," Lewis said. "It is apparently an effort to study our relationship with state conventions and I do not anticipate any negative repercussions from such a study."

Anticipating, however, that state conventions might interpret the study as a threat to HMB funding, Lewis told Baptist Press, "I do not anticipate any change in our relationship with the states. We have enjoyed a good and productive relationship for many years with the state conventions and expect that will continue."

Martin told the committee the study would deal only with states that have decided to be "brokerage firms" for the CBF, a group of moderate Southern Baptists. "We need to send a message to those conventions: don't be uncooperative."

"I think we need to re-think how we do

missions in the states that refuse to be loyal to Southern Baptists," he said. "Should we be in partnership with them in the present way?"

The motion, approved by a 12-9 vote, directs HMB chairman Bob Curtis of Missouri to appoint "a special study committee to make a study and bring a report with recommendations" with no additional guidelines concerning committee composition or reporting deadline.

The executive committee spent most of its meeting discussing a response to a document on Roman Catholic/evangelical relationships endorsed by Lewis.

Members passed a resolution affirming the agency's commitment to evangelization which was seen by many as affirmation of Lewis' involvement. They rejected a call by one board member for Lewis to withdraw his support of the document.

In other business, the committee approved 15 new home missionaries and three staff changes, including election of Lura Sheppard as director of employment services for the agency.

Sheppard is a native of Tennessee with

a master's degree from Kentucky State University and extensive experience in personnel management. She is presently in personnel administration for DeKalb College in Clarkston, Georgia.

Robert Renner was elected as associate director of program research. Renner is a Missouri native with degrees from Arkansas State University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Arkansas, Indiana and Michigan and is presently research coordinator at Southern Seminary.

The committee also approved the promotion of Lew Dawson to associate director of the chaplaincy division. Dawson, associate director of military chaplaincy for the past five years, served as an Air Force chaplain for 20 years. He is a native of Kentucky with degrees from Baylor University and Southern Seminary.

Committee members also approved a contract for agency use of a VISA travel card through First Bank of South Dakota. The board has canceled its contracts with American Express and Diners Club in protest of the corporations' support of Planned Parenthood.

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## Anne Graham Lotz shares principles for gaining joy

"What once brought you joy but no longer does?" Anne Graham Lotz asked women gathered for the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon.

Addressing the conference theme "Joy in the Journey," Lotz told nearly 1,100 women — twice as many as last year's attendance — how to maintain their joy through hard times.

The daughter of Billy Graham, Lotz is director of AnGel Ministries, which publishes Bible studies for women.

Lotz related how the apostle Peter endured persecution for his faith yet maintained joy. Citing 1 Peter 1:1-12 as the basis of Peter's strategy, she said Peter kept his joy by reflecting on God's grace, receiving God's gifts, revealing God's glory and relating God's gospel.

"What is the most tragic thing that has happened to you?" she asked. "Surrender it to God and He will give you joy."

"Trials in life come for a purpose. Instead of complaining, look for ways to

evidence God's glory in your life." Anyone can be kind when her daily life is going along smoothly, Lotz said, but, "It's when bad things happen and you can stay kind that the world knows there is something supernatural going on in your life. God allows trials in our lives so the glory of God can be revealed."

Reminding women that a special joy is reserved for those who share the gospel, Lotz said, "Rather than hug it to ourselves, let's give it out."

### Classifieds

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**Youth/music** — Earle Baptist Church, P.O. Box 674, Earle, AR 72331, is now accepting resumes for Youth/Music minister.

**Needed** — Part-time minister of youth. Clear Lake Baptist Church, 3700 East State Hwy. 148, Blytheville, AR 72315; phone 763-9216.

**Youth/Education** — Resumes for associate pastor, youth/education are now being accepted at Cullendale First Baptist Church, 277 North Street SW, Camden, AR 71701-6266.

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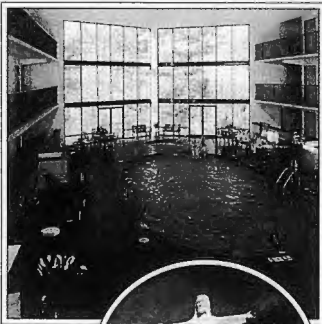
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## Convention Uniform

### Shared responsibility

By J. R. DeBusk, pastor, South Side Church, Pine Bluff

Basic passage: Exodus 18:1-27

Focal passage: Exodus 18:13-27

Central truth: Believers in Christ share responsibility for service.

Scenario one: Sunday School teacher A, an excellent teacher, prayer warrior, visitor and encourager, was overwhelmed and frustrated because each week the load became heavier. Feelings of guilt because all of the work was not finished became common. Teacher A tried to do everything alone.

Scenario two: Sunday School teacher B, an excellent teacher, prayer warrior, visitor and encourager, was excited because the ministry of the class was expanding each week. Teacher B shared the responsibility of the class with the members. This class accomplished much more because teacher B had learned the importance of shared responsibility.

Exodus 18 is a happy interlude following the trials which the Hebrews had been experiencing in the desert. Moses had sent his wife and children back to his father-in-law, Jethro. Now they were being reunited. The occasion became a time for testifying of the great things the Lord had done (vv. 8-9). Jethro and Moses also worshipped the Lord (vv. 10-12).

The following day "Moses sat to judge the people" (v. 13).

Jethro spent the day observing Moses as he gave decisions based on the statutes and laws of God (v. 16). Jethro was appalled that Moses had taken such a large responsibility upon himself. He counseled his son-in-law that this was not a good practice and that the result would be disastrous with Moses and the people both wearing themselves out with such strained litigation and petty conflict (vv. 17-18).

Jethro's wisdom prevailed and Moses selected men who could work with him in judging the disputes among the people. Verse 21 describes four qualifications for these public servants: able men; men who fear God; men of truth; and men who cannot be bribed.

The New Testament truth and application of this Old Testament event is that the church is the body of Christ. Each member is important and necessary and together we share responsibility for work in God's kingdom.

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## Life and Work

### Wronged, yet forgiving

By Jeff Cheatham, DOM,

Arkansas River Valley Association

Basic passage: II Corinthians 1:23-2:11

Focal passage: II Corinthians 1:23-2:11

Central truth: Believers can learn to forgive and express concern for those who have wronged them.

When was the last time a Southern Baptist church in Arkansas disciplined a church member? At one time almost every church had a book of discipline or some means to regulate belief, conduct and worship.

Today church discipline is virtually nonexistent. This was not the case among New Testament churches. Church membership was taken seriously and a church member was held accountable for misconduct or teaching doctrines contrary to the instructions of the apostles.

A church member at Corinth needed to be disciplined. He had damaged the church's fellowship and reputation. Learning of the problem, Paul decided it best for the church to solve it without him. They were not under his dominion or control but under the authority of Christ. Paul needed to remind them that his relationship to them was as a friend and not as a bishop.

His instructions to them were written with the ink of his tears (v. 2:4). It was to be dealt with from the anguish of the heart and with grief (v. 2:4). There must never be a sadistic pleasure in church discipline or in discussing the sins of others. Just as it grieved Paul to learn of this man's sin and its consequences, we should be saddened when we learn that a church member has yielded to some temptation.

Discipline is necessary to preserve the integrity of the church. The objective is restoration and not punishment. If the church would practice three laws in dealing with misconduct and gossip, there would be unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. The rules are: for everyone, the law of love (John 13:34); for the offender, the law of confession (Matt. 5:23-24); and for the offended, the law of forgiveness.

If the church refuses to forgive and restore after confession and repentance have been noted, the devil is given a golden opportunity to convince unbelievers and "backsliders" that the church does not practice what it preaches. This is contrary to the way that Christ treats us.

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## Bible Book

### Dialogue between friends

By Jack J. Bledsoe, DOM, retired, Carey Association

Basic passage: Job 3:1-14:22

Focal passage: Job 3:1, 4:1, 8:1, 11:1

Central truth: People just living suffering from different perspectives.

This rather lengthy passage of 12 chapters presents a contrast of opinions of the reasons for the suffering of the righteous from the perspective of three of Job's friends. They were old men who came from afar to comfort Job, but in their speaking, condolence turned to condemnation and his suffering was made more unbearable. Each of them speaks several times and each concludes that Job has sinned and God is punishing him through his suffering.

■ Eliphaz: the argument from experience. He seems to be the oldest and wisest of the three friends. In his three speeches he emphasizes what he has learned from many years of observation: Suffering is always the direct result of sin and suffering is the judgment of God on sin. He self-righteously tells Job what he would do if he were in such circumstances and appeals to Job to be content in his punishment for sin. He often refers to personal knowledge through experience as he recounts things he has seen. He pays Job faint praise for his piety, but concludes that Job has sinned, and suffering is the result of it.

■ Bildad: the argument from tradition. After Job's claims of innocence, the second friend, Bildad, strongly reproved Job by quoting from the wisdom of the ancients, contained in the traditions handed down through the ages. He reasoned from tradition that all of Job's losses and suffering came about because Job pretended to be something he was not, a righteous man. He accused Job of sin and hypocrisy.

■ Zophar: the argument from assumption. Zophar only spoke twice, but in such a dogmatic way that left Job totally without ground to stand on. There is no reasoning in Zophar's assumption that Job is a sinner. God is beyond human comprehension and Job must either repent or die.

In conclusion, when suffering comes to a child of God, friends often come to console and counsel. When that counsel is not from the Holy Spirit, it is not worth listening to. Worldly experience, tradition and assumption cannot compare to a childlike faith in the living, loving, redemptive God who cares for us. Appreciate friends, but trust in God.

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## Convention Uniform

### *One nation under God*

By J. R. DeBusk, pastor, South Side Church, Pine Bluff

Basic passage: Exodus 19:1-20:17

Focal passage: Exodus 19:1-8, 20:1-17

Central truth: God's people are called to be special instruments of blessing for the world.

The arrival of the Israelites at Mount Sinai is a "high-water mark" in Scripture. For three months they had trekked through the desert to reach the mountain where Moses had first met God in a burning bush. They camped at Mount Sinai so God could appear once again to Moses (v. 19:3). In this meeting, the Lord offered a covenant to Israel (vv. 19:3-6).

In the Old Testament, the word "covenant" appears 286 times. Two basic covenants are found in the Old Testament—covenants between equals and covenants between unequals. The covenant between God and Israel was of the second category. This was more than a formal contract. It was the offer of grace and a personal relationship with Almighty God.

The covenant was based on God's mighty acts on behalf of the Hebrews (v. 19:4). God promised that Israel would be His special possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, if they would obey His voice and keep the covenant (vv. 19:5-6).

Israel's grand opportunity was to be God's special nation in the world. The Jews were called to be a special instrument, not to be special in the sense of having a monopoly on God. God's intention was for Israel to be His holy nation of priests, who were on a mission to share covenant grace and love with the world. The new Israel of the New Testament has this same obligation.

Israel responded to the covenant offer affirmatively. They said, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do" (v. 19:8). Following the covenant agreement, the Lord appeared to Moses and gave the Ten Commandments. In giving the commandments, God established the boundaries of life for His people. Within the commands we find two basic concerns for an orderly society: reverence for God (vv. 20:1-11) and respect for people (vv. 20:12-17). When society acknowledges the sovereignty of God and the sanctity of life and human relationships, order and peace should prevail.

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## Life and Work

### *Distressed, not despairing*

By Jeff Cheatham, DOM,

Arkansas River Valley Association

Basic passage: II Corinthians 4:1-17

Focal passage: II Corinthians 4:5-17

Central truth: Believers can serve God in distressing circumstances without despairing.

The church at Corinth was yet to experience persecution. It was at peace with its pagan environment. As James Moffitt said, "The church was in the world as it had to be, but the world was in the church as it ought not to be." Because of a lack of persecution, the church could not understand Paul's insistence on moral, ethical and social purity.

Paul justified his lifestyle. He was endeared to Christ for saving him and freeing him from spiritual blindness. Since Christ was sovereign of the universe, how could he exalt anyone else? Satan can prevent people from believing the truths of the gospel (v. 4). However, the glory of God revealed in Christ will illuminate the heart and mind to divine truths. This divine light is a treasure of the believer (v. 7).

Living by the light of knowledge given to Paul by Christ brought countless tribulations. These sufferings left him physically weak, but he refused to quit. He even bore on his body the same scars and stripes as Jesus. Yet, in all of this, he knew God had never forsaken him.

Paul compares his plight with that of David in Psalm 116:10. As David found his hope and victory in God, so did Paul. Likewise, our faithfulness creates a testimony of action as well as words.

The source of victory in testing times comes from within. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit. He bestows the courage to endure and we become, "more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Paul longed for the day when his physical body would be replaced by his spiritual body. As the apostle grew older, he confessed to the results of age and disease. But he declared that his spirit was growing stronger. His courage became bolder, his mind sharper and his faith more daring. He said his afflictions were "light"; passing and temporary as compared to the eternal promises of God. How can a person look at all things he cannot see for hope, victory, peace and assurance? It all depends upon where the eyes are focused. The spiritual power residing within the believer conquers the external pressure around us.

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## Bible Book

### *My Redeemer liveth*

By Jack J. Bledsoe, DOM, retired, Carey Association

Basic passage: Job 15:1-21:34

Focal passage: Job 19:23-27

Central truth: Godly people can look beyond suffering.

Listening to his three friends, Job found no spiritual support, only condemnation. They continued to berate him with their insistence that through experience, tradition and assumption they concluded that he had sinned and that his suffering was the punishment of God upon his sins. He must simply accept it, since he could not "reach out and touch" God, who is inaccessible to mere mortals.

In this passage, Job makes an affirmation of faith in the eternal trustworthiness of God. Job did not know what had taken place between God and Satan. He did not know that the end result would be complete restoration. He did not know what we know through Romans 8:28—that God will work all things together for our good and His glory as long as we love Him and are committed to His purpose. The New Covenant will bring many assurances to God's children through words such as, "I Know" and "We Know." Even though Job did not know these New Testament affirmations, he did know some things in which he placed his faith.

First, Job knew in his heart and mind that he had maintained his spiritual integrity before God. He repeatedly denied that he had sinned. Even when his friends told him that his claims of not having sinned were in themselves sin, thus condemning him, he continued firm and steadfast.

Second, Job possessed an unwavering and unshakable faith in God as his defender, vindicator and redeemer. The affirmation that "I know that my Redeemer liveth and at the last He will take His stand upon the earth," and that "in my flesh, I shall see God," displays a faith to be admired by all.

The righteous still suffer. But the Word of God stands sure. We can look to the Calvary event, the witness of the early church and the writings of those early believers who became more than conquerors through suffering. The final chapters of our lives are yet to be written, but nothing can separate us from Him and His love for us. Suffering pales into insignificance before these truths. Keep the faith. Like Jesus, we can be made perfect through suffering.

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## PRE-CONVENTION MEETINGS

### Directors of missions receive racism repentance document

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—More than 350 Southern Baptist directors of missions attending their annual meeting were presented with copies of a document urging the SBC to reject racism and "publicly repent and apologize to all persons of African descent for condoning and perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime."

Called a "Declaration of Repentance," the document is the result of a meeting of 15 directors of missions and ministers from large urban areas in Atlanta last October. Members of a Race Reconciliation Task Force that drafted the document distributed copies of the declaration to the DOMs during their annual meeting, June 13.

Task force member Penny Ells of Montgomery, Ala., said she hopes DOMs will seriously consider presenting the declaration to their associations for passage, then present it for adoption in their respective state convention annual meetings this fall.

The declaration notes that Southern Baptists have associations in 12 metropolitan areas that contain 42 percent of all persons of African descent in the United States. Ells said 11 DOMs in those associations have expressed their agreement with the statement.

### Southern Baptist musicians urge convention unity

Voicing concern about denominational division, speakers addressing the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference called for an end to the denominational controversy which has characterized the SBC for more than 15 years.

Dan Yeary, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, said divided Southern Baptists "desperately need each other. I am concerned about the denomination which spawned me, encouraged me and equipped me and which now finds itself deeply divided."

Addressing more than 200 church musicians, conference president Mark Blankenship, called on Southern Baptists to be "Together in Jesus," the theme of the conference.

He urged Southern Baptists to create "positive bonds" in the middle of denominational controversy. To help the controversy end, Blankenship encouraged them to "avoid being manipulative, judgmental, argumentative, presumptuous and prejudicial." Instead, he called on Southern Baptists to "practice patience, joy, honesty, gentleness, love, flexibility, purity, peace, friendliness, gratitude and encouragement."

The Hines Sims Award, given annually for outstanding service in the area of church music, was bestowed on James McKinney, retiring dean of the school of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Arkansas Baptists elected to serve on the Executive Council for the coming year are Lynn Madden, associate pastor for music/media at Immanuel Church, Little Rock, and Peggy Pearson, an associate in the state convention's church music ministries department.

### Campus ministers examine frontiers, past & future

"The frontier isn't in the past, but in the future, and 'Tomorrow Land' is really today," Bill Stroup told participants at the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers.

Stroup, Baptist Student Union director for Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida, addressed members as outgoing president of the organization, which met June 10-12 at Rollins College in Orlando, Fla. The conference focused on the theme "From Frontierland to Tomorrow Land."

Richard Ross, youth consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, told members to work on communicating with people about the vital ministry areas of international students, vocational decisions by students and leadership related to critical moral issues. "Talk about students louder," Ross challenged.

### Religious educators challenged to imitate 'biblical Jesus'

Sociologist Tony Campolo warned participants at the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting in Orlando about the subtle changes American Christians have made in their views of Jesus. "What comes across," he suggested, "is not the biblical Jesus, but a white Anglo Saxon Republican."

Campolo, a professor at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., said a great deal of the changes have to do with money. Christians have changed the hymn book to "10 percent to Jesus I surrender," Campolo said. And he asked whether Jesus would drive a BMW. "If Jesus had 60,000 bucks and knew that people were starving," what would he do? Campolo asked.

Dan Yeary, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, pointed to the host city's main attraction. "Your church needs a dose of Disney World," he said. Baptist educators need to learn "how to turn your church into a community of grace that causes them to want to come back."