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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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June 25, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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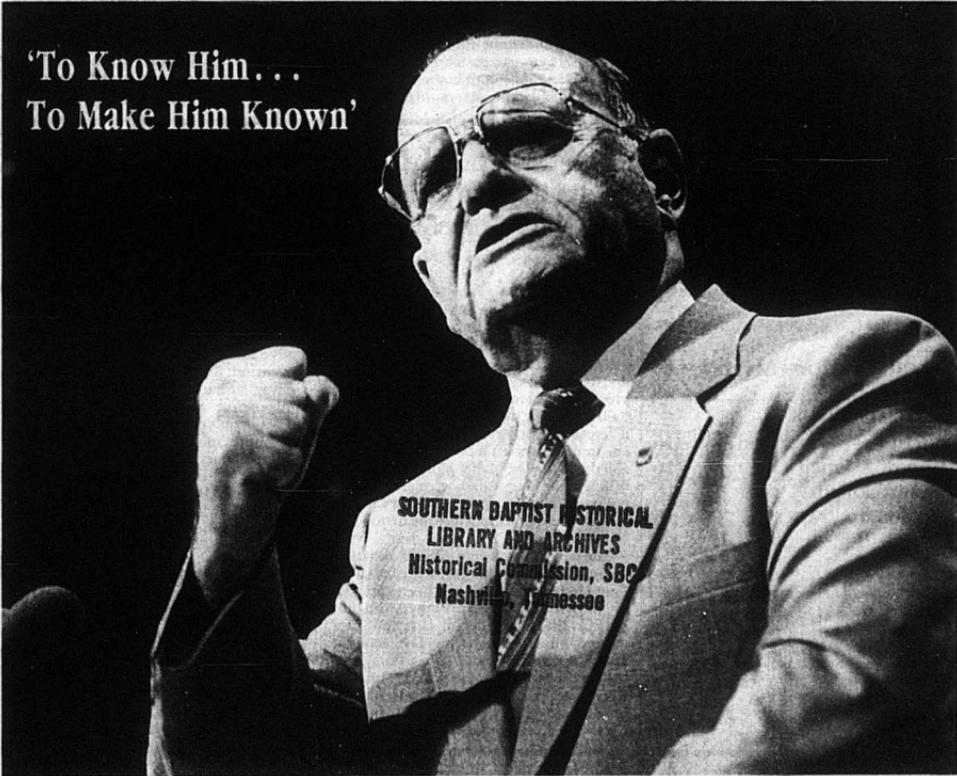
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Report From St. Louis

Arkansas Baptist

June 25, 1987

'To Know Him...
To Make Him Known'



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Nashville, Tennessee

In This Issue

Features



(BP) photo / Paul Obregon

Down to Business . . . 6-14

Southern Baptists who met in St. Louis under the theme, "To Know Him . . . To Make Him Known," were told by Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks that too many were unwilling to do the one thing required to win the world—to die to self.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

A Child On Every Knee

Sweet Home Mission had 59 people in attendance on the Sunday before Easter. When asked how all the people fit in a 20x30 foot structure, Pastor Ray Brownholtz replied, "Every adult had a child on his knee."

Sweet Home is a new congregation that was started as a mission model in 1985 in Conway-Perry Association. It is sponsored by First Church, Houston.

Refus Caldwell was the beginning pastor. Nine people have been baptized since the mission began.

Baptist to Lead French Protestants

PARIS—Louis Schweitzer, pastor of the Rue de Lille Baptist Church in Paris for the past 10 years, has been elected general secretary of the French Protestant Federation. He will assume the post July 1. He succeeds a Lutheran pastor, Pierc Chretien. The federation includes Lutheran, Baptist, Reformed and other denominations.

Angolan Baptists Form Association

LUANDA, Angola.—A new association of Baptist churches has been formed in Angola's capital city, Luanda. The seven self-supporting churches which formed the association support seven missions and several preaching points. Each gives 20 percent of its income to the Angola Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program. And they voted to encourage each other to give another 10 percent to the new association. Luanda's population is more than 1 million and increasing rapidly.

Hungarian Missionary Sent

BUDAPEST, Hungary—When Gabriella Kamilla Furedi began working in Sierra Leona in June, she became the first Hungarian sent out by the European Baptist Mission. The single woman is working with other missionaries in the Muslim town of Kassiri, population 2,000. She is a 1975 graduate of the Hungarian Baptist Seminary in Budapest.

GOOD NEWS!

Distributing God's Riches

Ephesians 3:1-13

One of the world's major oil fields lies under the north slope of Alaska. When this was discovered, a great pipeline was built to bring the oil south. But an ironic thing happened. The pipeline opened in the midst of a great shortage of oil. The precious substance was brought as far as California, but there was no way to send it across the country to where it was needed. Some suggested it be shipped to Japan and the money be used to buy oil imported through the East Coast. A plan was announced to build a pipeline from California to Texas, but meanwhile the nation still waits for the oil.

Paul saw himself in a similar situation regarding the gospel of Christ. These "unsearchable riches" had been received by Christians, but many others did not share in the knowledge of salvation. Paul offered himself as the pipeline thought which the gospel could flow to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world. This missionary zeal resulted in much suffering for him, but he did it because he knew he held God's grace in stewardship for others.

Christians enjoy the unlimited, unmeasurable gift of God's grace. This is not given to us because we deserve it but so that we may share it. We hold it in trust for others who need it desperately. We must be generous, fearless, and industrious in getting the riches of God to all people.

The late Chester Quarles, who was executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist convention, illustrated this truth in a unique way. He had suffered from polio in his youth, before any vaccine was available, and was paralyzed in one arm. One a mission tour to South America, he was asked by a missionary family to bring a supply of the newly discovered polio vaccine for their children. He obtained the vaccine and carefully guarded it on the trip. He took great pains to deliver the vaccine, he said, because he knew so well the difference it would make. This is the spirit of evangelism, missions, and stewardship. We give because we know how important it is. We share because we care. The supply is unlimited. No one must be left out of the distribution.

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Let's Work At It!

J. EVERETT SNEED

The 1987 convention, meeting in St. Louis, was mostly a positive meeting. It was marked by good preaching, great music, and good conduct on the part of both messengers and the host city. Several significant reports were presented. Perhaps the most important report was the one given by the Peace Committee. The greatest need of our convention is to deal with our problems and move forward in missions and evangelism.

Much of the positive nature of this year's convention can be attributed to President Adrian Rogers. Rogers is to be commended for dealing fairly, kindly, and effectively with the messengers. When messengers feel that they have not had opportunity to be heard, they become rude and ill-tempered. Rogers did his utmost to provide opportunity for everyone to present motions, ask questions, and be involved in the business process of the convention.

The messengers are also to be commended for conducting themselves properly in the convention sessions and in activities away from the convention. In the business sessions, most of the messengers were courteous and respectful, even when disagreement was evident. Apparently the messengers also made a favorable impression on the local citizens of St. Louis. One cab driver said, "These are nice people. They really believe what they are preaching, and they act like Christians."

Two extremely important items of business were acted on during this year's convention. The first and most important for the future wellbeing of the Southern Baptist Convention was the Peace Report. It is likely that none of the 22 committee members had his or her way on everything. It is certain that everyone was victorious at some point in the report. On the whole, we believe it to be a good report and hope that it will assist the convention in finding true peace.

Winfred Moore, former first vice-president and pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, resigned from the Peace Committee. In his letter of resignation he said, "I do not believe the committee should continue as a single 'oversight' or 'police' committee to monitor or to judge the work of our institutions and agencies, their trustees, and our trustee system."

We agree that this is not the function of the Peace Committee. However, it is ex-



remely unlikely that the Committee could function in this manner, since it is so closely balanced. It required a marathon meeting to complete a report for the convention. The policies of the agencies and institutions must be left in the hands of trustees and administrators.

Chairman Charles Fuller and the Peace Committee are to be commended for the service they have rendered Southern Baptists. Fuller, in particular, deserves the praise of Southern Baptists. Since both ends of the conflict in Southern Baptist life are represented on the Peace Committee, reaching decisions was obviously difficult. Thank you, Dr. Fuller.

A second report of great importance was that of the Fact Finding Committee of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. We commend the committee for its deci-

sion to recommend the continuation of funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. As stated in previous editorials, the Baptist Joint Committee probably provides Southern Baptists with the most service per dollar received of any entity we support.

There is one note of concern in the report of the Fact Finding Committee. In the future, the Southern Baptist Convention will coordinate its work with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs through our own Public Affairs Committee. This raises a question, "Should there come a time when the Public Affairs Committee disagrees with the other trustees of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, how will the disagreement be resolved?" Does the strengthening of the Public Affairs Committee set up the possibility for future problems? History indicates that it is usually best for trustees to function as a group without separate groups within the body.

Another point of concern is the apparent denigrating of women within our convention. There are several indications that women are becoming second-class members of the Southern Baptist Convention. Among these are: (1) The dramatic reduction of women as trustees on boards, agencies and institutions of the SBC; (2) the lack of response of many of the messengers to the honoring of Carolyn Weatherford, President of the Woman's Missionary Union of the SBC, when honored by the Christian Life Commission; and the general attitude exhibited toward women during this convention and other recent Baptist meetings. Southern Baptists need to thank

(Continued on p. 14)

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 25

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Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. . . Editor Emeritus

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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



July fourth is an opportunity! I know! It's an opportunity to make trips, shoot fireworks, go on a picnic, learn to water ski, or go fishing. But what does that have to do with the Declaration of Independence? Very little. It is also an opportunity to share the gospel with some relatives or friends with whom you may not often have contact. You should certainly let your commitment to Christ be closely known by being faithful in worship attendance, even if it is at a camp ground.

This celebrated occasion is also an opportunity to reflect on our privilege as citizens of the United States. Daniel Webster said, "Whatever makes men good Christians makes them good citizens." With so many trends to back me up, I am tempted to say that we are not making better Christians nor better citizens. Christians in politics face insurmountable odds in trying to make a difference. Christians outside of official politics are ridiculed and scoffed at as a dangerous "religious right." Those who would try to maintain Christian moral values are viewed as having a Nazi mentality, or at best to be a lunatic fringe. Make no mistake about what is taking place. Most major forces at work in society are out to discredit the voice of Christians. While wicked causes and evil men are protected and honored as they rush to blow the trumpets for their cause of eradicating biblical standards and Christian values, the Christians who would do the same for God and righteousness are criticized and maligned.

What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Too many have no idea of the price paid and the principles followed in making this a great nation. "A nation that does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been as about."—Woodrow Wilson

Perhaps this fourth of July, we can remember, reflect, and rededicate ourselves to that which enabled God to "shed his grace" on us and "crown our good."

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Letters to the Editor

Reminiscences

I look forward to getting the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* each week and the way you are reporting the news. The newsmagazine is an inspiration to me.

More news about Arkansas. I was happy to read about Timbaw Calvary Church and how they organized one youth and one median adult Sunday School class as a result of membership growth, and I am thankful that they are constructing a new parsonage.

My wife and I took two summer field workers who took a survey of that community.

We conducted a V.B.S. in the morning and a revival at night. Nell Beard at the time was one of the summer field workers from Texas staying in our home. She started dating Ivan Anderson of Timbo.

They became engaged and got married.

She and Ivan are charter members of Calvary Timbo.

John Ashcraft was at one time pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Downey, Calif., where my son and his wife go.

Keep up the good work John.—John Dewey Seymour, Downey, Cal.

WILLIAM P. OAKLEY

Southern Accent



Wholesale Or Retail?

"Lord, thank you for everything, please forgive me all my sins and bless everybody,

and Lord give me everything I need." Have you ever heard a prayer worded like that? That's what Peter Lord, in his prayer manual, calls "wholesale praying."

It is my conviction that the prayer that gets results is the prayer that is specific. Doesn't it seem significantly strange that most of us fall into the habit of dealing in generalities? It also is most revealing. We really are not expecting an answer, nor are we very clear as to our needs, or about our dear Father's willingness to supply.

The beloved Andrew Murray, who is perhaps best known for his books on prayer, explains: "Our prayers must not be a vague appeal to his mercy, an indefinite cry for his blessing, but the distinct expression of definite need. Not that his loving heart

does not understand our cry, or is not ready to hear. But he desires this for our sakes. Such definite prayer teaches us to know our own needs better. It demands time, and thought, and self-scrutiny to find our what really is our greatest need. It searches us and puts us to the test as to whether our desires are honest and real, such we are ready to persevere in."

Down through the years, I have met many whose lives demonstrated their intimacy with God and there was always trust because of their root-life.

I am not one of those who gives espousal to the "name-it and claim-it" doctrine of prayer. I thank God for every lesson I've learned by praying with those who have known God intimately. How often I've been exposed to the teaching of great prayer warriors! Rather than claiming too much, I've been ashamed for claiming too little. My vague and pointless praying revealed how shallow my roots were.

When Jesus gave us the model prayer, he taught us to pray "Give us this day our daily bread..." (Mt. 6:11). In a classic lesson on prayer, Jesus revealed the neighbor's definite need by having him ask: "Friend, lend me three loaves..." (Lk. 11:5). It could be that many of us have fallen into the habit of dealing with generalities in our praying. We need to be more specific. Could it be that we need more "retail praying" and less "wholesale praying?"

William P. Oakley is development officer for Southern Baptist College.

A SMILE OR TWO

Life is 10 percent what you make it and 90 percent how you take it.

—Bills and Pieces

Misery loves company, but happiness throws more parties.



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Golden Gate Graduate

One Arkansas was among the 86 recent graduates of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Sheryl Marie Cooper of Crossett was awarded the master of divinity degree. She also is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Midwestern Graduates

Five persons with Arkansas ties were among 120 individuals receiving degrees at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Dennis C. Corder received the master of divinity degree. He is the son of Mary L. Corder of Perryville and the late W. Eugene Corder.

Earning the doctor of ministry degree were: George Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Adams of Stockridge, Ga. He is a navy chaplain.

Robert D. Bledsoe, son of Mildred Bledsoe of Pine Bluff and the late Doyle B. Bledsoe. He is the associate pastor of New Life Church in Pine Bluff.

Richard Louis Kincl, son of Jerry L. Kincl of North Little Rock. He is the pastor of Berryville First Church.

Ed Simpson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simpson of that city. He is the pastor of Lonoke Church.

Future ACTS Plans Discussed

ACTS of Springdale recently hosted the quarterly meeting of the ACTS of Arkansas affiliates. Affiliates from Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Forth Smith, and Texarkana as well as others were among the participants.

Future programming and promotion of the ACTS satellite network was discussed. Several Arkansas cities were identified as potential ACTS affiliates and plans are in the making to add them to the ACTS network and ACTS of Arkansas.

Mike Huckabee, president of ACTS of Arkansas, announced plans to televise the 1987 Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Each night a live wrap-up show of the convention will be produced in Forth Smith and aired on their local ACTS channel. A one-hour special highlighting the entire convention will be produced and shown through the ACTS of Arkansas network. Huckabee also announced that plans are in the making for an ACTS of Arkansas booth at the convention in November.

SBC Adds New Faculty And Staff

Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, has announced the addition of new faculty and administration.

Rodney Reeves of Springfield, Mo., has been employed as assistant professor of religion. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Reeves has been serving as adjunct professor of New Testament at Southwest Baptist University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, St. Louis Branch.

Albert and Lila Robinson have been added to the staff. Albert Robinson Jr. will have diverse duties, including teaching science classes, working in admissions and as a special assistant to the president. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville, (Ky.), the University of Arkansas, and the University of Kansas. Lila May Winstrand Robinson is a graduate of the University of Texas. Robinson will be teaching cross cultural communication, sociology, and elementary Spanish.

David Midkiff of Portia has been named instructor of art. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, the University of Central Arkansas, and the University of Mississippi. He started the art department at Hoxie High School and taught there from 1974-1986. He also recently had one of his stoneware sculptures accepted for the Biennial Arkansas Exhibition in Pine Bluff, June 29-July 1.

Robert C. Ervin will be coming as assistant professor of business administration, and included among his duties will be the chairmanship of the business department. He is a graduate of the University of Montevallo, (Al.), and Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. He is coming to Southern from Jacksonville State University in Alabama.

Todd Gaddis of Owensboro, Ky., will join the administrative staff as the new development officer. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been working as sales representative with the Monsanto Agricultural Products Company.

New Churches Grow Faster

A detailed study of 155 churches was done by Ken Miller, a CPA by profession and a member of Calvary Church, Little Rock.

The study revealed that the number of people baptized per resident member in churches less than 10 years old is one baptism to each 11 members. The average in Arkansas for all churches is one baptism to every 27 members.

New churches grow most rapidly in the first 10 years. By the time a church is 10 years old, it is baptizing an average of 9.3 people per year. All churches in Arkansas baptize an average of 9.1 people per year.

A national study shows that churches gradually decrease in their baptismal ratio as they grow older.

People

Sarah Marie McDowell Baker of Malvern died May 23 at age 70. A memorial worship service was held May 27 at Malvern First Church where she had been an active member since 1924, serving as staff organist for more than 45 years, as a Sunday School teacher of adult women and for 17 years as a worker and pianist in the nursery department. She served in all areas of church music, directing the primary choir for 12 years and as co-ordinator for all seven church choirs. She was a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Music Ministry Council, the Southern Baptist Musicians Conference, the Hymn Society of America, and the American Guild of Organists. Survivors include three daughters, Mary Jim Ledbetter of Bettendorf, Iowa, June Michelle Jefferson of Fayetteville, and Sarita Charline Baker of Mansfield; and four grandchildren.

May Cooperative Program Report

Received \$1,104,990.32
Budget \$1,028,489.58
Over/under \$78,895.05

Year-to-date
Over/under \$99,166.05

Same time last year
Over/under (\$149,619.95)

Thank you Arkansas Baptists! Your generosity enabled us to go over the Cooperative Program budget requirements for May. For the year, receipts are 101.93 percent of budget requirements. This is only the third time we have gone over monthly budget needs since November 1985. Two of these three times were January 1986 and 1987. Praise the Lord!—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Down to Business

A smaller crowd and less tumult in St. Louis paved the way for a Peace Committee report and the continued 'conservative' resurgence

Tuesday, June 16

ST. LOUIS—An energetic rendition of "Victory in Jesus" presented by the choir and orchestra of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., launched the 130th annual meeting of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination June 16-18 in St. Louis.

Messengers from many of the Southern Baptist Convention's 36,000 churches had gathered to conduct the denomination's business in a three-day meeting which most expected to be far less tumultuous than recent conventions.

Convention President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., gavelled the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and Registration Secretary Lee Porter of Nashville, Tenn., informed the messengers that the convention was meeting in St. Louis for the fifth time in its 142-year history and that 22,438 messengers had registered as of 9:10 a.m. Porter then moved the constitution of the convention, and the messengers approved.

Two efforts were made to amend the order of business when it was presented to the messengers. Ray Neal of Wisconsin asked that the Foreign Mission Board report be moved to a point earlier on the agenda to avoid the exodus of messengers which usually occurs after the third election of officers. David Crocker of Tennessee proposed that the report of the Peace Committee—which messengers had seen for the first time Tuesday morning—be moved from its position late Tuesday evening to Wednesday morning to allow messengers more time to consider its contents. On votes by show of ballots, messengers denied both requests, and the order of business was adopted as printed.

Missouri Governor John Ashcroft brought a word of welcome to the assembly. Ashcroft, a Christian, encouraged Southern Baptists to press on toward the economic, social, and moral "reconstruction" of the United States. Wallace Jones, pastor of Fee Fee Church, St. Louis, responded to the governor's welcome.

President Rogers announced his appointment of committees which would serve during the annual meeting. He pointed out that committee members all came from churches which averaged 12 percent of undesignated receipts in their contribu-

tions to the SBC Cooperative Program. Furthermore, the pastors appointed had served their congregations, on the average, for 11 years.

Rogers also noted this year's convention program was designed to honor vocational evangelists by allowing them to sing, direct music, lead in prayer, and offer interpretations of the convention theme, "To Know Him . . . To Make Him Known." Evangelist Manley Beasley of Bedford, Texas, brought the first theme interpretation, "Know Him in Prayer."

Shortly after 10 a.m., SBC Executive Committee President Harold Bennett introduced the Executive Committee's report. Bennett noted the average Southern Baptist church gave 8.64 percent of its undesignated receipts to the SBC Cooperative Program, compared to 12 percent among the committee members. Rogers had just appointed. Bennett also noted that the denomination's 363,000 baptisms recorded in 1986, although commendable, still represented less than 10 per church. He challenged the churches to reach toward the goal of baptizing 1 million people a year.

Before turning to the slate of recommendations from the Executive Committee, Bennett informed messengers the lawsuit filed against the denomination following the 1985 annual meeting in Dallas had cost \$183,296 to date. He also noted the work of the SBC Peace Committee had cost the convention \$219,359.

Eight recommendations from the Executive Committee were adopted by messengers, including a 1987-88 budget of \$140 million, which represented an increase of 2.86 percent over 1986.

Messengers also approved two recommendations to rewrite convention bylaws.

The SBC Executive Committee recommended changing Bylaw 18 to increase Southern Baptist representation on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from 15 to 18 members. The change was necessitated by a Baptist Joint Committee reorganization which called for greater SBC representation. A special fact-finding committee had recommended the bylaw revision as part of a package which committee member Paul Pressler of Houston said would make the Baptist Joint Committee "more responsive" to Southern Baptists.

(BP) photo / Jim Veneman



Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va., met with reporters shortly after the committee's report was adopted by messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 16 in St. Louis.

The wording of Bylaw 16 also was amended to change the name of the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees to the Committee on Nominations. In addition, the amended bylaw required that a member of the Committee on Nominations not nominate a fellow committee member or a member of the previous year's Committee on Committees for a first term on any SBC entity. It further stipulated that individuals who have served full terms on SBC boards may not be nominated again until a full year has elapsed.

Six states or territories also were accepted for representation in the SBC: Alaska, Nevada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, and Utah-Idaho. Messengers also adopted goals for 1990-2000 for Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's stated intention to present the gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000.

When messengers turned their attention to the introduction of business and resolutions, they found more than a dozen persons lined up at the microphones, ready to present motions or resolutions from the floor. Thirteen motions dealing with topics from the 1989 Las Vegas convention to a SBC "Smoke Alert Day" were read into the record. Parliamentarian John Sullivan then read the titles of 28 resolutions which had

been submitted to the Resolutions Committee. Resolution topics included hunger, abortion, sex education, pornography, economic justice, and the PTL scandal.

After a period of congregational singing and another presentation by the Bellevue Church choir and orchestra, Convention President Rogers rose to deliver his president's address.

Preaching from Ephesians 4, Rogers declared that the base of Southern Baptist unity is doctrinal and spiritual. Yet the business of the convention is missions and evangelism, Rogers said, and he challenged Southern Baptists to pursue that God-given mission.

Rogers also granted that, while unified doctrinally, Southern Baptists are "functionally" a diverse people. He declared that the convention has room for that diversity and called upon Southern Baptists to celebrate it. "Baptists are not all alike, and you are not going to make them all alike," he declared. "They are not going to march in lockstep."

The goal before the denomination is maturity in the likeness of Jesus Christ, Rogers concluded. While they must speak the truth and do it in love, they must also strive for maturity in their service to God, he said.

The morning session closed with a benedictory prayer by David Brock of Tampa, Fla.

Tuesday afternoon

Most messengers had to rush through lunch, since the morning session had run 20 minutes over. Those who ventured out of the convention center struggled through St. Louis' normally-hectic lunchtime rush crowds and found themselves faced with long lines at local fast food outlets. Most, however, were content to remain in their seats and munch on sandwiches and fruit they had brought along.

Those who kept their seats had the opportunity to enjoy a full hour of evangelistic music before the two o'clock business session rolled around. During the business period, 11 motions were made and 12 proposed resolutions were read into the record.

One motion, made by Presnall Wood of Texas, asked that the messengers consider instructing the Foreign Mission Board to "restore its long-standing requirement that career missionary candidates be required to attend one of the six Southern Baptist-owned seminaries for at least part of their seminary preparation." That requirement, dropped by the board in April, opened the door to missionary appointment for otherwise-qualified candidates from Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and

other accredited seminaries.

Parliamentarian John Sullivan announced that the motion would be considered during the Wednesday afternoon business session.

At 2:25 p.m., T.C. Pinckney, chairman of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees rose to bring that body's report. The Committee on Boards nominates persons to serve as trustees for Southern Baptist Convention entities. Their report has been the focus of parliamentary wrangling during recent years as "moderate-conservatives" sought to challenge the nominations of "fundamental-conservatives."

President Rogers reminded messengers that he would allow amendments to the report, but only on a name-by-name basis. That policy, instituted by a revision of Bylaw 16 during the 1986 annual meeting in Atlanta, stirred heated debate in the Atlanta meeting and, when implemented, proved too tedious for messenger endurance. As last year, attempts to amend the report were rebuffed by messengers, and the report was adopted as presented.

Messengers then gave their attention to the second of the week's theme interpretations offered by vocational Southern Baptists evangelists. Sam Cathey of Oklahoma preached on "Know Him Through The Word."

The Committee on Order of Business updated messengers on its disposition of the motions brought to the floor earlier in the session. Two proposals were scheduled for consideration during Wednesday morn-

ing's business session. The first requested the SBC Forum to refrain from using the logo of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on its printed programs. The second would have required the 1989 annual meeting be relocated from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Atlanta or another site.

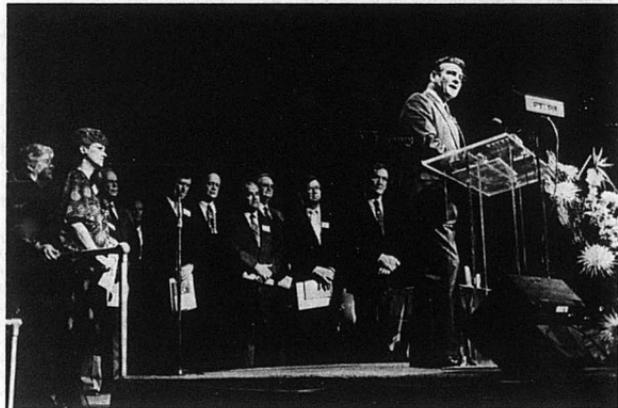
At 3:00 p.m., Second Vice-President Ray Roberts assumed the chair and declared the floor open for nominations for the presidency.

Ed Young of Houston, Texas, nominated incumbent president Adrian Rogers for a second consecutive term. Charles Redmond of Sulphur Springs, Texas, brought the name of Richard Jackson, pastor of the North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., to the messengers.

With nominations closed, messengers cast their ballots for president at 3:15 p.m. and moved on to receive the second part of the SBC Executive Committee's report. Eight recommendations were adopted. Two sites for future annual meetings—Houston in 1992 and Orlando in 1994—were approved, and a resolution of appreciation for the convention's Peace Committee was passed.

Messengers also received and approved a report on Bold Mission Thrust progress during 1986. Two areas—new students in seminaries and new missionaries on the field—noted excellent progress, but the report indicated Southern Baptist churches are lagging far behind their goals in areas such as baptisms, new church starts, discipleship training, Bible study, and missions giving.

(BP) photo by Paul Obregon



Charles Fuller, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, delivered the committee's report to messengers to the SBC annual meeting, flanked by the other members of the committee. Messengers overwhelmingly approved the report, which was intended to help bring reconciliation within the convention.

(BP) photo / Van Payne



Adrian P. Rogers (center) was re-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the SBC annual meeting June 16-18 in St. Louis. Jack Stanton (left) was elected first vice-president, and Victor Kaneubbe was chosen second vice-president. Rogers is pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn.; Stanton is director of the Institute of Evangelism at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.; and Kaneubbe is retired pastor of First Indian Church in Phoenix, Ariz., now living in Oklahoma.

Messengers also approved an Executive Committee recommendation that the denomination maintain its ties with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Washington D.C.-based lobby group representing the interests of nine Baptist bodies in church-state issues.

The recommendation increases Southern Baptist representation from 15 to 18 members, in keeping with the BJC's reorganization earlier this year. The proposal also reduced the number of SBC entity heads who serve as *ex officio* members and increased at large representation from five to 12.

The recommendation also greatly expands the role and powers of the Public Affairs Committee, the SBC entity through which funds are channeled to the Baptist Joint Committee. The recommendation empowers the Public Affairs Committee to take action itself on Southern Baptist motions or resolutions which the interdenominational BJC "does not agree with or cannot support." It also encourages the SBC Christian Life Commission to establish a Washington office to address social and moral concerns beyond the scope of the Baptist Joint Committee's assignment.

James Burselon, music minister of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, came to the podium and led the congregation in several hymns. Following the congregational singing, Registration Secretary Lee

Porter brought the results of the presidential balloting.

Porter announced that incumbent president Adrian Rogers had received 13,980 votes (59.97 percent) of the 23,327 ballots cast. When Vice-President Roberts declared Rogers the winner of the election, messengers rose to their feet in an enthusiastic ovation. Rogers told the messengers he was "humbled" and "grateful" for their confidence and renewed his pledge to "be a good president for us all."

Messengers then turned their attention to the motion presented earlier in the day which asked the Committee on Order of Business to schedule a vote on the Foreign Mission Board's decision to appoint missionary candidates without requiring study at an SBC seminary.

The messengers were informed that they were simply voting on whether or not to vote at a later time on the board policy change and that the vote about to be taken would require a two-thirds majority to pass. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, spoke against the proposal, suggesting it was bad policy to instruct a board on complicated matters which the board had already considered. Messengers defeated the motion soundly, and the matter was referred to the Foreign Mission Board for study.

When the third opportunity to introduce business or resolutions arrived at 4:20

p.m., 10 messengers moved the adoption of proposals dealing with, among other things, the level of Southern Baptist representation on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the amount of tuition charged non-Southern Baptist students at SBC educational institutions, the availability of information regarding handicap accessibility to convention sites, and the lack of women nominees to SBC trustee positions.

The final item of business in the afternoon session was the election of a first vice-president. Four nominations were brought: incumbent Jack Stanton of Missouri, Dan Ireland of Alabama, Wallace Jones of Missouri, and Victor Kaneubbe of Oklahoma. Messengers cast their ballots at 4:50 p.m.

Three more resolutions were read into the record, including one on "Christian Home Education" presented by Gary Fulton, pastor of the West View Church in Paragould. The afternoon session closed with a benediction by Roy Moody, evangelism director for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

Tuesday evening

In a press conference immediately prior to the evening session, Adrian Rogers reaffirmed his intention to appoint only inerrantists to key Southern Baptist Convention committees.

According to a Baptist Press report, Rogers asserted that, while "fundamental-conservatives" are not interested in "forcing our views on anyone," he nonetheless believed Southern Baptist have a right to set certain parameters on the theological beliefs of those employed by the denomination.

"We believe in absolute, total freedom of conscience," the report quoted Rogers as saying. "We believe in the priesthood of the believer. We believe in soul liberty. We would not force our views on anyone of we could."

Rogers declared that the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement "set a standard" for a view of Scripture as "truth without any mixture of error." "I could not hold my head up as president of the Southern Baptist Convention... if I were to nominate anybody to anything outside that statement."

Rogers also asserted that "fundamental-conservatives" will not seek wholesale firings of employees who are not inerrantists, although he insisted trustees should examine potential employees to determine if they adhere to inerrancy before hiring them. He added that the "fundamental-conservative" leadership was willing to allow attrition to remove non-inerrantists

from positions of leadership, rather than seeking to fire them.

The evening session opened at 6:30 with a half-hour of inspirational music provided by the choir and orchestra of First Church, Dallas, Texas. First Church Pastor W.A. Criswell assisted in the performance with a dramatic reading from the book of Revelation.

The first item of the evening session called for a continuation of the election of officers. Registration Secretary Lee Porter announced that balloting for first vice-president had re-elected Jack Stanton. Stanton polled 9,200 votes, which represented 55.13 percent of the 16,733 ballots cast. His closest rival was Victor Kaneubbe, who drew 3,579 votes (21.45 percent).

President Rogers declared Stanton the winner and opened the floor for nominations for second vice-president. Five persons were nominated: incumbent Ray Roberts of North Carolina, James Flammig of Virginia, Mike Johnson of Alabama, Victor Kaneubbe of Oklahoma, and Jolene Rogers of Oklahoma. Messengers cast their ballots at 7:28 p.m.

Stan Coffey, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, read into the record another batch of resolutions and reported on the referral of motions made earlier in the day. Coffey also announced that a motion made during the afternoon session which would require the display of both the United States and Christian flags during convention sessions would be considered during the Wednesday morning business session.

Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee, led in the launch of a prayer program supporting the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis. The National Missions Prayer Plan asks Southern Baptists to make commitments to pray daily for mission efforts around the world. Two SBC foreign missionaries, Lillian Isaacs and Findlay Graham, offered testimonies to the assembly, and two other missionaries, Dorothy Hutson of Utah and Ben Kirby of Venezuela, talked to messengers about the importance of prayer through live long-distance telephone hookups.

The 142nd annual report of the SBC Foreign Mission Board featured another live telephone hookup, this time with Frances Fuller, a former missionary in Lebanon currently living in Larnaca, Cyprus. She asked people to pray specifically that God would allow them to return to Lebanon.

Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks told messengers the only thing preventing Southern Baptists from doing God's will in evangelizing the world is that too many have a desire for comfort rather than sacrifice.

"If we really believe the Bible, then why

(BP) photo by Paul Obregon



Thousands of Southern Baptist families journeyed from their homes across the country to St. Louis to be on hand for the June 16-18 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Chuck Brannon, pastor for First Church of Boynton Beach, Fla., and his wife Sallie, and daughter, Natalie, visited the Gateway Arch.

haven't we, coupled with the other Christians of the world, brought the world to the feet of Jesus?" Parks asked.

He cited two reasons: (1) Southern Baptists are preaching a gospel of redemption only for people in one place, not for the whole world, and (2) Southern Baptists have not decided they want to die to

themselves and take up their crosses so Jesus can be preached to the world.

Parks noted that, since Southern Baptists adopted the Bold Mission Thrust Goal of taking the gospel to every person in this century, churches actually have lowered the percentage of mission gifts through the Cooperative Program, while church receipts have climbed steadily.

He closed with a troubling question: "Will we be able to look God in the face and say, 'We did our part in world evangelization? Will we be able to say, 'Yes, it is finished?'"

At 9:00 p.m., Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller presented the final report of the 22-member group which was charged two years ago with the task of identifying the sources of the controversy which has divided the denomination since 1979 and bringing findings and recommendations which would help effect reconciliation between opposing groups.

The report, released to messengers only about 12 hours ahead of the committee's presentation, was adopted after only brief discussion. Efforts to delay the discussion and amend the report were turned back by messengers, who also refused an extension of time before they voted to adopt the report as presented.

The report's 10 recommendations began with an assertion that, although the Baptist Faith and Message statement is not a creed to be imposed on others, it nonetheless constitutes a "commonly held" interpretation which sets out "parameters for cooperation."

The report also called on SBC leaders to draw nominees and appointees "in balanced fashion from the broad spectrum of loyal, cooperative Southern Baptists, representative of the diversity of our denomination."

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About the Bible, the report noted: "(It) is a book of redemption, not a book of science, psychology, sociology, or economics. But, where the Bible speaks, the Bible speaks truth in all realms of reality and to all fields of knowledge. The Bible, when properly interpreted, is authoritative to all of life."

Therefore, the document called upon Southern Baptist institutions "to recognize the great number of Southern Baptists who believe this interpretation of Article I of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963, and, in the future, to build their professional staffs and faculties from those who clearly reflect such dominant convictions and beliefs held by Southern Baptists at large."

When pressed with questions from the floor, Chairman Fuller asserted that the committee was reaffirming the Preamble of the Baptist Faith and Message, as well as the text. The Preamble states that the Baptist Faith and Message is a confession of faith, with no power to bind the conscience of any individual.

The committee did not intend to establish the paragraph on the Bible as a creed by calling on SBC entities to build their faculties and staffs around it, Fuller

said. He repeated, "It is not a creed."

The report also requested "all organized political factions" to stop their activity, and recommended that all Baptist newspapers and individuals refrain from "intemperate and inflammatory language" and the use of labels such as "liberal," "fundamentalist," "moderate-conservative," and "fundamental-conservative."

Finally, the Peace Committee recommended the SBC Resolutions Committee continue for three years its policy of not presenting divisive resolutions, asked the leaders of the SBC Pastors Conference and Forum to explore possible merger, and to extend the authority of the Peace Committee for another three years "for the purpose of observing the response of all agencies, officers, and other participants to the recommendations... in an effort to encourage compliance and foster harmonious working relationships among all segments of our Baptist family."

Moments after the committee's report was adopted and the evening session was adjourned, committee member Winfred Moore delivered a letter of resignation to Chairman Fuller.

Moore said he did not believe the committee should be continued as an "oversight" committee and that, although he voted for the report because "it was the best we could get," he could not in good conscience continue as the committee changed the nature of its work.

Wednesday, June 17

Messengers returned to the convention center for the second day of business and enjoyed a 25-minute concert by the choir and orchestra of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla. Following that, the congregation sang one stanza each of "I Am Resolved," "Standing on the Promises," and "The Old Rugged Cross" under the leadership of Steve Taylor, evangelistic music director from Greenville, S.C.

After an invocation by Stephen Rogers, minister of music at Riverside Church, Fort Meyers, Fla., and son of SBC President Adrian Rogers, messengers heard the results of balloting the previous day for the office of second vice-president.

With 11,781 ballots cast, no candidate had gained a majority, reported Registration Secretary Lee Porter. A runoff ballot was then taken between Ray Roberts, who had polled 4,669 votes (39.63 percent), and Victor Kaneubbe, who had received 3,765 votes (31.96 percent).

In quick succession then, messengers unanimously re-elected Martin Bradley as recording secretary and Lee Porter as registration secretary.

Stan Coffey, chairman of the Committee

on Order of Business, then reported to messengers on the disposition of 13 motions which had been referred to appropriate SBC entities. He also announced that another motion, dealing with the availability of information regarding handicapped accessibility at annual meetings, had been scheduled for deliberation in the Wednesday evening business session.

Much of the remainder of the morning session was spent hearing reports from various SBC agencies, institutions, and commissions.

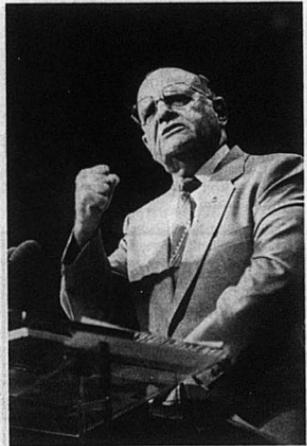
Roy Lee Honeycutt, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was greeted with sustained applause when he rose to deliver his report. Honeycutt reaffirmed his personal commitment to achieving reconciliation in the convention and challenged messengers to not just build bridges, but to become bridges of reconciliation themselves. He detailed for messengers the steps Southern Seminary is taking to give the "fundamental-conservative" viewpoint a fuller expression in the seminary community.

Messengers received reports from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell Dilday and Education Commission Executive Director Arthur Walker before listening to the third theme interpretation for the week, presented by Eddie Martin, a vocational evangelist from Lancaster, Pa.

When Lynn Clayton, chairman of the Christian Life Commission, rose to introduce recently-elected CLC Executive Director Larry Baker, Clayton praised Baker as a man who was willing to "place his ministry and future on the line" by accepting leadership of an agency which had been near the center of the denominational controversies.

Baker presented the Christian Life Commission's annual Distinguished Service Award to Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, for her leadership in Christian moral concerns. Weatherford was applauded with a standing ovation by approximately half of the audience.

Immediately following Baker's report, SBC President Adrian Rogers recognized CLC trustee Hal Lane of South Carolina,



(BP) photo / Paul Obregon

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting they must be willing to die to themselves if they are going to win the world to Christ. Parks keynoted the FMB report to convention messengers, telling them "We want to do everything but the one thing that will win the world—to die to self."

TROUBLED?

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(BP) photo by John McTyrre



Take-out restaurants did a booming business when more than 25,000 Southern Baptists descended on St. Louis for the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. A wide array of downtown establishments provided for the SBC messengers. Many of them found shade under trees outside St. Louis Centre, a four-story mall.

who asked for permission to bring a minority report from the CLC board.

After a show of ballots approved the request, Lane brought the report, signed by 12 of the commission's 31 trustees, which charged that "fundamental-conservatives" on the board were left out of the process which selected Baker as the new CLC executive. He was elected in March by a vote of 16-13. In addition, Lane complained that a requested position paper on abortion was not provided before the election, and he registered his dissatisfaction with what he claimed were Baker's positions on abortion, capital punishment, and women in ministry.

Messengers then heard reports from Landrum P. Leavell Jr., president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La., and James Smith, president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn.

Registration Secretary Porter informed

messengers they had elected Victor Kaneubbe, a Choctaw Indian and former home missionary, to the office of second vice-president. Kaneubbe received 3,788 of the 7,075 ballots cast (53 percent) to defeat incumbent Ray Roberts.

Before turning to another business session, messengers received reports from Bill Crews, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley Cal.; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.; Hollis Johnson, executive director of the Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville, Tenn.; and Darold Morgan, president of the SBC Annuity Board, Dallas, Texas.

Three items of business had been scheduled for the Wednesday morning business session. The first, a motion to ask the SBC Forum to refrain from using the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary logo on its printed program, was withdrawn by its initiator "in keeping with the Peace Committee report."

The second item of business sought to amend the 1983 action of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Pittsburgh, Penn., which scheduled the 1989 annual meeting for Las Vegas, Nev. Since the bylaws require a convention site be able to provide "appropriate" accommodations, and since activities like gambling and prostitution rendered Las Vegas hotels inappropriate for Southern Baptist messengers, the motion asked that the convention site be moved to Atlanta or some other suitable city.

After Parliamentarian Barry McCarty explained the procedural aspects of the situation, SBC Executive Committee Executive Director Harold Bennett addressed the history of the arrangement and SBC Attorney James Guenther spoke to the legal issues involved. Guenther explained that, although rescinding the decision to meet in Las Vegas was legally possible, several contracts had been signed and Southern Baptists might find themselves being sued for damages should they break the contracts.

President Adrian Rogers asked the messengers to decide for him whether or not the motion to amend should be considered, and when a show of ballots proved inclusive, messengers voted by ballot on whether or not to consider the motion to amend.

The third item of business was a motion

to place the American and Christian flags on the platform in all future sessions of the SBC annual meeting. Messengers approved the motion on a show of ballots, and Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., brought the Convention Sermon.

While the intent of the Bible is to lead men to Christ and produce in them a consistent Christian lifestyle, the Bible also speaks accurately, Vines asserted.

"Though the Bible is not a science book, when it speaks on a scientific subject, it does so accurately," he declared. "The Bible is not a history book, but when it touches on matters of history, it does so reliably."

If one cannot believe what the Bible says about history, one cannot believe what it says about eternity, Vines added. And if one does not believe what it says about creation, one cannot be sure of what it says about salvation.

"Hold on to your Bible," Vines urged the messengers. "It will see you home."

As the morning session drew to a close, Registration Secretary Lee Porter informed the messengers they had voted by a slim margin—6,882 to 6,702—not to reconsider the decision to meet in Las Vegas in 1989.

After a benediction by Ernie Eudy, director of crusades for the Jay Strack Evangelistic Association, messengers filed out of the convention hall.

Wednesday evening

After an afternoon off for sightseeing, seminary luncheons, relaxing, or visiting with old friends, messengers returned to the convention hall, although their number were greatly reduced from Tuesday's crowds. They enjoyed 30 minutes of inspirational music from the McKay Family and saxophonist Vernard Johnson.

John McKay then came to lead the congregation in a series of hymns, but he paused to invite Parliamentarian Barry McCarty, the Church of Christ minister and registered parliamentarian who now has assisted in two SBC annual meetings, to join him at the pulpit. McKay put his arm around McCarty's shoulders and called him a fellow "disciple of Christ," and they sang in unison, "All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name," accompanied by piano, organ, and orchestra.

After the congregational singing, Gerald Taylor, pastor of Trinity Church, El Dorado, brought an invocation.

Messengers quickly dispensed with three items of business, the first one dealing with the preacher and musician for the 1988 annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Joel Gregory of Fort Worth, Texas, was elected to bring the Convention Sermon. Thomas

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Hinson of West Memphis was elected Gregory's alternate, and John McKay was re-elected to lead the music.

A motion to establish an annual award recognizing an outstanding pastor of a small church was quickly approved, as was a motion to make available information about handicap accessibility to convention meeting sites.

Eight former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention were introduced to messengers. Herschel Hobbs, Wayne Dehoney, Franklin Paschall, James L. Sullivan, Jimmy Allen, Bailey Smith, James T. Draper Jr., and Charles Stanley each took a moment to address the assembly.

Reports were received from Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and Cecil Ray, national director of the Planned Growth in Giving emphasis.

In his first report to the convention, Larry Lewis, newly-elected president of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., challenged Southern Baptists to "sow this country down" with "Bible-teaching, soul-saving" churches.

Noting that only 18 percent of Southern Baptist churches are located in the 44 largest cities in which 51 percent of the U.S. population resides, Lewis told messengers one-third of the convention's churches would have to be transplanted to the cities in order for them to have their share of the existing congregations.

A better solution, however, would be to start 12,000 new churches in the metropolitan areas of the country, Lewis declared. He challenged Southern Baptists to reach for goals of 50,000 churches and missions and 1 million baptisms per year by the end of the century.

Ruffin Snow of Tulsa, Okla., delivered the evening's benediction.

Thursday, June 18

Messengers were greeted Thursday morning with a performance by the choir and orchestra of Summer Grove Church, Shreveport, La. Dick Thomassian of Huntsville, Ala., led the congregational singing, and Byung Kook Ahu, president of the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches, delivered the invocation.

At 9:06 a.m., Resolutions Committee Chairman Tom Melzoni brought that committee's 15-item report to the convention floor. He told messengers 56 resolutions had been proposed to the committee, but they had followed the policy of recent years to avoid presenting resolutions which might prove divisive.

Messengers approved a resolution on "Integrity in Stewardship" which deplored "tragic revelations of embarrassing miscon-

duct and irresponsible mishandling and soliciting of funds wherever they occur in Christian ministry" and called on Southern Baptists to support their local churches through tithes and offerings and give responsibly and sacrificially to support associational missions and the Cooperative Program. An amendment also noted that the Southern Baptist Convention has no official connection with either the PTL organization or the Moral Majority.

Another resolution encouraged the Christian Life Commission to continue to make abortion a priority on its agenda and asked the Home Mission Board to train churches for ministry in crisis pregnancy centers and residential care homes for pregnant women and children. In addition, it encouraged individuals to "minister to those who need physical, emotional, and spiritual support in the midst of a crisis pregnancy."

An additional resolution supported the Danforth Abortion-Neutral Amendment to the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which is intended to prevent "pro-life" hospitals being forced to perform abortions if they ac-

cept any form of government funds.

Still another resolution dealt with the threat of AIDS. It declared Southern Baptist opposition to "advertising and educational endeavors" which downplay infidelity, adultery, and sexual perversion and promote "safe sex." The resolution asserted that "obedience to God's laws of chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage would be a major step toward curtailing the threat of AIDS."

Among the other resolutions were those which called for help for children on the street and the homeless, challenged churches to address themselves to the problems of world hunger, and urged parental and church involvement in the sex education process.

Messengers adopted the first six resolutions on a one-by-one basis, making a few amendments as they went. When time expired for the business session, however, and no other time had been scheduled in which the remaining resolutions might be discussed, Chairman Melzoni moved the adoption of the remaining resolutions as a slate. The motion was approved.

Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., brought his report to the floor. Following the report, Lolley was questioned from the floor about press reports which alleged several Southeastern Seminary students operated a tavern near the campus.

Lolley replied that he had investigated the situation and found the students in question were merely employed by the pizza parlor, which served beer, that they did not own and operate it. He expressed his disapproval of such a situation but pointed out the students had not asked his opinion.

Southeastern's policy is that no alcohol or drugs are allowed on campus or in seminary-owned housing, Lolley asserted. In addition, the use of such substances off-campus is not endorsed either. Lolley's declaration was greeted with a burst of applause.

After a report from the American Baptist Theological Seminary Commission report, messengers received a report from Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Ferguson was questioned by one messenger as to whether or not Midwestern faculty member Temp Sparkman's beliefs violate the Baptist Faith and Message.

Ferguson responded by holding up a 66-page report prepared after a two-year trustee study of Sparkman's beliefs. He told the messengers that, after close study, trustees had agreed that Sparkman's views were controversial and subject to misunderstanding but were basically in ac-



Richard Judd, retired pastor from St. Louis, proudly displays every button or badge he has received from participation in 41 Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings since 1939. Judd, who attended the 1987 SBC meeting in his home city, has only missed three such meetings during World War II years and "four or five" due to simultaneous participation in Baptist World Alliance meetings or visits to Ridgecrest (N.C.) or Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers.

(BP) photo / Stanley Leary

(BP) photo / Tim Fields



Evangelist Billy Graham exhorted Southern Baptists to draw closer to God when he spoke to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 18 in St. Louis.

cord with the Baptist Faith and Message and the seminary's theological statement.

Reports from the Canada Planning Group and the SBC Historical Commission followed the Midwestern report. President Adrian Rogers passed to note that Bertha Smith was in the audience that day. He called "Miss Bertha," age 99, "Southern Baptists' premier missionary."

James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., emphasized to messengers the importance of freedom in Christ.

"A forced confession of faith is no confession of faith at all," Dunn declared. "God wants free believers."

"Freedom and following Christ are inextricable," he continued. "Like breathing in and out, you don't want to have to choose between them."

Dunn noted that the Baptist Joint Committee had played important roles in protecting Southern Baptist interests in Washington through its lobbying efforts on the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Because of the influence of the BJCPA, elements of the tax plan were eliminated which would have cost the Southern Baptist Annuity Board "millions" of dollars and allowed the Internal Revenue Service to "define the character and mission of the church," Dunn said.

The highlight of the morning for many

messengers was an address by world-renowned Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham, who had flown from the Northwest in a short break between crusades.

Recalling a theme raised earlier by Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, Graham asserted that the primary mission of the church is living obediently, which includes proclaiming the gospel to the whole world. Southern Baptists, he said, have led all major denominations in missions and evangelism.

Yet Southern Baptists seem to have lost their sense of urgency about world evangelization, Graham said. The solution to that apathy would be solid biblical teaching and preaching about the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

Graham explained he believed an outbreak of worldwide revival is at hand, because of the biblical teaching that the proclamation of the gospel to all the nations must precede the return of Christ. He named four elements required for revival: the recognition of God's sovereignty, confession of sin, a rediscovery of the Word of God, and a recovery of evangelistic fervor.

"Our greatest need in the Southern Baptist Convention is spiritual revival within our churches and schools," Graham declared. "There is not a problem in this convention or any seminary that a great Holy Ghost revival wouldn't cure."

Messengers jumped to their feet in a rousing ovation for Graham, and John McKay called upon them to join hands and sing the week's theme song, "To Know Him... To Make Him Known."

Stephen Davis, pastor of First Church, Russellville, pronounced the benediction.

Thursday afternoon

Messengers straggled back to the hall for the final session of the annual meeting. They listened to inspirational music performed by Babbie Mason of Atlanta, Ga., and Jim Murray of Gallatin, Tenn., before being led in congregational singing by John McKay.

Reports from the Committee on the Denominational Calendar and the Denominational Press were received quickly, and the messengers turned their attention to the report of the Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas.

RTVC Chairman Jewel Morris of Hot Springs reminded the assembly of the strategic roles radio and television play in the world today. "We live in a day when the lost will no longer come to us," Morris asserted. "Unless we go to them, they will never hear" the good news of Jesus.

RTVC President Jimmy Allen reported to messengers that almost half of the radio stations in the United States carry some kind

of commission programming. He also explained that the commission had decided to insert two-minute evangelistic segments in each of the 30-minute programs distributed by the commission which are family entertainment but not Bible-oriented.

Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, McLean, Va., shared reports of revival among Baptists around the world. He specifically cited one Korean congregation he had visited which was experiencing such revival that, on one Wednesday evening during his visit, they baptized 200 converts at one time.

Claas asserted that, although Baptists worldwide had reported 1 million baptisms in 1986, the need was great to evangelize more fervently. He noted that many of the world's religions—Hindus and Muslims in particular—are becoming increasingly activist and winning many converts.

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John D. Erickson, reporting for the American Bible Society, told messengers that his organization had set an all-time record of 601 million Bibles and Scripture portions distributed in 1986.

A.R. Fagan, president of the SBC Stewardship Commission, chided messengers that growth in missions giving is not keeping pace with growing church receipts. Although Bold Mission Thrust goals in new church starts and new seminary student enrollments are being reached, progress in missions giving is falling far short of the goals. He urged churches and individuals to "respond to the call of God called Bold Mission Thrust" and implement Planned Growth in Giving.

When the appointed time arrived for the final business session of the convention, several "housekeeping" items were disposed. Registration Secretary Lee Porter announced that final registration had reached 25,607. Order of Business Committee Chairman Stan Coffey noted the referral of eight final motions.

Messengers endured a long pause while platform leaders conferred on the side. President Rogers, explaining that they were trying to work out a final item of business, asked John McKay to lead the congregation

in several hymns.

After the congregation sang stanzas from "There's Something About That Name," "His Name Is Wonderful," "He Is Lord," and "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," Rogers returned to the podium.

Explaining that the convention apparently had no further business to conduct, Rogers took a moment to comment on remarks made earlier in the week during a meeting of Southern Baptist evangelists.

Howard Lingenfelter, newly-elected president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, reportedly had told his fellow evangelists they should "lick the boots of men like Adrian Rogers and Bailey Smith for helping swing the SBC back to a conservative mood." Asked Lingenfelter: "Who would have thought 10 years ago that evangelists would be on the SBC program? It is truly a miracle of God."

Rogers told the messengers remaining in the hall, "I don't want anyone to lick my boots. I would rather wash your feet."

With that comment, the 130th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. with a benediction by Joe McKinney of Tulsa, Okla.

Peace in the SBC: Let's Work At It!

(continued from p. 3)

for the emphasis women have brought to missions and evangelism in our denomination.

One thing which deserves our commendation is the greatly improved registration arrangements. Lee Porter, registration secretary, has worked for several years to speed up the process. This year's process was the best ever. Few, if any, messengers waited more than a few minutes to complete the process of registration.

This year's convention featured good preaching. Those deserving special mention include president Adrian Rogers, Billy Graham, and the full-time evangelists presenting these interpretations.

Among the most important questions to come from this year's convention is, "What must be done to reinstate peace in our convention?" We believe that almost everyone, regardless of which side he or she is on, is tired of the conflict in our convention. This, in itself, may assist in finding peace.

We must take steps to stop accusations. We have approximately 550 seminary teachers. Often the impression is left that a large percentage of these are not teaching in accord with the Baptist Faith and Message. This is untrue. We believe there may be five or six who have strayed from this document. If this is true they should be dealt with in a proper but Christian manner.

The vast majority of our seminary and agency people are committed, doctrinally-sound, God-loving Christians. Where there are problems, deal with them. If an individual has been falsely accused, he or she should receive a public apology.

Second, trustees must serve as free agents under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Independent caucuses must stop. If trustees are manipulated by a few, conflict will continue in our convention.

Third, we need to see that there is far more that unites us than divides us. When we study the Bible with an open heart, we will find agreement on most major doctrines. These things that unite us must be emphasized.

Finally, we must work at reconciliation. A denomination is like a marriage. If it is to be all that God wants it to be, it requires work. Southern Baptists are the greatest mission and evangelism force in the world today. Let's work at making our denomination all that God wants it to be, so that men and women, boys and girls, can come to know the saving grace of Christ.

President Wayland Baptist University

The Board of Trustees invites nominations and applications for the position of President of Wayland Baptist University to begin service in the fall of 1987 or as early as possible.

The University: Wayland Baptist University is a multipurpose, multi-level, multi-location institution affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. It is located in Plainview, Texas, a city of 25,000 between Amarillo and Lubbock on the high plains of West Texas. Approximately half its 1,900 students are enrolled on the main campus, with the others attending off-campus centers in Texas, Hawaii and Alaska.

Responsibilities: The President is the chief executive officer of the University and directs the institution in accordance with the policies established by its 39-member Board of Trustees and denomination.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will possess: an earned doctorate from an accredited institution; a successful record of fund raising from a variety of sources; interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with constituent groups; a record of academic and scholarly achievement; proven administrative experience and sound fiscal management; and a commitment to the philosophy, purpose, and nature of the University. Candidates must be Southern Baptist in order to be considered.

Nominations and applications must include a detailed resume of personal, educational, professional and Southern Baptist background and experience; complete official transcripts; and the names of five references. Candidates must submit a letter of application outlining reasons for applying, and a one page statement of Christian faith.

Nominations and applications will be accepted through July 15th, or until the position is filled. Information should be addressed to:

Presidential Search Committee
Wayland Baptist University #437
Plainview, Texas 79072-6998

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Accepted Anyway

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott

Basic passage: Romans 3:21-4:25

Focal passage: Romans 3:21-30; 4:1-8

Central truth: We are saved by grace through faith in the blood of Christ Jesus.

The righteousness of God is given freely to the one who believes that Jesus' blood is the propitiation for sins. Propitiation is a difficult word. It is one of the words that God uses to help us understand how the blood of Jesus saves us.

In the Old Testament the place where God touched humanity and dealt with his sin was in the Holy of Holies. In that special place was the Ark of the Covenant containing the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod that budded, and a bowl of manna that never decayed. Each one of these items pointed to Jesus, who is the Word of God, the Bread of Life, and our glorious High Priest.

The Ark of the Covenant was covered by the mercy seat. This is where the blood from the goat that was sacrificed on the Day of Atonement was placed. The word propitiation is the same word as mercy seat. When God looked upon this blood sprinkled on the mercy seat, his righteous anger was stayed and he looked with kindness on the people. This was only a picture—a symbol—of what Christ would do on the cross. His blood has become the real atonement, the real covering, for our sins. Now when God looks at the sinner through the blood of Jesus, he sees the righteousness of God in him.

Abraham is a perfect illustration of how a person is justified (saved) by faith alone. In Genesis 15 the Bible states that Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

This happened before Abraham was circumcised. God gave Abraham instructions concerning circumcision at least 13 years after he was saved. Circumcision was a sign that people are saved by faith alone. Romans 4:11 states that Abraham received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Abraham was saved before the law was given; therefore, the law did not save him. The law would not come for over 400 years, and when it did come, it would not save anybody. God did not give the law to save sinners. He gave it to show them that they were sinners.

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Life and Work

Committed to Missions

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 15:36-17:15

Focal passage: Acts 16:6-15; 30-34

Central truth: God calls believers to preach the gospel to all people of the world.

"Sit down," William Carey was told, "When God is ready to convert the heathen he will do it without our help." These words were spoken by a Baptist preacher in 1792 after Carey had shared his concern for world missions at an associational meeting. Later Carey was permitted to preach but most of those who heard him were strongly opposed to his convictions. He chose for his text Isaiah 54:2-3 and the points of his sermon were: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." This sermon had such an impact on those who heard it that the flame for foreign missions was rekindled.

We can rekindle the flame for world missions as we study the scriptures and apply the truths of the gospel to our lives. How can this be done?

We can listen for the call of missions. Paul was on his second missionary journey. He had plans to evangelize parts of Asia but the Holy Spirit prevented him (Ac. 16:6-7). God's "no" to Paul was his way of leading Paul west to Philippi and other cities in that region. At Troas God spoke to Paul through a vision. A man from Macedonia stood and pleaded for Paul to come over and help them. God never closes a door of service unless he has another place for his servant.

We can make a commitment to meet world mission needs. Paul made a commitment to answer the appeal of the lost in Macedonia. He knew what it was to be lost without Christ. He knew God had called him to serve as a minister of the gospel. He knew what it was to look into the faces of the masses of people who were lost.

The church at Antioch made a commitment to meet world mission needs. If Paul could commit his life to world missions, they would surely support their missionary.

We can expect converts to be won. Paul and Silas arrived in Philippi, a leading city in Macedonia. The first convert was Lydia, a Jewish proselyte, and a respected business woman. Lydia and other members of her household were searching for salvation. Paul witnessed to her and her household and they were saved.

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Bible Book

Praise The Lord

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Psalms 145; 150

Focal passage: Psalms 145:3-4, 7-13, 15-20; 150:1-6

Central truth: The psalmist's call to praise God reminds us that true worship acknowledges God's greatness and blessings.

The phrase "Praise the Lord!" is very biblical. The psalms under study for this lesson presents a series of praises to the Lord. Psalm 150 represents the ultimate in praise.

The psalmist begins by praising God for his mighty acts (150:4). These acts could have been acts of creation. They could have been acts of love toward his people. They could have included the things God did in delivering his people from bondage. They certainly included the giving of the law.

When a person begins to reflect on the goodness of God, he will include quickly that God has done great and mighty things. Some of these acts are performed for the individual. Some bless a family, a church, a town, and even a nation.

In Psalm 145:7-9, we find praise of God's mercy. Some of the words used to describe God's mercy include "goodness," "kindness," "loving," "constant love," "good to everyone," and "compassion" (all from TEV).

Psalm 145:10-13 describe God's glory. He said that all creatures will praise God (v. 10). Some of the words used to describe God's glory are "regal power," "might," "mighty deeds," "glorious majesty," "eternal," and "king forever." When a person thinks of God in these terms, the praises will come naturally.

In verses 15-20, the psalmist praises God for his support and help. He offers praise for food (v. 15), for nearness in prayer (v. 18), for needs supplied (v. 19), and for protection (v. 20).

The Book of Psalms concluded with a praise psalm. All six verses of Psalm 150 include "Praise the Lord." The psalmist calls for us to praise the Lord for his strength, the things he has done, and his greatness.

The psalmist ends by admonishing every living creature to praise the Lord. When you read the Psalms, you will be ready to shout it from the highest vantage point: "Praise the Lord!"

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WORLD

Christian Families Terrorized in India

MALLIKAPORI, India (BP)—For more than a year religious radicals in the Khond Hills district of eastern India have terrorized Christian families, burned churches and imprisoned pastors.

More than 3,000 delegates representing 120 Baptist churches of the isolated region who gathered for their annual convention shared testimonies of how the persecution had strengthened their faith. And they vowed to continue boldly proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus.

One pastor told how his members watched their church burning. "It's too bad your church has been destroyed," a voice in an angry mob said with sarcasm. A new member replied, "You can burn our place of worship, but you cannot destroy our church, because it's in our hearts."

Meeting under a large brush arbor in Mallikapori, the delegates pledged to work together in providing materials and labor needed to rebuild four torched churches.

Southern Baptist representatives of National Indian Ministries, which coordinates the work of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in India, attended the convention. Khond Hills delegates voted to ask the board to donate \$2,000 for roofing materials. The money was released in May.

Three Baptist leaders traveling to assess damage to one burned church were attacked by a mob of 40 people. The Baptists, including Sushant Naik, associational missionary, and Paul Pradhan, general secretary for the association, escaped serious injury. Their motorcycle, however, was badly damaged.

Many new believers at the convention attributed their conversions to the way Christians handled the persecutions. They said that as they watched Christians refuse to resist persecution or react with vengeance they were embarrassed by the actions of their fellow Hindus. They saw Christians had discovered a better way of life.

Some Christian families have had their houses torn down and their crops ruined. Some have been chased from the villages where they lived.

In one instance after a Christian family had been arrested, the Hindu priest who had brought charges against them died from a heart attack. A short time later the police inspector handling the case also died. The family was released, and persecution in the community ceased. Several new believers were baptized. Recent news reports indicate that about 90 activists belonging to organizations responsible for the persecution have been arrested by government authorities.

Baptists estimate 10 to 20 percent of the

isolated tribal people in these eastern interior mountains have become Christians. Most of them are identified with the 200,000-strong Kuit tribe and come from an animistic background that until the 1930s included child sacrifice. The churches of the Khond Hills Baptist Union resulted from work by British missionaries.

Brazilian Baptists In Money Crunch

The World Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, which has more than 100 missionaries serving in 16 countries, will face a serious financial crunch this year due to a short-fall in the special offering for world missions. The board pays its missionaries in U.S. dollars, and must purchase those dollars on the world market. A severe inflation rate, which is reaching up to 20 percent per month at this time, results in devaluation of the local currency.

The offering goal was \$1.4 million. Because of the devaluation over the past few months, the current worth of that money is now \$735,000. The offering represents approximately 91 percent of the annual budget of the World Mission Board. Brazilian Baptists, and their foreign mission effort, are vital to the task of winning the world to faith in Jesus Christ.

German Church Seeks Pastor

Trinity Baptist Church in Metterich, West Germany, is in the process of seeking a new pastor. The church, which is located between Bitburg and Spangdahlem, primarily consists of U.S. military personnel and their families from the air bases in those two cities. The average Sunday morning attendance is 150. The church is associated with the European Baptist Convention.

For more information, contact Jonathan N. Pietschman, PSC Box 5482, APO New York, 09132-5378.

Missionary Notes

Dale and Nancy Allison, missionaries to Liberia, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 1416, Monrovia, Liberia). He is a native of Siloam Springs. The former Nancy Ellett, she considers Dallas, Texas, her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986.

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