

Following are some press releases concerning the death of my favorite preacher & pastor Adrian Rogers. Years ago, while in college in Tennessee, I was introduced to this man of God. He captured my attention with his zeal, love for the Lord & extensive Bible knowledge – not to mention his preaching ability one can only describe as “Heaven touched”. There has never been a better preacher or teacher of God's Word. He certainly has earned the name “Prince of Preachers”. As a young preacher I was shocked at the number of “preacher boys” who were not sincere, not committed & not called to the ministry. I saw & heard a lifetime of hypocrisy around these so called “preachers”. I was also shocked at the number of men who had no idea what they believed. They had little or no Bible knowledge & little or no discernment. When I began to listen & follow Adrian Rogers, I KNEW that there was at least one man who believed what he preached & did his best to live it. He loved His church almost as much as he loved His Lord. He was the number one reason I came back to the Southern Baptist Convention. Thank God for raising up such a man to bring the largest Evangelical denomination back from the brink of heresy to a Biblical foundation as solid as the rock on which it was founded. He was the best “craftsman” of the sermon I had ever heard. It all flowed from his heart – a heart touched by Heaven itself. The church has lost possibly the greatest pastor & preacher it has ever known.

Tim Smith, Pastor – New Life Southern Baptist Church

## **Adrian Rogers, longtime Bellevue pastor and leader in Conservative Resurgence, dies**

Nov 15, 2005  
By Michael Foust  
Baptist Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Adrian Rogers, the longtime pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis and one of the fathers of the grassroots movement that brought the Southern Baptist Convention back to its biblical, historical roots, died Nov. 15. He was 74.

He died following a battle with cancer and double pneumonia.

Rogers came to Bellevue Baptist in 1972 and retired this year, and in his 35 years there helped build the church from a membership of 9,000 to more than 29,000. His face and voice were known to millions of believers worldwide thanks to his Love Worth Finding television and radio ministry, which is carried in more than 150 countries.

But Rogers may be best remembered for his leadership in what is commonly called the Conservative Resurgence, the movement in which Southern Baptists elected a series of conservative leaders in response to evidence of theological liberalism within the denomination's seminaries and entities.

Rogers' election as president at the SBC annual meeting in 1979 marked the official beginning of the resurgence and was the first of many hotly contested elections between conservatives and moderates. Rogers, and the other conservative presidents who followed, promised to use their nominating powers to name only those who believed in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible. Over the course of the next two decades, Southern Baptist seminaries and entities saw dramatic change, as conservative leaders and professors took the place of moderates who had held those positions for years.

Rogers, who also was elected president in 1986 and 1987, served as chairman of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee that reviewed and revised Southern Baptists' confession of faith.

The author of 18 books, Rogers is survived by his wife, Joyce Rogers, as well as four children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"The flags of Christianity in general, and of Southern Baptists in particular, should be at half mast upon this occasion because few and very, very few like Dr. Adrian P. Rogers -- friend, pastor, warrior, statesman, soul winner and inspiration -- seldom arise in one generation," SBC President Bobby Welch told Baptist Press.

Rogers, in an October interview with the Florida Baptist Witness newspaper, humbly acknowledged the significance of his role in the Conservative Resurgence.

"I look back on my life and there are a lot of things that have happened. I have written books, pastored churches, preached on radio and television around the world. But I think the part that God allowed me to have in the turning of the SBC may have the longest-lasting effect and be the most significant," Rogers said. "[The conservative resurgence] is part of church history. We think of the ancient councils of the church in decisions and so forth, but this thing is not small; it is big."

While Rogers was the first in a string of conservatives elected over moderate candidates, Morris H. Chapman, the current president of the SBC Executive Committee, was the last. Chapman's election in 1990 marked the end of moderates' attempts to win the presidency. The next year, Chapman ran unopposed.

"His tenacious yet humble commitment to the absolute authority and inerrancy of God's Word stood in stark contrast to the ominous theological drift that threatened the Convention," Chapman wrote in a first-person Baptist Press column. "... When selected to take the helm of the SBC, he led us in making critical course corrections that helped return the convention to its original course. Today, as a result, the mission boards, seminaries and entities of the SBC have all been returned to their historic theological foundations."

Chapman said Rogers was a mentor and a "model of the Christian life."

"When I needed counsel, I often sought his advice," Chapman wrote. "Not only was I blessed by listening to his powerful sermons, I looked at his life and saw no greed, no grudges, no jealousies and no egotism."

At the SBC annual meeting this year, Rogers was honored with a resolution passed by the SBC Executive Committee that noted many have called Rogers the "Prince of Preachers" and the "preeminent pulpiter" among Southern Baptists.

"In his first term as president, he took the initial steps that eventually led to a conservative resurgence within the Southern Baptist Convention, giving root to the initiative to return Southern Baptist entities to their historic conservative stance regarding God's Word, and setting in motion the strategy that would dramatically change the course of history for the Southern Baptist Convention," the resolution noted.

"The Lord has blessed his evangelistic efforts, which have led thousands to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior," the Executive Committee resolution also stated in a list of highlights of Rogers' ministry.

Rogers preached at the SBC Pastors' Conference in Nashville, Tenn., June 20, appearing energetic and showing no signs of cancer. Messengers gave him a standing ovation.

"There has never been a greater day to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ than today," Rogers said then. "Somehow, we get the idea that poor God, He's not able to do what He used to do.

"I want to tell you, my friend, God is still God. He is not old. He is not sick. And He is not tired. The problem is not with God.... Don't you insult God by saying that [revival] can't happen."

Although Rogers' election in 1979 was a turning point in the conservative movement, it nearly didn't take place. As recounted in Paul Pressler's book "A Hill On Which to Die," Rogers, on the night before the presidential vote, told those around him that he was not going to allow his name to be placed in nomination, believing it was not God's will. But then Bertha Smith, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to China and a well-respected prayer warrior, told Rogers she felt God was telling her he should allow himself to be nominated. Joyce Rogers, his wife, told him something similar. Rogers and his wife, along with Jerry Vines and Paige Patterson, subsequently gathered in Rogers' hotel room to pray about the situation.

"Finally, Adrian knew that he had God's direction that he should run for president of the convention," Pressler, another leader in the resurgence, wrote.

Conservatives, who had driven to Houston in droves that year, elected Rogers on the first ballot over five other candidates with 51 percent of the vote. The second closest candidate received 23 percent.

"He was always a reluctant candidate," Pressler told BP. "He loved preaching more than leading the convention, which spoke to his humility."

Rogers chose not to be a candidate again for president in 1980, saying he wanted to spend more time with his church and family. Conservatives, though, kept winning the presidency. In 1986, with 40,000 messengers registered in Atlanta, Rogers again allowed his name to be placed in nomination and was elected with 54 percent of the vote. In 1987, in St. Louis, messengers re-elected Rogers with 60 percent of the vote. Throughout his service, Rogers promised only to nominate people who affirmed Scripture's infallibility and inerrancy.

"He was the center of everything that the conservative movement did," Pressler told BP. "We looked to him for leadership and we looked to him for inspiration. The conservative movement would never have succeeded without Adrian Rogers. Southern Baptists owe him a great debt of gratitude."

Even after his service as president, Rogers remained a frequent and popular speaker at the SBC Pastor's Conferences, which are held immediately prior to the annual meetings.

Rogers' greatest contribution to Southern Baptist life in his latter years may have come as chairman

of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee. In one its most controversial moves, the committee chose to remove language from the 1963 BF&M that stated, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ." Although the phrase was placed in the 1963 BF&M as an affirmation of the truthfulness of all Scripture, it eventually came to be used by some moderates as a way to pit Jesus' words in the Gospels against the rest of Scripture.

"Jesus Christ cannot be divided from the biblical revelation that is testimony to Him," Rogers told messengers in Orlando in 2000. "We must not claim a knowledge of Christ that is independent of Scripture or in any way in opposition to Scripture."

Rogers said the BF&M affirmed the exclusivity of the Gospel.

"Given the persuasive influence of postmodern culture ... we are called to proclaim Jesus Christ as the only Savior, and salvation in His name alone," he said. "Baptists thus reject inclusivism and pluralism in salvation, for these compromise the Gospel itself."

Born in West Palm Beach in 1931, Rogers graduated from Stetson University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Fort Pierce, Fla., and Merritt Island (Fla.) Baptist Church before moving to Tennessee in 1972 to serve as pastor of Bellevue Baptist, which had already been home to two well-known preachers in R.G. Lee and Ramsey Pollard. Both had served as SBC president.

Rogers' body will lie in state at Bellevue Baptist from 5-8 p.m. Central Wednesday and from 1-6 p.m. Thursday. Visitation with the family will be held from 4-6 p.m. Thursday at the church. The funeral will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at Bellevue Baptist.

The family is asking that memorials be sent to the Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute, c/o Love Worth Finding, 2941 Kate Bond Road, Memphis, TN 38133.

--30--

Sources: "A Hill On Which to Die," Paul Pressler; "The Sacred Trust: Sketches of the Southern Baptist Convention Presidents," Emir & Ergun Caner; "A Messenger's Memoirs," Robert E. Naylor.

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)**--Adrian Rogers' death Nov. 15 prompted Southern Baptist and evangelical leaders nationwide to release statements memorializing the longtime Bellevue Baptist Church pastor and former SBC president. Among them:

-- Bobby Welch, president, Southern Baptist Convention:

"The flags of Christianity in general, and of Southern Baptists in particular, should be at half mast upon this occasion because few and very, very few like Dr. Adrian P. Rogers — friend, pastor, warrior, statesman, soul winner and inspiration -- seldom arise in one generation."

-- Morris H. Chapman, president, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee:

"Adrian Rogers was a model preacher, pastor, evangelist, husband and father. He was an inspiration to

untold millions, and the full impact of his life and ministry likely will not be comprehended or calculated this side of eternity. ... When I needed counsel, I often sought his advice. Not only was I blessed by listening to his powerful sermons, I looked at his life and saw no greed, no grudges, no jealousies and no egotism. However, I did see Jesus. Adrian was my mentor in the ministry, and became for me a model of the Christian life -- a model for whom I had enormous love and respect."

-- James T. Draper, president, LifeWay Christian Resources:

"He was a friend who was always loving, always commanded respect, always calling us to do what is right, never wavering in his commitment to God and to His Word, leading us to stand firm in matters that must not be compromised and by his character and extraordinary giftedness, compelling us to follow his leadership. He was a giant in every way."

-- Richard Land, president, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission:

"Dr. Adrian Rogers was one of the giants of the faith of any era of the Christian church. If there were a Mount Rushmore for Southern Baptists, Dr. Rogers would certainly be on it. Adrian Rogers was perhaps the last half century's premier example of an expository preacher who used his gifts to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ and His victory for humanity on the cross. While we mourn our loss, we rejoice that Dr. Rogers is now with his Savior in glory. Having already heard from Jesus, 'Well done, thy good and faithful servant,' he is now in a place where there is no more pain, no more tears, just Jesus to enjoy for eternity."

-- Jerry Rankin, president, International Mission Board:

"Adrian Rogers was a great man of integrity who provided outstanding leadership to our convention. In addition, for us the passing of Adrian is not just the death of a great Baptist statesman, but the passing of a member of the family. In a real sense, he is one of ours. Adrian has given one of his children to the mission field. His son, David, serves with us in Western Europe."

-- Robert E. Reccord, president, North American Mission Board:

"Adrian was a friend and mentor to me and so many others who greatly admired his stewardship of the many gifts with which God blessed him. Our denomination owes him a deep debt of gratitude for the courageous leadership he gave during the critical years that placed us back on such a firm foundation. The ministry at Bellevue and the thousands of lives changed through it will live on as an enduring testimony to his legacy and an example of how God can work so mightily through a humble and committed servant. No one can fill his shoes, but I pray we will all aspire to walk in the faith and obedience to God he so remarkably demonstrated."

-- O.S. Hawkins, president, GuideStone Financial Resources:

"When I heard early this morning of Adrian's death my mind raced to 1 Samuel 9:6: 'Behold, there is in this city a man of God who is an honorable man. ... He can show us the way we should go.' Adrian Rogers was our 'man of God' and he showed us 'the way' in every aspect of his life. Fittingly, he has now led the way for us again and today he has looked upon the face of Christ in glory! Our prayers and love are with Joyce and the family."

-- Paul Pressler, retired judge and leader in Conservative Resurgence:

"The passing of Adrian Rogers stills the voice of one of the greatest preachers of the Gospel who ever lived. He was a genuine man who loved people, who loved the Lord and who served everyone. It is a terrible loss for the Kingdom and a wonderful gain for heaven."

-- Daniel Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary:

"Southern Baptists have lost perhaps their greatest leader and statesman in the death of Adrian Rogers. He was one of those rare individuals who truly was bigger than life. Few men have impacted so many as did this spiritual giant. He was the face and voice of the Conservative Resurgence and one of the greatest preachers God's people have ever had the joy to hear. Dr. Rogers exemplified what it meant to be a man of God. He modeled for all of us how to preach the Word, pastor a Church, love your wife and lead your family. He will be sorely missed, and future Pastors' Conferences will simply not be the same without his commanding presence and booming voice. He was my hero and I will miss him."

-- R. Albert Mohler Jr., president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary:

"Dr. Rogers was a lion in our midst -- the man God used to serve as leader and voice for a great resurgence of biblical Christianity. He was a man of tremendous gifts, whose booming voice was matched by a gift for words and a powerful delivery. He dominated the pulpit as few men ever have, preaching the Word and calling sinners to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a modern-day 'Prince of Preachers' whose personal example served to encourage thousands of others to greater faithfulness in preaching the Word of God."

-- Paige Patterson, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary:

"No more than 'half a hallelujah' for Adrian Rogers. He is home with Jesus with a full hallelujah! While we rejoice for him, he leaves a vacancy in my heart more massive than the sweep of the Grand Canyon. So many contributed massively and heroically, but in my estimation Adrian was the one human, essential prophet in returning the SBC to the faith of its fathers. Whether the discussion is compassion, mental alacrity, sense of humor, prowess in the pulpit, passion for Jesus and for lost sinners, or just faithful encouragement of the brethren, Adrian Rogers brought it all to Southern Baptists. If we Baptists had a Hall of Fame, Dr. Rogers would be enshrined tomorrow."

-- R. Philip Roberts, president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary:

"Dr. Rogers will remain forever in our thoughts and memories. His leadership in helping return the Southern Baptist Convention back to a Christ-honoring doctrinal position that is firmly grounded in the trustworthy Bible has endeared him in our hearts. Although we are sad by his passing, we rejoice knowing that one day all of us who knew Dr. Rogers, and who know the Savior whom he served, the Lord Jesus Christ, will find ourselves together again -- lost in wonder, love and praise at the throne of our Lord."

-- James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family:

"There is no one in America whom I respected more than Dr. Rogers. He has been a faithful friend to me and to the ministry of Focus on the Family for many years, serving as a voice of wisdom,

encouragement and admonition on our Board of Directors. He was also a staunch ally in the battle to defend biblical values in our culture.

"Most importantly, Dr. Rogers was responsible for impacting countless people through the faithful preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That was the defining passion of his life, from the day I first met him until the very end. For that reason, our sorrow at his passing is mixed with joy and thankfulness. We know that he is now free from the shackles of this earthly existence, and that he has entered into the very presence of the God he loved so deeply and served so diligently."

-- Beverly LaHaye, founder and chairman of Concerned Women for America:

"Adrian Rogers was a true spiritual giant. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife, Joyce, and his four children and nine grandchildren. Adrian's life and ministry were a blessing to many. We take comfort in the assurance that he is now rejoicing in Heaven with his personal Lord and Savior."

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)**--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted a resolution of appreciation for Adrian Rogers for presentation during the SBC's June 21-22 annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Rogers, who died Nov. 15, was honored upon his retirement earlier in the year as pastor of the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn.

The text of the resolution follows:

WHEREAS, Adrian P. Rogers retired March 6, 2005, after thirty-two years as senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, He is the only person in modern history to be elected as president of the Southern Baptist Convention for an extraordinary three terms; and

WHEREAS, In his first term as president, he took the initial steps that eventually led to a conservative resurgence within the Southern Baptist Convention, giving root to the initiative to return Southern Baptist entities to their historic conservative stance regarding God's Word, and setting in motion the strategy that would dramatically change the course of history for the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, He served as a worthy model for future presidents, laying a solid foundation upon which successive presidents would build; and

WHEREAS, As a result of his sacrificial service and efforts, and those of the presidents who followed, Southern Baptist seminaries and entities have been restored to their historic theological foundations, reflecting the heart and convictions of the overwhelming majority of Southern Baptists across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Twenty years after his first election, Adrian P. Rogers was appointed as chairman of the

Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee, which recommended necessary updates and revisions to clarify the stance of Southern Baptists amidst aberrant theological and societal trends; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Orlando, Florida, overwhelmingly approved this historic confession of faith reflecting Southern Baptists' unfaltering commitment to, and support of, the Bible as "a perfect treasure of divine instruction ... without any mixture of error," and that "all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy;" and

WHEREAS, As a further result of the leadership of the Committee, Southern Baptists were able to thwart attempts to justify unorthodox beliefs and heretical teachings based upon distorted interpretations of certain clauses in earlier versions of the Baptist Faith and Message; and

WHEREAS, He further served Southern Baptists as president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference; and

WHEREAS, Adrian P. Rogers has been widely recognized as the preeminent pulpiteer among Southern Baptists, deemed by many as the "Prince of Preachers," and serving as an inspiration to preachers for three generations because of his faithful and engaging exposition of God's Word; and

WHEREAS, He served as pastor of three churches in Florida and Tennessee over the span of forty-six years, distinguishing himself as a faithful, able, and loving pastor, and endearing himself to those congregations as a compassionate shepherd; and

WHEREAS, During his ministry as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, the church grew dramatically from nine thousand members to more than twenty-nine thousand members upon his retirement; and

WHEREAS, He founded and serves as president of Love Worth Finding Ministries, a nationally syndicated television and radio ministry, broadcast on more than twenty thousand television media outlets, on 460 radio stations across America, and in more than seventy countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, His broadcast ministries have been honored by the National Religious Broadcasters with the awards of Radio Program of the Year and the Television Program of the Year, and by his induction into its prestigious Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, His passion for proclaiming the good news of the gospel has been at the forefront of his pastoral, broadcast, and international crusade ministries; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed his evangelistic efforts, which have led thousands to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the trustee board of the Focus on the Family organization; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from two distinguished Baptist educational institutions: Stetson University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, He has written numerous books and booklets, and has produced scores of cassette albums on various spiritual subjects; and

WHEREAS, He and his wife, Joyce, established a Christian home in which they raised four children: Steve, Gayle, David, and Janice; and

WHEREAS, His contributions to Southern Baptist life have been extraordinary, extensive, distinguished, and remarkable, dramatically shaping the course of the Southern Baptist Convention to the honor and glory of God; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 20, 2005, and the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 21-22, 2005, express sincere, deepest, and profound gratitude to God for the life and exceptional ministry of Adrian P. Rogers; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention express best wishes to Adrian and Joyce Rogers for the years ahead, with prayers for the Lord's richest blessings.

## Southern Baptist Leader Adrian Rogers Dies

By WOODY BAIRD

The Associated Press

Tuesday, November 15, 2005; 7:34 PM

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -- Adrian Rogers, a three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention who helped religious conservatives take control of the 16 million-member denomination, died Tuesday at age 74.

Rogers was hospitalized this month after developing pneumonia during cancer treatment, according to an announcement of his death on his ministry's Web site.

"A mighty oak has fallen in God's forest," said fellow Baptist leader Jerry Falwell.

Rogers was first elected president of the SBC in 1979 at the beginning of a long and sometimes bitter power struggle between religiously conservative pastors and their more moderate counterparts. He also was president in 1986 and 1987.

"He began the theological and spiritual renaissance that brought the largest Protestant denomination back to its original roots and commitment to the Bible," Falwell said from Lynchburg, Va., where he directs Jerry Falwell Ministries.

Rogers was part of an "inerrancy movement," which championed the belief that the Bible is free from error and literally accurate in



The Rev. Adrian Rogers speaks during the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference in this Monday, June 20, 2005 file photo, in Nashville, Tenn. Rogers, a three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention and leader of a conservative takeover of the faith, died early Wednesday in Memphis. He was 74. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey, FILE) (Mark Humphrey - AP)

all ways.

The conservative movement Rogers helped lead also pushed the denomination to stronger political opposition to abortion, homosexuality and the ordination of female pastors, said Bob Allen, a writer and commentator for the Baptist Center for Ethics, an independent Baptist organization headquartered in Nashville.

"The Southern Baptist Convention today would be part of the religious right and 20 years ago it would have been more mainstream," Allen said. "I think it would also be fair to say the conservatives have developed pretty strong ties to the Republican Party."

In 1992, members of the SBC who called themselves moderates broke away and formed the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

While Rogers may have been less well-known outside the SBC than some other Baptist leaders, "no one has been more influential inside the Southern Baptist Convention," Allen said.

He was pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church for 32 years, and under his direction, the church's membership grew from 9,000 to more than 28,000. He stepped down as Bellevue's pastor in March.

In 1987, Rogers founded a ministry called Love Worth Finding that produced broadcasts for radio stations and cable TV outlets around the country and abroad. In 2003 he was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters' Hall of Fame.

Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, described Rogers as "one of the giants of the faith."

"Adrian Rogers was perhaps the last half-century's premier example of an expository preacher who used his gifts to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ and his victory for humanity on the cross," Land said.

Rogers is survived by his wife, Joyce, four children and one grandchild.