

# WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

## Woman's Committee honors Carter with Distinguished Christian Woman award

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter received the first Distinguished Christian Woman Award and encouraged churchwomen to overcome discrimination against them during a women's conference at the Seminary.

Sponsored by the seminary's Woman's Committee, the two-day conference explored "The Changing Roles of Women in Church and Society." More than 650 persons at an Awards Banquet looked on as Woman's Committee president Patty Cox presented the award to Carter, whose activities in both church and public service helped to inspire the Distinguished Christian Woman Award.

Carter expressed concern about the continuing debate in Southern Baptist life over the role of women.

"With the time-proven ability of women to share equally all loads and responsibilities with men, it seems we should move beyond resolutions and endless talking, and simply encourage all Americans, male and female, to develop their talents to the fullest, to become leaders based on merit, not on

sex," she declared.

Recalling her Christian upbringing, the former First Lady explained that, at an early age, she "discovered God made me on purpose and for special purposes. My faith, rather than limiting me, has freed me. I can do anything God calls me to do, if I work at it."

Carter urged women to seek ways to open their churches to ministry by all Christians, regardless of gender.

"As Christian women actively involved in our church," she said, "we are responsible for helping the church overcome any forms of discrimination that keep all people from becoming the very best that we can."

In a plea for unity, Carter asked Southern Baptist women to "help our brother and sister Christians discover the greatest truth of all: we are one."

In addition to the Distinguished Christian Woman Award, the Woman's Committee also presented its Kentucky Baptist Woman of the Year Award to Anne Parrish Markham. Former professor and dean of the faculty at Kentucky's Bethel Women's College



PRESSING ON — Rosalynn Carter answers questions at a press conference following a banquet honoring her. The banquet was a highlight of the two-day conference on "Changing Roles of Women in Church and Society."

and member of First Baptist Church, Mayfield, Ky., Markham was recognized for her work in establishing libraries in Guatemala and Kenya as well as in her home state. She was also cited for her support of international students at both seminary and college.

## Conference affirms equality of women

Experts in the fields of biblical study, church history, psychology and sociology chided religious teaching that advocates the subjugation of women in church and society and affirmed the full personhood of women before God in areas of Christian services at the Woman's Committee's two-day conference on "Changing Roles of Women in Church and Society."

Frank Stagg, retired faculty member at Southern Seminary; Catherine Allen, associate executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC; Sarah Frances Anders, faculty member at Louisiana College, and Bill Leonard and Andrew Lester, both faculty members at Southern Seminary, spoke in plenary sessions, supplemented by 26 persons leading small group sessions.



THE FIRST SHALL BE FIRST — Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter displays the Distinguished Christian Woman Award. Mrs. Carter was the first recipient of the award, presented by the Woman's Committee at Southern Seminary.



# THE TIE



*PREACHING THE WORD — Tim McCoy, Ph.D. student in evangelism, delivers a message in a Louisville church during Southern Seminary Day in the Long Run Association. Seminary Days is one way in which preaching is emphasized at Southern Seminary.*

## Seminary Days brings Southern to local churches

A half dozen times each semester, Southern Seminary goes on the road.

The buildings stay in Louisville, but teams of student preachers pile in cars and vans to travel to churches in participating Baptist associations — from Dothan, Ala., to Buffalo, N.Y. — to preach in Sunday morning worship services.

If producing excellent ministers for service in Southern Baptist churches is what Southern Seminary is all about, then putting those young ministers in touch with churches is what the Southern Seminary Days program is about.

Begun in 1973, Seminary Days provide Southern students with opportunities to preach, and allow church members to see a flesh-and-blood return on their Cooperative Program investment in theological education.

Going into this year, associations had sponsored 102 Seminary Days, matching student preachers with local congregations 1,776 times.

Six Seminary Days were scheduled in five states this fall, with more coming in the spring. For information on Seminary Days, write Tim McCoy, Seminary Days coordinator, Box 901, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280.