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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

TBC votes record missions goal

William Palmer elected president; graduate school approval delayed

At its 105th annual session last week, messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a record \$15-million Cooperative Program budget goal; voted to dispose of Belmont Plaza by selling it to a group of Baptist lay people; elected William Palmer of Morristown as president; and tabled for one year a proposal which have allowed TBC colleges to begin graduate programs.

The convention was hosted by East Park Baptist Church, Memphis. Unofficial registration figures revealed 1,357 messengers and 114 visitors.

The messengers approved a recommendation from its Executive Board that the Cooperative Program budget-goal for the November 1979-October 1980 convention year be set at \$15-million.

The \$15-million goal would provide \$13-million for the basic budget, with \$2-million for a Bold Missions challenge budget.

The adopted recommendation would increase the percentage of Tennessee's Cooperative Program gifts shared with the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program from last year's 34.5 percent to 35 percent. Executive Secretary Tom Madden, in presenting the budget recommendation, noted that Tennessee Baptists are moving toward an ultimate goal of 40 percent.

The \$2-million challenge budget will be divided with 65 percent for TBC projects and institutions and 35 percent shared with the SBC Cooperative Program. The Tennessee portion will be divided with 35 percent going to TBC educational institutions and 65 percent for Bold Mission Thrust projects within the state.

The \$15-million Cooperative Program goal is a 27.1 percent increase over the 1978-79 goal of \$11.8-million and a 21.1 percent increase over the \$12,976.24 given by Tennessee Baptists through the Cooperative Program during the 1978-79 budget year.

The messengers voted to accept a recommendation from the Executive Board that Belmont Plaza, an apartment building in Nashville for senior adults, be sold to Belmont Plaza Inc. This group of Baptist lay people would issue new bonds, the proceeds of which would be invested in United States government securities which would be used to pay off the existing bonds.

Since these securities would be used only to pay off and to guarantee the original bonds, the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation would be removed from all liability. (See separate article on this page for details).

William Palmer, pastor of First Baptist Church in Morristown, was elected as TBC president for the coming year in a runoff with Joe Stacker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Concord. Also nominated was James Harris, director of missions in Holston Baptist Association, Johnson City.

Palmer served as TBC vice-president last year.

Harris was later elected vice-president, and Eual Ursery, pastor of Little Hope Baptist

Church, Clarksville, was elected second vice-president.

In other action the messengers voted to table for one-year a recommendation from the Executive Board that the program statements of all three TBC colleges be changed to allow a graduate program to be approved by the Executive Board and its education committee.

Although it was not a part of the board's recommendation, it was announced that Belmont College, Nashville, wanted to begin a graduate school in business administration.

During discussion, several messengers raised questions about guidelines for and financing of these graduate schools, noting that information had not been shared with the convention ahead of time. The board had voted on Nov. 12 to recommend the change in program statements to allow for consideration by TBC schools.

Herman Jacobs, Johnson City, sought to amend the recommendation, so that the actual approval of such graduate programs would have to be made by the convention in session, rather than the Executive Board.

Finally, Wayne Allen, Memphis, made a motion, which was approved by the messengers, that the matter be tabled until the next annual meeting "to enable detailed information to be distributed."

The messengers heard a report from a Hunger Committee, which was authorized by the 1978 TBC in Nashville. Earl Davis, Memphis, explained the committee's discussions with the SBC Foreign Mission Board and brought recommendations that Tennessee Baptists seek to raise \$500,000 in the next three years for world hunger; enlist evangelists, agriculture authorities, and medical teams to go overseas; and ask each church to name a World Relief Committee.

Davis explained that Tennessee might be paired with a specific needy country or area. (See separate article).

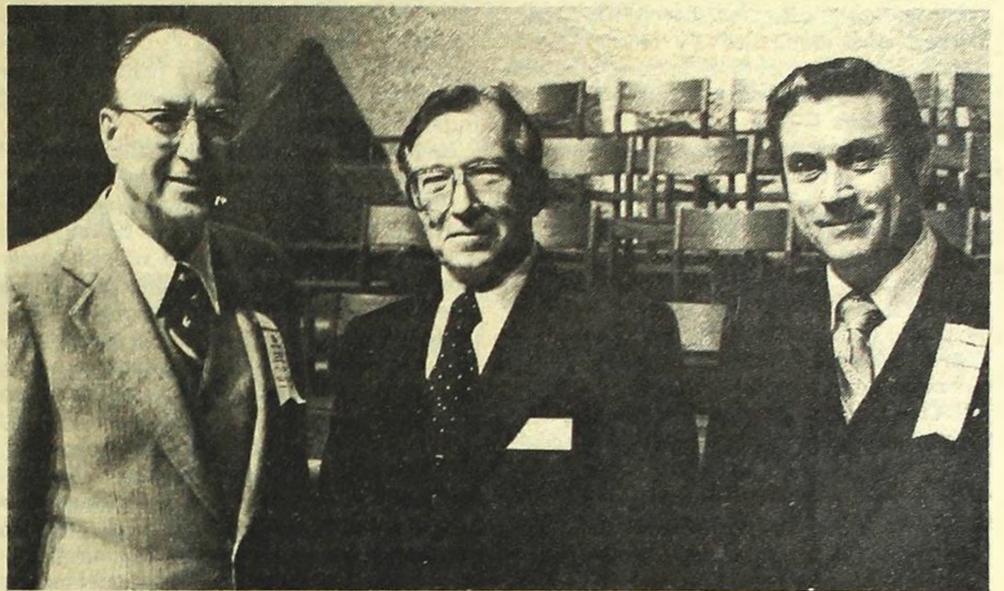
The messengers approved five resolutions, which are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Without amendments, the convention approved proposed changes in the TBC Constitution and Bylaws (which were printed in the Oct. 31 Baptist and Reflector). Authority was given to make necessary editorial changes.

The major change in the Constitution would be to increase the number of messengers from smaller churches who can attend the annual conventions.

The other changes were basically to arrange these documents in a more logical order, omit redundant statements, and clarify sentences without content change, the messengers were told by Denzel Dukes, Milan, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws committee.

On recommendation from its Committee on Arrangements, the messengers voted to hold the 1981 convention at Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville. By previous action, next year's convention will meet at Freedom Hall Civic Auditorium, Johnson City, Nov. 11-13, 1980.



TBC OFFICERS—Elected as officers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the coming year were (from left) William Palmer as president, James Harris as vice-president, and Eual Ursery, second vice-president.

Belmont Plaza sold to relieve liability

Messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention, meeting in Memphis last week, voted to accept an offer to sell Belmont Plaza to Belmont Plaza Inc. and relieve the liability of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation from the \$5-million indebtedness.

In accepting the recommendation from its Executive Board, the convention also made it possible for the TBSC to cancel the lease on the project with the Health and Education Facilities Board of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.

Belmont Plaza is a 123-unit facility for senior adults which was constructed by the Service Corporation, but was unable to open because of the lack of operating funds.

Under the accepted proposal, new bonds will be issued by Belmont Plaza Inc., with the

proceeds from the sale of these bonds invested in United States government securities, which will mature on the same dates as the bonds issued by the TBSC. These securities will be held by the trustee bank and will be used only for the retirement of the old bonds. Therefore, the government securities will be liable for the payment of the old bonds, and not the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, nor the TBC Executive Board.

The convention will pay the \$200,000 cost of the new bond issue and will make principal and interest payments through March 1980.

Belmont Plaza Inc., said to be a group of Tennessee Baptist lay people, will secure \$1-million in syndication from investors, who will be known as Belmont Plaza Associates. These investors will use the project for tax depreciation.

In addition, the messengers were told that Belmont Plaza Inc. intends to enter into a contract with nearby Belmont College, Nashville, for maintenance and ministries in the building.

The projected closing date will be Feb. 1, 1980, but the deal must be completed by March 15.

The sale is conditioned in securing confirmation that the interest earned on the old bonds and the new bonds will be tax exempt. The messengers were informed that a preliminary legal opinion has been received on this matter, and a final opinion will be secured at the time of closing.

Further financial obligations to the TBC would be the \$200,000 for the new bond issue and approximately \$164,000 for principal and interest payments through March 1980.

On Sept. 11, the TBC Executive Board voted to accept in principle the proposal from Belmont Plaza, and named the TBC executive

Foreign Board encourages less turkey n' trimmings

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—"One less sweet potato—that would mean a whole lot."

So said Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President John W. "Jack" Patterson as he proposed that the board encourage "Southern Baptists to eat a modest Thanksgiving meal and give the rest to those in need."

Patterson's suggestion—which became a motion and received the board's backing—came on the heels of a Cambodian refugee report at the November board meeting in Richmond. The board allocated \$578,000 in relief to refugees fleeing to Thailand and Hong Kong.

"We need to call this to the attention of Southern Baptists," Patterson said. "Sometimes a suggestion is all that's needed."

(Continued on page 2)

TBC messengers elect Palmer as president

William L. Palmer, senior minister of First Baptist Church, Morristown, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention following a runoff against Joe Stacker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Concord.

Also elected during the 105th annual convention in Memphis were James Harris, director of missions for the Holston Baptist Association, vice-president; and Eual Ursery, pastor of Little Hope Baptist Church, Clarksville, second vice-president.

Palmer, vice-president of the convention for the past year, was nominated by Ed Johnson, Calvary Baptist Church, Kingsport. Stacker was nominated by Gerald Stow, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville and immediate past president of the TBC Executive Board.

Born in Colorado, Palmer earned a master

of divinity and a doctor of ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Before moving to Morristown, he had served as pastor of churches in South Carolina and North Carolina.

Palmer has served as moderator of the Nolachucky Baptist Association, president of the Greater Morristown Ministerial Association, and president of the alumni association of Southeastern seminary. He has been a trustee of Carson-Newman College, and East Tennessee Baptist Hospital. He is currently the statewide chairman of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy's Century II Advancement Campaign and a field supervisor for Southern Baptist seminary's doctor of ministry program.

He is married to the former Ellen Bourne of Owings, Md., and they have three children.

Harris, the new vice-president, was a candidate in the presidential race, having been nominated by Robert Orr, a retired pastor from Dyersburg. He was nominated for the vice-presidential post by Courtney Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, and was elected by acclamation.

Born in Chattanooga, Harris attended the University of Chattanooga; Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; and Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. Before moving to his present position, he was pastor of Chattanooga's Spring Creek Road Baptist Church. Prior to that he had served as pastor of churches in Nashville, Knoxville, and New Harrison, as well as churches in Florida and Georgia. He has served on the board of managers of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, as moderator of the Nashville Baptist Association, on the board of trustees of East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, and on various committees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He is married to the former Audrey Marler of Chattanooga. They have two children.

Ersery, the new second vice-president, was nominated by Wade Carver, pastor of Bear Creek Baptist Church, Parsons, and elected by acclamation.

Born in Bradford, Ursery is a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville. Prior to his present pastorate in Clarksville, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, LaVergne. He has also been pastor of Eagleville Baptist Church, Eagleville. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and has served as moderator of the Concord Baptist Association. He is the newly-elected moderator of the Cumberland Baptist Association.

Ursery is married to the former Patricia Cannady of Lynnville. They have three children.

Re-elected to their positions were Mrs. Alice Byram of Nashville, registration secretary; Wallace Anderson of Nashville, recording and statistical secretary; and Tom Madden, the convention's top executive, treasurer.



HONOR—W. Fred Kendall II (left) receives a plaque noting his service as TBC president during the past year from Tom Madden, executive secretary.



BOARD OFFICERS—Earl Wilson (center) was elected president of the TBC Executive Board at a meeting last week in Memphis. Other officers are Osta Underwood, vice-president (right); and Paul Woodford, recording secretary.

Earl Wilson elected as board president

Earl Wilson, pastor of City View Baptist Church, Knoxville, was elected president of the TBC Executive Board last Wednesday at an organizational meeting held during the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Memphis.

He succeeds Gerald Stow, pastor of Cookeville's First Baptist Church, who held that post for the past year.

Wilson was elected by the board over Osta Underwood, Nashville attorney and a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church in that city. Miss Underwood was later elected vice-president. Howard Kolb, pastor of Memphis' Audubon Park Baptist Church, was the only other nominee for vice-president.

Miss Underwood is reported to be the first woman to hold this position with the Executive Board.

Paul Woodford, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ripley, was elected as the board's recording secretary without opposition.

Stow presented Wilson with a gavel which was made from solid cherry by a member of the Cookeville church.

Radnor chosen for 1981 TBC

Radnor Baptist Church in Nashville was selected as the site for the 1981 Tennessee Baptist Convention by messengers in Memphis last week. Approval of the site came following a recommendation from the TBC committee on arrangements. Convention messengers will meet Nov. 10-12.

Also approved was a recommendation for Kenneth Hubbard, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Knoxville, to preach the annual sermon at the 1980 convention in Johnson City. Hubbard served as pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church in Chattanooga from 1973 until this year. He is a former Southern Baptist missionary to Kenya and has led several other congregations. Approved as alternate convention speaker next year was James Barry, consultant in preaching and worship, church administration department, Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Radnor church, located in the Woodbine/Harding Mall area of Nashville, has a seating capacity of 2,000. Paul Durham is pastor.

The 1980 convention is scheduled to be held at Johnson City Freedom Hall Civic Center, Nov. 11-13. Sites have not been selected for either the TBC Pastors' Conference or the Woman's Missionary Union annual meetings.

'Sow seed, rest' Fant declares

Texas pastor Clyde Fant told Baptists in Memphis last week that their denomination needs to cultivate hope, patience, and love.

Basing his comments on the parable of the certainty of the kingdom (Mark 4:26), the pastor of First Baptist Church in Richardson called on the attenders to recognize that the gospel—the Word of God, in itself, has the power to convert.

He said the parable has a lesson for the discouraged worker, for the impatient worker, and for the worker who expects premature results. "We have no concept of discouragement," Fant said. "We enjoy peace, prosperity. Our small difficulties do not amount to anything compared to the conditions throughout the rest of the world. Yet, when we are called upon to preach, we say we will give up all—that is, until someone criticizes us." He expressed the opinion that most discouragement and depression is generated internally.

Warning against a tendency toward "taking a shortcut to the kingdom," Fant said Baptists need to possess an eagerness about Bold Mission Thrust, but they also need to exercise a Godly patience. "The life is in the seed," he said. "We get spurious results when we force the kingdom and do not trust in the word of God to reproduce." He said some Baptists "talk more about faith and practice it less than anyone on earth."

Finally, he warned against expecting the people to scatter the seed, believe it has the power of itself to grow, and then to rest and let God do His work.

"Love each other with great patience," he concluded.

Death, resurrection examined by Hudson

The relationship between a believer's death and resurrection was explored by H.D. Hudson in a sermon preached last week to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Hudson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Puryear.

"Every person, with the exception of Enoch and Elijah, has come to face death," Hudson noted. These are the only two in the Scriptures who bypassed physical death."

The Puryear pastor observed that there is a number of people mentioned in the Bible who died, but later came back to life. He cited the son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:18-37); Dorcas (Acts 9:36-41); Eutychus (Acts 20:9-10); the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-15); Lazarus (John 11); and Jesus.

"But only One of these—the Lord Jesus Christ—came back to life, never to die again!" Hudson stated. "This is our gospel and our hope."

He said that one day people would read, perhaps in the Baptist and Reflector, that Herbie Hudson is dead, "but don't you believe it. On this side of glory, they will be saying, 'He's dead,' but on the other side of glory, they will be saying, 'He's alive!'"

Hudson explained that his resurrection in Jesus Christ would not be because "I am pastor of one of the greatest country churches in the world; nor because God called me to preach, nor because I had this moment of glory at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, but because as a boy long ago Jesus asked me to trust Him—and I did!"

At the conclusion of his sermon, the messengers and visitors gave Hudson a standing ovation.

Holston Valley meets

Vernon Fielden, pastor of Hickory Cove Baptist Church, Rogersville, was elected moderator of Holston Valley Association for the coming year. The election came at the association's annual meeting which was held at Oak Grove, Caney Creek, and Persia Baptist Churches in that association.

Elected to serve with Fielden were: associate moderator John Parrott Jr., pastor of Sneedville Baptist Church; clerk Linda Williams; and treasurer Robert Horton.

Tennessee Baptists initiate hunger project with FMB

Tennessee Baptists meeting in Memphis last week approved four resolutions related to world hunger. The passage of the resolutions made this state the first within the Southern Baptist Convention to engage in a defined project with the Foreign Mission Board, using the churches within the state convention.

Earl Davis, pastor of Memphis' First Baptist Church, and chairman of the special hunger committee which was created following last year's convention, said the hunger project program will focus on between five and 15 villages, with a combined population of about 100,000 persons. The project will take approximately three years, and will involve an intensive feasibility study, the development of short-term projects to meet the needs uncovered in the study, and the use of volunteers to implement the projects.

The first point of involvement would probably be the underwriting of the financial needs. Davis said this has been estimated at \$500,000 over a three-year period. Responding to a question from the floor, the chairman said the money should come through "regular channels" and not through a designated statewide offering. He explained that Tennessee Baptists are already contributing nearly \$100,000 a year toward world hunger relief. "We would only need to increase that

23 others nominated to boards, committees

Twenty-three Tennessee Baptists were elected to various convention boards and committees during last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention, in addition to the nominations listed in the Oct. 12 *Baptist and Reflector* (pages 6 and 7). The elections came on recommendations from the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees.

Additional nominations made by these committees were:

Executive Board: James Lee, Sparta, and Fred Kendall II, Union City, terms expiring 1982; Grant Jones, Sevierville, term expiring in 1981; William L. Palmer, Morristown, Billy Edmonds, Knoxville, and James Redding, Memphis, terms expiring in 1980.

Belmont College: Ray Cleek, Lebanon, and Donald McRay, McMinnville, terms expiring in 1981.

Carson-Newman College: Leroy Barclay, Morristown, term expiring in 1981.

Union University: Argyle Graves, Jackson, term expiring in 1982; and Bill Walker, Brownsville, term expiring in 1980.

Baptist Hospital: Eugene Cotey, Murfreesboro, term expiring in 1982.

Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation: Charles Parker, Johnson City, term expiring in 1982.

Committee on Arrangements: Max Walker, Newbern, and Larry Corder, Gibson, terms expiring in 1982.

Committee on Audits: Henry Love, Memphis, term expiring in 1982.

Committee on Credentials: Kelder Mullins, Johnson City, term expiring in 1982; and Steve Bingham, Lebanon, term expiring in 1980.

Committee on the Journal: Allen Davis, Johnson City, Paul Peek, Murfreesboro, and Virgil Presley, Dyersburg, terms expiring in 1982.

Committee on Resolutions: Tim Alexander, Greenfield, and William George, Memphis, terms expiring in 1982.

Sullivan leaders remain

Sullivan Association met in annual session last month and re-elected all of last year's officers, according to Carl Strickler, moderator. In addition to Strickler, who is pastor of Lynn Garden Baptist Church, the messengers voted for Clyde Simms, pastor of Sullivan Baptist Church, to remain as vice-moderator.

Re-elected as treasurer was Cecil Dykes, a member of Colonial Heights Baptist Church. Joe Byrd, pastor of Bloomingdale Baptist Church, was re-elected as clerk.

amount by \$100,000 or \$200,000," he said.

Originally tagged as the "India Project," members of the hunger committee learned only hours before they were to give their recommendations to the convention that due to a change in missionary personnel at the India Baptist mission, the project probably will be re-located.

Jerry Self, public affairs and Christian life consultant, TBC, said the projects might be transferred to Calcutta, India, or may even be implemented in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, or Thailand.

"The key concept in this project is personal involvement," Davis said. Tennessee Baptists could be used in the study and/or in implementation of projects such as well-drilling, nutrition classes, basic agriculture instruction, literacy classes, Bible study groups, etc. "Since no outright evangelistic work is permitted in many countries, the preaching of the gospel must be done in connection with meeting physical needs," the Memphis pastor explained.

Convention president W. Fred Kendall II, Union City, re-appointed the seven-member committee to serve throughout the project. They are: Steve Bingham, Lebanon; J.C. Carpenter, Manchester; Danny Jones, Henning; Roy Miller, Knoxville; Lee Prince, Memphis; Larry Taylor, Jefferson City; and Davis.

The committee's four recommendations are printed below:

Recommendation No. 1

Realizing that hunger is an ethical problem with which Tennessee Baptists must deal, and realizing the need for involvement by our churches in a prayerful, personal, and financial fashion, we make the following recommendation concerning the Hunger Project:

(1) that the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in session enthusiastically adopt the concept of the Hunger Project, and that request be made of the Foreign Mission Board for guidance in implementing such a project;

(2) that Tennessee Baptists underwrite the Hunger Project for an initial period of three years with a \$500,000 goal.

Recommendation No. 2

We recommend that the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention be encouraged to recognize the needs of world hunger and world relief by:

(1) observing annually the SBC World Hunger Day;

(2) establishing in each church a world relief committee to deal with both local community needs as well as world needs.

Recommendation No. 3

We recommend that the president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention appoint a seven-member special committee on world hunger to:

(1) work with the public affairs and Christian life consultant of the Tennessee Baptist Convention;

(2) investigate the causes of hunger and the appropriate responses to hunger in Tennessee and the world;

(3) communicate their findings to Tennessee Baptists at the 1980, 1981, and 1982 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

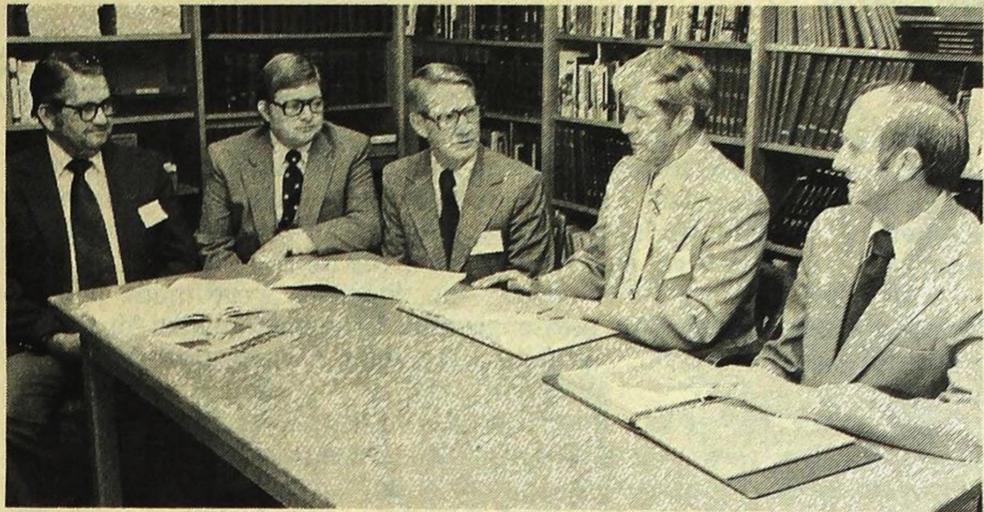
Recommendation No. 4

We recommend the approval of the following resolution on the corporate responsibilities of hunger:

Whereas hunger and hunger-related problems are corporate and structural in nature as well as individual, and

Whereas any one legislative decision in Congress can negate in a single vote all the gifts from individuals, and charitable organizations toward hunger relief;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Tennessee Baptist Convention challenge its participating churches to recognize the corporate and structural nature of hunger causes, and to encourage our congressmen to consider favorably hunger legislation for the benefit of hungry peoples and nations.



BROTHERHOOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS—Three members of the Brotherhood Commission's executive committee were oriented by Jack Deligans (second from right) of California, chairman of the committee, following their election. They are (from left) Wendall Crews of Athens; Jack Knox of Germantown, also chosen recording secretary; and Harry Houchins (right) from Virginia. Everett Lemay (center) of Illinois, the new vice-chairman, also participated.

Brotherhood elects officers, installs executive director

MEMPHIS (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission installed James H. Smith as executive director, agreed to staff 10 Bold Mission Thrust conferences, and asked their officers to serve another year.

Other actions of the three-day meeting included requests for the staff to consider computerized services and a development program and to work with the two Southern Baptist mission boards to establish a Southern Baptist task force which can respond on short notice to emergency needs in the United States and overseas.

While asking for a study of the agency's Constitution and Bylaws, the trustees also voted to discontinue the election of local members as they rotate off the board and to elect members beyond the basic representation of one trustee from each of 26 cooperating states to the basis of one trustee for each 30,000 Brotherhood members in a state.

This action would require additional approval by the trustees next year and by messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting before it could be implemented.

At the installation service, which attracted

almost 200 persons, Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, told Smith that Southern Baptist laymen are waiting for authentic spiritual leadership which will lay hold of their hearts.

McClellan urged Smith "to look, pray, and find a program for a man in the denomination that's fully dynamic."

In response, Smith said his three priorities are to develop a clear, sharp purpose for the agency; involve more men in Christian ministries; and to emphasize the value of deepening the spiritual quality of men.

The decision to organize and staff 10 regional conferences to challenge laymen to become involved in sharing the gospel with the world by the year 2000 was in response to a request of the SBC Executive Committee.

Smith said the conferences will be designed to elicit the suggestions from creative, aggressive laymen during the next six months. A report summarizing all of the suggestions from the 10 conferences will be prepared for the SBC Executive Committee.

Jack Deligans, engineer from Livermore, Calif., was elected without opposition to a second one-year term as chairman.

Bruster urges churches, pastors to equip membership for 1980's

In the closing message at last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention, Bill Bruster, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville, urged Tennessee Baptist churches to equip their members for ministry in the 1980's.

Using Mark 1:17 as his text, Bruster noted that Jesus called Peter to follow Him, and Jesus would make Peter—equip him—to become a fisher of men. "Peter was not called to discuss a theological system or certain theories or an ethical system, but to be equipped for discipleship," Bruster observed.

Focusing on the role of the pastor, Bruster observed that this equipping of church members involves a recognition of self-limitation, a willingness to trust others, and a challenge to grow. "Jesus not only made Peter a better fisherman but challenged him to fish for a more important purpose—no longer to fish to make a living, but to fish that others might live."

Citing Matthew 17:18, Bruster noted that the emphasis was on "Jesus building HIS church." He added that "we are limited in what we can do for His church, but He is not limited in what He can do for His church." He urged pastors to face their own limitations. "Only when we make it known that God can use a creature with feet of clay will they realize they can be trained, equipped, and useful in the Kingdom of God."

Bruster said that one of our problems in equipping disciples to perform a task is we

don't trust them to do it. "We will not trust the laity if we do not trust one another." Noting the seeds of distrust being sown in our denomination, he said. "We need to stop the verbal witch hunt that precedes the Southern Baptist Convention each year and follow the pattern of our own TBC Pastors' Conference in equipping pastors for ministry." He added, "This spirit of distrust among us works contrary to equipping disciples."

"There are boys and girls in every congregation in Tennessee who are waiting to be challenged to a lifetime of meaningful service. There are adults in every congregation in Tennessee who yearn for an opportunity to do more for the Lord than pass out bulletins on Sunday morning. They need to grow. We need their help. The Kingdom of God needs their abilities," he concluded.

Refugee from Cambodia to aid medical team

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A Cambodian refugee now living in Richmond, Va., is scheduled to join a team of Southern Baptist medical volunteers ministering among the Cambodian refugees in Thailand.

Savooun Nuon, a member of Derbyshire Baptist Church, which sponsored him and his family in 1975, was scheduled to leave last week to serve with the medical team as interpreter and helper. The team left the United States Nov. 6 for a six-week stay in Thailand.

EDITORIAL

TBC deals with delicate decisions

Tennessee Baptists have demonstrated once again that they can face critical issues at a convention session and can respond in a positive, prayerful manner. At last week's convention in Memphis, there were a number of delicate decisions to be made. These were thoroughly discussed — in a positive, objective way, for the most part.

And when it came time to vote, the decisions were made in an understandable manner. The messengers are to be commended for their desire for all information, and for basing their decisions on the data presented.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL. Although it received little discussion, the messengers adopted the recommended \$15-million Cooperative Program budget-goal for the next convention year (November 1979-October 1980).

What a challenge! Is it possible for Tennessee Baptists to increase their Cooperative Program giving by 21.1 percent? Indeed it is, when you consider the resources with which God has blessed us. The other question is, "Will we do it?"

BELMONT PLAZA. The final settlement of this financially plagued facility was made last week in Memphis when the messengers accepted an offer to purchase from Belmont Plaza Inc., a group of Baptist lay people.

The question of removing the liability of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation and the convention has troubled many Tennessee Baptists since the special called convention was held April 5.

The 10-page offer to purchase was shared with each messenger, so there could be complete understanding. Attorneys representing the convention were present to answer the many questions from the messengers.

The proposal was considerably different from the Belmont Plaza Inc. proposal presented to the Executive Board on Sept. 11. The negotiations which transpired in the interim resulted in a proposal which does indeed remove the TBSC liability. Tennessee Baptists should be grateful to Tom Madden, Fred Kendall, Gerald Stow, Bill Coles, and our attorneys for insisting that some way be worked out to remove the liability.

The ill-fated project has cost Tennessee Baptists \$301,255.81 since the Executive Board voted on Feb. 22 and the TBC voted on April 5 to make necessary payments to keep the facility from going into default.

In accepting the Belmont Plaza Inc. offer, we have agreed to pay the \$200,000 cost of a new bond issue and the principal and interest payments through March 1980. These new bonds, which will be issued by Belmont Plaza Inc., will provide funds which will purchase U.S. government securities, which will guarantee the payment of the old bonds. The liability for these payments on the old bonds will then belong to these securities — not the TBSC.

Another benefit which came from the negotiations is the cancelling of the TBSC lease on the facility. You will recall that the lease signed by the TBSC agreed that "no part of the project shall be used for sectarian instruction or as a place of religious worship or in connection with any part of a program of a school or department of divinity of any religious denomination."

A word needs to be said about the proposal from Radnor Towers and

Radnor Baptist Church. This proposal received a fair hearing at both the Nov. 12 Executive Board and the Nov. 14 TBC session. Discussion at both meetings and in the halls afterwards seems to indicate that too little information was known about this proposal. The messengers did not appear to be in a mood to accept promises which were not backed up by statistical information.

Belmont Plaza has made this a long, involved year for Tennessee Baptists, occupying too much of our time and energy. Many offers were considered. A problem of this magnitude brings many questions and opinions — resulting in heated discussions. Now that it has been settled, let's avoid the "I told you so" speeches, and move ahead to the challenges that God will present us.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS. This new venture for TBC institutions was recommended to the convention by the Executive Board with proposed changes in the program statements of our schools. Although the matter had been studied since April by a subcommittee of the board's education committee, it did not come to the board until Nov. 12. Several messengers referred to the lack of information shared ahead of the convention meeting.

Howard Kolb, chairman of the education committee, has offered us his entire file so that information can be given to our readers before the 1980 state convention.

HOST CHURCH. East Park Baptist Church and the Briarcrest High School made their outstanding facility available to the state convention. Classes were dismissed so that the messengers could use the entire building — including the cafeteria, making it possible for the messengers and visitors to enjoy a delicious meal at a reasonable price — without leaving the building. Pastor Wayne Allen, his staff, and his church members are to be commended for all they did to make the convention a pleasant experience.

THE PRESIDENT. A special commendation must go to W. Fred Kendall II for his attitude and presiding ability. As our president this year, he was called upon to preside at two critical conventions. We express our appreciation to him, and we must add our thanks to First Baptist Church of Union City for sharing his talents and dedication with all Tennessee Baptists.

INSPIRATION. Again this year, the convention was treated to some outstanding and challenging messages. The music was of superior quality. God has surely blessed Tennessee with extremely talented musicians, which add much to the spirit of our convention sessions. If it is possible, the Tennessee Baptist Chorale seems to get better each year.

CONCLUSION. We will leave it to some future historian to analyze the importance of the 1979 Tennessee Baptist Convention. We came together; faced some possible explosive, devisive issues; and made our decisions.

And, when it came time to adjourn, we left East Park Baptist Church united in the spirit of love and cooperation that has characterized Tennessee Baptists throughout our 105-year history.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE—80,095

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and
Reflector

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In the Words of King David



Leukemia claims 91-year-old pastor

David N. Livingstone, 91, a Baptist minister for 74 years died Nov. 16 at Bradley Memorial Hospital in Cleveland. Livingstone had suffered from leukemia for several months.

A native of Greeneville, the east Tennessee pastor grew up in the Concord Baptist Church in Nolachucky Association. He graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, in 1917, and began teaching and preaching immediately.

From 1920-28, he was employed by the State Missions Board (Tennessee Baptist Convention), where he worked in Sunday School and Training Union. His tenure as a pastor included the congregations of Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville; Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Maryville; Mine City Baptist Church, Ducktown; Fairview Baptist Church, Sweetwater; and Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, from which he retired in 1958.

On several occasions he taught in the Carson-Newman summer preachers' school.

Funeral services were held Nov. 18 at Westwood Baptist Church in Cleveland with Pastor Bob Bell officiating. Burial was in Cleveland.

Livingstone is survived by his wife, Dorothy Lawrence Livingstone, and one daughter, Mrs. Robert Cooke.

Editor's Note: Printed below are the five resolutions passed by messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention which met last week at East Park Baptist Church in Memphis.

1979 TBC resolutions

I. Gratitude Resolution

"In the 105th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention we express our gratitude and bring the following recognitions and resolutions:

"We express gratitude:

"To God for the privilege of coming together and feeling His presence during this annual session of our convention.

"To the East Park Baptist Church; to Dr. Wayne Allen, host pastor; to the church staff; and to the entire church membership for their gracious hospitality during this session of our Convention.

"To the officers and the entire staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and to all individuals of all committees, boards, and agencies for their faithful service to our Lord throughout this year and their special efforts during this session of our Convention.

"To our President, Dr. W. Fred Kendall II, for his untiring and dedicated service through one of the most significant years in the recent history of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and for his Christian spirit and capable leadership in presiding during the called session and regular session of our Convention.

"To the staff and members of the First Baptist Church, Union City, who have supported our president and the work of the church as he fulfilled his duties and responsibilities during the year.

"To the messengers for their prayers and faithful attendance at all sessions.

"To the city of Memphis for their hospitality and making our stay a pleasant and safe one.

"To all areas of the news media for their coverage of the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

II. Editor Commended

"BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention commend Alvin Shackelford, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, for his service to Tennessee Baptists through his faithful, accurate, and courageous reporting of events relative to the life of Tennessee Baptists with special appreciation for his work concerning Belmont Plaza and the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation."

III. Electronic Communication

"WHEREAS, in the modern world of electronic communications, the airways represent an area of growing importance for both individual behavior and social morality. In as much as individual churches of our state have the right and the responsibility to influence how the airways are and are not used;

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

"1. That we the messengers of the Baptist churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention take seriously our responsibility for the moral development of community life and the eternal worth of the individual;

"2. That the churches of our state have a right to fair and equal treatment by broadcast companies who are required by the FCC to serve the public good. No church or religious broadcast should be treated with a lesser standard of fair play and business ethics than is applied to other types of program material and other program sponsors;

"3. That we are concerned over the growing use in prime time family viewing periods of programs that feature questionable social values having to do with sex, crime, and violence;

"4. That we voice our opposition to the growing tendency to replace religious broadcasts at the 11:00 a.m. hour on Sunday morning with program material designed to encourage young people to absent themselves from worship services and to focus their attention on athletic programs and other activities of secondary importance to moral development;

"5. That we wish to encourage the heads of educational institutions and other community leaders not to participate in this growing move to displace the Sunday morning time period as the designated hour for worship and character development."

IV. Public Schools

"In view of the continuing discussion of the Supreme Court decision concerning Bible reading and prayer in the public schools, and;

"In view of the growing tendency of many public school administrators to banish any religious overtones from public education so as to avoid gray areas of legal permissibility;

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Baptist Convention in annual session strongly encourage the teaching of courses for the development of moral responsibilities and courses of the religious history of our nation in our public schools, and that the sense of this resolution be conveyed to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in each of the counties of Tennessee."

V. Violence

"WHEREAS we live in times of political and economic uncertainty;

"AND WHEREAS in this year of our Lord, 1979, there has been violence that has caused destruction of property, intimidation of American citizens, and loss of lives;

"AND WHEREAS the Bible teaches the sacredness of life and salvation by the grace of God toward repentant sinners,

"BE IT RESOLVED, that Tennessee Baptists state their abhorrence to the activity of such groups as the Ku Klux Klan, the Neo-Nazis, and the Communists Workers Party;

"AND BE IT RESOLVED, that we reassert the cherished belief of freedom of worship for all freedoms we share with many other groups,

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call ourselves to the open sharing of the Christian faith to all people by relying upon the persuasive power of God's spirit."

Tennessee churches honored for gifts

First Baptist Church, Knoxville, and French Broad Baptist Church, Dandridge, led the Tennessee Baptist Convention in gifts to the 1978 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions in Memphis.

The churches headed "Top 10" lists for total and per capita giving, announced during the convention's annual meeting in East Park Baptist Church, Memphis, Nov. 13-15.

The Knoxville church was honored for its offering of \$11,936. A. Douglas Watterson is pastor. Donald Mitchell, pastor of the Dandridge church, received a plaque for the church's offering which averaged \$11.44 per resident member.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board compiled the lists from 1978 Uniform Church Letters, the statistics from each church on file with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Other churches on the lists are:
TOTAL GIFTS: (2) First Baptist Church, Nashville, \$7,302; (3) First Baptist Church, Memphis, \$6,913; (4) Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, \$6,750; (5) Central Fountain City Baptist Church, Knoxville, \$6,714; (6) Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, \$6,635; (7) First Baptist Church, Maryville, \$5,535; (8) First Baptist Church, Cookeville, \$4,738; (9) Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, \$4,683; (10) Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, \$4,377.

PER CAPITA GIFTS: (2) Centennial Baptist Church, Nashville, \$11.11; (3) Wears Valley Baptist Church, Sevierville, \$10.56; (4) Lookout Mountain Baptist Church, Lookout Mountain, \$9.44; (5) Mountain View Baptist Church, Greenville, \$8.78; (6) Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Chattanooga, \$8.40; (7) New Salem Baptist Church, Clinton, \$7.04; (8) First Baptist Church, Grand Junction, \$6.92; (9) Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville, \$6.31; (10) Woodlawn Baptist Church, Brownsville, \$6.07.



VANDERBILT PLAQUE DEDICATION—A plaque honoring the 1979 Billy Graham Crusade held at Vanderbilt University last summer was dedicated at Dudley Field in Nashville on Nov. 10. Participating in ceremony, which was held at the half-time of the Vanderbilt-Kentucky football game, were from left: James Gregg, pastor of Westwood Baptist Church; Ray Bickerstaff, a member of First Baptist Church in Nashville; Franklin Paschall, pastor at First church; and Fenton Warren, pastor of Bethlehem Methodist Church, Franklin. All were members of the Billy Graham Nashville committee.

Madden tells TBC messengers 'God keeps His appointments'

Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, told messengers to the 105th annual convention in Memphis that God is an appointment keeper who can make much out of little without ideal circumstances to do it.

Madden's message was shifted from its scheduled Wednesday morning slot to the Wednesday evening session after the morning miscellaneous business period was extended to discuss the controversial disposition of Belmont Plaza.

Madden drew laughter and applause during the discussion about whether to extend the business session or let him preach when he quipped, "I'm a preacher and I like to preach, but I don't want to preach right now."

Addressing the messengers, he documented his reference to God as an appointment-keeper with examples of Biblical "appointments."

He reminded Tennessee Baptists how God sent Elijah out to a desolate spot in the desert, saying, "I'll meet you there."

"God said in essence, 'I want you to leave the wells, your source of water. I want you to leave your source of food and supplies. I want you to go out to a very desolate spot and I'll

meet you there.'"

Madden said Elijah went and God met him and sent ravens to feed him.

Madden told how God sent three Hebrews into a fiery furnace with the promise, "I'll meet you there."

He related how Stephen, when he was being stoned, looked up "and saw Christ standing at the right hand of God and our Lord said, 'Go ahead and die Stephen, I'll meet you here.'"

Visiting modern-day missionaries on foreign fields, Madden said he's asked them why they are so happy in their difficult work and they've replied, "God sent us here and God met us here."

"It doesn't make any difference if your assignment is big or little or where it is," Madden said. "If God sent you, he'll meet you there."

He also told the audience that the circumstances weren't ideal in the lives of many Biblical characters. Elijah, he said, after poking fun at the prophets of Baal, called on God to bring down fire to consume the sacrifice.

"My God can start fires out of wet wood as easily as he can dry wood," Madden said. "He doesn't have to have ideal conditions to act."

Neither, Madden said, were circumstances ideal when Christ was placed in the tomb with a stone at the door and guards all around.

"I don't think they had to roll that stone away to let Christ out," he said. "I think they rolled it away so everyone could see that Christ was gone. It was empty. He could go out anyway he wanted to."

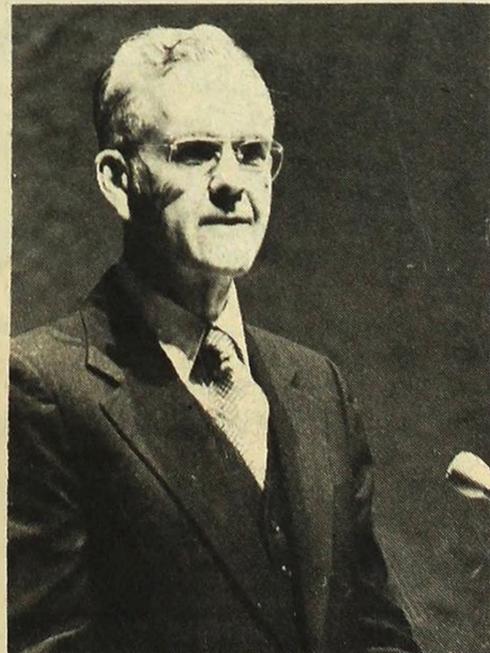
The Tennessee Baptist Convention's top executive pointed out how God "makes much out of little" and "something out of nothing."

God used a little boy with a lunch of fish sandwiches who took it to Jesus, Madden said, "and our Lord took that which was little and made so much out of it that all of the multitude had all they wanted and gathered up the remains in those baskets."

He said God has used Southern Baptists, even though "He didn't have much to start with" because "our forefathers have preached 'for by grace are you saved through faith'...and that the local church is God's instrument, God's institution."

And now that there are 13 million Southern Baptists with churches in every state and missionaries in 100 countries, "the voice of God is still saying to us, 'what are you doing? I've got a lost world out there. I've got people that need you. Hungry people. Desperate people.'"

"Tennessee Baptists," Madden asked, "what are you going to do about it?"



PREACHER—William Purdue, Carson-Newman College, preached the convention sermon at last week's state convention. (This message was printed in the Nov. 14 Baptist and Reflector.)

News Analysis

Confrontation widens 'circle of love'

By Robert O'Brien

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Blunt words, mixed with good humor and a spirit of love and forgiveness, transformed cordiality-coated hostility into communication and conciliation at the three-day Heart of America Bible Conference at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The conference, third in a series of 20 organized by evangelist James Robison and pastor W.A. Criswell to call for spiritual revival and reliance on the Bible as inerrant and infallible, came to the Louisville seminary at the invitation of seminary president Duke McCall.

A lot of people said a lot of words in morning, evening, and afternoon sessions about inerrancy, infallibility, revival, and the need for the gospel of Jesus Christ in a needy world, but the essence of the conference boiled down to the confrontation between two men — McCall and Robison.

Robison, who has lashed out at "liberalism" at the seminary, spoke sharply and then tried to soften it by speaking of his love for the seminary community and declaring that God had called him to speak an unpopular word.

McCall, in turn, spoke bluntly, saying that "we must draw a circle of love big enough to include those who would call us 'heretic'." And that, he said, includes not only the ones planning the conference but also those attending. No one used the word "heretic" during the conference. But much has been said about "liberal" professors before, during, and after the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston in which a group politicked for election of an SBC president committed to inerrancy of the Bible's original autographs (manuscripts).

The "circle of love" had several opportunities to expand during the conference in Louisville—and did so each time—as visitors and members of the seminary community dealt pointedly in private and in public about matters of doctrine and theology.

McCall, a 26-year-veteran of the seminary presidency, vented the subsurface hostility early in the conference, calling for the circle of love and combining good humor with the straightforward approach. The conference planners responded in the same vein.

Introducing SBC President Adrian Rogers, elected in Houston in June, McCall said: "I told Adrian in his office two years ago: 'Some day you'll be SBC president.' I didn't vote for you, Adrian, but now I wish I had." Turning to the audience he said: "I count him as a friend. He is one of God's most gifted servants. I believe God brought him to the kingdom for such an hour."

Rogers, who later said he was genuinely moved by McCall's remarks, then preached a sermon which brought a standing ovation and good evaluation from his listeners, a pattern which has been consistent since his election.

"These guys have preached to us, and I'm glad they have," McCall said of the battery of speakers in his closing address. "I haven't agreed with everything they've said, but I've been edified and stirred and deeply moved by many things they have said."

Earlier, Robison said, "If revival comes to Southern seminary, there will be some men who will walk back in their class and say, 'Some of the emphases that I have made have been improper.' If you're ashamed of what you're saying in your classroom, change your lecture. If you're proud of it, put it in print and back it. And if you sign something that says you're going to teach what Baptist believe and then write and teach to the contrary, then learn something about the lesson of integrity and quit signing papers you won't live up to and go teach somewhere else."

Afterward, in a face-to-face encounter in the hall, McCall told Robison emphatically that people with the same beliefs often express themselves very differently but should be able to get along with each other. Then the two men embraced. McCall has also said seminary professors have a responsibility to

communicate clearly and be open to examination.

In an address on the Bible, which drew a thunderous ovation from the overflow crowd in the 1,600-seat seminary chapel, which was full during the conference, McCall echoed a refrain others had touched on about the hollowness of academics without God's leadership. "You can read the Bible with all the skill and genius and IQ you have, and I wouldn't give you a plugged nickel for the result unless you read it under the guidance of the Holy Spirit," he said. "I want to put that down so deep for there is rationalism abroad in the land. There's liberal rationalism and there's fundamental rationalism whereby we begin to assume the authority of God's word with the stuff up here (pointing to the head)."

"And the authority of God's word has nothing to do with the manuscripts," he said. "The accuracy of the copies of the Bible available to us are not where the slippage comes. The slippage comes between the words of the Book and my understanding. For what is here (in the Bible) is not in error. But when God's spirit ministers the words of this book, now you can talk about truth."



A KNOCK ON THE HEAD—Hollywood stuntman George Wilbur says it took a knock on the head to make him realize Christ should be first in his life.

Stuntman experiences Christ following accident, injury

NASHVILLE—Some Christians might have difficulty thanking God for a knock on the head that resulted in an operation and a month in the hospital.

Not George Wilbur.

A Hollywood stuntman, Wilbur sustained a fractured skull, concussion and blood clot on the brain in March 1974 when an explosive charge went off near his head.

Before the accident Wilbur said he had been searching for something to give meaning to his life. But he had not responded when a friend who was a new Christian had witnessed to him.

In the hospital Wilbur said he had been confident he would recover even though doctors said there was only a 50-50 chance he would survive the operation to remove the blood clot.

He awoke following the surgery on Easter morning, April 12, 1974, at 7:05 a.m. His first words were "Thank you, Jesus."

"I was resurrected that day. I thank the Lord for the hit on the head he gave me," Wilbur said.

Wilbur shares his conversion experience and his life since 1974 on a fall segment of "At Home with the Bible," a weekly television and radio program produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Radio and Television Commission.

Before the accident Wilbur said he "was basically a good guy, a home-body." So

"And if it helps you to put another adjective or two in front of it, it's OK by me. You can call it inerrant and infallible and anything else you want, but I've said all that when I say that when God's spirit ministers this book to your heart and life, the result is truth. And I stake my life on that."

"Sometimes we preachers hold that Bible up as if to say to the people, 'If you hear me you hear what God is saying,'" McCall declared. "I'm afraid they hear what I have appropriated of God's word, and God forgive me if that is ever different or inadequate in terms of the whole truth of Scripture."

McCall's address, on the closing day, was the only one from a Southern seminary representative. Others came from Rogers; Robison; Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Institute for Biblical Studies, Dallas, Texas; Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.; SBC Pastors' Conference President James Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; and Homer



THE FOOD BASKETS—Thanksgiving is a celebration of a bountiful harvest, but for many in the world the food baskets remain empty. Photo by Mark Sandlin.

Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

In one session, led by Robison, 400 persons from an overflow audience made up of visitors and members of the seminary community came forward to kneel around the pulpit as Robison urged them to let the power of God's Holy Spirit work in their lives.

Criswell, who preached twice, spoke reverently of the love for the Bible he learned at Southern seminary, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1937, and declared that preaching the Bible as the Word of God will work miracles.

Patterson gave two addresses on the validity of Biblical inerrancy and closed with this comment: "I'd rather be chastised for believing too much than too little."

The conference blew some stereotypes. "My stereotypes of Duke McCall were certainly shattered," said a member of Robison's evangelistic team, thinking back on the week and especially McCall's sermon.

"My stereotypes were broken of them," a doctoral student said of the Heart of America planners. "I wonder if they gave up their stereotypes of me. I've realized that Robison, who said he hasn't attended seminary, must have felt nervous coming here to a seminary he has criticized. I've been praying for him."

HISTORICALLY FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

The churches at Trenton, Humboldt, and Rutherford installed radios in their auditoriums to hear M. E. Dodd of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., in a Gibson County program broadcast from Shreveport. Dodd was a native of Gibson County and his father, W. H. Dodd, lived at Trenton.

The laymen of Bledsoe association met at Gallatin to organize a Brotherhood program for that association.

25 YEARS AGO

Henry J. Huey began his duties as executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. He succeeded Norris Gilliam who had resigned to accept a position with the Baptist Sunday School Board. Huey had served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Milan, for 26 years.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Madison-Chester association, purchased a Methodist church building at Mifflin to be used as a Baptist mission. Buck Morton was pastor at Pleasant Hill.

Pulpit To Pew

By Jim N. Griffith

Thanksgiving is always the appropriate time to pause and reflect on the blessings and abundance of life.

The truth is, there is always something for which one can be grateful. Like the little old lady who must be one of the most thankful souls on earth.

Said she: "I have so much for which to be grateful—I have only two teeth, but fortunately they meet."

And no matter what the circumstances, there can be expressed gratitude. The grandson, who received a new shirt from his grandmother for his birthday, looked first at the size 14 collar, then at his size 16 neck, and sat down to write this thank-you-note.

"Dear Granny,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shirt.

I would write more, but I am just too choked up to say anything else."

It goes to show you that no matter how tightly you are squeezed by life, you can still say, "Thank you."

Devotional

Thank-you day

by Evelyn Carter Foote

Many years ago, we used to sing this song at Sunday School during November:

"Thanksgiving Day is coming,

I am so glad, aren't you?

But every day is 'Thank-you Day'

To God for gifts so true."

I'm still glad, each fall, that Thanksgiving

Day is coming. Soon

after Labor Day, I

begin looking forward

to it. It's a relaxed,

happy time, with family

and friends

gathered around the

laden table, laughing

and sharing ex-

periences of the past

year and memories of

those long past.

Even though we

remember each day of the year to say "Thank

you, Lord, for all your blessings," we may not

take time to "count them one by one," as the

beloved old song suggests. "It will surprise

you what the Lord had done," it reminds us.

As you enumerate the blessings, you'll surely

remember the Christian's priceless gift, the

fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, pa-

tience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

humility, and self-control" (Gal. 5:22 TEV).

You'll remember, too, your family, your

friends, and your church.

But take time, too, to think of the blessing of

being an American, in this year when defec-

tors, boat people, and other refugees long for

the privilege.

Think of the blessing of being a Tennessean.

You cannot cross our state without being

aware of its variety and its beauty. Our fertile

fields, vast forests, placid lakes, gurgling

mountain streams, and mighty rivers make

Tennessee a nature-lover's paradise.

And think of the blessing of living in this age

when labor-saving devices free us from the

drudgery our grandparents knew. Among my

blessings I count my washing machine, an

electric stove, a furnace that I control with

the flick of a finger, and non-iron fabrics!

These release me for hours with books,

music, sports, and hobbies.

Thank you, Lord, for these and all other

gifts.

Mrs. Foote is the wife of W.A. Foote, pastor

of Merton Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis.



Foote

Injured MK rushed home for treatment in Dallas

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—Wayne Martin, 16-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries Earl and Jane Martin, will enter Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Tex., for treatment of head injuries sustained in East Africa.

Doctors in Nairobi, Kenya, where he has been hospitalized with a brain hemorrhage, recommended that he be taken to the United States for treatment after bleeding stopped and his condition stabilized.

Cause of the hemorrhage is unclear although Martin was involved in two accidents in recent months. In August, a swimming pool accident in Rwanda, where his parents are stationed, caused temporary headaches. In October he was injured again while playing soccer at Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe, Kenya, where he is a student.

Loudon County convenes, conducts annual business

Herbert Vandergriff, pastor of Prospect Baptist Church in Loudon, was re-elected moderator of Loudon County Association at its annual meeting last month.

Elected to serve with the Loudon pastor were: vice-moderator E.M. Sherwood, pastor of Blairland Baptist Church, Loudon; treasurer Mrs. Charles E. Amos, a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Lenoir City; and clerk Charles Wheeler, a member of Dixie Lee Baptist Church in Lenoir City.

Georgia messengers uphold threatened 'Index' editor

SAVANNAH, Ga. (BP)—Jack U. Harwell, editor of Georgia Baptists' newspaper, *The Christian Index*, survived a heated attempt to have him fired because of his alleged liberal views toward the infallibility of the Bible at the Georgia Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The number of messengers who swarmed to the 158th annual meeting for the predicted confrontation topped by 800 the previous record of 2,279 who met in Atlanta in 1977. Prior to the convention, a group led by William A. Powell, editor of the *Southern Baptist Journal* and long-time critic of Harwell and his editorial policies, announced plans to seek Harwell's dismissal.

The Georgia Baptist Convention's Executive Committee met before the annual session and voted to ask its own administrative committee to meet with the Board of Directors of the *Christian Index* to consider the

charges against Harwell and to bring a report back to the Executive Committee at its Dec. 11 annual meeting.

When that action was presented to the convention messengers "as a matter of information" a messenger moved that the Georgia convention reaffirm once again the Baptist Faith and message statement as its only theological guideline for fellowship and employment.

Harwell's critics opposed that motion, charging that "at least one denominational leader does not believe it." But the convention overwhelmingly approved the motion.

Then, W. Henry Fields, chairman of the Christian Index Board of Directors, told the convention that Harwell had repeatedly affirmed his loyalty to that Baptist Faith and Message. Fields asked the convention to "express our full confidence in the personal and professional integrity of the editor so that the executive committee in its deliberations will know the sentiments of the messengers."

After brief but heated debate, Fields' motion was approved on standing vote. Observers estimated the vote to be about 2,500 for and about 500 votes against the motion.

Twice during later sessions of the convention, Powell's followers sought to raise the issue again, but each time were defeated.

In the midst of all the debate, a messenger moved that the Executive Committee "tell the world" that the name of Powell's publication, the *Southern Baptist Journal*, has no connection whatever with the Southern Baptist Convention, and that they ask Powell to remove that name from his masthead and logo. The motion was greeted with applause and immediately approved.

Later, Powell told the press that he has no intention of dropping the name *Southern Baptist Journal*, and that nobody has the power to make him do so.

A resolution urged Georgia Baptists to give more money for world hunger relief, and to channel it through Southern Baptist Convention Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

Messengers adopted a 1980 budget of \$15.4-million, an increase of \$1.4-million over 1979. After deduction of 10 percent for shared promotion-administration expenses, the total is divided equally between Georgia and Southern Baptist Convention causes.

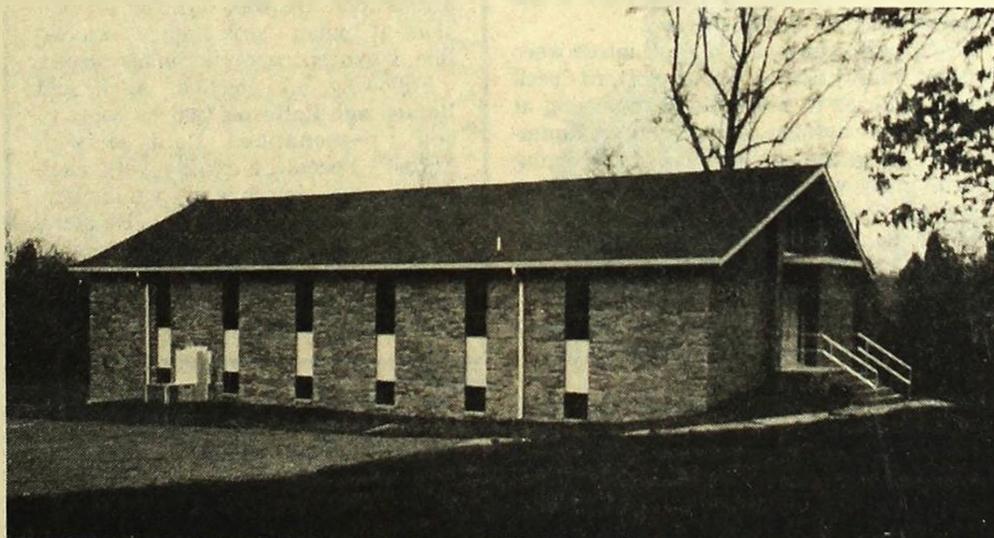
Missionaries report on visit to Iran

KITZINGEN, West Germany—The Henry E. Turlingtons, Southern Baptist missionaries on their way to a new assignment in West Germany, stopped off in Teheran, Iran, to have personal effects shipped out of the country just days before Islamic students seized the U.S. embassy and 60 American hostages there.

The Turlingtons were stationed in Iran until early this year when forced to evacuate by civil war between the Muslim faction of Ayatollah Khomeini and those of the now-deposed Shah.

In their brief visit back to Iran, the Turlingtons reported that only one or two members who had been active in their church still remained, but that they, too, were preparing to leave.

Turlington, now officially assigned to India, will fill the pastorate at Kitzingen (West Germany) Baptist Church through December when he and his wife will return to the United States for furlough. In India he has been teaching at a theological college in Bangalore and working in area church and evangelism ministries.



EASTSIDE DEDICATION — New facilities were dedicated Nov. 18 at Eastside Baptist Church in Burns. The structure is the first for the church which was constituted in 1973.

Eastside members to dedicate new structure in Burns

Members of Eastside Baptist Church in Burns gathered on Sunday, Nov. 18 for dedication of their new worship facilities. A special service was held at 2:30 p.m.

The first structure to be constructed by the group since becoming a church in 1973, it contains 5,000 sq. ft. in two stories. The sanctuary will provide seating for 148 persons, and educational space consists of eight classrooms.

Pendergrass & Sons, Burns, served as

general contractor; and the Baptist Sunday School Board architecture department provided plans for the facility. It was built at a cost of \$75,000.

Dedicatory remarks were brought by former pastor Tom Mosley, now pastor of First Baptist Church in White House. Clifford Horne, Nashville Baptist Association, also participated in the service.

Jack Stone is pastor of the Eastside congregation.

Christine E. Graves dies in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP) — Mrs. William W. Graves, 27-year veteran Southern Baptist missionary, died in a Puerto Rico hospital of cancer Nov. 15, two days after her 54th birthday.

Mrs. Graves and her husband, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for the Caribbean, returned to Puerto Rico three weeks before her death. They had been in the United States on medical leave from Aug. 18 until Oct. 25.

A stateside funeral was to be held Nov. 21 in Fairburn, Ga. A memorial service was held in Calvary Baptist Church in San Juan.

Mrs. Graves, a native of Douglas County, Ga., wrote the 1979 foreign mission graded series book for younger children, "Rainbow Island," which focused on Dominica.

Appointed in 1952 before her marriage, she was first stationed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as librarian of International Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1957 she married Graves, a widower with a daughter now grown. From 1957-72 they worked in Buenos Aires and Posadas, Argentina. In 1972 they moved to San Juan.

Mrs. Graves was a graduate of Bessie Tift College (now Tift College), Forsyth, Ga., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Margaret Fund aids 650

RICHMOND, Va.—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board granted Margaret Fund Scholarships to more than 650 MKs (missionary children) for the fall 1979-80 school term.

Nursing student dies of apparent suicide

A 19-year-old Union University nursing student died in a Jackson hospital Nov. 15, an apparent suicide victim.

Melinda A. Newman was found at the home of a friend in Jackson with a gunshot wound that appeared to be self-inflicted, according to Chester County Sheriff Eric Bell. Bell said she was alone in the house.

She was rushed to Jackson Madison County Hospital and died soon after arrival.

A sophomore, she was attending Union University on a nursing scholarship.

Funeral services were held in Henderson on Nov. 17. A memorial service was held at Union on Friday, Nov. 16.

Victory over depression explored by ministers

Most Baptist pastors are experiencing serious tension. In many cases, this tension leads to severe depression.

How depression and tension develop, the ways they are expressed, and methods for surviving their attacks were among major topics explored at the 1979 Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference at East Park Baptist Church in Memphis last week.

In a meeting designed to support, encourage, and reassure the minister, speakers commended the men by telling them that "the only person who escapes tension is the one who drops out," and the experiences the pastors live through are "because they are determined to be productive." Bob Carpenter, pastor of Whitehaven Baptist Church in the host city, said, "The person who drops out becomes non-productive. But every committed Christian has tension, and a Christian can learn from the experience of tension and depression."

He cited a chapter in the life of Elijah "when he fled like a coward from Jezebel's rage." He explained the mistake of Elijah "seeing only the circumstances around him and taking his eyes off of God." The resulting tension can cause us to break down, he warned, leading to self pity and fear. He suggested Elijah's remedy and the remedy for a pastor should be to trust God to the fullest and determine to pay no attention to unjust circumstances surrounding them. "Sometimes, under the cave-ins of life, we are nearer deliverance than at any other time," Carpenter explained.

Another west Tennessee pastor, John Lee Taylor, explained that "Jesus, out of the depths of the pits, cried to God. Each of us has days when we sit in our individual pits, and they come in all sizes and shapes."

He defined some of the common "pits" of the minister as: the crisis of unachieved goals, the "mid-career crisis pit," loneliness, failure, poor health, and others. "Behind the facade of glib talk of glorious victories, there are also the nights of dismal failures," the West Jackson Baptist Church pastor said. "There are days when we, too, call out from the pits."

Reassuring the men that there is "partnership in the pits," Taylor said, "Paul learned that even though life bends you, it doesn't have to break you." He then told them in order to gain progress from the pits a person must learn that life isn't over just because the curtain has come down for the intermission. "We must learn lessons in the pits, we must rely on the promises of the word of God, and we must return to the battle of life with assurance and victory."

Calvin Metcalf, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Fountain City, visualized the feelings of failure and unworthiness experienced by Simon Peter as he portrayed that New Testament character for the audience. He then showed Peter's strength emerge as a result of Christ's faithfulness to him.

Encouraging the pastors to take their victories and act upon them, Jerry Self, Tennessee Baptist Convention public affairs and Christian life consultant, told the men to "take their strengths and reach out to those who hurt," he said.

Relating the story of the good Samaritan, Self compared many Baptists to the lawyer who asked Jesus "Who is my neighbor?" "Baptists are 'whoers' with a flair," he charged. We are skilled at asking these questions. But on the other hand, the hero of our story is a

heretic who does well—a Samaritan." Learn to build good action on solid thinking. Reach out with your skills to people who hurt, instead of attacking each other with those skills, he concluded. Learn to think of 'neighbor' as Jesus did—as a verb rather than a noun.

Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church in Nashville, pleaded with the pastors to rely upon the strength and grace of God in all of their endeavors and not upon their own power. "A preacher cannot preach to make the people see the mystery," Paschall emphasized. "Everything I am trying to do as a preacher, I cannot do unless God helps me. The Holy Spirit can convict a man. I cannot."

He concluded by saying pastors must deal with themselves severely in order to be open and contrite and fluid enough to let God work in the church service. "Only the grace of God can enable the people to see and the preacher to preach so that the people can see."

Pastors' Conference president Joe Stacker said ministers and churches will have the appearance of success, but not the reality of success, if Jesus Christ is not the crux in the victories of life. He assured them they could have victories if they remained pure in heart and held no mixture of pride, compromise, or weakness. Stacker is pastor of Concord's First Baptist Church.

Emphases on doctrinal preaching and evangelistic preaching were given by Wayne Ward, professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

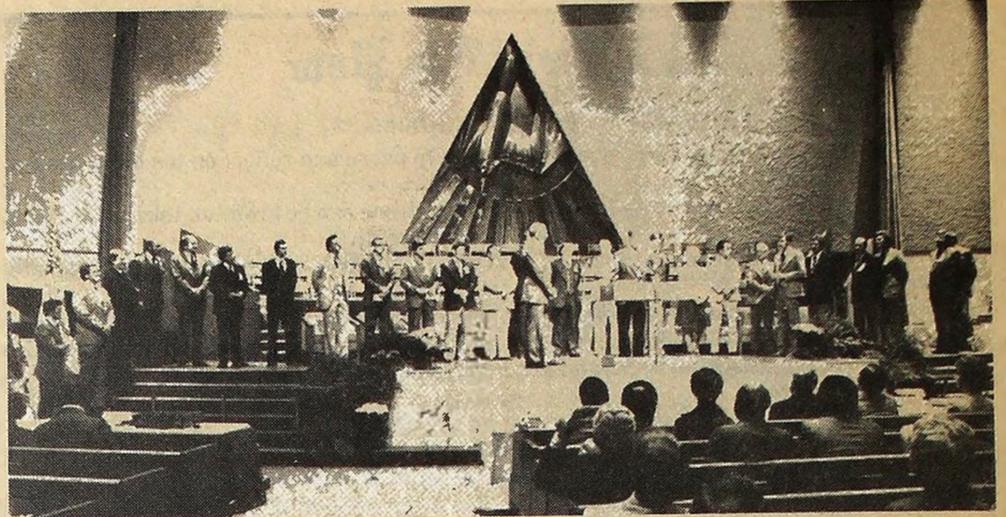
The Kentucky professor expressed concern for the downturn in evangelistic efforts which has been intensified because of preoccupation with other things in the local church. He also attacked the television "para church" which he said "drags evangelism down as an ulterior device to promote another cause."

He emphasized one of the greatest things a pastor can do is produce sound doctrinal teaching to his people. He encouraged them, however, not to major on the negative in their preaching, and not to distort doctrine to just one aspect.

Darold Morgan, president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, also spoke to the men. He pledged his personal assistance and the support of the Annuity Board in working with the pastors in the financial aspects of their careers.

Major performances in special music were brought Jimmy Stroud, pastor of Third Creek Baptist Church in Knoxville. Stroud sang at each of three sessions and presented a mini-concert before the final service. Also bringing special music were Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Randolph, the Shelby Singers, the Common Bond, Beth Lanham and Sarah Ogle, and the Colonial Baptist Church (Memphis) sanctuary choir.

The pastors will meet again in an annual session in November 1980 in Johnson City.



NEW TENNESSEANS—Pastors and other church staff workers who have come to Tennessee churches during the past year were introduced to the Tennessee Baptist convention during last week's session.

New staff members, recognized

New staff members from across the state were recognized by Tom Madden last week during the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Pastors who were present included: Roy Lee Barbee, Rittertown Baptist Church, Hampton; Nobel D. Brown, First Baptist Church, Maryville; Bobby L. Coates, Piedmont Baptist Church, Dandridge; Erwin Crawford, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Rutledge; Richard Dendler, Ridgeview Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Clinton F. Dunagan, Valley Hills Baptist Church, Bristol; Gene Fleming, West Knoxville Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Other pastors were Carl Freudenthal, Hopewell Baptist Church, Springfield; Dean Hampton, Calvary Baptist Church, Erwin; Howard Hannah, Beech Park Baptist Church, Oliver Springs; J. Mike Kemper, Childs Memorial Baptist Church, Harriman; Tom Lovorn, East Ridge Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Jim McPherson, Second Baptist Church, Clinton; W.B. Oakley, New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Dyer; James Redding, Lamar Heights Baptist Church, Memphis; Arnold Rogers, McMahan Calvary Baptist Church, Athens; Jimmy Ross, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cleveland; Doyle Russell, First Baptist Church, St. Bethlehem.

Other pastors included Bob Segrest, Concord Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Gary Taylor, Dalewood Baptist Church, Nashville; John Lee Taylor, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; Fred Trexler Jr., Northview Baptist Church, Memphis; and Joel Wood, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Morristown.

Assistant pastors were Dana L. Fachman, Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis; and Judson L. Hays, First Baptist Church, Hixson.

Ministers of education were Hugh S. Cater, First Baptist Church, Mr. Juliet; and Daniel Lee Scott, Berclair Baptist Church, Memphis.

Also recognized were Allen Thomas, minister of education, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Knoxville; George Wadlington, minister of music, South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman; Mike Nason, minister to youth, Southland Baptist Church, Memphis; and Carl Duck, executive director, Nashville Baptist Association, Nashville.

Wayne Allen begins service to pastors

Wayne Allen, pastor of East Park Baptist Church in Memphis, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference for 1980 at the group's annual meeting in his church last week.

Allen, who has served the East Park congregation since 1970, succeeds Joe Stacker, pastor of First Baptist Church in Concord, in the presidential post.

Elected to serve with Allen were: Frank Proffitt, pastor of Fort Robinson Baptist Church in Kingsport, vice-president; and Gayle Alexander, pastor of Alamo's First Baptist Church, secretary.

A native Memphian, Allen received his education from Memphis State University, Union University in Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. In addition to the west Tennessee church which he leads, he has been a pastor in Waynesboro, and also in Arkansas and Mississippi. He was director of missions at Indian Creek Baptist Association, Waynesboro, earlier in his career.

Following his election, Allen told *Baptist and Reflector* that he hopes to see "personalized Bold Mission Thrust" become a reality with each pastor, each church, and each lay person, during the coming year. He plans to emphasize this in his leadership stating, "The gospel must start in each Jerusalem before it can be carried throughout the world."



PASTORS' OFFICERS—Wayne Allen, right, pastor of East Park Baptist Church in Memphis, and Frank Proffitt, pastor of Fort Robinson Baptist Church, Kingsport, were elected president and vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference in Memphis last week. Not pictured is Gayle Alexander, pastor of First Baptist Church, Alamo, who was elected secretary.

Seminary reports on grads

BEIRUT, Lebanon—Most of the 48 graduates of Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut, are Baptist pastors and church workers; a few work in other denominations. Fourteen graduates now serve in Jordan, 11 each in Lebanon and the United States, and three in Egypt. Two each serve in Morocco and England, and one each in Syria, Gaza, Jordan, West/Germany, and Sweden. Two of those in Lebanon teach at the seminary.

Association honors Robert H. Mizell

Director of missions Robert H. Mizell was honored for service to New Duck River Association recently. Mizell has led in the top post for 10 years. He received a plaque and a check for approximately \$1,500.

In other associational action, Carl Bond, pastor of El Bethel Baptist Church, was re-elected to the post of moderator. Named to serve for the first time as vice-moderator was Ray Winsett, pastor of Southside Baptist Church.

Evelyn Parks, a member of Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church, was re-elected treasurer; and Tom Summers, a member of Parkview Baptist Church, was elected as clerk.

First Baptist Church in Shelbyville is scheduled to host the association's spring meeting on April 15. The fall sessions will be held Oct. 20-21 at Shelbyville Mills and Parkview churches.

Mrs. Gay elected president of Woman's Missionary Union

Almost 500 women from across Tennessee, assembled at Whitehaven Baptist Church in Memphis for the 91st annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Nov. 12, elected a new president, heard reports of the past year's WMU work in the state, and heard mission messages from two missionaries and two SBC agency executives.

Mrs. Robert H. Gay of Lawrenceburg, an Executive Board member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and WMU director of the Lawrence County Baptist Association for 10 years, was chosen president in a ballot election against Mrs. Guy Hale of Maryville.

Mrs. Gay was the choice of the state WMU nominating committee which presents a slate of officers each year. The committee's choice is usually uncontested, but this year Mrs. Hale, WMU director for the Chilhowee Baptist Association who has also served on the executive board of Tennessee's WMU, was nominated from the floor by Mary Catherine Crockett of Johnson City.

The new president replaces Mrs. Claude D. Jennings of Lebanon, who completed the traditional four years in the office.

Mrs. Gay is a member of Lawrenceburg's First Baptist Church. She is a graduate of Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Memphis, and Cumberland University, Lebanon. As a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Mrs. Gay was vice-chairperson of the education committee and chaired the graduate school sub-committee. Her husband is district attorney of the 11th Judicial Circuit in Lawrenceburg. They have four grown children and one grandchild.

Other officers elected, all from the report of the nominating committee with no opposition, were Doris June Large of Knoxville, recording secretary; Mrs. Don Lockhart of Jefferson City, northeastern region vice-president; Mrs. Guy Hale of Maryville, eastern region vice-president; Mrs. Clyde Wilhoit of Chattanooga, southeastern region vice-president; Mrs. Edward Hudson of Walling, north central region vice-president; Mrs. Porter Brown Jr. of Springfield, central region vice-president; Mrs. J.T. Hargrove of Lewisburg, south central region vice-president; Mrs. Harold Allen of Springville, northwestern region vice-president; and Mrs. H.L. Mooneyhan of Collierville, southwestern region vice-president.

Directors of the various age-group organizations of the state WMU reported on the work of their organization during the past year and projected some of their future plans. Mary Jane Nethery, executive director-treasurer of Tennessee's WMU, reported on the overall work of the combined organizations.

Miss Nethery reported that Tennessee leads the Southern Baptist Convention in the number of WMU leadership study course credits earned last year, having earned 25 percent of all credits in the entire Southern Baptist Convention. She also reported a 16 percent overall increase in the mission offerings collected across the state, led by the Golden State Mission Offering which increased by 27 percent.

She expressed concern, however, about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, "even though we had a 14 percent increase," she said, "because with depreciation of the dollar on foreign markets...and rapid inflation, when we're not maintaining more than a 14 percent increase in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, we actually are decreasing the amount of work that can be done on our foreign mission fields."

Miss Nethery also emphasized the need for increasing the use of volunteers in missions at home and overseas. She pointed out that while there are 3,000 foreign missionaries and about that many home missionaries under appointment by the mission boards, "there are hundreds of thousands of lay people who can make the difference in reaching the world for Christ."

Major speakers for the meeting were home missionary Tim Terry, director of international ministries for Illinois; Webster Carroll, missionary to Uganda; Bill O'Brien, secretary of the Foreign Mission Board's denominational coordination department; and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the national WMU organization.

Referring to the WMU convention's theme, "The Gift in Thee," based on II Timothy 1:6-7, Terry said, "He (God) has not given us a spirit of timidity or fear but a spirit of power, love, and discipline. Without that our task would be impossible.

"We need a spirit of power because without the power of God we cannot change human beings," he continued. "We can use all kinds of psychological and Madison Avenue tactics and we can get people all enthusiastic and we can form a club, but we can't make a church. We can get people to say 'I'm a Christian,' but we can't change their lives."

Carolyn Weatherford, also alluding to the theme, reminded the women of "gifts we need to rekindle for Bold Mission Thrust today." She said women have a gift for organizing, a gift of generosity, a gift of teaching, a gift of intercessory prayer, and a gift of sharing themselves with people in need. She challenged the women to recognize those and other gifts and use them for God's glory.

Web Carroll told the women of the hardships and dangers he had to face in Uganda during the "reign of terror" of Idi Amin. He thanked them for their gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which enabled them to carry on a ministry even after Baptist churches were banned. But he said it was the prayers of Southern Baptists that really made it possible for them to stay and that gave them the courage they needed to face the dangers.

He told of passing a particularly difficult roadblock set up by Amin's army just three months before Amin's government fell to Tanzanian troops. Although Amin's soldiers didn't harm him physically, they accused him of being a CIA agent and harrassed him with verbal abuse. Later that day, returning home, he had to pass through the same roadblock.

He told the women how he began to pray desperately that he might be inspected by a soldier who would not treat him harshly. When he reached the roadblock, three soldiers let him pass without question, and the last soldier was a young man that Carroll had baptized several years before. After talking with the young soldier briefly, Carroll said he "went home rejoicing" only to find 12 letters from WMU women in the United States, all saying they were praying for him.

"I have never felt more assurance of God's presence than I did that day," Carroll said, and he encouraged the women to continue praying for missionaries by name.

Bill O'Brien spoke of the Bold Mission Thrust goal of reaching the world for Christ by A.D. 2000, evaluating the shortcomings of Baptists so far in trying to reach that goal (see separate story in this issue).

Business conducted by Northern messengers

Carr's Branch, New Tazewell, and New Friendship Baptist Churches hosted the recent annual sessions of Northern Baptist Association. Messengers to that meeting elected Horace J. Dyer, former pastor of Cedar Ford Baptist Church in Luttrell, as moderator. George C. Walker, pastor of Carr's Branch, was re-elected vice-moderator; and J.V. Waller Jr., a member of Warwicks Chapel Baptist Church, was re-elected treasurer. Cedar Ford member Leslie L. Corum will serve as the association's clerk.

Willow Springs Baptist Church in Luttrell and Nave Hill Baptist Church in Maynardville are scheduled to host the 1980 annual meeting, Oct. 3-4.

Joseph Day is the association's new director of missions. (See Baptist and Reflector, Oct. 17).



WMU OFFICERS ELECTED—Mrs. Claude Jennings of Lebanon, stepping down after four years as president of Tennessee's Woman's Missionary Union, congratulates the new officers. They are (left to right) regional vice presidents Mrs. Guy Hale, Mrs. Porter Brown Jr., Mrs. Harold Allen, and Mrs. H.L. Mooneyhan; and Mrs. Robert Gay, the new president. Other new officers were not available for the photograph.

O'Brien tells WMU members Bold Missions is impossible

Bill O'Brien, secretary of the Foreign Mission Board's denominational coordination department, told women at the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Convention in Memphis that the Bold Mission Thrust task of reaching the world for Christ by A.D. 2000 is an impossibility.

"We have self-imposed a close-out date on the Great Commission," he said, and there's no way to accomplish it, with only 20 years and two months left, "if you're talking about church as usual and missions as usual.

"For you see it's one thing to sit in a nice warm church like this and repeat pious platitudes and convince ourselves that everybody in the world is going to hear the gospel by the end of this century," he con-



Bill O'Brien—a bold message

tinued. "It's quite another thing to get outside the warm church into the cold, cruel world against the resistant obstacles we are now facing and make it become a reality."

O'Brien enumerated to the 500 Tennessee women gathered at Whitehaven Baptist Church, Memphis, some of the physical and cultural obstacles of trying to reach 4.2 billion in the world with the gospel.

He noted that 25 percent of the 4.2 billion people are in mainland China (population about 1 billion). China, O'Brien stated, has been off limits to the propagation of the gospel for 30 years.

Only 15 million of India's 600 million people are Christians, according to O'Brien, in a Hindu culture where new religious thought is incorporated into the old religion "like putting on one more shirt," with no life-changing commitment, therefore the climate is not conducive to listening to the gospel.

Then in the Middle East, he said, there are 300 million adherents to the "militant" Islamic religion who are hostile to missionaries who attempt to proselyte among their people.

"Does anybody think it's possible to go into Iran today and spread the gospel?" he asked.

Then there's the European "secular block" that's "post Christian" and only five percent of the population attend anybody's church, he said. The other 95 percent of Europeans are "extremely resistant to the gospel."

"Perhaps one of the biggest obstacles to Bold Mission Thrust does not lie in the resistant nations of the world," O'Brien said. "Perhaps it lies within the heart of Southern Baptist life itself."

He said the obstacle of apathy within our own denomination "is even more subtle and insidious because it has laid claim to us while we were sitting in Bible studies and worship hours and all kinds of programmatic activities, patting ourselves on the back for our 100 percent attendance pins.

"We might be astounded to see what God is willing to do if we are willing to do something," O'Brien continued. "Who knows but what He might knock walls down and open doors and create hearts that were ready to respond if it were met by a similar response by those people who named themselves the children of God."

He said that while the idea of reaching the world for Christ by A.D. 2000 is a worthy one, "the sad thing about an idea is that it becomes an ideology and then it becomes institutionalized and then we spend the rest of our days sanctifying the institution."

"Up to now all we talk about Bold Mission Thrust is in terms of percentage gain—let's up the Cooperative Program by two percent or five percent...Nobody has been willing to talk in terms of totality, lavish giving, life-changing commitment, altered lifestyles."

He said he is just as interested in the denomination changing its "lifestyle" as he is in individuals changing their personal lifestyles.

"I don't know if we can continue to operate as we have known ourselves as a denomination and expect Bold Mission Thrust to happen. What we're literally asking God to do is get down on our plane and perform miracles on the basis of percentage increases."

He challenged Southern Baptists to return to a Biblical understanding of what it means to be called. He said there's only one call in the Scriptures and "that's the call to followship.

"Jesus didn't call out people to be preachers, doctors, missionaries, singers, or homemakers. He calls you to discipleship."

Arkansas increases giving, challenges messengers

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)—Arkansas Baptists challenged the requests of messengers from three churches to be seated and moved to put their state newspaper under a separate board during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Messengers also moved to meet the timetable of when state budget receipts would be divided evenly with the national Southern Baptist Cooperative Program-supported ministries.

The seating of messengers from Russellville First Baptist, Hot Springs First Baptist and Vanderbilt Avenue Baptist in West Memphis was challenged because of their alleged practices of open communion and accepting persons baptized by immersion

in another denomination for church membership.

Messengers from Vanderbilt Avenue said their willingness to accept a couple baptized in another denomination was based on the grounds that the church of Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers did the same thing.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, said in an interview later that his church did in fact accept for membership "those who have been immersed in a church of like faith and practice." He said it happens rarely and the beliefs of each membership applicant is examined.

"I sometimes wonder that this is an issue among Southern Baptist churches, because of the autonomy of every Baptist church and because it is a subtlety of theological interpretation," Rogers said.

"Communion" is, with baptism, the second of only two ordinances observed in Southern Baptist churches. A church which practices open communion administers the Lord's Supper to persons not necessarily members of that local church body but which have similar beliefs. Open communion is not an uncommon practice among Southern Baptist churches, except in areas strongly influenced by Landmarkism, which stresses localism in church life.

The three churches in question were all seated but were warned that continuation of such practices would likely mean they would not be seated at next year's convention.

Messengers adopted a budget of \$7,095,097, of which 42.7 percent, an increase of one-half percent, is to go to world missions causes through the national Cooperative Program. The Executive Board was given a year's extension to derive a plan that will divide convention receipts equally between state and national SBC causes by 1985.

Messengers also adopted Executive Board recommendations to proceed with plans for an adult leadership conference center planned on convention property at Paron, and to set up a three-year trial period for the Arkansas Baptist newsmagazine to function under a separate board.

In the current line of authority, the newsmagazine, with a weekly circulation of 72,000, is under the state's executive secretary. The messengers' action will establish a nine-member board consisting of at least one businessman, one attorney, one journalist, one woman and one preacher representing all eight districts with one at-large member. The trial begins Jan. 1, 1981.

Brazil's publishing board elects new director

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Joaquim Paula Rosa has been named executive director of the Brazilian Baptist Publishing Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. Rosa has been executive secretary of the coordinating board of the Baptist convention of the state of Rio de Janeiro.

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Sunday School lesson for November 25

The forces of evil

By Jerry Heflin, Bible teacher
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy
Seymour, Tennessee

Basic passages: Ephesians 2:1-10; 5:21-6:24
Focal passages: Ephesians 6:10-20

The idea of spiritual warfare confuses many Christians. They are not sure who the enemy is and where the battle front is located. For many, mention of spiritual war brings responses such as "Well, the devil was defeated at Calvary, and we don't need to bother him."

The careful student of the Word will note that the New Testament doesn't say God will resist the devil for us; we are told to resist him (compare James 4:7,8; I Peter 5:8,9). Satan was defeated at Calvary, but he doesn't play dead and roll over. We must, through faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, lay hold of all that God has given us. The devil is a usurper, a phony, and we must force him off God's property.



Heflin

The warrior's power (Eph. 6:10)

We are not to cave in nor throw up our hands in defeat. Where will we get the strength to do this? "Be strong in the Lord." This verb may be taken as passive in mood and be translated "be made strong." In either case, it rests with the Lord. We dare not face the enemy of our souls on our own strength. It is essential that we be filled with the Spirit. All our sins must be cleansed so Satan will have nothing by which to accuse and intimidate us.

The warrior's foes (Eph. 6:12)

The term "devil" means a "slanderer" or "false accuser" (Cf. Rev.12:10). Jesus said he is a liar and murderer (John 8:44). He plays dirty and is very crafty. He does his work through demonic forces. Demons are not those hideous creatures pictured by medieval artists. They are spirit beings with personalities. They seek to inhabit a human body so that they may express themselves and do their devilment. They will reside in an animal body if it suits their purposes (cf. Matt.8:31).

Paul tells us that the real enemy is the evil force behind flesh and blood. "Principalities, powers, rulers, spiritual wickedness" all relate to the hierarchy of spiritual authority over which Satan rules. Those who doubt the reality of such spirit beings have drawn their conclusions from ivory towers and not the battle front. Paul is not dealing with theory, nor superstition, but reality.

The warrior's armor (Eph. 6:11, 13-17)

The Christian is able to stand as he puts on his armor. Paul pictures that armor in terms of the armor worn by Roman soldiers in his time. They were equipped from head to foot (v.13). When this is done the Christian will still be standing when the smoke of battle clears from the field (v.13b). Note carefully what that armor is.

"Loins girded about with truth." The girdle was a belt to which everything else was attached. It was worn tightly around the loins. Without it the other pieces of armor would flop and be in the way. The beginning point of our spiritual stand is truth. We worship in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24). We must serve in truth. Isaiah 59:14 pictures a street scene where truth has fallen in the street. Other traffic—justice, righteousness, and equity—cannot pass. This is God's "malfunction junction."

"The breastplate of righteousness." This

protected vital organs. We must know that our righteousness is in Jesus Christ. If we are not sure where we stand in terms of appropriated righteousness, Satan will threaten us and back us from the battle field.

"Shoes of peace." This may represent readiness or preparedness. We are to live ready. If we have to stop and get ready then we may lose the battle.

"The shield of faith." This is a movable piece of weaponry. It stops the swords (fiery darts) of the enemy. Rest assured that the devil uses shafts of impurity, selfishness, doubt, fear, and disappointment. Through faith we are to know the Word and use it as Jesus used it in Matthew 4. Study the first three chapters and be reminded of who we are in Christ, and what our privileges are.

"The helmet of salvation." We must know we are saved. The mind must be fortified with the Word of God. Memorize passages of the Bible. Include Bible drill and Scripture memory in your study program.

"The Sword of the Spirit." This represents the Word of God. (v.17b) The word for "Word of God" is not the usual LOGOS, but RHEMA. It means the word of God (LOGOS) personalized to a particular situation. In other words, the Word must be used skillfully. You have had the experience of rereading the Bible in a certain passage when suddenly that verse seemed to leap at you and you met the Lord in a new experience. At that point, that often read verse becomes RHEMA to you, the LOGOS personalized. When this happens, you claim that verse and stand by faith.

When all this armor is in place, according to verse 11, you can stand against all the wiles (schemes, tricks, strategies) of Satan.

The warrior's battlefield (Eph. 6:18-20)

After all that armor is in place, where is the battle line? It is prayer. Someone has said that prayer is the battlefield. The victory is won on our knees. Our service and visitation is a claiming of the spoils of battle. All the prayer talk we hear is not idle talk; it is the essential battle line of the church.

Battle line prayer is to include all saints. It also includes prayer for boldness (cf. Acts 4:29,33).

Hawaii pledges refugees' aid

HONOLULU (BP)—The 37th annual meeting of the Hawaii Baptist Convention became a celebration as messengers renewed their commitment to Bold Mission Thrust and rallied to the cause of Indochinese and Cambodian refugees.

Messengers adopted a \$792,830 budget for 1980, including a state Cooperative Program goal of \$234,000. Of that, 25 percent will be distributed to world missions causes through the national Cooperative Program.

Messengers from three new churches were seated, increasing the number of churches, missions and language congregations affiliated with the Hawaii Baptist Convention to 60. One of the new churches, the Happy Valley Baptist Church, is in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

In one session, Western Samoa High Chief Tuisuga presented the first Cooperative Program contribution from the two new Baptist missions in Western Samoa sponsored by the Happy Valley church.

Messengers adopted resolutions to encourage churches to sponsor Indochinese boat people, arriving in Hawaii at the rate of 150 a month, and to receive special offerings during November for hunger relief for Cambodian refugees in Thailand. Those present gave a special offering toward hunger relief of \$4,302, including an anonymous gift of \$3,000.

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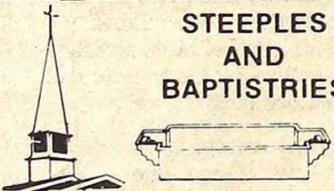
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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Sunday School lesson for November 25

A vicious cycle

By George Lewis McGlothlin, pastor
 First Baptist Church, Huntland

Basic Passage: Judges 2
 Focal Passage: Judges 2:10-17

A deacon wanted to speak tactfully to a student who had supplied in the church. "I'll put my remarks in the form of a parable," the deacon smiled. "I recollect Archie Tucker's first deer hunt. He was kind of green. He followed the deer all right, but he followed it all day in the wrong direction."



McGlothlin

The Israelites had followed the Lord from Egypt into the land of promise. However, after conquering and dividing up most of the land, Joshua died. Within a generation of that time, the people of God began to be conquered from time to time by various peoples such as the Philistines and Ammonites.

Once God's people were defeated by one of these groups, they prayed and God sent a deliverer. Probably one of the more well-known of these deliverers was Samson. Each time after the Israelites were delivered, the Scripture tells us that the people "sinned against the Lord again!" It seemed to be a vicious cycle—sinning by God's people, defeat by the enemy, confession of sin, deliverance by God through one of the judges. Where did God's people go wrong?

First, they failed to teach their children. "And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel" (Judges 2:10). While in the wilderness, the Jewish men had been instructed by God through Moses to teach their children. From this, the children were to learn the great facts about God's dealing with man. However, the Jewish men failed to follow God's instructions in this matter. It may have been because they were too busy working or worrying or fighting. It may have been that they assumed their children would find out from someone else. Whatever the reason, their failure affected the destiny of the nation.

Today, there is a great need for Christian men to teach their children the great truths of God. Failure to do so will affect future generations.

A little boy asked his mother which of the characters in Pilgrim's Progress she liked best. She replied, "Christian, of course. He is the hero of the whole story." Her son said, "I don't, Mother. I like Christina best, for when Christian went on his pilgrimage he started out alone; but when Christiana went, she took the children with her."

Whom are you taking, and where?
 Second, they were influenced by the world around them. Judges 2:12 tells us, "And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger."

The vicious cycle started with the failure of one generation to teach the next. It continued with the people settling in the land of Palestine. They became influenced by the people and the circumstances surrounding them instead of following the Lord. They compromised with the people in that they wanted to serve not only the Lord God, but also Baal and Ashtaroth.

When people compromise with God to please those that are around them, one cannot expect less than the Lord's anger to be displayed. These people had much potential for God. However, they had their attention focused in the wrong direction.

A man visiting an art gallery could not help noticing the row of artists busily copying a celebrated painting. After watching for a while, he told the guide, "Each of those painters has a different color for the horses. No two copies are at all alike!" With an expressive gesture, the guide replied, "Don't look at them! Look only at the original."

The problem with the Jews who settled in the land of promise was the fact that they looked at those around them instead of the Lord God. That was their biggest mistake. To whom do you look?

Third, they paid no attention to God-given leaders. "And yet they would not hearken unto their leaders" (Judges 2:17). One of the greatest tragedies in America today is the lack of attention paid to God-given leadership. This is not a new phenomenon; it is age-old. When Moses was leading the people of God out of Egypt and through the wilderness, there was one complaint after another by the people toward Moses. But even in their complaining, they from time to time listened to what Moses said and followed his leadership. It seems that at this time, years later, the people which are characterized in Judges as "every man doing what was right in his own eyes," got to the place that they wouldn't even listen to the leaders God sent. That was and is still a great tragedy.

An Englishman visiting Nazareth watched with interest as the shepherds watered their sheep at the well. As the sheep finished drinking, the shepherds made a call and their sheep followed them. The Englishman asked one of the shepherds, "Do the sheep always follow their own shepherd when they are called?" "Yes," replied the shepherd, "except in one condition." "What is that?" "The sheep that do not follow the voice of the shepherd are the sick sheep. If a sheep is healthy it will always follow the shepherd, but if there is something wrong with the sheep, it will follow anybody."

The vicious cycle came as a result of a sick people: sick because a past generation failed to teach them; sick because they followed the crowd of the present generation; sick because they hearkened not to their God-given leadership.

Is your life a vicious cycle, or are you following the Shepherd?

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N.C. Baptists, Wake Forest approve new relationship

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)—North Carolina Baptists approved a new relationship between the state convention and Wake Forest University which will allow one-third of the school's trustees to be from "any evangelical Christian body."

Messengers also passed a \$17.5-million budget, including an allocation of 34.66 percent for world missions through the national Cooperative Program.

The Wake Forest solution changes the previous agreement between the school and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina which said all 36 trustees must be North Carolina Southern Baptists.

The plan, effective Jan. 1, 1981, will stop regular Cooperative Program contributions to Wake Forest. After that date, churches must designate Wake Forest as a recipient if they wish the school to share in their gifts through the state convention. Wake Forest will receive \$1,057,000 from the convention budget in 1980.

The amendment specifying that out-of-state trustees be evangelical Christians was an attempt to salvage the proposal after an earlier amendment had made it unworkable in the eyes of the convention leaders who spent the past 14 months negotiating it. The early amendment would have required the 12 out-of-state trustees to be Baptists.

Inclusion of non-Baptists on the board would be a "reversal of Baptist principle and practice," said Forrest Feezor, who offered the amendment. "It will not contribute anything to Wake Forest University unless it is some money, and I believe we're not ready to sell our practice and principle on that basis."

Wake Forest University President James Ralph Scales said regular contributions to the university from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, which are tied to and match those from the state Baptist convention, would not diminish. The Baptist contributions amount

to four percent of the Wake Forest undergraduate campus budget.

Messengers to the 1979 convention refused to pass a resolution recommending the adoption of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) II treaty. They did pass a resolution urging churches to study the needs of migrant, seasonal farm workers in their state and bring a report to the convention in 1980 with proposals to improve and expand ministries to those groups.

New Salem honors pastors during annual meeting

Messengers to New Salem Association honored two former pastors and elected officers at their recent annual meeting.

Receiving plaques of appreciation for their service to the association were former pastors Oscar W. Trainer and C.C. Hall. Both men are retired.

The pastor of Rome Baptist Church, John Norman, was re-elected to the post of moderator. Mike Christian, pastor of First Baptist Church in Gordonsville, was elected for the first time as vice-moderator.

Also re-elected were treasurer Henry H. Smith, a member of First Baptist Church in Carthage; and clerk Elmer Wills, a member of Hickman Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church in Gordonsville will host the 1980 annual meetings on Oct. 19.



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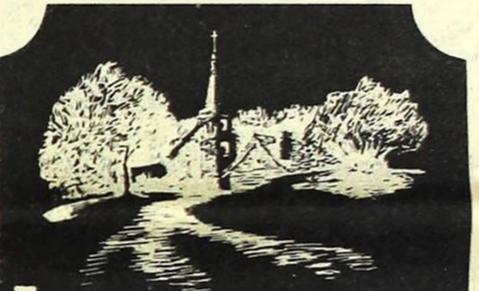
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Union cornerstone reveals 67-year-old note

By Joe Westbury

When W.A. Moffat left a note in Union University's new administration building cornerstone nearly 70 years ago, he had no idea he would be around when the item would be retrieved decades later.

Now 96 years old, the retired carpenter was as surprised as anyone else in his family when the note recently came to light. A sealed tin box, Moffat's note, and a bottle bearing another message were retrieved from the cornerstone by college officials as the building was recently prepared for demolition.

It was a brisk fall day 67 years ago when the 29-year-old Jacksonian, a foreman on a crew constructing Barton Hall, decided to leave the crew's names for posterity in the cornerstone.

Tearing a brown lunch sack, Moffat took his pencil and listed the names of his five co-workers—"Walter Lerry, E.S. Percell, Ruf Douglas, Joe Ray," and "Mr. Alkin"—and then signed his name and title. Above the

names he had written "Carpenter's crew of Union University, Sept. 14, 1912."

The note was folded and placed in a Coca-Cola bottle in the cornerstone.

Two days later the general foreman constructing the building—"T.W. Harper, Columbus, Ohio"—wrote a similar note listing his crew and placed it in a smaller bottle in the square block. After college officials had placed a soldered tin box in the cornerstone, masons began their work of sealing the block and moving on to other tasks of constructing the \$50,000 building.

When thinking back on 1912, Moffat would remember the year for far more important events—the sinking of the Titanic, the election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency—rather than for the year he left his name in a cornerstone.

The years passed and times changed. Electricity was invented, man learned to fly, the Great Depression came and went, two World Wars were fought, and Moffat continued in his

trade and eventually retired.

In 1975 Union moved onto a new campus across town, but Barton Hall stood vacant until September when vandals started a fire in the structure, causing heavy damage in the north wing. Before the building was sold for salvage the college removed the cornerstone—nearly 67 years to the day it was sealed—to discover Moffat's note and the other two items.

The names were published in a story in *The Jackson Sun* and a copy of the article soon made its way to Moffat. One of his four children informed the college that her father was alive and well in Nashville.

"I never expected to live long enough to see the cornerstone opened. I just put the note in on the spur of the moment for joke, for something to do after lunch," he said in a recent interview. Moffat is the only known survivor of any of the crews which worked on the landmark.

Though he soon moved to Nashville following the building's completion in 1913, he would never forget the college which he grew up near.

Moffat was born in 1883 in a house overlooking the campus and attended College Street School adjoining the campus—which Union later purchased and converted into an arts and science building.

He remembers playing around the campus and being chased by then-president G.M. Savage for instigating several pranks. During the interview Moffat also confessed he was one of a group of five boys who, on various occasions, woke up the students by tying a cord to the college bell and ringing it late at night.

"Savage didn't like being woke up a bit, so we quit before we were ever caught. Nobody ever knew who was ringing that bell, but I guess it's safe to admit to it now," he laughingly added.

Moffat also remembers the fire which destroyed Union's administration building in the early morning hours of Jan. 20, 1912, and the work which went into constructing the new building. "No time was wasted in clearing the rubble and starting again because the college was so cramped for space," he said.

The building was dedicated barely a year later on Feb. 25, 1913.

Though his eyesight is nearly gone, Moffat is in good health and is rarely forgotten by friends on his birthday. He was recently surprised with a birthday party by Nashville's Carpenter Local 507, of which he served as treasurer for several years.

He and his wife, who will observe 66 years of marriage on Thanksgiving Day, say they have much to be thankful for. "The Lord has certainly been good to both of us and we couldn't ask for better children or a nicer church family," Mrs. Moffat, the former Novie Maie Downing of Murfreesboro said.

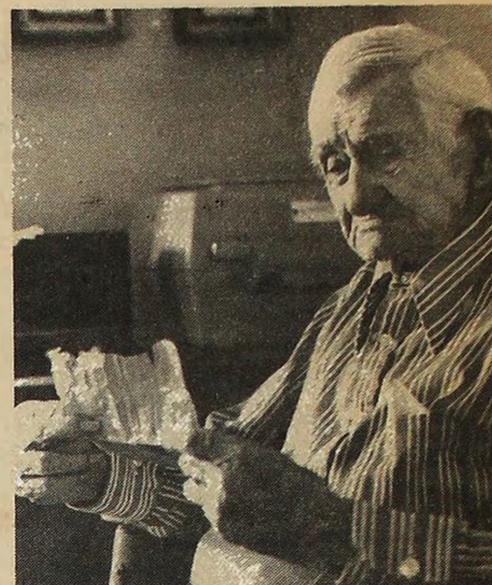
"Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, which we have attended for more than 20 years, keeps in touch with us with regular phone calls, cards, and visits to let us know they still love us," the 86-year-old woman said.

Until recent years Mrs. Moffat was active in church affairs, and eventually held every office in the Woman's Missionary Union at Grace Baptist Church.

"Though we haven't been able to attend services in nearly two years, Grace certainly hasn't forgotten us. They even deliver our monthly copy of *Mature Living* and Sunday School literature. The church has recently relocated but still keeps in touch to let us know they care," she added.

Moffat, the only surviving member of a family of seven children, feels like he has lived a good life and, if given a chance to do again, says he wouldn't change a thing.

He and his wife were invited as guests of Union at Homecoming festivities Nov. 17 when the tin box from the cornerstone was opened, but were unable to attend.



MEMORIES—W.A. Moffat reminisces with the note he placed in Union University's administration building's cornerstone in 1912.

West Point women organize BYW group

WEST POINT, N.Y. (BP)—As a plebe, Brynne G. Sheets wanted to be accepted as one of the boys at West Point. But in three years, her view has changed.

Now Miss Sheets is interested in her identity as a woman and the place of women as women at the United States Military Academy.

While America celebrated 200 years of history in July 1976, Miss Sheets helped make history as she and 120 other women began training as "new cadets," the first women to enroll at West Point. Female cadets now number about 300 in a total enrollment of 4,400.

Miss Sheets and a small group of other West Point women wrote Baptist history within the pages of the academy when they organized a Baptist Young Women's group on campus. They feel a Christian organization for women students is a big step forward in strengthening their identity as women.

Home missionary Fairy Harpe, who with her husband Alton are campus ministers to the cadet corps, helped start the group. As a long-time Woman's Missionary Union activist, Mrs. Harpe was aware of a national pilot project testing Baptist Young Women on college campuses.

The group allows a place where the women can be people instead of plebes, where they can step outside the regimented life of the military academy for a brief respite. The Harpes insist that distinctions between plebes and upperclassmen be left outside when students come to Baptist activities.

Baptist Young Women is not restricted to West Point women. Peggy Brett, a senior at nearby Ladycliff College, was a charter member.

Nor is Baptist Young Women limited to Baptists. Marjorie Sullivan was a nominal member of another denomination. Through the Baptist Student Union, she found a meaningful, personal faith in Christ. She, too, was a charter Baptist Young Women's member. Chaplain Harpe baptized her before she left West Point.

Once past the gray cadet uniforms and the military courtesy of prefacing every sentence with "sir," the West Pointers seemed like most other Baptist Young Women members. They study the same literature, pray for missionaries on their birthdays, and lead out in offerings for missions. Last spring they reached their goal of \$150 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions on one Sunday.

Miss Sheets believes Baptist Young Women strengthens Baptist witness on campus as women emerge in leadership positions. Though she plans to have her degree and commission and be in the army when it happens, she hopes in another year women will be elected officers of the Baptist Student Union.

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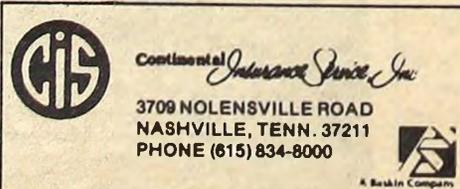
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