

# Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## TBC to consider record goal, elections

The consideration of a record Cooperative Program budget-goal for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the election of officers, and the election of members to various TBC boards and committees will be among the major items scheduled during next week's state convention in Nashville.

The 107th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will meet Nov. 10-12 at Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville.

Scattered among these business sessions will be reports from TBC departments and institutions and inspirational messages. (The tentative program for next week's convention is printed on page 5.)

The TBC Executive Board will recommend a \$17-million Cooperative Program goal for the November 1981-October 1982 convention year. The goal will be divided, with \$15.6-million for the basic budget and an additional \$1.4-million Bold Mission challenge goal.

The basic operating goal will be a 9.1 percent increase over the \$14.3-million goal for the 1980-81 convention year.

The recommendation would share 35.75 percent of Tennessee's Cooperative Program gifts with missions and ministries supported through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. This would be an increase from the 35.5 percent in the 1980-81 budget. (A summary of the budget to be recom-

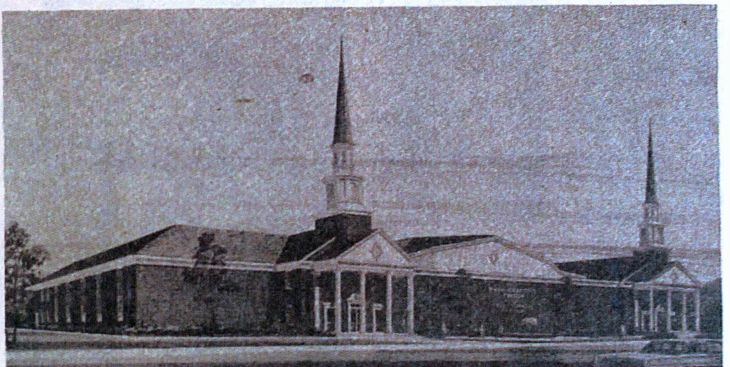
mended was printed in the Oct. 7 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.)

Major speakers for the 1981 TBC will be Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary; Walter Shurden, dean of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Edsel West, pastor of South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman.

Two other major speakers were determined by messengers to the 1980 TBC in Johnson City — H.K. Sorrell, pastor of the Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville, will preach the convention sermon and John David Laida, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, as TBC president will deliver the president's address.

Devotionals at each of the seven sessions will be brought by Tennesseans who have distinguished themselves in SBC and TBC life. The Arrangements Committee had sought Tennesseans who have served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, but several could not accept the invitation.

Former SBC presidents who will lead devotionals will be J.D. Grey (1952-53), Ramsey Pollard (1960-61), Wayne Dehoney (1965-66), and James L. Sullivan (1977). Other devotionals will be led by two former TBC executive secretaries, W. Fred Kendall and Ralph Norton, and by J.J. Owens, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



**CONVENTION SITE** — Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville, will host the 1981 Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nov. 10-12. The church, located at 3112 Nolensville Road, will also host the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, Nov. 9.

In business sessions, messengers will elect members to the TBC Executive Board and 10 other boards of trustees of TBC agencies and institutions, and members to eight TBC committees. Nominations from the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees were printed in the Oct. 7 Baptist and Reflector.

In addition, the messengers will consider amendments to the TBC Constitution and Bylaws. These were printed in the Oct. 21 Baptist and Reflector.

The convention will open at 9:00 a.m. CST on Tuesday. The first session will involve the report of the Committee on Credentials and the Committee on Arrangements; the treasurer's report and presentation of the recommended 1981-82 budget-goal; and conclude with H.K. Sorrell's convention sermon.

The Tuesday afternoon session, which begins at 2 p.m. will include the presentation of the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws; the first of two reports from the Committee on Resolutions; the first of three miscellaneous business periods; and the message by Tom Madden.

The Tuesday night session will begin at 6:45 p.m. with a concert by the Tennessee Baptist Chorale and conclude with John Laida's address.

The election of officers will be held during the Wednesday morning session which begins at 9 a.m. Before the session concludes with a message by Walter Shurden, the messengers will hear the report of the Executive Board, vote on the recommended budget-goal, and par-

(Continued on page 2)

## 1981 Cooperative Program sets record

Tennessee Baptists' giving to missions through the Cooperative Program closed the convention fiscal year last Friday, Oct. 30, with a 7.6 percent increase over the previous year, according to Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary-treasurer.

The new record for a year was set at \$14,465,151.64. The Cooperative Program gifts exceeded the \$14.3-million basic goal, and resulted in \$165,151.64 for use in the Bold Mission Thrust challenge section.

According to the 1980-81 budget-goal approved by messengers to the 1980 state convention, after the basic budget has been passed, the Bold Mission Thrust challenge section will be divided this way: 35.5 percent shared with missions and ministries supported through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program; and of the 64.5 percent that remains in Tennessee, 35 percent will be given to the TBC educational institutions and 65 percent will go to Bold Mission projects.

The November 1980-October 1981 Cooperative Program mission gifts of \$14,465,151.64 were 7.6 percent higher than the \$13,444,277.59 given during the previous convention year.

Receipts during October reached \$1,403,648.13 — which was the fifth highest month in TBC history. This amount was 2.9 percent above the October 1980 gifts of \$1,363,505.04, which now ranks as the 10th highest month.

Madden observed that during seven of the 12 months of the convention year just closing, that Tennessee Baptists passed the \$1-million mark in mission giving through the Cooperative Program.

A month-by-month list of Cooperative Program contributions reveals these figures:

- November 1980: \$725,620.39
- December 1980: \$1,433,193.67 (TBC's fourth highest month)
- January 1981: \$1,384,016.39 (eighth highest month)
- February 1981: \$1,046,195.19
- March 1981: \$973,298.40
- April 1981: \$1,438,962.92 (third highest month)
- May 1981: \$968,506.20
- June 1981: \$1,304,936.46 (13th highest month)
- July 1981: \$1,393,429.56 (sixth highest month)
- August 1981: \$896,586.47
- September 1981: \$1,496,757.86 (second highest month)
- October 1981: \$1,403,648.13 (fifth highest month)

The record month in TBC Cooperative Program giving was January 1980 when \$1,541,314.64 was given.

The monthly goal for the convention year just concluded was \$1,191,333.33 (one-twelfth of \$14.3-million). October's gifts of \$1,403,648.13 were 17.8 percent above the monthly goal.

Next week the messengers to the 1981 Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville will consider a \$17-million Cooperative Program budget-goal, with \$15.6-million for the basic operating section and \$1.4-million for the Bold Mission Thrust challenge section.

If approved by the messengers, the new monthly goal will be \$1.3-million for the basic operating section and \$1,416,666.67 for the total budget-goal.

Madden also reported on the receipts during the past convention year for special offerings. He pointed out that these totals do not correspond with the figures used in offering promotions, because these receipt periods do not coincide with the convention year.

These designated mission gifts were:  
— Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions: \$3,057,287.19 (a 7.6 percent increase above the \$2,841,692.94 given last year).

— Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions: \$1,174,020.14 (a 10.4 percent increase above the \$1,063,733.09 given last year).

— Tennessee Golden State Mission Offering: \$482,179.65 (a 7.9 percent increase above the \$447,023.27 given last year).

A church-by-church listing of gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program and through designated offerings will be printed in a later issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

### Telephones set up for TBC meeting

A convention office telephone and a press room telephone will be manned next week during the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which meets at Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville.

The convention office telephone may be used by those needing to contact messengers and visitors attending the convention. The number will be:

(615) 833-7400

Messages can be telephoned to this number and these will be relayed to convention attendees.

The press room will have a separate number, which will be:

(615) 832-1113



# Kentucky association disfellowships church

MIDDLESBORO, Ky. (BP)— First Baptist Church of Middlesboro has been disfellowshipped by the Bell Baptist Association on charges the congregation practices alien immersion.

The action came during the association's annual meeting Oct. 16, and culminated a year-long deliberation over a policy of the Middlesboro congregation that receives as members those of other faiths without regard to mode of baptism.

Pastor John Pennington and other messengers from the church attended the first session of the annual meeting, answering the roll call of messengers.

However, a motion was made and passed that messengers from all churches but Middlesboro First church be seated.

In a subsequent action, the credentials committee presented a recommendation "that the Bell Association of Baptists disassociate itself from the First Baptist Church of Middlesboro until such time as that congregation elects to realign itself with the doctrinal stance of member churches of the Bell Association of Baptists."

In the same motion, messengers committed themselves to continued prayer for the church and for the day when unity and harmony between the association and the church may return. Both parts of the motion were adopted.

Pastor Pennington, in a statement to the association, said he does not believe the church has strayed from Baptist principles in their membership policy. "Our policy is that we receive as members any Christian who has received believers' baptism, regardless of mode," he said, adding that "our Baptist

forefathers in England stressed 'believers' baptism' rather than the mode." Pennington said the church does not "sprinkle or pour" and "shall continue to immerse all requesting baptism."

Jim Cox, pastor of West Pineville Baptist Church and associational moderator, said there are no ill feelings toward First church or Pennington, but that the action was felt necessary because the church refused to change its policies which were in direct conflict with the doctrinal position of the association.



Huber Drumwright

## Huber Drumwright dies of heart attack

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)— Huber L. Drumwright Jr., 57, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, died at 1 a.m. Nov. 2, after suffering an apparent heart attack.

Funeral services were to be Tuesday, Nov. 3, at Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock. A memorial service was scheduled for Nov. 4 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

A popular speaker, Drumwright was Bible teacher for the 1980 Tennessee Pastors' Retreat at Camp Carson.

Drumwright preached Sunday, Nov. 1, at First Baptist Church of El Dorado, Ark., and had experienced chest pains during the afternoon. However, he preached the evening service.

He and his wife, Minette, returned to their home, where he had severe pains about 11 p.m. Little Rock fire department paramedics were summoned and efforts were made to resuscitate him for nearly an hour.

He was taken to Baptist Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 1 a.m., after further efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Drumwright became executive secretary of the Arkansas convention last year, after 28 years on the faculty of Southwestern seminary, seven as dean of the school of theology. He was professor of New Testament.

He was born in Walters, Okla., and a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern seminary. He had done post doctoral work at Princeton Seminary and the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece.

Survivors include his wife, Minette; two daughters, Minette Evalyn and Debra Kay, both of Waco, Tex.; and a sister, Mrs. Rubye Pulley of Dallas.

## Bailey to retire from Bellevue

Elmer Bailey, who has served as associate pastor to two presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, will retire from the staff of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, on Jan. 1, 1982. He will be 65 on Christmas Eve.

Bailey has been associate pastor of the Memphis church since 1960, moving there after a 12-year tenure on the staff of Broadway Baptist Church, Knoxville. Earlier he was on church staffs in Florida, Texas and at Avondale Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

He was associate pastor to Ramsey Pollard (SBC president 1959-61) and Adrian Rogers (SBC president 1979-80).

A native of Detroit, Mich., Bailey is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Bailey has served as a trustee of the Sunday School Board and as president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

Indicating that he does not intend to be idle in retirement, Bailey plans to launch a "new" career as consultant to churches in the areas of church growth, Sunday School enlargement, and church administration.

## Consultant named for church media

Eleanor Yarborough has been named consultant in church media, recreation, and church history in the convention ministries division of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, according to Carroll Owen, convention ministries director. She assumed the post on Nov. 1.

Mrs. Yarborough is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and received a master's degree in library science from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

She has served as Mrs. Yarborough librarian for St. Edwards School, Nashville, and is a former school teacher in Louisiana.

The author of a study guide, *Meaningful Moments with God*, she also has written curriculum materials for several Baptist publications.

who works in the church training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and is the mother of two children: Larry Jr., 16, and Holly, 11.

Mrs. Yarborough replaces Jean Adkinson, who resigned earlier this year to join the staff of the church media department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

## SBTS alumni will hear Dean Walter Shurden

Walter Shurden, dean of the school of theology and professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will speak to the Tennessee chapter of the school's alumni at a dinner meeting Nov. 11.

According to Randy Hyde, pastor of Nashville's Bellevue Baptist Church, the alumni of the Louisville, Ky., school will meet for the event at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at Southern's booth at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

## Haney resigns at Brotherhood

MEMPHIS (BP)— David P. Haney, director of the Baptist Men's department at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has resigned to become a church renewal and management consultant.

The resignation, effective Dec. 31, was accepted by trustees of the agency during an executive session at their semi-annual meeting.

Jack Knox, a moving company executive from Germantown and chairman of trustees, said: "We appreciate the eight years that David (Haney) has given to the Brotherhood Commission, and he leaves with our prayers for continued success in his ministry."

Knox, however, declined to discuss details of the resignation, saying only that "we have parted company on good terms. I am disappointed people are trying to read a lot of things into this."

Haney is one of three executives of the Memphis-based commission named April 9 in a federal court lawsuit, filed by a female secretary of the commission, that alleges sexual harassment and defamation of reputation.

The suit is pending in federal district court in Memphis. It also names the Brotherhood Commission, the Southern Baptist Convention, James H. Smith, commission executive director, and Norman Godfrey, associate executive director.

The suit, which seeks \$3-million in damages, alleges Haney declined to promote the plaintiff, Barbara Minor, to division level secretary in the summer of 1980, after she refused to respond to what she described as a request for sexual favors on behalf of a friend.

Knox told Baptist Press the commission's attorney, Ernest Kelley, was present during the executive session and directed any questions about the discussion to Kelley.

"I am not free to discuss anything about this," Knox said.

Haney, who said he will direct a national church renewal and church management consulting service with offices in Memphis, declined to discuss the lawsuit, and said the reorganization "didn't have anything to do with it."

He commented he had wanted to open a consulting service "for some time."

Haney, a native of Ohio, became director of the department of lay ministries of the commission March 1, 1974.

## TBC registration to open Nov. 9

Registration for messengers and visitors to the 1981 Tennessee Baptist Convention will open at 2:00 p.m. CST on Monday, Nov. 9, with registration tables set up at Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville.

Official registration cards for the 1981 TBC are on tan paper printed in brown ink. Anyone trying to register with any other card or using a card that is not properly filled out and signed by the church's moderator or clerk will be automatically referred to the Credentials Committee.

All messengers must register in person.

According to the TBC Constitution, each cooperating church is entitled to two messengers. Churches will be entitled to one additional messenger for each 100 members or fraction thereof beyond the first 100 members. No church can have more than 10 messengers.

## TBC to face...

(Continued from page 1)

ticipate in the second miscellaneous business session.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 2:00 p.m. session will vote on a recommendation from the Committee on Arrangements for the site of the 1984 TBC and the convention preacher for the 1982 session; will vote on the nominees from the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees; and will hear reports and recommendations from the Committee on Audits and the Committee on the Journal. The third miscellaneous business session is also scheduled.

A missions emphasis will highlight the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday session. The messengers will hear of mission work within Tennessee, in Michigan, and in Upper Volta.

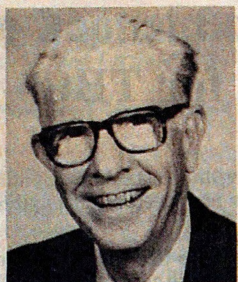
The final session of the 1981 TBC will begin at 9:00 Thursday morning. The messengers will hear the second report of the Committee on Resolutions before the convention concludes with Edsel West's message.

Present officers of the state convention are president, John David Laida, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville; vice-president, M.L. Arbuckle, pastor of Stuart Park Baptist Church, Cleveland; second vice-president, Dwayne Sheumaker, pastor of Valley View Baptist Church, Nashville; recording and statistical secretary, Wallace Anderson, TBC program services director; registration secretary, Alice Byram, TBC executive assistant; and treasurer, Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary-treasurer.

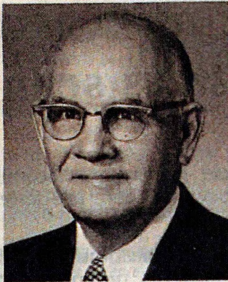




J. D. Grey



J. J. Owens



James Sullivan

## 1981 pastors' conference to explore 'involvement'

Baptist pastors from across Tennessee will gather at Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville, Monday, Nov. 9, for the 1981 Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Exploring the theme, "Every Pastor Involved Until Every Person Reached," the pastors will hear messages on preaching, retirement, missions, personal witnessing, and denominational involvement. Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, is president of this year's conference.

Key speakers for the conference include J.D. Grey, who will speak on retirement; James Sullivan, who will speak on denominational involvement; and J.J. Owens, who will present "Pearls from the Psalms" during each of the three sessions of the conference.

Grey, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La., for 36 years before his retirement in 1972. Sullivan, also a former SBC president, retired as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in 1974 after 21 years in that post. Owens is the John R. Sampey Professor of Old Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

## Nevada Baptists re-elect woman

CARSON CITY, Nev. (BP)—Beverly McLeroy, of Las Vegas, was re-elected to a full term as president of the Nevada Baptist Convention during its annual session at First Southern Baptist Church.

Mrs. McLeroy, who was elected first vice-president at last year's convention, became president in December when president Adrian Hall resigned to accept a position on the state staff.

With her re-election, she becomes the first woman in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention to be elected to a full term as president in a convention which is aligned only with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Two women have been elected presidents of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, which is dually aligned with the SBC and with the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

Mrs. McLeroy is wife of Jim McLeroy, pastor of Southern Baptist Church of Las Vegas, and has been a member of the convention's executive board.

Nevada Baptists, holding their third annual meeting, adopted a \$679,451 budget, of which \$272,660 will come from the 97 churches and missions affiliated with the SBC's newest state convention. Messengers also upped the percentage they contribute through the national Cooperative Program, going from 14 percent to 16 percent. They will contribute \$43,625, as compared with \$32,200.

The election of officers for the pastors' conference will be held at 3:10 p.m., during the Monday afternoon session. The new officers will be introduced at the evening session.

Other speakers for the conference include Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Avery Willis, consultant in the church training department of the Sunday School Board; and James Sorrell, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Johnson City.

Sessions will begin at 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 6:45 p.m.

## Tennesseans donate organ to Carson-Newman College

JEFFERSON CITY — Theron H. and Mary Kate Hodges, of Pigeon Forge, have donated a 32-rank Reuter organ to Carson-Newman College. The organ, located in the recital hall of the new music building, was scheduled to be dedicated Nov. 3.

The recital organ is a memorial to Maud and Joe Snyder, Mrs. Hodges' aunt and uncle, who raised her after her mother died. The Snyders lived in Knoxville where Snyder was an employee of Southern Railway.

They were active members of the Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville where they both sang in the choir. Snyder was a deacon and trustee of the church and Mrs. Snyder was a Sunday School teacher and president of the Women's Missionary Society. Following his retirement they moved to Boyd's Creek in Sevier County where they continued to be active in the work of the church.

After Snyder's death, Mrs. Snyder lived with the Hodges. All three were very active in the work of the Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville where Hodges served as deacon and chairman of the personnel committee and Mrs. Snyder taught the Dorcas class until the age of 85 when her sight began to fail. She died at the age of 92.

Hodges served as Superintendent of Schools of Sevier County for 14 years and later became executive-secretary of the Tennessee Teachers' Retirement System. Mrs. Hodges was a classroom teacher in LaFollette before her marriage and later in Sevier County and Nashville.

Currently Hodges is a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Sevierville and is a member of the board of directors of the Sevier County Medical Center and the Carson-Newman College board of trustees.

The organ, built by the Reuter Organ Co. of Lawrence, Kan., contains three manuals with the great exposed and the

## State WMU annual meeting to continue year's theme

Members of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Unions will continue their year-long theme, "Send Me, O Lord, Send Me," when they meet for their 93rd annual convention Nov. 9.

"Send Me?" will be the subject of the three-session meeting, hosted by Judson Baptist Church, Nashville. The meeting precedes the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting, Nov. 10-12 at Radnor Baptist Church in Nashville.

Featured speakers for the meeting are Mrs. Carlos Owens, missionary to Tanzania; Janie House, missionary to Zambia; and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention WMU.

Mrs. Owens will speak in the 9:30 a.m. opening session on "Till All Shall Stand." Beulah Peoples, state WMU promotion director and Baptist Women director, will tell about the WMU National Enlargement program during the morning session.

In the afternoon session at 1:45 p.m., Miss House will speak on "With Borrowed Might I'll Take Thy Light." Also, Carl Duck, director of missions for the Nashville Baptist Association, will give a report on the association's recent Korean preaching mission.



Mrs. Gregory



Mrs. Owens



Boswell



Miss House

Mrs. Gregory will make the year's theme her topic at the 7:30 p.m. session. Ronald Boswell, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board volunteer department, will deliver a message entitled, "That Men May See His Love So Free."

Leading a time of meditation at the beginning of each session will be Nashville attorney Osta Underwood, president of the TBC Executive Board. Miss Underwood's topics will be "O God of Might," "Thy Spirit's Sword to Wield," and "A Bearer of the Name."

Nashville concert artist David Ford will sing during each session and present a brief concert at 7:15 p.m., prior to the final service.

The meeting will be led by Mrs. Glendon McCullough, state WMU president, and Mary Jane Nethery, executive director of Tennessee WMU. The meeting, in addition to the speakers and soloist, will feature an election of officers and presentations from state WMU employees.

In the morning session, Jannie Engelmann, state Girls in Action director; June Swann, state Mission Friends director; and Mrs. Emerson Knott, state Acteen director, will report on their organizations. In the afternoon, Miss Nethery will give the director's report, and Miss Peoples will present the Baptist Women report. During the closing session, Lucy Hoskins, state Baptist Young Women director, will report on that organization.

Officers will be elected at the 1:45 p.m. meeting and presented in the final session.

The meeting is expected to adjourn about 9:30 p.m.

## Nashville BYWs host state group banquet

Baptist Young Women from Nashville Baptist Association will host a banquet for Tennessee BYWs Nov. 9 during the state Woman's Missionary Union convention.

"Follow What You're Meant to Be," is the theme of the banquet, to be held at Morrison's Family Buffet, 1720 West End Ave., in Nashville. The program will feature soloist Sylvia Lowry.

According to Lucy Hoskins, state BYW director, the cost of the 5 p.m. banquet is \$4.22 per person. Transportation will be provided for those attending the WMU meeting at Nashville's Judson Baptist Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Theron Hodges



## EDITORIAL

## No controversial matters seen for TBC

Next week's Tennessee Baptist Convention holds the potential of being our most peaceful sessions in several years. There are no controversial, overriding issues — such as the Belmont Plaza disposition of 1979 or the Belmont College graduate program of 1980.

Hopefully, the messengers will come with an intense desire to have an inspirational gathering, focusing on those historic Baptist emphases which unite us.

This is not to say that there will not be some significant decisions made by those who meet at Radnor Baptist Church in Nashville.

The messengers will consider a challenging \$17-million Cooperative Program budget-goal recommendation from the TBC Executive Board for the November 1981-October 1982 convention year. As in previous years, that figure will be divided into a basic budget section and a Bold Mission Thrust challenge section.

The basic budget recommendation will be \$15.6-million — which is \$1.3-million more than the \$14.3-million 1980-81 basic budget section. This is a 9.1 percent increase.

The Bold Mission Thrust challenge section would be recommended at \$1.4-million, making the total Cooperative Program budget-goal of \$17-million. This would be a 17.5 percent increase over the \$14,465,151.64 received during the November 1, 1980, through October 31, 1981, convention year that just closed.

This goal will be especially challenging to Tennessee Baptists in the face of the Reagan-admitted recession in our nation.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Executive Board will recommend an increase in the percentage of TBC Cooperative Program gifts shared with missions and ministries supported by the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. After resting at 33.33 percent for 17 years, the percentage shared was increased to 34 percent in 1977, to 34.5 percent in 1978, to 35 percent in 1979, and to 35.5 percent in 1980. The recommendation to next week's convention will be for this to be raised to 35.75 percent.

The election of officers will be another significant action at next week's convention. Tradition would dictate that the next TBC president would come from west Tennessee.

If there are any "campaigns" going on for the presidential post, we are not aware of these. In fact, we have not even heard any names mentioned as possible nominees.

Another important business item will be the election of members to the TBC Executive Board and of trustees for TBC agencies and institutions and the election of members to various TBC committees. Although these rarely bring additional nominees from the floor, such nominations, of course, are possible.

One encouraging sign from this year's list of nominations: Apparently

our leaders are becoming more stable occupationally than in the past, because there are fewer nominees for unexpired terms than in recent years.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will present minor changes to these TBC documents during the convention. The three amendments to the Constitution will specify that messengers, convention officers, and Executive Board members are to be members of "cooperating Baptist churches." These amendments, to be effected, must receive a two-thirds approving vote at the 1981 and the 1982 state conventions.

The amendments to the Bylaws would require that members of convention standing committees must be members of cooperating Baptist churches; would clarify the duties of the Committee on the Journal (TBC Annual); and would officially change the name of "Baptist Memorial Hospital" in Memphis to the "Baptist Memorial Health Care System." Bylaw changes become effective if these are presented on the convention's first day and are voted on the second day.

Two proposed amendments to the TBC Constitution were introduced to the 1980 TBC and referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. One would have changed the titles of "president, vice-president, and second vice-president" to "moderator, vice-moderator, and second vice-moderator" and the other would require that a convention officer be from a church "that contributes no less than 10 percent of its undesignated income to world missions through the Cooperative Program."

Both of these proposed amendments were considered by the committee which chose not to recommend either of them to the convention.

Another important action of the messengers will be their vote on recommendations from the Committee on Resolutions. The committee would like to receive proposed resolutions from messengers before the convention session, in order to give these appropriate consideration. These should be mailed to the committee chairman: Robert G. Lee, Oak Grove Baptist Church, 2442 Highway 59-W, Covington, TN 38019.

And, of course, any messenger is free to present any motion or resolution on any subject on which that messenger feels the convention should act. So, there may be other significant actions taken by the 1981 Tennessee Baptist Convention.

## A record falls— again!

Here is the great news — that has become so common that it is hardly "news" at all. Tennessee Baptists have set a new record in Cooperative Program giving for the convention year!

This is tremendous news in the sense that Tennessee Baptists and their churches have shown once again their support for missions through the Cooperative Program by giving \$14,465,151.64 during the November 1980-October 1981 convention year.

The "old" news is that we seem to set a new record every year, as our membership and our commitments increase.

Not only did we set a record — again — but we also passed the basic budget goal adopted by last year's convention. However, it was indeed a true cliff-hanger. It was not until Oct. 29 — the day before the books closed — that the \$14.3-million basic goal was reached.

We did pass the goal — if only by 1.2 percent.

The past convention year started off on a low note — financially. November 1980 (the first month) ended with only \$725,620.39 in Cooperative Program gifts — the lowest month in TBC giving since July 1977! At the end of each month during the past year, we had closed with receipts below the goal for that date. In fact, the only time we closed a month ahead of the convention-adopted goal pace was the last month — but that obviously is the best time. As in an automobile race, the best lap to lead is the last one.

You are to be commended for your support of the Cooperative Program through your churches week by week. Our churches are so faithful to share with mission causes through the Cooperative Program — some honoring their own commitments to catch up when they were below their own expectations.

We can rejoice that Tennessee Baptists have reached and surpassed their Cooperative Program basic goal for the year that has just ended. This victory is one in which we all can share and rejoice.

Now, a new challenge awaits — goals are made to be broken!

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 83,397

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**Baptist  
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# Tennessee Baptist Convention

"Our Churches Moving Forward in Bold Missions"

Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville

Nov. 10-12, 1981

(All times listed are Central Standard Time)

## Convention Officers

President ..... John David Laida  
Vice-president ..... M.L. Arbuckle  
Second vice-president ..... Dwayne Sheumaker  
Recording/statistical sec. Wallace Anderson  
Registration secretary ..... Alice Byram  
Treasurer ..... Tom Madden  
Music coordinator ..... Frank Chorton  
Parliamentarian ..... Osta Underwood

## TUESDAY MORNING

Music director: John Link  
Organist: Larry Smith  
Pianist: Mrs. Bill Anderson

9:00 Call to order; Invocation by Jerry Legg  
9:05 Report of Committee on Credentials by William Fox; Committee on Arrangements by Murray Mathis  
9:10 Singing  
9:20 Devotional by J.J. Owens  
9:40 Welcome by Paul Durham  
9:45 Announcements  
9:55 Treasurer's report and presentation of budget by Tom Madden  
10:20 Cooperative Program and stewardship promotion  
10:30 Baptist and Reflector  
10:40 Singing  
10:45 Tennessee Baptist schools  
11:15 Special music  
11:25 Convention sermon by H.K. Sorrell  
11:55 Benediction by Clinton Wright

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Music director: Norman Gardner  
Organist: Mrs. Ray Harris  
Pianist: Larry Smith

2:00 Singing; Invocation by Glenn Gregg  
2:10 Devotional by Wayne Dehoney  
2:30 Recognition of new pastors and church staff  
2:45 Recognition of fraternal messengers

2:55 Home Mission Board presentation by Howard Cockrum  
3:00 Tennessee Baptist Foundation  
3:10 Church-ministers information  
3:20 Singing  
3:25 Constitution and Bylaws Committee by Marshall Hargrave  
3:35 Committee on Resolutions by Robert G. Lee  
3:45 Miscellaneous business  
3:55 Special music  
4:05 Message by Tom Madden  
4:35 Benediction by Walter Taylor

## TUESDAY NIGHT

Music director: Gene Spencer  
Organist: Mrs. Louis Ball  
Pianist: Paul Ridgeway

6:45 Tennessee Baptist Chorale  
7:00 Singing; Invocation by Bert Jones  
7:10 Devotional by Ramsey Pollard  
7:30 Retirement recognitions by Earl Wilson  
7:50 Tennessee Baptist Chorale  
7:55 World's Fair report by Ted Huckaby  
8:10 Singing  
8:15 Tennessee Baptist hospitals  
8:30 Protection plans  
8:40 Special music  
8:50 President's address by John David Laida  
9:20 Benediction by Felts Dent

## WEDNESDAY MORNING

Music director: Beryl Vick  
Organist: Mrs. David Brown  
Pianist: Richard Brown

9:00 Singing; Invocation by James Pulliam  
9:10 Devotional by James Sullivan  
9:30 Election of officers  
9:50 Report of Executive Board by Osta Underwood; Adoption of budget  
10:40 Miscellaneous business  
10:50 Election of officers

11:00 Singing  
11:05 Special music  
11:15 Message by Walter Shurden  
11:45 Benediction by Byron Epps  
**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON**  
Music director: Chris Krause  
Organist: Wayne Duggin  
Pianist: Mrs. Robert Byrd  
2:00 Singing; Invocation by Herbert Cox  
2:10 Devotional by Ralph Norton  
2:30 Committee on Arrangements by Murray Mathis  
2:35 Election of officers  
2:45 Tennessee Baptist Children Homes  
3:00 Committee on Boards by Hiram Lemay  
3:15 Committee on Committees by Dwayne Zimmer  
3:25 Singing; Special music  
3:40 Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation  
3:50 Miscellaneous business  
4:05 Committee on Audits by James Nowell  
4:15 Committee on the Journal by Clay Frazier  
4:25 Benediction by Herbert Zachary

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Music director: Wayne Cox  
Organist: Mrs. Harold McGehee  
Pianist: Mrs. Bill Richardson

6:30 Combined choirs  
7:00 Singing; Invocation by Paul Peak  
7:10 Devotional by J.D. Grey  
7:30 Hunger Committee by Earl Davis  
7:40 Belmont College Chorale  
7:50 "Our Churches Moving Forward in Bold Missions"  
9:30 Benediction by Greer Ruble Jr.

## THURSDAY MORNING

Music director: John Hamblen  
Organist: Mrs. Robert Byrd  
Pianist: Mrs. John Hamblen

9:00 Singing; Invocation by Richard Howard  
9:10 Devotional by W. Fred Kendall  
9:30 Committee on Resolutions by Robert Lee  
9:45 Presentation of outgoing officers  
9:55 Presentation of incoming officers  
10:05 United Tennessee League  
10:15 American Bible Society  
10:20 Singing; Special music  
10:35 Message by Edsel West  
11:05 Benediction by Robert Gray

## State NOBTS alumni will hear McLeod

Tennessee alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, will hear Peter McLeod during their annual reunion Nov. 11 at Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

McLeod, pastor of First Baptist Church in Chattanooga, is the immediate past president of the convention-wide alumni association. He will speak following dinner, which begins at 5 p.m.

According to Dwayne Zimmer, minister of education at Woodmont, tickets for the dinner are \$5, and may be purchased from the alumni officers or the NOBTS booth at the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting site.

The church is located at 2100 Woodmont Blvd.

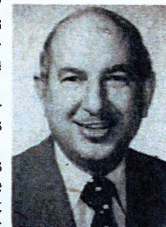
## Personal perspective

By TOM MADDEN  
TBC executive secretary

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29, 31).

As you and I study the life of our Lord, we become greatly impressed with His concern that nothing of the human personality be lost.

One way He illustrated this was through the birds. Living outside as our Lord did, He knew the birds not only by creation but by observation.



Madden

One observation is that the sparrow is the most common and most universal of all birds. I understand that it inhabits a great part of the world including the Holy Land. Not only is it the most common bird of them all but it is the least colorful, being a tawny, dull bird.

Since our Lord knew the habits and characteristics of birds, I know you agree with me that He deliberately selected this bird to teach the eternal truth that our Heavenly Father watches over us, loves us, and takes note of every single one of us.

Our Lord illustrated this throughout His ministry in His every contact with mankind — the woman taken in adultery, the blind, and the tax collector. Even on the cross, our Lord had deep concern and love for the thieves and those who crucified Him.

His deep concern for everybody is demonstrated in the mission concerns of our churches. Our Lord commands us to carry the gospel to every person in every nation on this earth.

You and I reflect this spirit of our Lord when we concern ourselves with everybody about us.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

## Directions:

**Radnor Baptist Church**  
3112 Nolensville Road (US 31A-41A South)  
**Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nov. 10-12**  
**Pastors' Conference, Nov. 9**

**FROM DOWNTOWN NASHVILLE:** Go south on 4th Ave., which becomes Nolensville Road. The church is four miles from downtown Nashville on your left.

**FROM THE NORTH:** Go South on I-65 to Harding Place. Go east on Harding Place to Nolensville Road, turn left (north) on Nolensville Road. The church is on your right (2 miles).

**FROM THE EAST:** Come in on I-40 to Briley Parkway. Go south on Briley Parkway, which becomes Thompson Lane (state hwy. 155). Turn left (south) on Nolensville Road. The church is on your left (one-half mile).

**FROM THE SOUTHEAST:** Come in on I-24 to Harding Place. Go west on Harding Place to Nolensville Road. Turn right (north) on Nolensville Road. The church is on your right (2 miles).

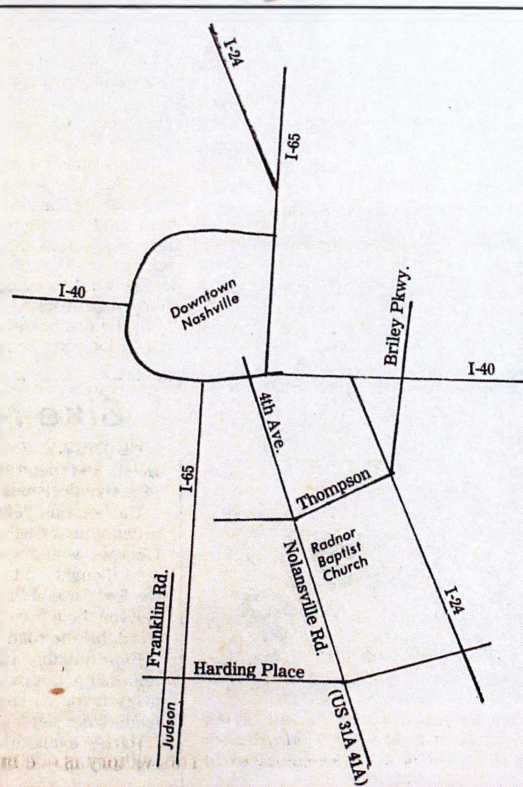
**FROM THE SOUTH:** Come in on I-65 to Harding Place. Go east on Harding Place to Nolensville Road. Turn left (north) on Nolensville Road. The church is on your right (2 miles).

**FROM THE WEST:** Come in on I-40. Go south on I-65 to Harding Place. Go east on Harding Place to Nolensville Road. Turn left (north) on Nolensville Rd. The church is on your right (2 miles).

**Judson Baptist Church**  
4900 Franklin Road (US 31 South)  
**WMU Convention, Nov. 9**

**FROM THE NORTH, EAST, SOUTH, WEST:** Go south from Nashville on I-65 to Harding Place. Go west on Harding Place to Franklin Road. Turn left (south) on Franklin Road. The church is on your left (one-half mile).

**FROM THE SOUTHEAST:** Come in on I-24 to Harding Place. Go west on Harding Place to Franklin Road. Turn left (south) on Franklin Road. The church is on your left (one-half mile).





# Journeymen trainer takes overseas post

By Erich Bridges

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)** — For 17 years Stan Nelson counseled young missionary journeymen getting ready for overseas ministry. Now it is time for him to take his own advice.

Nelson, auxiliary orientation manager at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and his wife, Norma, were named missionaries along with 31 others during the October board meeting in Richmond. Early next year they will head for Nigeria, where both, as missionary associates, will teach in the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary at Ogbomoso.

At 50, Nelson admits the move may be risky, but that fits his theology. "You can't stop taking risks," he contends. Norma agrees: "You've got to keep growing, keep expanding. A safe religion is the worst kind."

Nelson, a tall, lanky Kansan, and Norma, a Colorado native, led churches in Texas, Kansas, and North Carolina following graduation from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

They applied for foreign mission service in the early '60s but were stalled by medical problems. Impressed by his abilities, however, the board invited Nelson to teach theology during the first orientation for missionary journeymen (college graduates assigned to two-year mission tasks overseas) in 1965.

Annual invitations followed, and in 1969 Nelson joined the board staff, assigned to enlist, select, and train

journeymen, volunteers, and summer missionaries and correspond with college students interested in career missions. In the years since, he has directed 13 journeymen orientations, preparing 1,326 young Southern Baptists for service in more than 50 nations. More than 100 journeymen have gone on to appointment as career missionaries.

Meanwhile, Norma directed music at several Richmond area churches, earned a third master's degree (in social work), and became a caseworker for the city of Richmond.

But the attraction to mission service overseas never faded and when a short-term request for seminary teachers in Nigeria turned up, the Nelsons made themselves available. They talked it over with their teenage children, Lisa and Jim, and both responded positively. "Ours is a family of open discussion and decision making," says Nelson, "so we pulled together around that and got excited and committed."

Nelson requested a sabbatical leave and in 1979 the family went to Nigeria for a six-month stay at the seminary in Ogbomoso. He taught theology and Old Testament history; Norma taught music and social ministry, a program new to the seminary.

In Nigeria they discovered a highly-developed Baptist work directed by skilled national leaders, a close-knit, dedicated band of missionaries, and 80-million people (one in every six Africans is Nigerian) to be reached with the message of Christ.

Back in the United States, the Nelsons



**NIGERIA BOUND** — Norma and Stan Nelson, newly appointed missionary associates, will both teach at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomoso. Nelson spent 17 years training young missionary journeymen.

re-entered the application process for missionary service, requesting permanent assignment at the seminary in Nigeria. This month the Foreign Mission Board gave them the nod.

Again, the Nelson kids supplied a rally cry for commitment. Daughter Lisa, 18, will have to complete high school classes before the end of this year, missing many of the joys of her senior year. But according to her father, she would rather head for Nigeria: "When we were making the final decision, she said, 'Let's go.' There was no hesitation."

Nelson will miss some things too — close friendships with co-workers, autumn in Virginia, Atlantic Coast Conference basketball, sports on television. Most of all, he will miss working with journeymen training for foreign missions.

"I've wept about that publicly," he admits. "Leaving the journeymen is like a death. They are the finest young adults among Southern Baptists. But we're not starting over completely. We'll be working with the finest young adults among Nigerian Baptists."

## Joe Stacker relates desire to offer practical help

By Jim Lowry

**NASHVILLE** — Joe Stacker, new secretary of the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has an idea that "too many people are going to church without being the church."

"I want the church administration department to deal with the practical issues of being the church in the fullest sense of what the New Testament calls us to be," he explained.

Pastors and church staff members deal with members who attend church but make no continuing commitment or contribution. Stacker hopes the church

administration department can provide guidance for working with inactive members, in addition to being available for other personal and professional assistance.

Less than a month after he moved to the Sunday School Board from First Baptist Church, Concord, Stacker shared his hopes and dreams for the Southern Baptist program which gives assistance to church staff people who lead churches and establish priorities.

"The church administration department should be the place where church staff people can come to find support when they need to grow or function as ministers," he said.

"We are to follow Christ's admonition and be servants and we are to encourage and help each other in our tasks," Stacker said. "I would like the department to follow that admonition."

Stacker said he hoped the church administration department could be like a cafeteria of services to Southern Baptist churches, making products, programs, and emphases available to fit the needs of churches as they see the need.

Stacker said as a local church pastor, he received help on several occasions from the church administration department.

"The church administration department has to be a service to local churches," Stacker said. "All people don't have the same needs at the same time; they want emphasis for one program or another. Church leaders have to decide what is most important for all church members."

"In the pastorate, one thing I learned was to look at the big picture and set

goals according to overall needs," Stacker said. "You have to be patient and not attempt everything you want in the first month."

Stacker was a pastor for 24 years before moving to the Sunday School Board in October 1981. Other Tennessee churches he served prior to First Baptist, Concord, were Milton Baptist Church, Milton, and First Baptist Church, Greeneville. He also served a church in Virginia. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

"I felt the Lord leading in my life when I left the local church," Stacker said.

"Over the years, I feel like I developed some ideas, skills, and understanding as a pastor that I want to share to help church staff members in doing the kind of job they want to do and the Lord would have them do."

"The highest place a man can serve is in the local church," Stacker said.



**SUPPORTING CHURCHES** — Joe Stacker, a longtime pastor, places priority on the ministry of the local church. He wants his new role at the Baptist Sunday School Board to help local churches and their staffs to deal with the practical issues of ministry.

## Bike repair aids church starts

**CHONGWE, Zambia (BP)** — Dave Parker's willingness to squelch his skepticism and spend \$12.03 to repair a bicycle could go down as one of the most cost effective decisions in the history of Southern Baptist missions.

Earlier this year, a Zambian layman offered to visit and preach in some villages near Chongwe, Zambia, if Parker, a Southern Baptist missionary from Georgia, would agree to repair his bike.

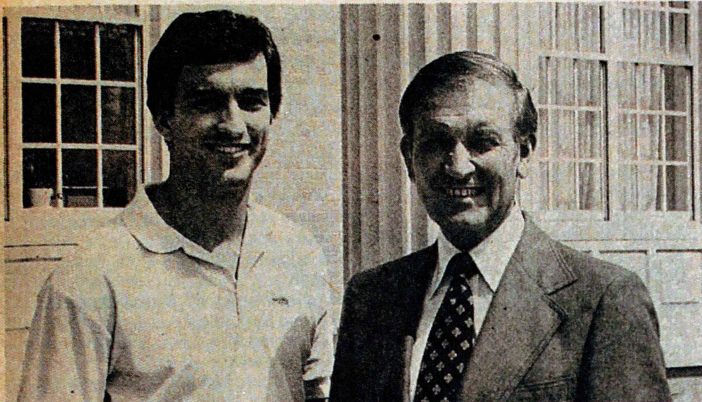
"I thought I'd heard that old story before," Parker recalled, "but I felt that the Lord would have me help him with this."

Even though skeptical, Parker got the bike fixed, and the layman, true to his word, hit the road.

Four months passed. During that time, the layman visited and began fellowship groups and preaching points in six different places only a bike ride away from his home. The missionaries soon conducted training sessions for leaders developing in new churches which resulted from the man's efforts.

Parker exclaimed, "What the Lord can do with a \$12.03 repair job and a willing layman — even when we're skeptical!"





**PRESIDENT'S SCHOLAR** — George Howard Guthrie of Dyersburg, is a 1981 president's scholarship recipient at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, representing Union University. He is pictured with Russell Dilday, seminary president.

## Big Hatchie adds church to roll

Calvary Hill Baptist Church was added to the roll of Big Hatchie Baptist Association during the association's annual meeting Oct. 19-20.

The Ripley church was voted a member of the Big Hatchie group by messengers to the meeting, which was hosted by Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, in Covington, and Brighton Baptist Church, Munford.

The messengers also elected four of its officers for another term. Re-elected were Moderator Baylon Hilliard, pastor of Covington's First Baptist Church; Vice-moderator J.V. Reeves, pastor of Smyrna Baptist Church, Burlington; Treasurer James Beard, pastor of Durhamville Baptist Church in Ripley; and Clerk Mike Owens, pastor of Munford Baptist Church, Munford.

Mickey Basham, pastor of Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, Covington, was elected assistant treasurer.

According to Director of Missions Ira S. Perkins, the next meeting of the association is slated for Oct. 18-19 at the Munford church and Garland Baptist Church, Covington.

## Scholarship fund to honor Greggs

James M. and Pansy Archer Gregg have been honored by their son, William J. Gregg, with the establishment of a scholarship fund at Belmont College, Nashville. The scholarship will assist a Baptist student who is planning a career in the ministry, music, education, or missions.

James M. Gregg served as executive director of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes from 1961-75. William J. Gregg, president and owner of Gregg Construction Company, Nashville, is an active member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville.

The selection of the recipient of this scholarship will be made by the college on the evidence of a strong commitment to the gospel ministry, music, education, or missions; good Christian character; recommendation from the candidate's local church; and high academic standing. The recipient may renew this scholarship year-by-year until graduation, if the selection requirements are maintained.

Upon establishing this fund, William J. Gregg said, "It is my hope and prayer that this scholarship will not only honor my mother and father, but that it will assist a worthy student whose life will be a blessing to Christ and the Baptist denomination."

## Holston group adds three new churches

Three churches were voted into the membership of Holston Baptist Association, during its annual meeting Oct. 13-14 at Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church, Bluff City, and Calvary Baptist Church in Bristol.

Elected as member churches were ASK Baptist Church, Jonesboro, where Roy Ferguson is the pastor; Roseville Baptist Church in Flag Pond, Travis Holloway, pastor; and Gray Southern Baptist Church, Gray, where Kelter Mullins is pastor.

In officer elections, Haven C. Lowe was chosen to succeed Herman Jacobs, pastor of Southwestern Baptist Church in Johnson City, as moderator. Lowe, pastor of Johnson City's Grace Baptist Church, was moderator of the association in 1959.

Also elected was Leroy Carpenter, pastor of Pinecrest Baptist Church, in Johnson City, as vice-moderator. Re-elected were Treasurer E.W. Barnes, pastor of Boone Trail Baptist Church in Jonesboro, and Clerk Tenna Eades, a member of Johnson City's Central Baptist Church.

According to Holston Director of Missions James E. Harris, the next meeting of the association will be Oct. 12-13, 1982, at Grace Baptist Church, Johnson City, and Virginia Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol.

## Franklin, Spegal to lead Crockett

Joe Franklin and Ed Spegal were elected to lead Crockett County Baptist Association at its annual meeting Oct. 15-16.

Franklin, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bells, was elected moderator; while Spegal, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, also in Bells, was elected vice-moderator. Franklin succeeds Moderator J.W. Abney, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Friendship.

Messengers to the meeting also re-elected Mrs. Jim Austin, a member of Maury City's First Baptist Church, as treasurer; and Mrs. R.V. Via, a member of Cross Roads Baptist Church in Bells, as clerk.

Gadsden Baptist Church, Gadsden, and Johnson Grove Baptist Church, Alamo, were the hosts of the sessions. According to Thomas L. Lewis, director of missions for the association, the 1982 meeting is scheduled for Oct. 14-15 at the Maury City First church and Midway Baptist Church, Bells.

# Texas CP contributions lead state conventions

**NASHVILLE (BP)**— Texas Baptists contributed more than twice as much money to missions through the national Cooperative Program last year as the next highest contributing state convention, Georgia.

Tennessee Baptists ranked seventh in national Cooperative Program contributions.

A year-end analysis of receipts to the SBC Executive Committee from state Baptist conventions Oct. 1, 1980 through Sept. 30, 1981 shows total undesignated gifts to be \$81,685,873, up 13.83 percent from the previous fiscal year.

Contributions from Texas totaled \$14,259,616, or 17 percent of the total national Cooperative Program receipts. Texas, with 2.2-million members, has 16 percent of SBC membership and 11 percent of the churches and is the largest state Baptist convention.

The Baptist Convention of Georgia was the second largest contributor with \$6,814,663. North Carolina was third with \$6,051,123 and Florida fourth with \$5,448,116.

Nevada boosted its contributions by the greatest percentage, 59.18, putting its dollar contribution at \$35,329. Other percentage increase leaders were Arizona, 27 percent; Kansas-Nebraska, 23.18; Illinois, 21.08; Hawaii, 21.06; Alaska, 20.42; and Colorado 19.86.

Other top 10 dollar givers were Alabama, fifth, \$5,312,067; Oklahoma, \$5,255,617; Tennessee, \$5,035,033; South Carolina, \$4,631,989; Mississippi, \$3,982,075; and Louisiana, \$3,896,523.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board received the largest single portion of the Cooperative Program receipts with

\$37,901,757 or 46.4 percent.

The Home Mission Board received \$15,974,200 or 19.6 percent. The six Southern Baptist seminaries, through a complex formula they agree upon, shared \$19,344,822, or 23.7 percent.

Other dispersals include: Radio-Television Commission, \$4,195,361 or 5.1 percent; convention operating expense, \$975,000 or 1.2 percent; Brotherhood Commission, \$898,717, or 1.1 percent; Christian Life Commission, \$480,851 or .59 percent; Annuity Board, \$350,000 or .43 percent; Education Commission, \$332,016 or .41 percent; Stewardship Commission, \$314,844 or .39 percent; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$291,945 or .36 percent; Historical Commission, \$260,000 or .32 percent; Southern Baptist Foundation, \$194,630 or .24 percent; and American Baptist Seminary, \$171,730 or .21 percent.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary, receive no Cooperative Program funds.

## Tennessee Valley hears Loren Ames

Tennessee Valley Baptist Association messengers heard Michigander Loren Ames during its annual meeting Oct. 15-16.

Ames, of Grand Rapids, Mich., is area director of missions for the Woodland Baptist Association in the northern state. To aid Southern Baptist work in Michigan by Ames and others, the association voted to place \$1,000 in its budget for "Bold Missions Michigan."

Messengers to the meeting also elected its slate of officers for another term. Re-elected were Moderator James Simerly, a member of First Baptist Church in Spring City; Vice-moderator Billy Jones, pastor of Spring City's Wolf Creek Baptist Church; and Treasurer James M. Roberts Jr., and Clerk Alda Roberts, both members of First Baptist Church, Dayton.

Central Baptist Church in Spring City and the Dayton First church hosted the meeting. According to Tennessee Valley Director of Missions Ben Walker, the 1982 session will be Oct. 14-15 at the Spring City First church and New Union Baptist Church, Dayton.

## Euin Hall to lead Robertson group

Euin Hall was elected to a term as moderator of Robertson County Baptist Association at its annual meeting Oct. 19-20 at Cherry Mound Baptist Church, Whitehouse, and Hopewell Baptist Church, Springfield.

Hall, who lead the association after previous Moderator Frank Evans became director of missions in June, is pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Springfield.

For other officers, messengers to the meeting elected Joe L. Evans, pastor of Orlinda Baptist Church, Orlinda, as vice-moderator; and Shirley Crawford, a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Greenbrier, as clerk. Treasurer Jo Nelle James, a member of Springfield's Flewellyn Baptist Church, was re-elected to her post.

According to Evans, the next meeting of the association is planned for Oct. 18-19, 1982, at First Baptist Church of Greenbrier and Red River Baptist Church, Adams.

## Leon Mayo elected to lead New River

Leon Mayo was elected to lead New River Baptist Association during its annual meeting Oct. 19-20.

Mayo, pastor of First Baptist Church in Huntsville, was elected to succeed previous Moderator John Bolin, pastor of Low Gap Missionary Baptist Church in Helenwood.

Elected to lead with Mayo was Vice-moderator Gary Boyatt, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Elgin. Re-elected were Treasurer Ben B. Bowling, a member of the Low Gap Church, and Clerk Kay McMillian, a member of Mountain View.

The meeting was held at Robbins' First Baptist Church; New River Baptist Church, New River; and Antioch Baptist Church, Huntsville. Dale G. Smith is director of missions for the association.

## Lindsey elected in Indian Creek

Zeno Lindsey, a member of First Baptist Church in Collinwood, was elected moderator of Indian Creek Baptist Association at its 144th annual session Oct. 19-20.

Also elected were Vice-moderator H.H. Hurst and Treasurer Phil Fisher. Hurst is pastor and Fisher is a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro. Re-elected as associational clerk was Betty Burress, a member of Waynesboro's Green River Baptist Church.

The meeting was held at the Calvary church and Waynesboro's First Baptist church. The 1982 meeting will be held Oct. 18-19 at the First Baptist Churches of Clifton and Collinwood.



## Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference

Theme: "Every Pastor Involved Until Every Person Reached"

Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville

November 9, 1981

### MONDAY MORNING

- 10:00 Singing
- 10:05 Devotional by Frank Evans
- 10:15 Welcome by Jerry D. Oakley
- 10:20 "Pearls from the Psalms" by J.J. Owens
- 10:40 Singing; Special music
- 11:00 "Pastor Involved through Preaching" by Fred Steelman
- 11:30 Special music
- 11:35 "Pastor Involved in Retirement" by J.D. Grey
- 12:00 Benediction by James Smith

### MONDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:30 Singing
- 1:35 Devotional by Matt Tomlin
- 1:45 Special music
- 1:50 "Pearls from the Psalms" by J.J. Owens
- 2:10 Singing; Announcements; Recognition of past presidents and others
- 2:35 Special music
- 2:50 "The Pastor Involved through Missions" by Avery Willis
- 3:10 Election of officers
- 3:25 Singing
- 3:30 "Pastor Involved through Personal Witnessing" by James Sorrell
- 4:00 Benediction by Dan Farmer

### MONDAY NIGHT

- 6:45 Singing
- 6:50 Devotional by Dennis Plank
- 7:00 Announcements
- 7:05 Special music
- 7:10 "Pearls from the Psalms" by J.J. Owens

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- 7:30 Special music
- 7:45 President's message by Jerry D. Oakley
- 8:15 Special music
- 8:20 Testimony by Gladys Farmer
- 8:30 Special music
- 8:35 "The Pastor Involved through a Denominational Vision" by James L. Sullivan
- 9:05 Recognition of new officers
- 9:15 Benediction by new president

### Nov. 10 luncheon set for ministers' wives

Wives of Tennessee ministers will gather at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville for their annual luncheon Nov. 10.

The luncheon, which coincides each year with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will feature Gloria and Joe Morrell. Round-trip bus transportation will be provided to Judson from Nashville's Radnor Baptist Church, the convention site.

Tickets will be \$5.50, and go on sale Nov. 9 at Radnor and Judson.

### SWBTS vice-president will speak to alumni

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Executive Vice-president Lloyd Elder will speak to the school's Tennessee alumni at their annual meeting Nov. 11.

The meeting and luncheon will be held at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, according to Bill Sherman, pastor of the church and president of the SWBTS state alumni.

Tickets for the noon meeting will be available from the alumni officers or the Fort Worth, Tex., school's booth at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

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## Woman's Missionary Union Convention

Theme: "Send Me, O Lord, Send Me"

Judson Baptist Church, Nashville

November 9, 1981

(WMU does not provide times for program features)

### MONDAY MORNING, 9:30 a.m.

- Hymn
- Meditation, "O God of Might" by Osta Underwood
- Greetings by Raymond Langlois
- Calendar of Prayer by Mrs. John Cottrell; Organization; Presentation of Hostess Committee by Mrs. Scott Bolton; Book Store information
- Mission Friends-Girls in Action by Jannie Engelmann and June Swann
- Announcements; Hymn
- Acteens by Mrs. Emerson Knott
- "Thy Church Expand" through WMU
- National Enlargement by Beulah Peoples
- Hymn; Special music
- "Till All Shall Stand" by Mrs. Carlos Owens

### Dutch treat dinner offered by Union

A Dutch treat dinner will be featured at Union University's annual fellowship meeting, Nov. 10, at First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Also featured at the Jackson college's meeting will be a program presented by the school administrators, according to Joe Westbury, director of public relations at Union.

Tickets for the 5:30-6:45 p.m. gathering are \$5, and will be available from the university's booth at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

### Steeley will address Southeastern alumni

John Steeley, professor of historical theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, will address Tennessee alumni of the school at their annual meeting Nov. 11.

According to state alumni President John H. Tullock, chairman of the department of religion and philosophy at Nashville's Belmont College, Steeley will speak at a noon luncheon in Belmont's Gabhart Student Center.

Tickets for the event are \$4, and will be available at the SEBTS booth at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Steeley

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### MONDAY AFTERNOON, 1:45 p.m.

- Hymn
- Meditation "Thy Spirit's Sword to Wield" by Osta Underwood
- Report of the executive director by Mary Jane Nethery
- Election of officers
- Hymn
- Baptist Women by Beulah Peoples
- Korean preaching mission by Carl Duck and Mrs. Scott Bolton
- Special music
- "With Borrowed Might I'll Take Thy Light" by Janie House

### MONDAY NIGHT, 7:30 p.m.

(Presession musical concert by David Ford at 7:15 p.m.)

- Hymn
- Meditation "A Bearer of the Name" by Osta Underwood
- Baptist Young Women by Lucy Hoskins
- Hymn
- NEP Starteam recognition
- "That Men May See His Love So Free" by Ronnie Boswell
- Hymn; Presentation of officers
- Special music
- "Send Me, O Lord, Send Me" by Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory

### Maddox to address state C-N alumni

Cordell Maddox, president of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, will be the featured speaker at the school's Tennessee alumni dinner Nov. 10.

The dinner, a buffet, will be held at Bransford House Smorgasbord, 2600 Bransford Ave., near Nashville's 100 Oaks Shopping Mall.

Jack Shannon, C-N director of admissions, will be available during the meeting to answer questions.

Tickets for the 5:30 p.m. dinner will be available from the school's booth at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, at \$5 each.

### Dinner will feature H-C academy alumni

Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, will sponsor a dinner meeting for school alumni and guests during the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville.

According to Harrison-Chilhowee President Hubert Smothers, the Nov. 11 meeting will feature a program by state alumni and, tentatively a choir from the school.

Western Sizzlin Steak House, 3748 Nolensville Road, will be the site of the 5 p.m. dinner. Cost will be determined by individual order.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES  
Lesson for Nov. 8

## Jesus interprets the law

By Jerry Oakley, pastor  
Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield

Basic Passage: Matthew 5:17-48  
Focal Passages: Matthew 5:17-20, 38-44

In Matthew 5:17-48, Jesus is drawing a line of demarcation between "outward" law and "inward" law. He is defining the difference between outward legislative enforcement of law and the response of obedience because of inward desire.

Jesus is not only concerned with the law and its forced responses. He is concerned with the "spirit" of the law and its creative forces. The first is designed to change the responses of the man. The second is designed to change the man.

Jesus gets to His purpose quickly. He states, "I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." He assures us that not one "jot," the smallest Greek vowel or "tittle," any small mark, shall pass from the law.



Oakley

When Jesus refers to the law and the prophets, He is referring to the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, you find few definitive laws but many great principles. If one sums up the Ten Commandments, he finds they mean "respect" or "reverence" for God, for our fellowman, and for ourselves.

The Old Testament states great broad principles which a man must interpret and apply, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to the individual situations of life. The scribes and Pharisees had created a religion of petty rules and regulations. They had equated their interpretation of the laws of God with the laws of God. There is a vast difference between the two.

This is always a danger in religion and it is no less a danger in our day than in days past. Modern day Pharisees in their well-intended zeal limit the effectiveness of God's Word by their own interpretations. Jesus states, "I have come to realize all that the law was intended to realize." He did this while He ignored and blatantly violated the interpretations of the scribes.

Jesus emphasizes practice over preaching in verse 20 when He proclaims, "your righteousness" must exceed that of the "scribes and Pharisees." In verse 19 He has already informed us that a person who "breaks" the commandments cannot teach them. To be an effective teacher one must first "do" the commandments.

In chapter 20 Jesus characterizes the scribes and Pharisees as failing at this point. He says, "The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say and do not." Observe what they teach as long as it is Scriptural but ignore their traditions and actions for they do not practice what they preach.

Jesus never lowered the standards of the law. Observance of the law Jesus proclaimed is never easy. Jesus stressed the intent rather than the act. Jesus looked at the illness of sin rather than the symptoms of sin. He knew that adultery occurred because of the look that awakened lust. This is a personal responsibility. The person whose heart is defiled can find something in any setting to fan the flames of wrong desire. One must personally control passions. As one author has well stated, "Life is always a conflict

between the demands of the passions and the control of reason."

Jesus stressed the sanctity of marriage. He knew that God's first circle of society is not the church but the home. Jesus knew the phrase "until death do us part" and the words of Malachi, "The Lord, the God of Israel, saith that He hateth putting away (divorce)." God's ideal has always been that marriage is for life.

Divorce is wrong because it is contrary to the purpose and will of God. About 40 percent of all marriages end in divorce. This is not God's will. We must never cease to take the marriage vows seriously. We must never enter marriage with the idea if I am not satisfied, I can leave. God can and does forgive people, who ask forgiveness, that are divorced. God cannot blot out the hurt and damage that occur during the divorce process. Nor can He eliminate the inevitable consequences that continue after the divorce, especially when children are involved.

Jesus deals with two other subjects: oath taking and the extent of Christian love. Both Paul (2 Corinthians 1:23, Galatians 1:20), and Jesus (Matthew 26:63) are portrayed as putting themselves, or being put by others, under oaths. They did not object. The teaching of Jesus clearly says that if a man is a truly good man, his word is his bond and he needs no further oath.

In the teaching concerning Christian love, Jesus is more revolutionary. He teaches us to love our enemies. Jesus is teaching us that because we are Christians we should give more than is expected and our love should exceed the non-Christian. It is easy to love the lovable; even the non-Christian can do this. But to leap the bounds of friendship and acceptability and love the unlovable with redeeming love is an ability that comes only from God.

Obedience to all of these teachings is possible because of an "inward" law written on the heart of the believer of God. No outward demand could result in compliance. Only through an inward desire can these teachings be obeyed.

## NOBTS names Cothen to replace Kennedy

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Joe H. Cothen has been elected vice-president for academic affairs at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, replacing J. Hardee Kennedy, who will retire Dec. 31.

Cothen, currently chairman of the division of pastoral ministries, joined the New Orleans faculty in 1968 as associate

professor of communication arts. After serving in the pastorate, 1971-77, he returned to the faculty as associate professor of pastoral work and later was elected full professor.

Cothen is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton; the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg; and New Orleans seminary.

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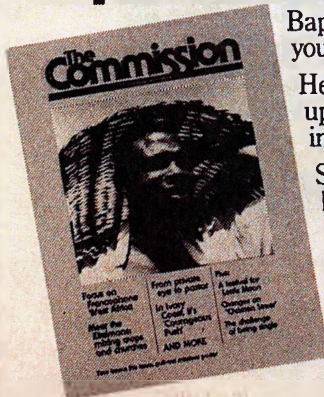
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## Big Emory elects new moderators

Messengers to the Big Emory Baptist Association, meeting in annual session Oct. 15, elected Mason C. Goodman and Edsel West to lead the association for the

1981-82 term.

Goodman, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Harriman, was elected to succeed Loyd Napier, pastor of Middle Creek Baptist Church in Oliver Springs, as moderator. West, pastor of South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman, was elected vice-moderator.

Re-elected were Treasurer George Wadlington, minister of music at South Harriman, and Clerk Mark Scarbrough, a retired pastor and member of Piney Baptist Church, Oakdale.

The meeting was hosted by the Riverside church and Kellytown Baptist Church in Oliver Springs. According to Director of Missions J.W. Bargiol, the 1982 meeting will be held Oct. 14 at a site to be announced.



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## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for Nov. 8

# Life in the Spirit

By David J. Irby, chairman, department of religion and philosophy  
Union University, Jackson

Basic Passage: Romans 8

Focal Passages: Romans 8:12-17, 28, 35-39

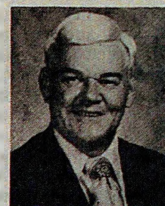
In Romans 8, Paul pictures the frustration and futility of a life lived according to the law, but apart from God.

The law leads to sin and death, and Paul cries out for deliverance from this wretched condition (7:24). He also shouts praises of thanksgiving to God that deliverance has been provided through Jesus Christ our Lord (7:24). He affirms that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (8:1).

### Life in the Spirit

Those who are now in Christ Jesus have been given the Spirit. Paul refers to the Spirit in this chapter as the "Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus" (v. 2). "Spirit of God" (vv. 9, 14), "Spirit of Christ" (v. 9), and simply as "the Spirit" (vv. 16, 26-27).

The work of the Spirit is seen in this chapter to be that of: (1) Providing new life and liberty (v. 2). The presence of the Spirit in one's life is evidence that he really belongs to God (vv. 9, 14). (2) Giving witness to us concerning our relationship with God. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God and heirs of God (vv. 16-17). (3) Leading us toward the fulfillment of God's purposes for us. The goal of salvation for all God's children is glorification, sharing God's eternal glory in the coming age with "quickened" bodies. The Holy Spirit helps us in preparation for that glad day. He enables us to put to death the deeds in our mortal bodies now (vv. 11, 13) in what is called the process of sanctification. He also helps us in our weaknesses (v. 26), and intercedes (prays) to God in our behalf (v. 26). Once again, the work of the Spirit in our lives is to help us to glory, the fulfillment of God's purposes for us.



Irby

### The love of God (8:28-39)

The emphasis now shifts from the work of the Spirit to the love of God. Verses 28-30 indicate the purposes of God's love in salvation. These purposes include the entire range of salvation, from foreknowledge to glorification. What God has purposed, He is able to perform. He works in all things in our lives to bring His purposes to fulfillment (v. 28). The limiting factor in the fulfillment of these purposes is our failure to love Him (v. 28).

Yet God's love to us in Christ Jesus remains strong. Verses 31-39 deal with the power of this love. God's love protects us from condemnation (vv. 33-34), and from separation (vv. 35-39). No one can even bring a charge against God's people (v. 33), for God is the judge, and will not permit it in court! Also there is no one to condemn us (pass a sentence against us), for only God determines whether a person is "justified" or "condemned", and He has made provision for our justification through Christ Jesus.

The power of God's love keeps us from separation (vv. 35-39). During our Christian pilgrimage through life, we face many hardships and afflictions, perhaps even death. Yet we possess the Holy Spirit who helps us, and we are assured of the constancy of God's love expressed to us in Christ. This love enables us to be "more than conquerors" even when the worst is happening to us (vv. 36-37).

The conclusion to these truths may be found in verses 31 and 32. God is for us; it therefore makes no difference as to who may be against us. God gave His Son for us all, and, in addition, He is ready to give us all things in order to help us along the road to glory.

Such truths comprise what our Baptist forefathers would call "shoutin' ground"!

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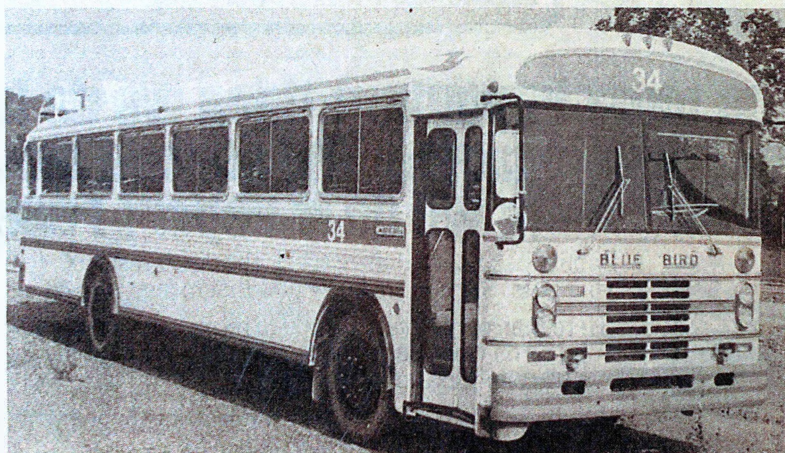
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## LIFE AND WORK SERIES

### Lesson for Nov. 8

# Power to overcome evil

By Gerald L. Stow, pastor  
First Baptist Church, Cookeville

Basic Passage: Mark 5:1-20

Focal Passages: Mark 5:2-10, 16-20

Frankly, I do not know much about demonology. I have read John Newport's *Demons, Demons, Demons*; Hal Lindsay's *Satan Is Alive and Well on Planet Earth*; and Jack Taylor's *Victory Over the Devil*. Having read them, I still do not know much about how the devil or demonology works or how to think about it.

But there is one thing I am sure of. There are destructive forces in life. The Bible speaks of demons, of satan as a hinderer, a deceiver, and how busy he is.

Sunday's lesson begins a new unit of study focusing on Jesus as the liberator. In Mark's arrangement of gospel stories, he places his account following the stilling of the storm. Here the problem for the disciples was the enemy without. Now Jesus wants to show them another enemy which they must face — the enemy within.

Facing storms is a daily task. There are domestic, financial, physical, moral, mental, and emotional storms that we face. Some are on the outside and many are on the inside. How good to know that Jesus is the Christ of the storms.

#### A sad condition (5:2-5)

There are various stages and degrees to which demons — evil spirits — can affect or control human beings. In this incident we have an extreme case. We may observe seven principles which indicate demonic spirits are at work in the life of an individual.

First, there is usually an element of the unclean present in demonic effect. Notice the Bible describes him as a man with an unclean spirit (v. 2). This is usually the case. Demonic spirits may be found living in the midst of dirt, filth, rubbish, all indicating moral pollution.

Secondly, there is the principle of isolation or withdrawal. He had come from a home and it is evident by the conclusion of the story that he had friends, but he was alone in the caves or tombs of the dead (v. 2).

Thirdly, we may note the supernatural strength manifested by this man. This is not unusual in those greatly affected by demons. He had been bound by chains but broke them with his supernatural strength (vv. 3-4).

Another principle was his tormented condition. The expression in verse 5 "night and day" would indicate the restlessness that this man experienced.

In addition, there was the recognition of the authority of Jesus (v. 7). So many times this is done in a hostile way. Any mention of Jesus' name, the cross, the church, or the Bible often will provoke

unusual hostility.

There is also the double personality or multiple personality which is exhibited here. When Jesus asked him his name, he replied, "My name is Legion" (v. 9).

The last principle is a tendency toward suicide. The self-destructive principle is usually present. Not all suicidal tendencies come from demonic influence but there is a tendency here (v. 12).

#### A grand demonstration (5:6-10)

Evidently, upon meeting Jesus the hostility began to show. Not so much in the man's actions (v. 6) as in the spirit speaking through his voice (v. 7). The demons asked not to be sent out of the country (v. 10). Being sent out of the country would mean they would end up in the abyss. They requested permission to enter a herd of swine (v. 12). Jesus granted their request.

When the demons were cast out, they entered into the swine, and what did they do? All 2,000 of them rushed down the mountainside and drowned in the sea. The death of the swine was a tremendous testimony to this man that he was indeed free from the demons that had inhabited him.

As a result, this would-be outcast is now put in his right mind (v. 15) and his days of restlessness are over. This must have been a glorious moment in his life. While it was a grand demonstration for him, it was a disappointment for others (v. 17).

#### A mixed reaction (5:16-20)

Two reactions are noted in the story, the reaction of the crowd and the changed man. The crowd reacted when they saw the man clothed and in his right mind. They saw him sitting there at rest, at peace, clothed, no longer withdrawn. They saw the deliverance that had taken place in his life. The evidence was inditing. Here was a man who had been set free.

But they had been involuntary partners to the deliverance since they had furnished the swine, an expensive operation for one man. And instead of rejoicing, they pleaded with Jesus to leave. Whenever there is a question of the welfare of an individual

versus the wealth of the many, society invariably chooses the wealth of the many rather than the welfare of the one.

Secondly, the healed man reacted by wanting to go with Jesus (v. 18). His request was a very logical one. There were many reasons for it. He wanted to go with Jesus out of sheer gratitude. He may have wanted to escape the confrontation with those who had put him in chains. Following Jesus he could be "where it was happening" all the time. As logical as these were, Jesus said no.

He had to "bloom where he was planted." "Go home to thy friends and tell them." His responsibility is simple. Share the good news that Jesus has power to overcome evil. Our responsibility and privilege is the same.



Stow

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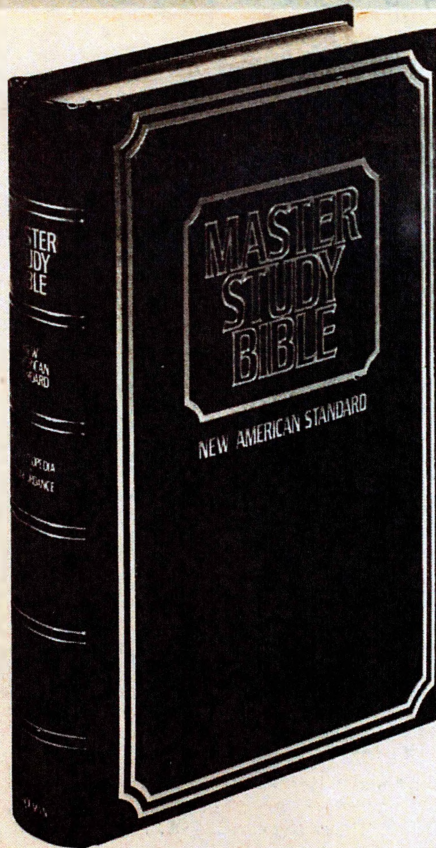
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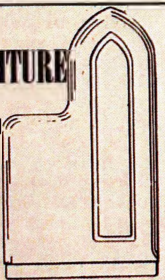


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## How to 'grow' converts

# Edgemon attacks inactivity problem

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP)— Many Southern Baptist churches lose nearly as many members through the back door of inactivity as walk in the front door.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department, cited the problem and said new Christians become inactive when they are not helped to understand their faith and to become involved in the programs.

He termed many churches' failure to be as aggressive in helping new Chris-

tians grow in their faith as they are in winning people to Christ "the scandal of the Christian church of this century."

"We are morally responsible for new converts," said Edgemon. He likened not helping them understand what Christianity is about to "throwing a new baby into the world without a value system or principles for living."

Statistically, it appears that almost two-thirds of those baptized in Southern Baptist churches in 1980 were left to fend for themselves. While 429,742 people were baptized, only 151,623 participated in any form of training for new church members, according to the Uniform Church Letter.

"We are bringing people in but are failing them in three areas," said Edgemon. "We are not teaching them who they are in God's family, helping them discover their spiritual gifts, or helping them find their place of responsibility and ministry through the local church."

First Baptist Church, Kingston, and North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., are among a growing number of churches experimenting with programs to activate inactive members.

"Front door discipline" is how Gary Marsh, pastor of the Kingston church, describes his congregation's efforts. The church sets high demands and is considering steps which will lead to a stronger emphasis on new members attending training sessions on the meaning of salvation, understanding the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement, and seeing their responsibilities for ministry through the local church.

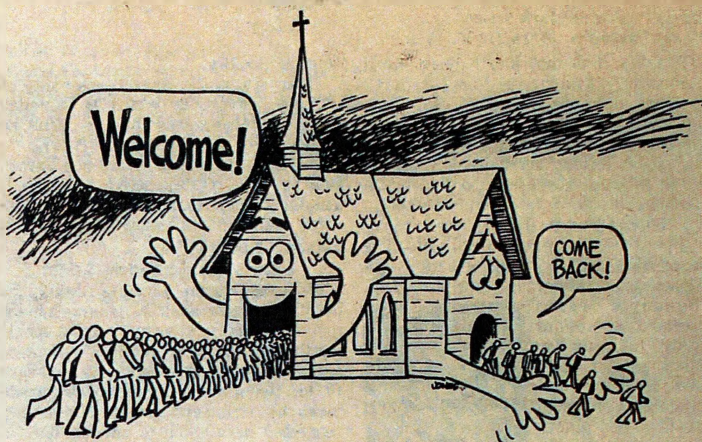
The church also has initiated a one-year deacons' associates program. Young adult men work with active deacons and are expected to meet the Biblical qualifications of deacons, attend Sunday and Wednesday activities with their families, and be tithers or be working on a systematic program of giving. Marsh said 23 men have agreed to participate in the programs for 1981-82.

"With 20 active deacons and 23 associates, we have reduced each person's load from 32 to 15 families in the deacon family ministry program," said Marsh. This will greatly improve the quality of ministry, he noted.

"I preach and teach that if you want to worship and serve God here, we want you. If you just want your name on the roll, we don't want you," said Marsh, who talks with each new Christian about their responsibilities before they are baptized. "As a result I think the quality of our members is higher."

North Phoenix instituted the Encourager program in 1980 to provide person-to-person assistance to new Christians.

When a person makes a public decision



**INACTIVITY PROBLEM** — "Back door problem" is how some church leaders describe their growing concern about increasing numbers of inactive church members.

to accept Christ, he or she is given a copy of the Survival Kit for New Christians to study and is assigned an encourager who is an active member of the Bible study department to which the new person is assigned.

Each of the 900 Encouragers now participating in the program have participated in a one-hour training program and their role is to answer questions, provide support, and help the new Christian become involved in the total church program — Bible study, training, visitation, and worship.

Minister of Outreach Uri Utterback who administers the Encourager program, said, "I really feel it's a positive approach to the new Christian. It enables them to find new directions in getting involved in the church and to see that through the church there is an alternative to the world."

Utterback noted that being an Encourager also has helped many longtime members to become more active in the total church program.

## Interpretation

### The true light

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9).

In the King James Version, John 1:9 reads as if Christ lights everyone who is born into the world, or that all people will be saved. It has been called the "Quaker

Text." They hold that every person has the light of God in him. Of course, these views mean universalism.

However, the original Greek text had no punctuation marks, except the question mark written like our semicolon (;). It was added later by men, so is not inspired. The one adding punctuation did so as he understood it. A simple change in punctuation brings out the true meaning of the verse.

"He always was the true Light, which keeps on lighting every single man, coming into the world." Omitting the explanatory clause — "He always was the true Light, coming into the world." Christ always was "the Light the true" or "the true Light."

Eternally He was/is Light and Life. In time, through His becoming man, He came into the world. He is the only Light. But He does not arbitrarily and automatically light every man. He is Light and Life only to those who receive Him as their Saviour.

It is so tragic that so many love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil (John 3:19).

## Devotional

### The greatest day

By Steve R. Murphree

David, the giant-killer, goes out to battle (2 Samuel 21:15-17). He faces the giant Ishbi-benob, whose spear weighed 300 shekels, or about 80 pounds. The Scripture says that "he thought to have slain David" (2 Samuel 21:16).

In other words, David and the giant fought and the giant had the upper hand.

Picture David on the ground and the giant poised over him ready to kill him; and he would have. But Abishai came up, distracted the giant, and killed him. He saved David's life.

I suggest that this was the greatest day in David's life — when he learned that he could not kill all the giants. He learned that he could not be a loner and that he needed help.

I also say that the greatest day in our lives is when we learn that we can't kill all the giants we face. And there are giants that we face in life. Maybe some of these are some goals not reached; bad health; various personal problems. These are the giants that confront us in life, and it is a great day when we learn that we cannot handle them all by ourselves. We must have help.

We must first learn who the enemy is. Our enemy is Satan. You see, when David went out to Goliath he was confident in the Lord. But when David went out on this day, he was confident in himself.

We learn this ourselves because we have experienced some crises in life and the Lord delivers us. Other things happen that defeat us, because we go out in our own strength.

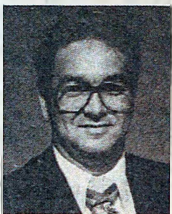
We have a powerful foe. The Bible describes Satan as a lion, seeking out those whom he may consume. So we need to learn who the enemy is and once we have done that and receive help, then we can defeat him.

Then we need to learn who the ally is. It was a great day when Abishai came to save David's life. David learned that he needed help from his friends.

That is the thing we must learn about the fellowship of the church. We need it because it is from the church that we draw our strength. The church is a fellowship of a family. We need to rediscover how much we need each other.

In the church we learn that Jesus is the great giant-killer. He killed the giant of our own sin and the giant of the death it causes. On the cross, Jesus killed both these giants for us.

—Murphree is pastor of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Clarksville.



Murphree

## Tennessee ties for eighth in SBC with 30 new Sunday Schools

NASHVILLE — Tennessee and Northwest ranked eighth among state conventions with each reporting 30 new Sunday Schools for the year ending Sept. 30, according to reports compiled in the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

Nationwide, 1,078 were reported, exceeding the goal of 1,000.

Other states in the top ten were Texas, 241; Florida, 96; California, 64; Alabama, 56; Ohio, 53; North Carolina and Oklahoma, 34; and Georgia, 29.

Since 1976 when a renewed emphasis on starting new work was initiated, 5,185 new Sunday Schools have been established.

The 1981-82 goal of 1,000 new Sunday Schools is part of an effort to increase Southern Baptists' Sunday School enrollment to 8.5-million by 1985.