

# Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 149/No. 47/November 23, 1983

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## TBC votes largest mission giving goal 1,713 messengers establish new registration record

By Al Shackelford

Messengers to the 1983 Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a record Cooperative Program mission support goal, voted to extend the life of two special committees, and approved a change in the financial policy which limits the handling of designated gifts only to Tennessee Baptist or Southern Baptist causes.

Unofficial registration figures indicate that the 1,713 messengers who attended last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting at Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga established a new record — passing the previous high registration of 1,662 messengers at the 1977 TBC at Knoxville's Central Baptist Church of Bearden.

In other action, the messengers elected Raymond Langlois, pastor of Nashville's Judson Baptist Church, as president. Also elected were vice-president, Leonard Markham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, and second vice-president, Frank Proffitt, director of missions for Lawrence County Baptist Association, Lawrenceburg.

Other major business actions were the approval of changes to the TBC Constitution and Bylaws and the adoption of resolutions supporting the role of women in Tennessee Baptist life and the raising of the drinking age from 19 to 21, and opposing pari-mutuel gambling and pornography on cable television.

The Cooperative Program budget-goal for the November 1983-October 1984 convention year was set at \$18.3-million —



**RECORD ATTENDANCE** — Registered messengers to the 109th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention last week totaled 1,713, breaking all previous TBC conven-

tion attendance records. The messengers, plus the 275 visitors who registered their attendance, met at Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

an 8.93 percent increase above the \$16.8-million budget-goal for last year. The new budget will increase the percentage shared with missions and ministries supported by the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program from 36 to 36.25 percent.

For the first time in recent years, the budget recommended by the Executive Board was amended by messengers at a state convention. The recommendation had included \$90,000 in capital funds for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes to construct a multiple-housing unit near the

(Continued on page 5)

## TBC elects Langlois as president for '84

Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention last week, in a runoff election with Nashville attorney, Osta Underwood.

Leonard Markham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, was elected vice-president, and Frank Proffitt, director of missions for the Lawrence County Baptist Association, was elected second vice-president.

The runoff for president followed a first-ballot election between four candidates: Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield; James Porch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma; Langlois; and Miss Underwood, the first woman and one of only a few lay persons ever nominated for TBC president, according to longtime convention goers.

Langlois, pastor of the Nashville

church since 1971, was nominated by John Laida, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville.

A native of Nashville, Langlois is a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Before becoming pastor of Judson Baptist Church, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Greene-

(Continued on page 3)

## Senate soundly defeats tuition tax credit bill

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)— President Ronald Reagan's tuition tax credit proposal went down to decisive defeat in the U.S. Senate Nov. 16 and the issue appears dead for this Congress.

After Senate opponents of the measure put on a show of strength in a two-day filibuster, they agreed to allow the tuition tax credit bill to come to a vote. They won, 59-38.

The proposal, pushed by Reagan since the 1980 presidential election campaign, would have made partial reimbursement for tuition expenses to parents who send their children to private and parochial schools. Of these, about 85 percent are church-related. The benefit would have amounted to a \$100 credit for tax year 1983, \$200 for 1984, and \$300 when fully implemented in 1985.

The tax credit would have gone only to families with taxable income under \$50,000 and would have been denied to parents whose children attend racially discriminatory schools. But estimates of its potential three-year cost to the federal

treasury ran as high as \$3-billion.

Debate on the politically volatile proposal focused on public policy questions as well as on church-state implications. Baptist bodies, including the Southern Baptist Convention and several state conventions, have repeatedly opposed tuition tax credits for both church-state and public policy reasons.

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James M. Dunn hailed the Senate vote as "a victory for the Constitutional principle of church-state separation, for common sense in shaping public policy, and for the consensus long held by Americans that public monies should not support private and parochial schools."

Despite Reagan's longstanding and outspoken support for the tax credits, the unexpected size of the defeat of his bill left many on Capitol Hill questioning whether he went all out in pushing it. Among these was the bill's Republican floor manager, Kansas' Robert Dole, who told reporters after the vote the administration "has a lot of work to do" in both the Senate and the House of Representatives before tuition tax credits can be passed.

An aide to one of the key opponents offered the view that while Reagan went through the motions of supporting the measure, he and his Senate allies, including Dole, seemed to do so "half-heartedly." He added an 11th-hour White House meeting of Reagan with key Senate supporters of the bill amounted to a "horse-and-pony show."

### Major TBC stories inside

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# Personnel matters fill TBCH trustee agenda

By Charlie Warren

Personnel matters occupied the agenda of the trustees of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes when they met Nov. 15 on the campus of the Chattanooga home.

The trustees upgraded the salaries and insurance benefits of houseparents, dietitians, and some other employees on the campuses.

The employees affected by the action will receive a \$50 a month increase in salary, effective retroactive to Nov. 1. The institution also will begin paying one-half of the medical insurance premiums of all employees not presently covered.

The action was recommended by a salary scale study committee which compared Tennessee's salaries and benefits with Baptist children's homes in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and Mississippi.

John Robinson, chairman of the committee, said the committee will continue its work. "We have responded to the most critical need, but our work is not complete," he stated. The committee is assigned to thoroughly study the present salary scale.

Robinson said the purpose of the upgraded salaries and benefits is "to attract and keep good people."

The action will cost the institution \$76,927 during the coming year, according to Robinson. The money will come from the institution's reserve fund. He said 92 employees will be affected by the adjustments.

The trustees voted to name E. B. Bowen, who has announced his retirement as executive director-treasurer effective Dec. 31, as interim director until his replacement is secured.

Keith Wilson, who recently submitted his resignation as superintendent of the Memphis campus, also was named interim superintendent until his replacement is found.

The trustees also approved two recommendations from the search committee assigned to replace John Ashby, superintendent of the Franklin campus, who resigned effective Dec. 31.

The committee recommended waiting to fill the post until the new executive director-treasurer of the central office is elected, and that an interim be named who is not a possible candidate for the position. Both recommendations passed without discussion.

The trustees agreed that members of the three search committees to recommend replacements for Bowen, Ashby, and Wilson be allowed to continue to serve, even if they rotate off the board of trustees.

The trustees also discussed the possibility of retaining Bowen's services beyond the time when his replacement

has been elected in order to assist the institution in a lawsuit now pending with Internal Revenue Service.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc. filed the suit, contesting penalties levied by IRS against TBCH for its refusal to file IRS Informational Form 990. TBCH contends that to file such forms would "result in an excessive entanglement of government in the function of the church." IRS has ruled that certain religious organizations, such as the TBCH, are not "integrated auxiliaries" of churches and conventions of churches and therefore are subject to government inquires and possible taxation.

After much discussion on retaining Bowen for his expertise on the matter, the trustees voted to delay the decision until a later meeting.

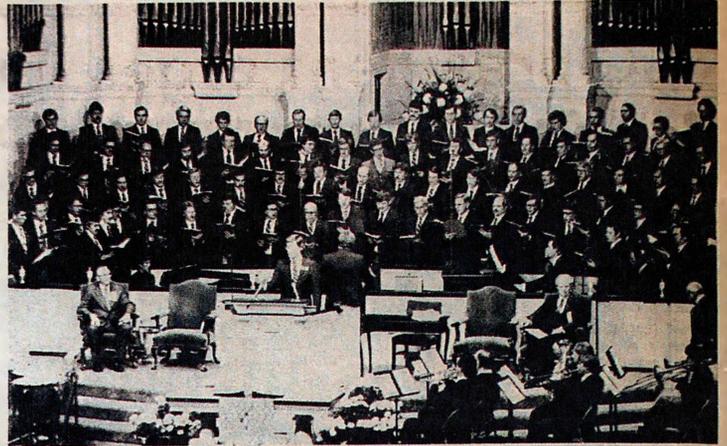
In other action, the trustees voted to allow reporters from the Baptist and Reflector to be present at all trustee meetings and that the B&R staff write its own news releases. Previously, the TBCH policy has stated that news releases should come from the executive office.

The board also heard a report from a retirement arrangements committee which is assigned to honor Bowen on his retirement. The committee announced that a retirement banquet is set for Dec. 5 at the Read House in Chattanooga. Trustees and about 25 invited guests will be present.

The trustees voted to delay action on additional retirement gifts or benefits.

Ruth Willhoit of Chattanooga moved that the board rescind its action of Oct. 11 which continued the salaries of the TBCH education coordinators through October 1984. The education coordinator positions were abolished at the Sept. 8 meeting.

The motion died for lack of a second. The next scheduled meeting of the TBCH trustees will be Dec. 6 on the Chattanooga campus.



**CONVENTION CONCERT** — The Tennessee Baptist Chorale, comprised of ministers of music in the state, presented a mini-concert before the convention's Tuesday evening session. Accompanists for the chorale included instrumentalists from Chattanooga-area churches and a handbell choir from Brainerd Baptist Church, which hosted the convention.

## Cauthen relates optimism concerning holocaust, China

Baker James Cauthen, longtime Southern Baptist mission leader, expressed his optimism last week concerning the issue of nuclear holocaust and the future of Christian witness in China.

"God is sovereign," Cauthen said in a devotional on faith. "Wicked man, however sinful, however wicked, however misguided, will not be able, apart from the will of God, to wipe himself off the face of the earth and annihilate himself as a creature in this world."

"This is a matter of God's sovereignty," said Cauthen, former top executive of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who retired in 1976. "But the only way you can believe that is by faith in God."

Cauthen, currently a visiting professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., said that even if God allowed nuclear war, "the day after holocaust, God would be at work in His world, redeeming the remnant of mankind that survived."

"The nuclear threat that is upon this world becomes one of the strongest reasons why we must march ahead with the gospel of redemption for the whole wide world," he said.

Cauthen led the devotional during the Wednesday evening session of the Ten-

nessee Baptist Convention last week in Chattanooga.

During an address at Thursday morning's session, Cauthen traced the history of Christian work in China.

Reminding the crowd that China was Southern Baptists' first mission field, Cauthen reviewed the effective early years of Baptist mission efforts, followed by the era when the church was forced underground, meeting only in secret in house churches.

The longtime China-watcher, however, pointed to a "thawing" that is currently going on. He told of banners he saw while visiting China in 1980 which read, "We are friends all around the world."

Cauthen commented, "The hunger for friendship today may bring a new opportunity for tomorrow."

A few years ago, according to Cauthen, China's government agreed to allow churches to begin holding services again.

"To our surprise and the surprise of China's government, the churches were found to be thronged with people when they opened their doors. There are far more Christians in China now than when they found the Iron Curtain dropping."

He said he believes missionaries eventually will go back into China, but not immediately in the capacity as regular career missionaries. He is encouraged at those who already are going in as visitors, visiting Chinese Christians and taking Bibles and Christian literature.

"Doors are open for people to go in like Paul went in — as a tentmaker," Cauthen said, adding that China's government wants the expertise of Americans in business, industry, and technology. He urged Christian lay people to respond to such requests as "a Christian opportunity."

Referring to the 1-billion people in China today, Cauthen stated, "God loves every one of those 1-billion people."

"Sooner or later," he continued, "the desire of the Chinese people will be so strong that the government will see their interest and say, 'Yes, there ought to be missionaries back here. Let them come to be the doctors. Let them come to be the teachers. Let them come and minister to churches.'"

"God can open any locked door," Cauthen concluded. "He can untie any tangled knot. He can solve any unsolved problem."

## Congress freezes non-profit rates

WASHINGTON (BP) — Congress has agreed to funding that will preserve current non-profit postal rates through Sept. 30, 1984.

In the continuing resolution passed Nov. 12 to keep most government agencies running at the start of fiscal 1984, both the House and Senate approved a conference report which maintains funding at \$879-million. That is the amount the Postal Service estimates necessary to preserve the subsidy to non-profit mailers through the next fiscal year.

President Ronald Reagan signed the bill Nov. 14.

The continuing resolution, a stopgap measure which Congress has repeatedly used in recent years, keeps government programs operating when regular funding bills are not passed in time.

Although a regular appropriations bill could change the amount of funding in this continuing resolution, House Appropriations Committee sources said it is unlikely one will clear Congress before the end of this year's session.

## Little Flat Creek calls Bucky Kerr as pastor

William Reede "Bucky" Kerr accepted a call from Little Flat Creek Baptist Church, Corryton, to come as its pastor.

Kerr, who began his ministry at the church Oct. 23, came to Corryton from the pastorate of Memorial Baptist Church, Oak Lawn, Ill.

A native of Kingston, Kerr is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.



**RESPONSIBILITY** — "Every person in the whole wide world has a right to hear the gospel and every Christian in the world has the responsibility to present the gospel," says Baker James Cauthen, longtime mission leader.

# SBC president urges 'guidelines' of belief

SALEM, Va. (BP) — James T. Draper Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has suggested the denomination establish "guidelines" to detail what Baptists should believe.

Draper, serving his second term as president of the 14-million-member denomination, suggested a committee be appointed to draw up "some minimum things" Baptists believe, things about which Baptists would say, "Hey, we're not any of us going to give up these beliefs. We can't go beyond them."

The SBC president made the suggestion during an afternoon news conference before preaching to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. He raised the possibility of creating a committee to establish the guidelines while answering questions about the bickering between "fundamentalists" and "moderates" that has bothered the nation's largest evangelical denomination in recent years.

Draper said after the establishment of limits to what Southern Baptists could believe, "moderates" and "liberals" who could not accept them could leave.

Many Baptists oppose "creedalism," considering creeds a violation of the concept of a "priesthood of the individual believer."

"No matter what they say, Baptists have got a creed — everyone's got a creed," Draper said, adding it is based on the belief the Bible is the Word of God. Draper said he hopes such guidelines would be general enough to satisfy most Southern Baptists.

"We do believe in something," he said. "We have a statement of faith and a confession of faith. They are creedal in a sense . . ."

Draper cited four things which should be in any guideline of belief. "They are bedrock," he said. "If there are leaders or teachers who find they cannot accept these four things, they ought to leave. Anyone who cannot accept them is not a true Southern Baptist and ought to have the integrity to leave . . ."

The four include a belief in the full humanity and deity of Christ, substitutionary atonement by Christ for the sins of mankind, justification of God's grace through faith, and belief in the bodily resurrection of Christ.

Draper said his list of four "bedrock" items does not include anything about the inerrancy of the Scriptures, a strongly held belief that the Bible, in its original form, contained no errors of any sort. "Inerrancy" has been both a code word and a battle cry in the ongoing strife in the denomination.

Draper, who has been identified with

the "inerrancy wing" of the denomination, said he would not "demand that they (a committee) use the word inerrancy or infallibility or inspiration. They could use the word authoritative or truthful, but I would not want to make that a tenet. I would not try to make inerrancy an issue. I would not want people debating over terminology."



**EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS** — Elected as new officers of the TBC Executive Board at its Nov. 16 meeting were (from left) Hoyt Wilson, vice-president; Raymond Boston, president; and Gene Gafford, recording secretary.

## TBC Executive Board elects Boston as new president

Raymond Boston, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board at a meeting Nov. 16 during the state convention meeting in Chattanooga.

Boston served last year as vice-president of the board and as chairman of the board's administrative committee and the board of directors of the Baptist and Reflector.

Also elected as Executive Board officers were vice-president, Hoyt Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington; recording secretary, Gene Gafford, pastor of National Avenue Baptist

Church, Memphis; and treasurer, Tom Madden, executive secretary of the TBC Executive Board.

At its pre-convention meeting Nov. 14, the Executive Board voted to rescind its action of Sept. 16 which would have created a special committee to study the feasibility of bringing all TBC agencies, institutions, and auxiliary under the administrative guidelines of the Executive Board and the supervision of the executive secretary-treasurer.

The board requested that the Trustee Relationship Study Committee, which was authorized by the 1982 TBC, to include this matter in its study.

The next scheduled meeting of the Executive Board will be Dec. 15-16 at the Executive Board Building in Brentwood. All meetings of board are open to visitors.



**TBC OFFICERS** — Officers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, elected last week in Chattanooga, are Raymond Langlois (center), pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, president; Leonard Markham (left), pastor of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, vice-president; and Frank Proffitt, director of missions for the Lawrence County Baptist Association, second vice-president.

## TBC elects new officers . . .

(Continued from page 1)

ville, for two years. Before that, he was church training and Baptist Student Union director for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Active in Baptist life, Langlois has served on the Committee on Boards and Tellers Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention; as chairman of the Executive Committee and vice-chairman of the trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Markham was one of three pastors nominated for vice-president. Other nominees were Albert Jewell, Saulsbury Baptist Church, Watertown, and Earl McCosh, Central Baptist Church, Dandridge. There was a runoff between Markham and Jewell.

Pastor of the Sweetwater church for more than one year, Markham was previously pastor of Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, for seven years. Born in Knoxville, he is a graduate of Carson-

Newman-College, Jefferson City, and Southern seminary. He presently serves on the Arrangements Committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and has served as president of the Knoxville Baptist Pastors' Conference and on committees of the Sweetwater Baptist Association.

The newly elected second vice-president, Frank Proffitt, was elected by acclamation. He has served in the Lawrence County position for two years. Before that he had served as pastor of Fort Robinson Baptist Church, Kingsport, and First Baptist Church, Hampton. A native of Greene County, Proffitt is a graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, Hendersonville, N.C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

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

## Shelling closes Beirut school

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Beirut Baptist School in west Beirut opened as planned Nov. 2 with about 700 students, the usual student load. But shelling in the area Nov. 15 prompted the government to call off classes the next two days, apparently so the children would not be endangered while traveling to and from school.

Arab Baptist Seminary in Monsouriyeh, on the east side of Beirut, opened Oct. 18 with nine students, despite heavy shelling.

Baptist Publications, also based in Monsouriyeh, completed the first Arabic translation of MasterLife discipleship materials in time for a workshop in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Isam Ballenger, Foreign Mission Board director for Europe and the Middle East, said the workshop drew Arab Baptists from across the Middle East, including some from Israel.

Ballenger reported first-term missionaries James and Stephanie Bethea have moved from west Beirut to Sidon, a coastal city to the south about midway between Beirut and the Israeli border.

The couple feels they have more freedom of movement in Sidon and the opportunities for student work are greater there, Ballenger said.

## '86 TBC to meet in Johnson City

Accepting the recommendation of the Committee on Arrangements, messengers to last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention voted to hold the 1986 TBC in Johnson City and to name David George of Nashville to preach the convention sermon at the 1984 convention.

The 1986 state convention will meet Nov. 11-13 at Freedom Hall in Johnson City — the site of the 1980 TBC. The invitation of Holston Baptist Association was accepted to help that organization celebrate its 200th anniversary which will come in 1986.

George, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of Nashville, will preach the convention sermon for next year's TBC, which will be held Nov. 13-15, 1984, at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville.

Named as alternate for the convention preacher was Marshall Gupton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Camden. Also, Julian Suggs, director of the TBC church music department, was named as music coordinator for the 1984 state convention.

## EDITORIAL

# Missions, messages, music highlight 1983 TBC

Tennessee Baptists in record numbers attended last week's 109th session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and responded enthusiastically to the strong mission emphasis which binds our cooperative efforts together.

Unofficial registration figures announced at the convention indicate that there were 1,713 registered messengers, passing the previous record of 1,662 at the 1977 TBC. In addition, there were 275 visitors who registered at Chattanooga's Brainerd Baptist Church.

The theme, "Tennessee Baptists... Bold Witnesses to the World," was repeatedly presented in challenging messages and presentations — and the messengers reacted by taking several actions which demonstrated their commitment.

Nowhere was this more evident than the approval of a visionary \$18.3-million Cooperative Program budget-goal for the 1983-84 convention year. This represents an 8.93 percent increase above the \$16.8-million Cooperative Program goal for the 1982-83 convention year and the \$16,800,308.49 gifts for the Nov. 1, 1982, through Oct. 31, 1983, period.

The new budget also contains our commitment to share more of Tennessee's Cooperative Program with the Bold Mission Thrust causes supported through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. The percentage shared with the SBC Cooperative Program was increased from 36 percent to 36.25 percent.

For the first time in the memory of longtime convention observers, the Executive Board's budget recommendation was amended on the convention floor.

The recommendation had contained \$90,000 in capital funds for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes to construct a multiple-unit building near the Baptist Health Care Center in Lenoir City as a pilot project.

The budget was amended to delete that amount, but \$25,000 was provided to TBAH for a feasibility study to establish specific goals for the TBC institution.

All who spoke concerning this issue recognized that there is an expanding need for Tennessee Baptists to be involved in providing a ministry to the elderly. However, based on the amending of the budget, there does not seem to be agreement on what specific needs Tennessee Baptists should be seeking to meet.

We believe that a well-documented feasibility study will be favorably received by Tennessee Baptists and will open the door for many giant strides to be taken by our convention in the field of senior adult ministry.

Tennessee Baptists' involvement in missions also was highlighted last week by inspiring reports of our involvement in Michigan and in Upper Volta.

The issue which involved the most voting — and perhaps left the most questions — concerned the resolution on women which was brought by the Resolutions Committee.

Although the committee was extremely careful to present a resolution which could in no way be interpreted as approving or disapproving ordination of women, some messengers were fearful that the news media might so interpret it as approving — not being aware that ordination is strictly a local church function.

An amendment to so state that the practice of ordaining women was not endorsed or rejected by the resolution was tabled — and the messengers also voted not to rescind their vote to table.

It would appear that the convention not only did not want to take a stand on approving or disapproving the ordination of women, they also did not want to take a stand on not taking a stand.

Even though these two matters — amending the budget and not amending the resolution of women — evoked deep feelings, the messengers conducted themselves in a positive, constructive manner during the handling of these and all other business matters.

President Fred Steelman, ably assisted by Parliamentarian Osta Underwood, is to be commended for his contribution to our successful convention. Messengers were always given the opportunity to express their views and all opinion-expressers were treated fairly and with respect.

Incidentally, Miss Underwood appears to have achieved a first in the history of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Although there are no listings available, TBC history buffs believe she is the first woman ever to be nominated for the presidency of the state convention. The fact that she made the runoff is significant, when you consider that the TBC has not had a lay person as president in well over a generation.

Our commendation would extend to all the officers, the Committee on Arrangements, and certainly to the pastor and people of our host, Brainerd Baptist Church. Their beautiful facility added much to our enjoyment of the 1983 Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The growing attendance at Tennessee Baptist Convention sessions is encouraging. Last week, the auditorium was packed — even for the day sessions — and at night two overflow auditoriums with closed-circuit television were filled.

As our attendance continues to increase — as it should — it is becoming evident that there are very few church buildings in our state which can accommodate the number of messengers and visitors who will attend. Some time in the near future, we must consider holding our conventions in civic facilities which can accommodate more than 2,000 people.

The election of Raymond Langlois as the new president was a recognition of his leadership and involvement in Tennessee Baptist and Southern Baptist life. The messengers chose Langlois over three other outstanding candidates.

Tennessee Baptists seem to have a lot of interest in the election of our state convention president, but sometimes one gets the feeling that very little advanced thought is given to the election of the vice-presidents. We are not calling for open campaigns for those three top officers, but we would like to see more interest generated in the choosing of all leaders of our state convention.

Attendees to last week's TBC were treated to some outstanding messages and also some fantastic music. Tennessee Baptists have indeed many talented, inspiring musicians, and their participation in the 1983 TBC was outstanding and inspirational.

In evaluating the 1983 state convention, historians surely would have to note that many significant actions were faced by messengers as they gathered in Chattanooga. They came, listened, sang, prayed, discussed, and voted — all in a positive, Christian spirit.

No one would dare predict what the future holds for Tennessee Baptists and their cooperative efforts together, but it would indeed be wonderful if future TBCs could maintain the open, excellent spirit experienced in the 1983 convention.



CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 75,686

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Established 1835  
Post Office Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027  
Telephone: (615) 373-2255

**Baptist and Reflector** (USPS 041-780) is published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Subscription prices: \$5.85 individual, clubs of ten or more, \$5.55; church budget, 9.6¢ per family per week when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood, Tennessee, and at additional mailing offices.

Space forbids printing of resolutions and obituaries. Advertising rates on request.

Member of Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027.

News Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention  
Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Raymond Boston, chairman; John Laida, vice-chairman; Ansell Baker, Stanley Brumfield, E. E. Carrier, William Coles Jr., Jerry Faust, Jack May, Earl McCosh, Rudy Newby, Jerry Oakley, Thomas Pope, James Parch, James Sorrell, Fred Steelman, and Clarence Stewart.

# Landrum Leavell defends SBC seminaries

Claiming that "perhaps at no other time in Southern Baptist history has any agency of the denomination been subjected to the criticism and scrutiny under which the seminaries have come in the last decade," Landrum Leavell defended the six Southern Baptist seminaries during the Wednesday morning session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Leavell, president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, stated that the seminaries "belong to the Southern Baptist Convention, were founded by the Southern Baptist Convention, and are sustained in the presence of the Southern Baptist Convention." He assured the TBC that while the academic community had the legitimate responsibility to criticize and challenge the denomination, the seminaries "are not immune to nor above the responsibility to accept the criticism and evaluations of the owners.

"We welcome any fair investigation and any honest criticism," Leavell said in behalf of his seminary, stressing that all criticisms received "are not fair and honest.

"Sometimes criticism comes from our best friends and supporters who have valid concerns," Leavell admitted. "But some come from students unhappy over a failing grade, and some from those who would put us under a cloud of suspicion while building their own schools."

To counteract some of those criticisms, Leavell spoke in staunch support of the New Orleans school's faculty, program, and students.

"We are not a conglomeration of outsiders who have wormed our way into the convention for the purpose of perverting and destroying," he said of the schools' staff. "Every member of our faculty belongs to a Southern Baptist church."

In addition to membership, Leavell added that the school's teachers have several years of experience in full-time church staff positions, and many serve in part-time positions after being named to the faculty.

"I continue to be convinced that no person can adequately teach those whom God has called to serve local churches unless the teacher has served in the local church," he stressed.

Leavell then commented that each faculty member is publicly questioned about their ability to work in harmony with, and not contrary to, the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963 and

the institution's Articles of Religious Belief, drawn by its founders on instruction from the 1917 Southern Baptist Convention. The teachers are also publicly asked if they are "storehouse" tithers and if they abstain from the use of alcohol and tobacco.

With its faculty, the seminary seeks "to provide a program of instruction that is Biblical in orientation and relevant in application," Leavell explained.

"The Bible is indeed 'once for all delivered unto the saints,' ... but it is not 'once for all understood' by the saints," Leavell assured. "It is our commitment, to a man and a woman, to continue teaching this unique and divinely inspired Book with integrity, with the

highest degree of devotion and scholarship of which we are capable."

Leavell contended a sound program is vital because "the kind of churches that will serve my grandchildren and yours is being determined today by the kind of training offered in our six seminaries.

"In a sense our hands are tied, because the only persons we have to train are the ones you send us," he continued. "Every student is required to have official endorsement from a local Southern Baptist church.

"Among those in training at our shop is someone God is getting ready to take my place and someone to take your place," Leavell told his listeners. "What kind of person should it be?"

## TBC votes record mission giving goal...

(Continued from page 1)

Baptist Health Care Center, Lenoir City. This would have been the first time that capital funds would have been allocated to TBAH.

James Robertson of Knoxville presented an amendment to the budget "that the proposed allocation of \$90,000 in capital funds for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc. be deleted and that \$25,000 be authorized for the (TBAH) executive director and the (TBAH) directors to study the utilization of existing institutions and agencies for elderly care and formulate specific plans for the future ministry of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc."

In discussing his motion to amend, Robertson said that the vote was more than just for funds, but he saw it as a new program, a new beginning, and a new philosophy. He felt that a feasibility study should be done to establish specific goals for the institution.

Tom Pope of Tiptonville, chairman of the Executive Board's Christian services committee, said that a great deal of study has been done by the directors to determine that this type of construction would meet a specific need in a specific location.

Bill Bruster of Knoxville spoke for the amendment, asking for an innovative study that might possibly use land the convention already owns.

After a hand vote on the proposed amendment was ruled "too close" to call by President Fred Steelman, a ballot on the matter was taken which passed the amendment.

A motion was then passed to put the \$65,000 difference in an escrow account and a decision made later on its usage.

The budget as amended was then passed without opposition.

Two special committees which had been authorized by earlier conventions were extended by the messengers.

The Minister's Aid Committee, which was created by the 1980 TBC to find ways to aid ministers who lose their positions, was authorized to continue as a special committee for five years. The six-member committee will begin rotation next year, with the TBC president appointing two members for three-year terms each year.

The messengers also approved a recommendation from the committee that \$35,000 from earned interest on day-to-day deposits of the convention be made available to the committee, and that this need become a regular budget item in the TBC budget beginning next year.

The Trustee Relationship Study Com-

mittee, which was created by the 1982 TBC, was granted an additional year to complete its study and to make its report to the 1984 state convention.

On recommendation of the Executive Board, the messengers approved an amendment to the TBC financial policy which states, "Designated gifts for other than Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention agencies, institutions, programs, auxiliary, and associated organizations (i.e., American Bible Society and United Tennessee League) shall be redirected to the sender."

James Sorrell of Johnson City, chairman of the Executive Board's special committee which considered this matter, said that the change does not violate the freedom or the autonomy of a local church, would save the convention from embarrassment of appearing to support certain movements, and would protect the state convention and its churches from the possible loss of tax-exempt status.

Joey Rosas and Patrick Stewart, both of Memphis, spoke against the change, feeling that the matter should be left to churches and that churches would create new designations within their budgets.

The amendment was approved on a voice vote with some opposition.

Changes to the TBC Constitution were approved which will clarify duties of officers and the succession of officers, should vacancies occur. The Bylaws were amended to create two new standing committees — the Church Staff Compensation Study Committee and the Historical Committee.

Another amendment to the Constitution was proposed by Mel Williams of Memphis which would delete the phrase "or its agencies" from a sentence in Article II, Composition. The sentence would then read, "The term 'cooperating Baptist church' shall be applied to such churches as contribute financially to the Convention and subscribe to and support principles, programs, and policies of the Convention."

Williams' amendment was referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

On recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, the messengers approved a strong statement opposing the current drive in Tennessee to legalize pari-mutuel gambling. Other resolutions opposed pornography on cable television; supported the raising of the legal drinking age in Tennessee from 19 to 21; and recognized and confirmed the role of women in the life of Tennessee Baptist churches.

When the resolution on women was presented, Richard Holloman of Hum-

"I pray that it will be a kingdom-builder, not an empire-builder," Leavell said. "I pray that it will be someone pointing mankind to Jesus, not himself. I pray that all our graduates will be Christians first and Baptists second, but I pray that they will be Southern Baptists with the deepest convictions and noblest gratitude of their souls."

The seminary president stated that he saw much of this characteristic in the school's present student body.

"This is beyond question the brightest, sharpest, coolest, best-trained generation ever to pass through our halls," he reported. "If there was ever a generation that can 'pull off' the Bold Mission Thrust, this is the generation!"

boldt offered an amendment that "due to the current division of conflict throughout the Southern Baptist Convention concerning the ordination of women and since we uphold the autonomy of the local church, the resolution does not speak to the issue of endorsing or rejecting the ordination of women."

Lon Shoopman of Madisonville, a member of the Resolutions Committee, noted that the resolution was written with great care not to take a stand on ordination. "The convention has never ordained anyone nor does it have the power to ordain anyone," he added. He then moved to table the amendment, and the motion to table carried.

Ron Jones of Morristown moved to rescind the action tabling the amendment, but the motion to rescind was defeated.

Shafer Parker of Elizabethton then presented an amendment to the resolution which would have stated that the resolution does not specifically approve the ordination of women as pastors or deacons.

President Steelman ruled that Parker's motion to amend was out of order, because the convention had already expressed itself on that matter. Ron Jones appealed the ruling of the chair, but on a vote by the messengers, the ruling of the chair was sustained.

The resolution on women was then approved by a standing vote.

In other action, the messengers approved a change in the title of the history program and added a function of "wellness" to the program statements of the three TBC health care systems.

Also, the messengers voted to designate 1984 as the "Year of the Tithe" and to participate in the "Planned Growth in Giving" emphasis which was approved by the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh.

The messengers approved the participation of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its cooperating churches in the new SBC Annuity Plan which will go into effect in 1988.

On recommendation of the Committee on the Journal, the messengers voted to dedicate the 1983 TBC Annual to three employees who are retiring this year: Eura Lannom of the Baptist and Reflector staff; Jonas Stewart, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation; and Evelyn Strickland, public relations coordinator. A reception honoring these three retirees was held after the Tuesday night session of the convention.

The messengers voted to hold the 1986 TBC at Freedom Hall in Johnson City. By previous action, next year's convention will be held Nov. 13-15 at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville.



**DEFENDS SEMINARIES** — Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke to criticisms facing his institution and the five other Southern Baptist seminaries.

## Langlois tells state ministers to deliver relevant message

Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, urged fellow ministers attending last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention to make sure they can deliver a relevant message and provide adequate answers to a searching world.

Langlois, who was later elected president of the TBC (see related stories), addressed the Tuesday afternoon session of the convention, held at Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga. Using 2 Samuel 18 as his text, he compared the account of Ahimaaz, a messenger who ran to King David to deliver good news that was not relevant, to ministers today who would take irrelevant messages to the world.

"We dare not enter this world as a messenger of our Lord, no matter how good of men we may be called, nor how marvelous the glad tidings the church may bring or we may bring, unless we have a message that is relevant for our day," Langlois warned. "Otherwise, the world will tell us 'Stand aside, we will hear a message from another.'"

Langlois explained that one way to insure relevancy would be to provide adequate answers. "Ahimaaz had an answer, but it was inadequate for the needs of that time," he said.

"Today we live in a time when there are many questions that cry for an answer, and many of them are very, very difficult to answer," Langlois declared. "When we do not have answers to the problems of people, the world says to us 'Stand aside.'"

The Nashville pastor elaborated that people stop listening to ministers that do not have answers, because those ministers "begin to say 'All is well' when it is not so, or say everything is terrible when that is not the answer."

Further troubles are created when ministers give simple answers to complex problems, try to answer all of the world's questions, or retreat into the past by saying "we've always done it that way," he explained.

Citing that Ahimaaz was more enthusiastic about running with his message than about the relevance of it, Langlois told the convention that when ministers are subjected by themselves or by their congregations to constant running, they tend to lose sight of their message.

"In much running, there may be the reason for the lack of an answer to life's questions," he stated. "This constant running results often in a sense of

failure; results completely in physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional fatigue; sometimes great frustration; and worst of all, it leads to a sense of futility.

"Many times we are caught up in trying to do the work of God's Holy Spirit, and find a sense of utter failure," Langlois observed, "because we cannot do the work of the Holy Spirit ourselves."

Ministers facing pressures put upon them by their own desires to do God's work or to succeed, or those put upon them by the expectations of their congregations, should remember the Lord's command to "be still and know that I am God," he advised.

Langlois then offered three ways in which ministers could be aided in their work.

"Churches, recognize the divine call of God for a man or for a woman as your church staff member, or to a denominational worker," he said first. "Recognize the divine call of God both to them individually and to them as your servant, that you called as your servant, and then line up behind them and follow."

"Second, preachers, church staff, and denominational leaders, we need to be willing to stand up for ourselves and have our priorities in order. We do need to stand up for our priorities and say 'I must spend time with God if I am to bring God's message to a needy world when I stand in the pulpit.'"

Thirdly, Langlois turned to denominational workers. "Help us," he asked. "We need your help, we need your suggestions, but we don't need your pressures. Assist us, stand by us, give us encouragement, but don't make us feel that we're traitors when we don't do everything you have suggested that we do."

"Fourth," he said, turning again to his whole audience, "we need to rebuild trust. Trust has died in our world. If we are to be the people of God, we must somehow rebuild trust — recognize that there is diversity of style, that God calls different people, and that there are different ways — let's build up the level of trust. We talk about faith, we believe in faith in God, now let's have faith in each other."

"Fifth, we need to recognize that we cannot answer all of the world's questions immediately," he cautioned. "Then sixth, listen to the questions that are being asked. We need to tune our ear to the world and find out the questions that are being asked that can be answered on the basis of God's Word."

"Seventh, we need somehow desperately to equip our people," Langlois pleaded. "To teach our people, to lead our people, so that God can change the lives of some of the men who are experts in the fields where we are not experts. We need to change people's lives to answer the questions that the world puts to us."

In conclusion, Langlois told of how a second runner came to King David and reported that the king's son Absalom had been killed. Ahimaaz had not reported an appropriate answer or a relevant message, and "a day of victory was turned into a day of mourning."

"What can be a great day of victory, because these are challenging times, can be a day of greatness and victory if we will bring the message that God has called us to," he said. "But first of all, we must be still and stop our running, and know that He is God, and arrive at our place with a message that is relevant to our world."



**GAVEL PASSES** — As the Tennessee Baptist Convention closed last Thursday, TBC President Fred Steelman (right) passed the gavel to the new president, Raymond Langlois.

## C-N's Maddox stresses need to educate future leadership

Tennessee Baptists were urged to "Look Beyond the Present" by Cordell Maddox, president of Carson-Newman College of Jefferson City, during his Nov. 16 address to the state convention.

"If we are to win the world for Christ, bring in the kingdom of God, it is essential for us to look beyond the present, past the immediate, to the distant and to recognize with renewed zeal the compelling necessity for educated and trained leaders for the kingdom-building enterprise," the college president said.

Maddox noted that Jesus spent the last 18 months of this earthly life training 12 men in the first itinerant college, when He could have preached to multitudes and baptized thousands. "But He trained, taught, and educated 12 men because He considered trained leadership essential to His cause," he added.

"It is imperative that we as Christians now prepare our young people for Christian leadership for the years ahead," Maddox said, "providing young people the opportunity to secure a superior, value-oriented education in a Christian environment, which will equip them for Christian leadership in a fast moving, dangerous, and rapidly changing world."

The college president said that TBC colleges must provide a superior academic program which will stretch the minds, develop the talents, and help students reach their potential for service

to God and mankind. He chided those who feel that academic standards at a Christian college should not be as high as those of other educational institutions.

Maddox added that "Our colleges must provide a program that espouses and transmits to students a sense of Christian values and encourages them to live by these values. Students must be challenged to know about God through their studies, but more important, they must be challenged to know Him through a personal encounter."

Maddox declared that every subject must be taught reflecting the life and teaching of Christ, and all who teach and lead must bear testimony that Jesus is Lord of all. "Careless, irreverent, arrogant 'debunkers of the Christian faith' have no place on the Christian college campus," he added.

In closing, the Carson-Newman president stated, "My hope and prayer is that your young people will leave our Tennessee Baptist colleges keen of intellect, their minds filled with a rich store of useful knowledge, their personalities well-rounded — ready to take their places as businessmen, teachers, doctors, scientists, lawyers, soldiers, housewives, secretaries, coaches, ministers, missionaries, or whatever, with a view of living their lives based on the principles of Jesus and a desire to make their contribution to the betterment of mankind."

"I ask your love, your good words, your cooperation, and most of all your prayers as we look to the future and join our hands and hearts to build God's kingdom in our world."



**LOOK TO FUTURE** — Cordell Maddox, president of Carson-Newman College, urged Tennessee Baptists to "Look to the Future" in his address to the state convention.

## Outreach effort grows quickly in Singapore

SINGAPORE — A service begun as an outreach to thousands of Filipino domestic servants and construction workers living in Singapore has resulted in the fastest-growing worship unit there.

After the first three services, attendance had grown from 40 to 85, and 24 decisions, most first-time professions of faith, had been registered.

The sponsoring church, Queenstown Baptist, also ministers in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English services. Members decided in August to begin a service in Tagalog for the Filipinos who were attending.

## Hickory Withe church calls Little as pastor

First Baptist Church, Hickory Withe, recently called Eddie Little as its pastor.

Little was previously pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church, Morris Chapel, and Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Collierville. He is also a former assistant pastor of Elliston Baptist Church, Memphis.

A native of Memphis, Little is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

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# TBC resolution affirms service of women

By Steve Higdon

Messengers to the 109th Tennessee Baptist Convention last week passed a resolution affirming the service of women to the church, despite opposition warning that the resolution might appear to approve the ordination of women.

The resolution, which passed only after a lengthy debate, expressed "gratitude to God for the contributions made by women in the cause of Christ," affirmed "those women who labor for the Lord and the churches in places of special service to which God has called them," and encouraged "women in developing their God-given potential for service to Christ."

Richard Holloman, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Humboldt, was the first to speak in opposition to the resolution, calling for the convention to make it clear that the resolution does not address the ordaining of women. Holloman proposed an amendment to be added to declare that "due to the current division of conflict throughout the Southern Baptist Convention concerning the ordination of women, and since we uphold the autonomy of the local church, this resolution does not speak to the issue of endorsing or rejecting the ordination of women."

Holloman told the convention that without such a statement, the resolution could be interpreted as our putting a stamp of approval or expressing our disapproval of the ordination of women.

Lon Shoopman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Madisonville and a member of the Committee on Resolutions, explained that it was because of the autonomy of the local church that the committee, when working on the resolution, did not want to mention the issue.

"The Tennessee Baptist Convention has never ordained anyone, nor does it have the power to ordain anyone," Shoopman said, reminding the messengers that only a local church could ordain. "We have no more right to speak to a local church about the issue of ordination than we do about the color of carpet they put on their floor or the people they employ on their church staff."

Shoopman then moved that the amendment be tabled, a motion that was approved by the convention body.

June McEwen, a messenger from First Baptist Church in Chattanooga and presenter of the subject for resolution, then urged the messengers to have the "courage and maturity" to pass the resolution as it stood. Mrs. McEwen observed that Jesus had been revolutionary in His treatment of women during His early ministry, and she asked the TBC to follow His example.

Referring to the Apostle Paul's admonition for women to keep silent in the first-century church, Mrs. McEwen interpreted that Paul made such a statement because women of that day were uneducated and not seen as equals. For that reason, for a woman to speak out would bring shame upon the church, she said.

"Today, in the world we live in, if we refuse to affirm, or confirm, or give place to our women in the lives of our churches, we will do that very thing," Mrs. McEwen chided. "We will bring shame upon the body of Christ."

Concerned that if the resolution were adopted as worded that "the news media, as well as our Baptist press, will say that we have endorsed the ordination of women," Ron Jones, pastor of Buffalo Trail Baptist Church in Morristown,

moved that the motion to table Holloman's amendment be rescinded.

After the motion to rescind failed, Shafer Parker, pastor of Siam Baptist Church in Elizabethton, sought to have an amendment passed which would have the resolution state that it specifically does not express approval for ordaining women.

"If we begin to express any form of approval whatsoever for women to be ordained as pastors or deacons, we will have a real problem in dealing with leadership in the home," Parker said. "It seems to me that the church is to be an extended family, and if the husband is to be the spiritual leader of the home, which I think the Bible is extremely clear on, then the men need to be spiritual leaders in the church as well."

Parker also questioned why the convention was allowing secular issues to affect its issues, and noted that some seemed to be confused on the difference of women having a spiritual gift and exercising the gift in an ordained church office.

After Parker's motion was made, convention President Fred Steelman ruled that the amendment was too similar to the previous amendment and therefore would not be presented for vote. Jones then moved that the chair's decision be appealed, but the convention voted to sustain.

Following a motion for the previous question, the resolution was adopted as presented to the convention.

The convention also passed four other resolutions, none of which drew discussion. Two of these, which took stands on pari-mutuel gambling and the raising of the legal drinking age in Tennessee, were similar to two resolutions adopted at the 1982 convention. The issues were again addressed because bills concerning the subjects have resurfaced in the state legislature.

A fourth resolution took a stand against pornography on cable television, while a fifth expressed appreciation to convention hosts and leaders. Tom Straka, pastor of Enon Baptist Church in Enon, introduced the pornography resolution, citing the recent discontinuation of the Playboy Channel by a Washington County cable firm as an example of the effect Christian groups can make on cable companies offering pornographic programming.

Also during the convention, Mrs. Claude Jennings, chairperson of the Committee on Resolutions, acknowledged the receipt of letters from a number of government officials in response to resolutions passed last year.

The 1983 resolutions, in the order of their presentation, read as follows:

## I. LEGAL DRINKING AGE

"WHEREAS, recent surveys have indicated that one-third of American high school students have serious drinking problems, and that at least 3.3-million young people under 18 years of age are classified as problem drinkers, and

"WHEREAS, current statistics reveal that among high school seniors, 93 percent of males and 87 percent of females have experimented with alcoholic beverages; and

"WHEREAS, records show that there has been a very significant decline in teenage drinking problems and in alcohol-related fatalities, injuries, and property damage accidents among 18- to 20-year-olds in Michigan, and other states which have raised their legal drinking ages back to 21 years; and

"WHEREAS, the 1979 Tennessee General Assembly took the first step and raised the

legal drinking age in Tennessee from 18 to 19 years; and

"WHEREAS, a bill was introduced in the 1983 session of the Tennessee General Assembly to raise the legal drinking age back to 21 years, but was postponed until the 1984 session for further study;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Baptist Convention in its regular annual session at Chattanooga, Tennessee, November 15-17, 1983, urge the 1984 Tennessee General Assembly to raise the legal drinking age in Tennessee from 19 to 21 years; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Lamar Alexander, and also to each state senator and representative comprising the 1984 legislature."

## II. GAMBLING IN TENNESSEE

"WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly has before it a bill legalizing referendum elections to allow pari-mutuel gambling on horse and dog racing in strategic Tennessee counties;

"AND WHEREAS, this bill is widely acclaimed as a democratic effort to allow the people of those counties to vote their convictions on this issue, even though the granting of voting privileges to a select few concerning an issue which would adversely affect the larger society is not within the American democratic heritage;

"AND WHEREAS, a presidential commission found that the legalizing of gambling fosters an increase in illegal betting by creating new gambling patrons and by removing the social stigma against gambling by the ill-advised approval of betting by the government;

"AND WHEREAS, gambling fosters a rise in crime rates, has been responsible for the corruption of government officials, and leads to the abuse of animals and fixing of races, according to reports of the national media, the Humane Society, the National Council on Compulsive Gambling, and major university studies;

"AND WHEREAS, advocates of pari-mutuel gambling are attempting to divert the attention of Tennesseans from the issue of gambling to the issue of the agricultural benefits of horse raising in our state, questionable benefits which are based on an industry populated by hobbyists, investors looking for a tax write-off, and individuals whose business is more of a gamble than the bets placed at the pari-mutuel windows;

"AND WHEREAS, the legalizing of gambling would place the state in the position of fostering the false hopes of individual winnings and large state revenues;

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tennessee Baptist Convention declares its strong opposition to all efforts to legislate the immorality of pari-mutuel gambling's misleading get-rich-quick scheme;

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tennessee Baptist Convention calls on the Baptists of Tennessee to inform themselves on all the particulars of this political and moral issue and to express their desires, individually, to their state legislators;

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tennessee Baptist Convention challenges the Tennessee General Assembly to defeat decisively any legislation which would burden the State of Tennessee with legalized gambling and its questionable economics, politics, and morality;

"AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tennessee Baptist Convention would remind all Tennesseans that the issue in racetrack betting is not the breeding, raising, and racing of animals, or the effect on our economic and educational needs, but is gambling in all of its ugly forms."

## III. AFFIRMATION OF WOMEN

"WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ by his attitude and actions affirmed the worth and dignity of women, and

"WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul set forth in Galatians 3:28 the principle of spiritual equality before God, declaring that in the grace of God 'there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus,' and

"WHEREAS, Tennessee Baptist women have been, and continue to be, vitally involved contributing members of the churches and of this convention.

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we the messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention assembled in Chattanooga, Tennessee, November 15-17, 1983, express gratitude to God for the contributions made by women in the cause of Christ; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we affirm those women who labor for the Lord and the churches in places of special service to which God has called them;

"AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we encourage women in developing their God-given potential for service to Christ."

## IV. PORNOGRAPHY ON CABLE TV

"WHEREAS, pornography is a demeaning abuse of God's good gift of sexuality, which abuse shamelessly exploits both males and females; and

"WHEREAS, the undermining of morally responsible and loving sexual relationships leads inevitably to the breakdown of families and eventually contributes to the collapse of society as a whole; and

"WHEREAS, the utterly immoral and grossly demeaning broadcasting of pornography on cable television networks is increasing;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Chattanooga, November 15-17, 1983, express our moral outrage at all pornography and especially at the blatant pornographic portrayals now coming into Tennessee through cable television; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on our political representatives in all branches of government in Tennessee to work vigorously to put a stop to cable television pornography; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on Tennessee Baptists to unite in concerted action as consumers to rid our airwaves of this unconscionable plague and, as Christian citizens, to support public policy that will reject such sexual immorality; and

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we call on Tennessee Baptists to share the Christian good news about God's good gift of sexuality as an alternative to all forms of pornography in our society."

## V. EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

"In the 109th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention we express our gratitude:

"To God for creating our fellowship in Christ and His leadership in our deliberations.

"To Brainerd Baptist Church and Pastor Winford Hendrix for gracious hospitality and a spirit for service throughout our meeting.

"To Fred Steelman, TBC President, for fair, warm, and effective leadership; and

"To Red Bank Baptist Church for sharing their pastor with the convention during this year of service.

"To the Committee on Arrangements, Pat Landrum, chairman, for wise planning and careful attention to detail.

"To the officers and staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and to all individuals who have served on the committees, boards, and agencies for their faithful service to our Lord throughout this year and specifically during the convention session.

"To the city of Chattanooga and her citizens who have served and accommodated our messengers in a pleasant manner.

"To the news media for their coverage of the actions of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and particularly to the Baptist and Reflector."

# Pastors learn of ways to 'deliver the news'

By Charlie Warren

Tennessee Baptist pastors were admonished to enthrone Christ, provide loving leadership, and be a voice in the wilderness during the 1983 Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 14 at Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

Reminding his fellow pastors they are called to deliver the news that one can find new life in Christ, John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, suggested three elements necessary to be an effective "voice in the wilderness."

First, Taylor pointed out, God's spokesmen need an acquaintance with the Saviour.

"People see us not only when we are preaching Christ in the pulpit, they watch us as we exemplify Jesus in the marketplace," Taylor said. "When we walk with Him in private, we can speak for Him in public."

"If you and I are going to preach Jesus, He must reign supremely in our lives."

Second, the pastor needs an intensive study and knowledge of the Scripture, according to Taylor.

"It is important that we visit, but there is no substitute for study," he stated. "It is important that we counsel, but that is no substitute for study. It is important that we be good administrators, but there is no substitute for study."

"If the Word is going to be a two-edged sword, cutting both ways, we've got to study to keep that sword sharp," Taylor said.

He said some preachers today use more "catch words" about the Bible than they proclaim "the Word" from the Bible.

"The Bible doesn't need to be defended," he said. "It needs to be declared."

The third element needed, according to Taylor, is a continuing infilling of the Holy Spirit.

"All the knowledge in the world and all the knowledge of the Word is of no value without the infilling of the Holy Spirit," Taylor concluded.

Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church, Memphis, suggested pastors

should provide "loving leadership," leading and loving the family of God.

He pointed out that Baptists are known for their diversity, but "there is a love through Jesus Christ that binds us together."

"When we gather, we have lively discussions and disagreements, but we leave as brothers," Allen explained.

He advised the pastors to promote peace and exercise patience while warning those who are out of step and encouraging those who are less than they ought to be.

He encouraged the pastors to be open and transparent.

"Are you living a life among your people that is real, that lets them see what you really are inside?" Allen asked. "When you're hurting, do they know you hurt? When you fail, do they know you are failing? When you are discouraged, do they know you are discouraged? When you have heartache and heartbreak, do they know it?"

"If you present the impression that you never hurt and never have problems, how can they know you are able to identify with them when they hurt?" Allen questioned.

He advised the preachers to let their church people know what it is like to let God live through them even in the midst of problems, trials, and heartaches.

Another speaker, Perry Michel, pastor of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, related three terms of discipleship — a cost, a cross, and a commitment.

The "cost" requirement for being a disciple, Michel noted, is that Jesus must have first place in our lives.

Bearing a cross, he continued, means "killing" some things in our lives and crucifying self.

"Ego must be dethroned and replaced with Jesus. Self-gratification must be dethroned and Jesus must be enthroned. Self-justification has to be nailed to a cross in order for Jesus to be enthroned in its place," Michel said.

"When we give up our self-wills and

have the mind of Christ, our hearts begin to beat in unity with the heart of God."

The commitment that Jesus Himself demanded of His disciples, Michel pointed out, was to forsake all you have and follow.

Leon Kilbreath, a Sunday School evangelist from Herrin, Ill., offered six "tangible tools" of outreach and evangelism — a burdened heart, a sense of urgency, a dream, a desire, a determination, and a positive attitude.

John Laida, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, preached on the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, calling it "a pivotal Biblical doctrine." He used Old Testament prophecies of the virgin birth, other Old Testament references to the Messiah, and New Testament accounts of the virgin birth as evidence of its reality, its importance to identifying Jesus as the Messiah, and its role in proving the deity of Jesus.

"I don't understand the virgin birth," Laida concluded. "I don't even understand a natural birth, but when you put

God in it, it makes sense. With God, all things are possible."

Evangelist Willie Oakley of Dyer preached on Jonah, claiming the Book of Jonah describes God as well as any book in the Bible.

"It teaches the omniscience of God because God knew everything about Jonah," Oakley said, also pointing out that God knew everything about Nineveh.

Two points reveal the omnipresence of God, according to Oakley.

"Jonah found out that God was present beyond the borders of Judah," he said. "Not only did Jonah find God on the sea, he found Him below the sea."

Also, the evangelist noted, God was in Nineveh.

"When sin is rampant, don't say God is not there. He is!"

Pointing to the omnipotence of God, Oakley stated that God did the impossible. He made a fish that could swallow Jonah, keep him under the sea for three days, and spit him up on the shore unharmed.

Jonah also teaches the mercy of God because He did not smite the people of Nineveh, Oakley stated, and it teaches the judgment of God because God eventually brought judgment on Nineveh.

Charles Sullivan, president of the 1983 Pastors' Conference, preached on Joel and the "sounds of our times," the sounds of affrightment, alarm, anguish, and adulation.

During each of the three sessions of the one-day meeting, William Tolar, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., led a Bible study.

Using Exodus 3:7-9, Tolar suggested three elements of God's work in our world — God uses people, His work includes problems, and God will deliver His people.

Referring to Jeremiah 31:31-34, Tolar said the "new covenant" is based on the adequacy of Christ, the internal faith of men, and the eternal dimension of God.

In a study of Ephesians chapter two, Tolar reviewed the characteristics of natural man and the characteristics of the "new creature," the believer in Jesus Christ.

Featured special music during each of the three sessions was provided by Vernard Johnson, concert saxophonist from Fort Worth, Tex.

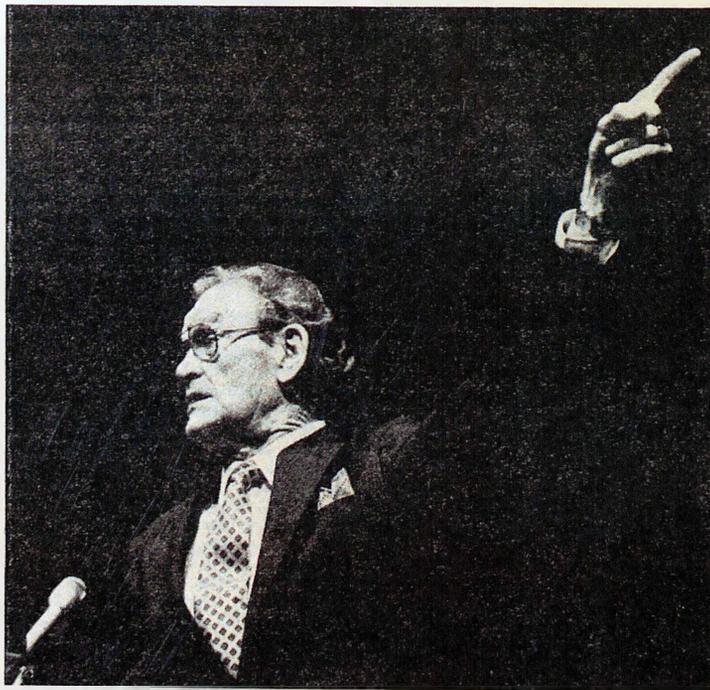
The pastors elected Ken Hubbard, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Knoxville, as president. Billy Edmonds, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Coalfield, was elected vice-president, and Andy King, pastor of Barren Plains Baptist Church, Springfield, was elected secretary.



**NEW PRESIDENT** — Ken Hubbard, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Knoxville, was elected president of the 1983 Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.



**SPECIAL MUSIC** — Vernard Johnson, concert saxophonist from Fort Worth, Tex., presents a gospel song at the pastors' conference.



**EVANGELIST PREACHES TO PASTORS** — Willie Oakley, evangelist from Dyer, speaks to the pastors about what the Book of Jonah teaches about God.



**DELIVER THE NEWS** — John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, tells his fellow pastors they are to "deliver the news."

# Focus on kingdom priorities, Myers tells WMU

By Steve Higdon

Members of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Unions were challenged to focus their work on the priorities of the Kingdom of God rather than those of church organizations during the state WMU's 95th annual meeting, held Nov. 14 at First Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

Lewis I. Myers Jr., director of consultant services for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told women gathered at the meeting that Christians will be busy winning the world for Jesus Christ only "when the church centers all of her energy, her concern, and her being on kingdom priorities.

"When it happens," Myers continued, "we will not have a three-hour business meeting to discuss the color of the carpet, and a five-minute business meeting to hear the report of the evangelism committee, but somehow priorities of the kingdom would so pervade who we are as 'church' today, that our loyalties would not be to organizations, or structure, or to people, or to form, or to programs, but our priorities would be to the kingdom.

"In the process of having kingdom priorities, the 'unloosing' process of all those bound in sin, and superstition, and unbelief would begin to take place," Myers explained, "and we would begin to be not only church people but kingdom people and would not bother with anything less than the ultimate priorities of the kingdom."

Myers told the WMU of an encounter he had as a young missionary with a Vietnamese official. The official had asked Myers what he had done as a missionary for the people, not for his religion.

"Then and there, I vowed my life, from that point on, was going to be committed to kingdom priorities," Myers recalled. "Life is too short, there is too much to be done, for me and for you to spend our energies on things that do not eternally matter.

"The hearing of the gospel, the believing in the gospel, the preaching of the gospel, the supporting and the sending of the gospel, that's the priority of the kingdom," he said, referring to the words of Romans 10:14-15. "Unless we are involved in that, we are simply not involved in the kingdom priorities."

Another former missionary to Indochina, Benton Williams, also spoke to the WMU of the need to win the world — a world that is as close as Tennessee.

"Geography, language, culture and tradition, and religion are not limiting factors to those who need to know Christ," Williams said. "Where there are people, Tennessee Baptists need to reach out."

Williams, supervisor of the pastoral section of the Baptist Sunday School Board, told the women they did not have to leave the state to work with internationals, as people from several cultures reside here.

"Many are lonely and friendless," Williams stated, "but the loneliness and the friendlessness goes away when Jesus Christ comes in their lives."

Expressing the urgency of reaching the state's internationals, Williams cautioned the WMUs that "you cannot wait until all the names are in a row, or until you've read the mission study material," for "those born in spiritual darkness need to hear it now.

"When God works in their lives, they will respond," he said of the internationals. "And they will share, because they have learned to love, because they have learned from you."



MYERS — Adopt kingdom priorities

Mrs. Robert Fling, promotion associate in new areas for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the national Woman's Missionary Union, later told the women that if they wanted to witness, they did not even have to begin with strangers.

"What are you doing about witnessing in your own neighborhood?" Mrs. Fling asked. "Check with your neighbors, even your relatives, to see if they are saved."

Mrs. Fling charged that apathy was the greatest detriment to the witnessing woman. "Many times you do become discouraged and wonder, 'Are people really seeking the Lord?'; but I believe that you will find that they still are.

"The problem," she explained, "is that we are like Moses, when he said 'Lord, here am I, send Aaron.'"

When disappointments come, Mrs. Fling urged the WMU members to remember that "you do not have to be responsible for soul winning — only the Holy Spirit does that. You just need to be available."

Also addressing the meeting were Jack and Phyllis Merritt, who shared their reactions to letters written to them by second- and third-grade Vacation Bible School groups. Merritt, assistant director of the special ministries department of the Home Mission Board, and Mrs. Merritt, a former missionary with that department, received the letters from children whose thoughts of missionaries were of those in Africa.

After reading a letter from a child which read "I bet it's a jungle out there," Merritt, a former home missionary in New Mexico, commented that some "think missions is just in one place."

"We that grew up in GAs and Sunbeams know that missions is any place where people need to know about Jesus," Mrs. Merritt added.

Merritt, who coordinates short-term service for the HMB, explained to the WMUs that although there are many places to perform missions, the board is only meeting about 60 percent of the needs due to lack of volunteers.



WILLIAMS — No limiting factors

"The most wonderful message we can tell others is that God loves them," the couple said, urging the women to consider themselves as volunteers. "God needs you, your vacation, your summer."

Mrs. M. K. Cobble, former state WMU president from Knoxville, led a time of meditation at the opening of each of the meeting's three sessions.

"God has given to us as women so much freedom and so much liberty," Mrs. Cobble stated. "We should give attention not only to what we may do, but what we are expected to do, that is, proclaim Jesus Christ.

"Women have so many natural abilities to serve," added Mrs. Cobble, "and when you accept a task, the door opens to a larger opportunity."

Mrs. Cobble told the WMUs that they needed to be bold in Christ's service, that "God will give to you and me all of the courage we need to do His work.

She then urged the women to take special care in helping children grow up in Christ.

"Be very careful to make the way plain to them," Mrs. Cobble advised. "Continually encourage them in their daily living."

In a business session at the meeting, Judy Trivette, present Tennessee WMU president, announced that Mary Jane Nethery, executive director-treasurer for the state organization, had recently been granted a nine-month medical leave of absence by the group's executive board (as reported in the Nov. 16 Baptist and Reflector). Mrs. Trivette said that Beulah Peoples, program associate and Baptist Women director for Tennessee WMU, would serve as interim executive director-treasurer until

Jan. 3. Marjorie McCullough, a former state WMU president, will serve as acting executive director-treasurer from Jan. 3 through July 6.

In the absence of Miss Nethery, Miss Peoples, who was recognized at the meeting for her 25 years of service to WMU, presented the executive director's report. Miss Peoples announced an increase of 361 WMU organizations in the state, and an enrollment increase of 2,099. She also announced that Tennessee WMUs had earned the most study course credits in the Southern Baptist Convention, and that six associations in the state placed in the top 25 associations for credits earned in the SBC.

Miss Peoples also reported that while gifts had increased for the Golden State, Annie Armstrong, and Lottie Moon offerings, the goals for the last year's offerings were not met.

Other business conducted at the meeting included the adoption of the nominating committee's report for 1983-84 officers. Re-elected were Judy Trivette, president; Nancy Tilley, recording secretary; Mrs. Neal Agee, central region vice-president; Mrs. Donald Dalton, northeastern region vice-president; and Mrs. William J. Rogers, southwestern region vice-president.

Elected to a first term as regional vice-presidents were Mrs. James Green, northwestern; Mrs. Phyllis Hazelwood, eastern; Mrs. Joan Hester, south central; Mrs. Joe Parks, southeastern; and Deona Lee Thomas, north central.

Providing the music for the meeting were Chattanooga Joe Parks, a freelance composer for Singpiration, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Michael Parks, a concert artist from Boynton, Ga.

## Marjorie McCullough asks WMU for cooperation, prayer support

Marjorie McCullough, who will begin a term as acting executive director-treasurer of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Jan. 3, asked members of the state's WMU groups for their cooperation and prayer support in carrying out the tasks God will give them.

"We need to depend on you to help us," Mrs. McCullough, a former president of the state WMU (1980-82), told members and leaders of the missions organization at their annual state convention in Chattanooga. "With God using Tennessee WMU, nothing is impossible."

Mrs. McCullough then requested prayer support for her term of leadership, the WMU staff, and for Executive Director-treasurer Mary Jane Nethery. Mrs. McCullough is stepping into her temporary position due to the medical leave of absence recently granted to Miss Nethery (see above story).

Currently a resident of her home state of Louisiana, Mrs. McCullough will return to Tennessee to accept the post, because, she said, "I am willing to do anything to help Tennessee folks, and if this is the way to do it, then I will do it."

A longtime leader in national and state WMU work, Mrs. McCullough has served as director of Girls' Auxiliary for the national headquarters of Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala.; as a WMU worker in Brazil, appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; as a staff member of the Louisiana and Kentucky state WMU organizations; and as an assistant associational WMU direc-

tor in the Shelby County Baptist Association.

Mrs. McCullough has also served as a foreign missionary to Nigeria and as mission action coordinator in the International Friends program for the Shelby County association. She is the widow of Glendon McCullough, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, who was killed in a 1978 Memphis traffic accident.

The WMU leader is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, La., and the Carver School of Missions and Social Work (now merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Louisville, Ky.



**STATE WMU LEADERSHIP** — Leading Tennessee WMU for the upcoming year are, from left, Marjorie McCullough, who will serve a six-month term as acting executive director; Beulah Peoples, WMU program associate now serving as interim executive director; and Judy Trivette, the organization's president.

## '83 convention recognizes new church staff members

New church staff members scattered across Tennessee were recognized by Tom Madden during the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Chattanooga last week.

Pastors introduced were Marion L. Ar buckle Jr., First Baptist Church, Spencer; Rick Astle, First Baptist Church, Whitwell; Glen Buie, Highland Park Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg; Bob Cochran, Frawley Baptist Church, East Ridge; Paul Cummings, South Whitwell Baptist Church, Whitwell; Jim Davidson, Avondale Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and Rodger Davis, First Baptist Church, Morrison.

Other pastors included Mart J. Dugan, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, Cleveland; Charles England, Grandview Baptist Church, Maryville; Chris Francis, Crab Orchard Baptist Church, Oakdale; Bobby Garland, Keely Mill Baptist Church, Dyer; Gary A. Gerhardt, First Baptist Church, Church Hill; Cecil Gilliland, First Baptist Church, Laager; and Don Harbuck, First Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

Also, other pastors introduced were Stephen Haskell, Bethel Hill Baptist Church, McMinnville; Dwight Hobbs, Carter's Valley Baptist Church, Church Hill; Raymond Hollaway, Cloverport Baptist Church, Toone; Bucky Kerr, Little Flat Creek Baptist Church, Corryton; C. S. Knapp, Westview Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Jess Love, Grandview Baptist Church, Nashville; and Dennis Lunford, Antioch Baptist Church, Humboldt.

Other pastors were J. Patrick Maloney, Hughes Avenue Baptist Church, East Ridge; Bruce S. Marston, Inskip Baptist Church, Knoxville; Bill Moore, Gracey Avenue Baptist Church, Clarksville; Claude E. Moorfield, Justus Baptist Church, Cedar Grove; Charles L. Nail, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg; Wayne Nicholson, McCalla Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville; and William P. Oakley, Leaclair Baptist Church, Memphis.

Also introduced were pastors David Philyaw, Edgemont Baptist Church, Shelbyville; Wayne Provence, Sunset Heights Baptist Church, Strawberry Plains; Jimmy Sartain, Graceland Baptist Church, Memphis; Jerry Shelton, Maplewood Mission, Clarksville; Steven S. Sherlin, Etter Baptist Church, Byrds town; Herbert R. Smith, New Prospect Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg; Patrick T. Stewart, Covington Pike Baptist Church, Memphis; Paul R. Taylor, Summersville Baptist Church, Kingsport; Jimmy Terry, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Clarksville; Terry Whiteside, Kenwood Baptist Church, Clarksville; Ed Wood, East Niota Baptist Church, Niota; Steve Wright, Richland Baptist Church, Memphis; and Stanley Young, Arlington Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Associate pastors introduced were Lance D. Scott, Long Heights Baptist Church, McKenzie, and Rick Shepherd, Woodland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

David Riley was introduced as assistant pastor of Hixson First Baptist Church, Hixson.

Ministers of education were Kenneth Bush, First Baptist Church, Covington; Phil Jones, Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville; R. Gene Lovelace, Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville; and Dennis Ludwick, Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge.

Ministers of music recognized were Peter B. Ambrose, Smithwood Baptist Church, Knoxville; Wendell Boertje, Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville; Ray Calfee, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, Cleveland; Mark Caruth, Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville; Steve Hall, First Baptist Church, Sweetwater; and Bill Hart, First Baptist Church, Seymour.

Jay Robinson was introduced as the minister of youth of Brunswick Baptist Church, Brunswick.

Also, ministers of music/education were Danny Byers, Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville; Terry Fulbright, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville; Tim W. Jones, Lookout Valley Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and Elmer Sams Jr., Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

Ministers of education/youth were Danny Georges, First Baptist Church, Sweetwater; Karen Lea, Westwood Baptist Church, Nashville; and James D. Witherington Jr., First Baptist Church, Somerville.

Ministers of music/youth introduced were Gene Alexander, First Baptist Church, Newbern; Michael Ballard, First Baptist Church, Livingston; Allen Henderson, West Knoxville Baptist Church, Knoxville; Bucky Phillips, Trenton Street Baptist Church, Harri man; Frank Stith, Siam Baptist Church, Elizabethton; and Ed Witham, First Baptist Church, Winchester.

Other church staffers included Gilbert Westberry, associate pastor for music/youth, Highland Park Baptist Church, Columbia; Paul Medley, minister of youth and activities, Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Andy Morris, minister of youth/recreation, Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville; Alan Hawkins, minister of single adults/outreach, Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville; Steve Burton, minister of music/associate, First Baptist Church, Rogersville; Ed Brandenburg, student minister, Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and C. Ross Rowland, minister to youth and young adults, Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga.



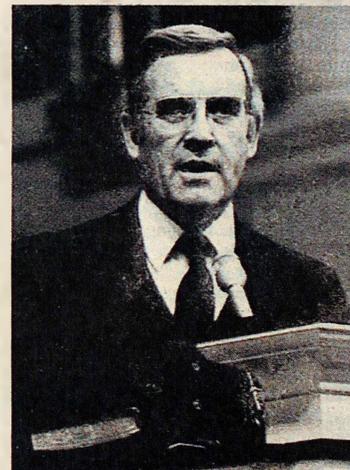
**RETIREES HONORED** — Three TBC employees who are retiring this year were honored at a reception during last week's state convention. From left are Jonas Stewart and his wife; Eura Lannom and her husband; and Evelyn Strickland and her husband.



**CONVENTION HELPERS** — Royal Ambassadors from several Chattanooga churches served as pages during last week's state convention. Some who served were (front row) Rick Brewster, Brent Everett, Chuck Brewster, (back row) Jay Fowler, David Butler, Larry Williams, Tom Yates, and Chris Armstrong.



**CALL TO ORDER** — TBC President Fred Steelman pounds the gavel in calling the 109th meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention into session at Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga.



**CONVENTION PREACHER** — James McCluskey, pastor of Knoxville's Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, preached the convention sermon at last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention. His message was printed in the Nov. 16 *Baptist and Reflector*.

## Godby accepts call to first pastorate

Gregory Gene Godby began his first pastorate after accepting a call from Mullins Chapel Baptist Church, Dandridge.

At the request of the Mullins Chapel congregation, Godby was ordained to the ministry Sept. 11 by Deep Springs Baptist Church in Dandridge. Participants in the ordination service included Pastor Ruben Wilson, Chester Cochran, and Jefferson County Baptist Association Director of Missions Carl Ogle.



**NEW TENNESSEANS** — Pastors and other church staff workers who have come to Tennessee during the past year were introduced to the convention last week in Chattanooga.

**BAPTIST  
AND  
REFLECTOR  
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# Alabama Baptists hit funding for BJCPA

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — Messengers to the Alabama Baptist Convention annual meeting passed a resolution asking that funding for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs be totally withdrawn.

In addition to spending nearly an hour debating the resolution on the BJCPA and its executive director, James M. Dunn, messengers elected a former Nixon White House staffer as president, increased giving to Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program causes, and honored its executive secretary who retires at the end of the year.

The debate on the BJCPA put two members of the SBC Executive Committee on different sides of the issue, and saw a newly elected at-large member of the SBC Public Affairs Committee apparently urge messengers to defund the organization of which he is a board member.

Dotson Nelson, pastor-emeritus of Mountainbrook Baptist Church of Birmingham, urged defeat of the resolution, while Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church of Huntsville, recommended its passage. Both are members of the SBC Executive Committee.

Albert Lee Smith, a member of Southside Baptist Church of Birmingham and a member of the board of BJCPA, was critical of Dunn and his membership on the Executive Board of People for the American Way, a coalition for first amendment rights headed by John Buchanan, the man who Smith defeated in the 1980 Republican primary for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Smith, in turn, was defeated after serving one term as a congressman. Smith has been critical of Dunn, and recently wrote a long letter to the Alabama Baptist, newjournal of the Alabama Baptist Convention, detailing his unhappiness with PAW and with Dunn. The primary complaint was that one of the founders of PAW is Norman Lear, the television producer of such shows as "All In The Family," and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman."

Some observers saw Smith's participation in the debate as calling for the de-

funding of BJCPA, on which he serves as a director, by virtue of his election in 1983 as a member of the SBC Public Affairs Committee. The 15 members of the Public Affairs Committee automatically serve as directors of the BJCPA.

Dewayne Lasseter, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Birmingham, introduced a resolution calling on Dunn to either remove himself from all associations with People for the American Way, including membership on the advisory board, or resign as executive director of BJCPA.

When the resolutions committee reported on the resolution, it referred to Dunn by title rather than by name and called on the SBC Executive Committee to "study the matter and take appropriate steps regarding the situation."

It noted that while the SBC funds 80 percent of the BJCPA budget, it is only one of nine groups affiliated to form the

organization, and has only one third of the membership on the board of directors.

It added that Dunn, despite numerous protests, continues to maintain membership in PAW, described in the resolution as an organization "some of whose founders and supporters espouse philosophies which are contrary to Biblical principles and decency and morality."

An amendment to "withdraw totally the SBC's support" of the BJCPA, passed by a two-thirds margin.

In a close election, messengers elected Wallace Henley, pastor of McElwain Baptist Church in Birmingham, as convention president. His margin of victory was only 18 votes.

Henley was a member of the White House staff during the Nixon administration. He has been a frequent critic of the BJCPA and of Dunn.

## Oklahoma raises SBC share, argues women's ordination

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Oklahoma Baptists took another step toward an eventual 50-50 split of receipts between their state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program at their annual meeting but did not resolve the continuing battle over the ordination of women.

The 1984 budget of \$17.7-million includes 48 percent to support worldwide mission and education causes of the SBC, an increase of two percent over last year. The 50-50 division is a goal for 1985.

The women's ordination issue was introduced by Hugo Lindquist of Oklahoma City who attempted to amend the convention's Constitution to exclude messengers from churches which ordain women or have charismatic practices.

President William H. Cook ruled the motion out of order but suggested Lindquist could put the matter in resolution form if he wanted. Lindquist agreed, but served notice he intends to make another attempt next year to amend the Constitution. The Resolutions Committee presented a milder version of what Lindquist submitted to them which noted "the significant contribution of women" in local church ministry, but opposed their ordination to church office.

"We believe the ordination of women as deacons and ministers deviates from the accepted faith and practice and creates discord among our fellow churches," the resolution stated. It stopped short of demanding churches not engage in the practice but put the convention on record "encouraging our churches to refrain from ordaining women as deacons and ministers."

Joe Brown of Shawnee moved to amend the resolution to include the statement: "Be it further resolved this resolution is not to be interpreted to say the BGO fails to recognize and honor the autonomy of the local church." Brown called local church autonomy a "time honored, tested, and proven Baptist principle."

Messengers turned down the amendment after Cook made a statement that the autonomy of the local church could not be overturned by any action of the state convention.

The resolution passed, 328-91.

In a related action, Charles Gregory of Midwest City proposed a resolution calling on messengers to "reaffirm their

support" for article 3 of the state convention Constitution, which forbids the convention to write creeds or exercise ecclesiastical control over the churches. The resolution failed.

Gene Garrison of Oklahoma City, immediate past second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the convention had "voted against the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church, and repudiated its own Constitution" in passing the resolution on women. First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, where Garrison is pastor, recently ordained three women as deacons.

Other resolutions approved urged elected officials to voice opposition to the liquor-by-the-drink proposal that is upcoming in Oklahoma and commended one of their U.S. senators, David Boren, for leading in the defeat of legislation to establish tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools.

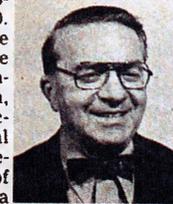
Cook, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bartlesville, was re-elected convention president.

## Grace Avenue calls Moore to pastorate

Grace Avenue Baptist Church, Clarksville, called William Thomas Moore as its pastor, a ministry he began Oct. 30.

Moore came to the church from the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, where he was director of interracial work. He was previously director of the North Tulsa (Okla.) Baptist Center for National Baptists, and served as a teacher/missionary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board at Union Baptist Seminary in New Orleans, La. He is a former pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church, Saluda, S.C., and Union Baptist Church, Laurens, S.C.

A native of Simpsonville, S.C., Moore has attended Furman University, Greenville, S.C., and is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



Moore

In a post-election press conference, Henley praised Dunn as "one of the most intelligent persons in Southern Baptist life," but urged the BJCPA chief to resign from PAW. He admitted he has problems with BJCPA positions on such issues as the Constitutional amendment on prayer in the public schools, but said of Dunn, "If he would just sever his relations with People for the American Way, I could support him."

In other action, messengers moved closer to their goal of a 50-50 division of Cooperative Program funds between Alabama and SBC causes by increasing the percentage to the SBC to 46.61 percent, up from 46 percent last year. The 1984 budget will be \$19,090,000.

One evening of the convention was devoted to a program honoring George E. Bagley, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist state Executive Board for 20 years and a 38-year employee of the board. The convention presented Bagley with a new automobile and a check for \$3,000.

## North Carolina elects Wiggins

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell University, was elected president of the North Carolina Baptist Convention after messengers resolved the question of two conflicting articles in the convention's Constitution.

Messengers overwhelmingly decided to follow Article 8, which says the president is only an ex-officio member (with voting rights) on the General Board and allowed Wiggins to be nominated. Article 9 says no person whose salary, either in part or totally, is paid by Cooperative Program money can be a member of the board of directors for an agency, institution, or the state General Board.

Campbell University receives funds from the North Carolina convention.

The convention later approved a motion to study and revise the Constitution to eliminate the contradictions between the two articles.

The most controversial resolution involved the ordination of women. By a 200-vote margin, the messengers reaffirmed a 1975 resolution which said the ordination of women was entirely a matter of local church decision and the state convention does not have a formal position on the topic.

The convention approved a basic budget of \$23-million and a challenge budget of \$1.4-million. Of that amount 35.4 percent (up from 35.2 percent) will go to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

There were routine resolutions affirming the sanctity of the home, the importance of morality in education, and opposed to parents not being notified when their teenage children still living at home were provided contraceptives and abortions.

## Buchanan Baptist Church calls Knight as pastor

Roy Keith Knight began his first pastorate in response to a call from Buchanan Baptist Church, Buchanan.

Knight, from Farmington, Ky., began the position Sept. 18.

At the request of the Buchanan congregation, Knight was ordained by Coldwater Baptist Church, Farmington, Ky., Oct. 16.

## Boards, committees gain new members

Messengers to last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention elected trustees, directors, and members to the Executive Board and institutions, agencies, and committees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

In addition to those listed in the Oct. 12 issue of the Baptist and Reflector, the following Tennesseans were also elected:

Executive Board: Roy Porter, Lewisburg; David Drummer, Memphis; Dennis Hubbard, Friendship; Moncrief Jordan, Signal Mountain; and Irvin Hays, Memphis.

Harrison Chilhowee Academy: Luther Ogle, Gatlinburg.

East Tennessee Baptist Health Care System: Robert Johnson, Knoxville, and Mrs. Patricia Davis, Knoxville.

Committee on Committees: Randy Sledge, Lebanon.

Committee on Arrangements: Larry Johnson, Nashville.

Committee on Credentials: Joe Littlefield, Memphis, and John Harrison, Union City.

Committee on the Journal: Bobby Bragg, Allendale.

# Controversy surrounds Colorado convention

COLORADO SPRINGS (BP)— Glen E. Braswell, executive director-treasurer of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, has announced he will retire from the post he has held since 1962 "on or before June 30, 1984."

Braswell, who was 65 in March, surprised many messengers to the annual meeting with the announcement he will retire in mid-year, rather than serve through the end of 1984.

The retirement announcement came during a tense annual meeting in which messengers dealt with an on-going controversy over the relationship between the convention Executive Board and executive director and two of its institutions.

Braswell has been involved in the controversy which has dealt with the authority and autonomy of the convention's Executive Board and executive director in their relationships with the Baptist Foundation of Colorado and the Colorado Southern Baptist Church Loan Corporation.

Struggles over the relationship had arisen in the past two years out of internal differences and over how financing for the \$1.1-million Baptist building was handled. Funds were provided through the loan corporation and obtained in part from the foundation.

Tension apparently was eased as messengers approved without dissent changes in the bylaws and Constitutions of the three agencies, which will restrict ongoing supervision of the corporations by the CGBC Executive Board and executive director.

Under the changes, foundation and church loan corporation directors are accountable to messengers at the annual meeting. Also, the rights of the corporations to function under their own bylaws are protected. The changes to the cor-

poration documents were approved immediately, but changes in the convention Constitution will require final action next year.

Braswell, a native of Oklahoma, was pastor in Billings, Mont., and Denver prior to succeeding Willis J. Ray as Colorado executive secretary in 1962. At the time he took over, the CGBC was a six-state convention. Now, with the creation of the Wyoming convention in 1983, there are three state convention organizations in that area.

In other business, messengers adopted a budget of nearly \$2.5-million, distributed proceeds from the sale of the old office building, considered separate agency status for the state's Baptist newspaper, and discussed seating messengers from a church which allegedly practices "alien immersion."

The approved budget of \$2,459,241 anticipates revenue of \$2,455,391, of which \$1,375,015 will come from the 217 congregations of the convention. It reflects an increase of 3.1 percent over the 1983 budget.

Contributions lagged during 1983, falling an average of \$13,072 under anticipated income each month. Giving averaged \$98,000 per month through October while budget requirements were \$111,000 per month. Budget requirement for 1984 is \$114,000 per month.

Messengers distributed \$220,000 remaining from the sale of the former Baptist building to Ponderosa Baptist Assembly, the state office of the convention, and student work at Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colo.

Ponderosa Assembly, near Colorado Springs, will receive \$175,000 to complete construction of the activities building and to initiate the first phase of a 40-unit motel and meeting center. The state offices received \$26,000 for a multi-user computer system and computer-controlled addressing machine, and allocated \$11,000 for support of student ministry on the Mesa College Campus. Remaining funds were to be applied to the convention indebtedness.

The possibility of an independent board of directors for the Rocky Mountain Baptist was referred to a study committee to be appointed by the convention president. The original motion by Marv McGrew, messenger from Circle Drive Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, was to incorporate Rocky Mountain Baptist, to

name the editor, assistant editor, and treasurer as the first officers, and to have messengers elect not less than five nor more than seven directors.

McGrew noted the editor and staff are convention employees subject to budget recommendations of the Executive Board and might lack freedom to report objectively on all news relating to the executive director and Executive Board.

Former editor James Lee Young, when he resigned in protest in June of 1982, charged attempts were made to censor his coverage of the controversy between the Executive Board and the foundation and church loans corporation.

The issue of seating messengers from Montbello Baptist Church of Montbello, arose twice, once when they were excluded by the Credentials Committee, and again when the ruling was questioned.

The Credentials Committee report recommended seating of messengers of six new churches but excluded the Montbello church in lieu of "more information." The report was adopted, and Montbello messengers were not seated. Later, during a miscellaneous business

session, Marv McGrew from Colorado Springs, moved the church be accepted into "full fellowship."

"The chairman of the committee indicated that they had insufficient time to do their homework," McGrew said in speaking to his motion. "I did not think we should penalize the church because the committee was not able to do its homework."

George Gaskins, Denver association director of missions, noted the church had received into membership a person from an Evangelical Free Church. He said his investigation indicated that denomination will accept into membership persons without any baptism and will on request baptize by either sprinkling or immersion.

The motion to recognize the Montbello messengers failed.

Messengers approved a proposal by Dick Inzer, layman from Littleton, to initiate a fund raising program to retire the debt of the CBGC. After approval of the motion, Don Murray, pastor of Ken Caryl Baptist Church in Littleton, moved that the president of the convention appoint the committee to get the campaign in progress.

## U.S. Senate rejects effort to reverse abortion rulings

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)— Anti-abortion forces suffered a rare defeat in the U.S. Senate Nov. 14 when a leading abortion opponent failed in an effort to attach sweeping anti-abortion language to a bill extending the life of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

The Civil Rights panel, thrown into turmoil because of President Ronald Reagan's recent firing of three of its members, faced extinction by Nov. 29 unless Congress extended its life. After defeating the anti-abortion move, the Senate voted the extension, 78-3.

Final obstacle to passage came in the form of an amendment proposed by Sen.

Roger W. Jepsen, one of numerous anti-abortion legislators who in recent years has succeeded in having Congress ban nearly all federal spending for abortions.

This time he sought an outright reversal of the Supreme Court's historic 1973 decision upholding the right of women, in most circumstances, to obtain an abortion.

In its 1973 ruling in Roe vs. Wade, the high court held a woman possesses a Constitutional right to privacy in making the decision to have an abortion. That privacy right extends to consultation with her physician, the court held.

In addition, the 7-2 majority ruled that during the first three months of her pregnancy, the woman's right to an abortion may not be interfered with by the state. During the second three months the state's interest in the life of the unborn child increases and the state may accordingly restrict abortions in some cases. In the third three-month period, the court concluded, the state's interest in the life of the unborn child is so compelling it may forbid abortion outright.

Jepsen and other anti-abortion legislators have insisted, nevertheless, that the high court ruling amounted to an endorsement of "abortion on demand." In an impassioned speech on the floor of the Senate defending his amendment to the Civil Rights Commission bill, he labeled the decision a "death sentence" and a "repudiation of the essential civil right that distinguishes our society from utter barbarism."

After a threat from Sen. Bob Packwood to mount a filibuster against the Jepsen proposal, Sen. Strom Thurmond moved to table the Jepsen proposal, a move which prevailed 42-34.

In his likewise impassioned remarks, Packwood, said he was unwilling to "trade off one of the major advances in civil liberties and civil rights . . . the right of a woman to choose" for passage of the bill reauthorizing the Civil Rights Commission.

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## Arkansas state convention reverses action on college

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (BP) — By a narrow margin, messengers to the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention reversed themselves and will allow four-year status for Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

Controversy on the convention-owned junior college has been brewing for several months, but when the matter came to the floor of the convention, much of the heat was diffused.

Last year messengers, by a 73-vote margin, declined to allow the school to offer a four-year course of study. Trustees of the school, however, moved toward senior college status anyway, setting off controversy within the state.

This year, heated debate was predicted, but a surprise motion by Paul Sanders, pastor of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, halted debate after only two messengers had spoken; one for, one against. In introducing his call for the question, Sanders said everyone had already made up his or her mind on the issue.

On the vote, messengers voted 617 to 577 to allow the phase-in plan for the four-year course of study.

In another action related to the college issue, messengers reaffirmed the Constitution of the convention as "a just, equitable, and authoritative" document. Messengers specifically called on trustees of all agencies and institutions to

"faithfully abide" by the guidelines of Article 7, Section 4, which notes trustees "are subject to the direction of the convention in all matters pertaining to administering the affairs of the institutions which their trusteeship is concerned . . ."

Messengers adopted resolutions opposing beverage alcohol, gambling, pornography on television, and supporting separation of church and state.

A 1984 budget of \$10,833,333 was adopted, an 8.33 percent increase over last year's budget of \$10-million. Arkansas will contribute \$4.2-million — or 39.16 percent — to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, an increase of three-fourths of a percent. Arkansas previously adopted a goal of moving toward a 50-50 division between state and worldwide causes.

In other action messengers approved on first reading a Constitutional amendment to change the name of the state executive from executive secretary to executive director. The final reading must be approved in 1984 to become effective; made permanent the agency status, under a convention-elected board of directors, of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, which has operated under a separate board during a three-year trial period; and adopted a proposal to cease publishing the salaries of Executive Board personnel.

## Michigan Baptists show optimism in 5.5 percent budget increase

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (BP) — Messengers to the 26th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan expressed cautious optimism in the return of a stronger economy by adopting a \$2,407,369 budget for 1984.

The budget reflects a 5.5 percent increase, down from the 9.5 percent increase adopted last year.

Convention officials say while 1983 receipts are 7.6 percent above 1982, they are still below the 1983 budget. Estimates are, at the end of the calendar year, Michigan Baptists will have contributed eight percent above last year, but about \$160,000 below the budget.

The 5.5 percent increase in the 1984 budget indicates convention planners believe Michigan may be coming out of the recession. One official pointed to the fact unemployment has declined from 14.5 percent to 12 percent.

Of the \$2.4-million budget, \$1,394,089 is expected to come from the 197 churches and 64 church-type missions affiliated with the convention.

Messengers approved sending \$268,519 — or 26.5 percent — to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program. That is a half percent increase over 1983, the 13th consecutive year Michigan Baptists have upped contributions by a half percent.

In other action, Michigan Baptists elected Carl Petty, pastor of Westside Baptist Church of Flint, as president. He was first vice-president last year. Messengers also elected David French, pastor of Warren Wood Baptist Church in suburban Detroit, as first vice-president.

Messengers adopted resolutions commending the legislature for passing a bill opposing state funding for abortion on demand. The resolution urged Gov.

James Blanchard to sign the bill into law.

Another resolution dealt with the removal of "sexist language" from the Bible, expressing "abhorrence" to the attempt to change Holy Scripture by altering the text.

It "warned all Christian people of this false and destructive Biblical lexiconary," embraced all "legitimate translations," and called on "all men to search the riches of God's Holy Word through daily study."

## High court lets stand 'silence' law ruling

WASHINGTON (BP) — New Mexico's 1981 law calling for a moment of silence at the beginning of the public school day will not be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court and thus remains under a lower federal court injunction forbidding its implementation.

U.S. District Judge Juan G. Burciaga ruled last February the law, which easily passed the state legislature, violated the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion. At the same time he issued a permanent injunction forbidding the practice of opening each school day with a moment of silence "for contemplation, meditation, or prayer."

A group of local citizens appealed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. But that panel ruled the group had no legal standing to appeal, leaving Burciaga's order in place.

The group persisted, appealing to the nation's high court on grounds "irreparable harm goes on every minute (the) injunction is in effect." The appeal was filed on behalf of the people of New Mexico.

## Minnesota-Wisconsin becomes 37th Baptist state convention

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (BP) — Thirty years after the first Southern Baptist church was planted in the area, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention was organized Nov. 11-12.

The MWSBC, with 11,872 members in 78 churches and 34 chapels, is the 37th convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, and the third to be organized this fall.

A \$1,227,000 budget was adopted with 25 percent of all Cooperative Program receipts from the churches going to national SBC causes.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas, which has sponsored Minnesota-Wisconsin since 1956, will continue to subsidize the work through a 10-year, declining-support plan. The BGCT will contribute \$300,000 to the initial budget, member congregations will provide about \$200,000, and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will give another \$500,000.

Otha Winningham, who has directed

the Minnesota-Wisconsin work for 8½ years, was elected executive director of the new convention. Four other staff members also were elected as convention staff. Office for the new convention is in Rochester, Minn.

"Double in a Decade," a program to double the number of churches, membership, and overall strength of SBC work in Minnesota-Wisconsin, 1983-92, through a partnership with Texas churches, was reaffirmed during the meeting.

Messengers approved a resolution indicating prayer support for the committee considering SBC relationship with the churches of Canada, noting favor of such affiliation.

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## BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Nov. 27

## Joy in trying situations

By Cordell Maddox, president  
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: Philippians 1:1-26

Focal Passage: Philippians 1:3-5, 12-26

T. B. Maston, professor emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, once said suffering makes a person either bitter or better.

What effect do hard times have upon you? When your foundations shake and life becomes dark, can you find something joyful to pray about? Can you discover gratitude when everything else is going wrong?

Paul could. He was one of those individuals who was made better through suffering. Writing from prison, Paul began Philippians with a prayer of thanksgiving (1:3-8) and a petition (1:9-11).

The prayer of thanksgiving was for the generosity of the Christians at Philippi. They had supported Paul financially from the very first day of their association with him (1:5).

Paul's expenses, waiting for trial in Rome, were considerable. And being under house arrest he was unable to earn his own support by his trade of tent-making.

The Philippian Christians were mindful of this and sent Paul an offering to help with his expenses. They considered themselves to be partners in his mission (1:7).

Because of this commitment on their part, Paul expressed his joy in the Philippians (1:4) and his love for them (1:8).

The prayer of petition expressed three hopes Paul had for the Philippian Christians. He prayed that the Christians in Philippi would grow in spiritual discernment (1:9). He was concerned that they make right choices so their lives would be exemplary in the day of judgment (1:10). And he desired for them to be increasingly fruitful in serving Christ (1:11). These verses are particularly helpful in teaching us what spiritual growth is all about.

## Joy in trouble

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Mr. Kurtz is on the staff of the Radnor Baptist Church of Nashville

when he was a prisoner in Rome. He had several good reasons to be depressed and discouraged.

He was under house arrest for no just cause. The charges against him were false. He was struggling financially. He was unable to continue the mission God had given him.

We sometimes get discouraged over much less. But not Paul! He was upbeat in his report to the Philippian Christians. Even in trying circumstances, he found something to be joyful about.

Paul rejoiced over triumphs in the past (1:12). The phrase "my circumstances" referred to his Roman imprisonment. But it included much more than that. It referred to everything that had happened to him since the Damascus Road experience (see 2 Corinthians 11:23). No matter how bad things got, Paul rejoiced that the gospel could still progress.

God does not cause bad things to happen, yet He can use events, even bad ones, to advance His cause (Romans 8:28).

Paul also rejoiced over victories in the present (1:13-18). His imprisonment was not a total loss. Because of it some people heard the gospel for the first time (1:13). Other Christians were encouraged to be bolder in their faithfulness to Christ (1:14). And still others were preaching Christ more.

Some of these had questionable motives, but Paul rejoiced that Christ was being preached (1:15-18). In this way Paul found some positive results in a very negative situation.

Again, Paul expressed joy about his future (1:19-26). He was confident he would be released from imprisonment (1:19). He was certain that whether in life or death he would honor Christ (1:20). He expressed a strong desire to die and be with Christ (1:23), but he felt there was a greater need for him to continue his ministry (1:22-23). For this reason he was convinced he would be set free to continue his mission (1:25-26).

Even in the midst of trial, Paul discovered joy. But it was not because he was fond of suffering.

Paul was not one of those people who cling to negative attitudes and pessimism. He faced life with joy because he was committed to succeed in his duty, to be full of courage, and to honor Christ (1:20).

Should we offer any less to God? Joy in the face of trial comes from a deep and abiding commitment to Jesus Christ.

## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for Nov. 27

## God's witnessing people

By William E. Troutt, president  
Belmont College, NashvilleBasic Passages: Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; 2 Timothy 4:1-5  
Focal Passages: Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; 2 Timothy 4:1-2

Someone asked C. H. Spurgeon, a Baptist leader and one of the greatest preachers in Christian history, if God would allow lost persons who had not heard the gospel to enter hell.

Spurgeon replied that his chief concern was that he would someday stand before God as a Christian, knowing that he was responsible for witnessing to the lost.

It is easy for us as Christians to be distracted from our priorities. As we get caught up on building facilities and developing programs, we can easily get sidetracked from our primary obligation as Christians to lead others to Christ. We have been charged by Jesus Christ with the responsibility to share the good news of salvation both at home and around the world.

The penetrating and preserving purpose of Christians (Matthew 5:13-16)

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus provided a description of the character and conduct of those who would be His faithful followers. He pronounced His blessing on eight essential traits of Christians (the Beatitudes). He went on to say that those who exhibit these traits will exert a powerful influence on the world, like salt and light.

Salt has many fine qualities. It penetrates and preserves. Salt easily penetrates food and provides it with flavor. The penetrating power of salt can be used to preserve.

In the ancient world, salt was widely used as a preservative. Fish caught in Galilee were salted and shipped to all parts of the Roman world. Salt kept the fish from corruption.

Christians are called upon to render a similar service by penetrating their communities and preserving them from corruption. Unfortunately, Christians — like salt — can easily lose their penetrating and preserving influence. Through exposure to weather, salt can lose its savor. Likewise, Christians surrendering to sin can lose their influence so that they serve no useful purpose.

In using light as a metaphor, Jesus indicated that Christians must also influence the world through illumination — by bringing spiritual understanding to others. Light is useful, however, only when it is displayed. A lamp placed on a lampstand brightens an entire room, but a hidden lamp has no usefulness. Christians must not hide their witness, but let it "shine before men" to bring glory to God.



Troutt

The Christian imperative  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Before He left this earth, Jesus gave explicit instructions to His disciples as to what He expected of them. The task must have seemed impossible, but His promise of "all power" was sufficient.

Jesus had already proven His power on earth by His healing miracles and other mighty acts. From that point on He continued to exert that power on earth, but He did it from a position of supreme power at His Father's right hand. To this claim He attached His promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Witnessing disciples could be assured of His presence with them to succeed in the mission He had assigned.

Christian motivation (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

These verses could be described as Paul's version of the Great Commission which he shared with Timothy. Timothy had been called to the ministry. Paul did not hesitate to remind him of the responsibilities he had accepted.

Timothy was pastor of the church in Ephesus. Paul's admonition to Timothy "to preach the Word" should continue to be remembered by all pastors. It should also be a reminder to all of us of our responsibility to work constantly for Christ.

Ambassadors for Christ  
(2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

It would be difficult to find a better passage for the concluding emphasis of this quarter. It brings together many of the major themes of the past 12 weeks.

Although Paul's subject is reconciliation (the bringing together of sinners and God), the parties are the same as in redemption: a Holy God, sinful persons, and Jesus Christ — our Saviour.

Paul emphasizes the partnership of Father and Son in the breaking down of barriers that sin has erected. This is the good news that as Christ's ambassadors we have to share with a lost world.

Serving as ambassadors for Christ and sharing this story of reconciliation represents an awesome responsibility. In assuming this responsibility, we must always remember that our role is that of an ambassador acting on behalf of Christ.

Arturo Toscanini, the great conductor, ended his rehearsal of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra with a unique proclamation. After completing this great symphony, the maestro shouted with emotion, "Who am I? I am nobody. It is Beethoven. He is everything!"

As ambassadors for Christ, we must proclaim, "Who am I? I am nobody. It is Christ. He is everything!"

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES  
Lesson for Nov. 27

# Success

By David Irby, chairman of religion/philosophy department  
Union University, Jackson

Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 7-8  
Focal Passages: 2 Samuel 7:18-22; 8:11-15

This lesson continues the series on how David responded to various crises of his life. The crisis reflected in this week's lesson is caused by success.

This lesson leads us to define success, to examine the factors involved in gaining true success as God's people, and to explore the attitudes and responses we should make in the light of our successes.

### David's success

Success is the attainment of a predetermined goal or set of goals. In order for success to be meaningful these goals must be worthwhile and have value for the achiever.

David's main goal was to establish God's people in the land as a united nation, free from harassment from her enemies. A second goal was to establish his capital, Jerusalem, as a center for Israel's religious life by building a temple so that the religious destiny of his people might be achieved.

David's goals were not for his own personal welfare, but for the welfare of his people as God's chosen people. A study of David's life reveals that he had no interest in gaining wealth and splendor for himself on the order of the oriental dynasties of his time. It appears, there-

fore, that his goals were selfless and worthy. Chapter eight of 2 Samuel relates David's success in subduing Israel's enemies. Chapter seven relates David's desire to build a temple for God.

Establishing goals, however, does not guarantee success. David's successes did not come easily, and he never achieved his second major goal of building the temple. At the same time, his accomplishments were remarkable. He is regarded as Israel's greatest king. Perhaps it will help us in our struggle toward our goals in life if we can identify the major factors that account for David's success.

One factor in David's success was his courage and willingness to act decisively at opportune moments in life. This factor is seen from the days of David's youth. It is manifested clearly in the story of his slaying the Philistine giant, Goliath, in 1 Samuel 17.

Another factor in David's success was patience and hard work. His major goals were long-range goals, and he realized that they would not be achieved easily or quickly. It required seven years for him to unite the country, and more than that to completely subdue the Philistines.

Perhaps the most important factor in David's successes was his strong sense of God's purpose in his life. He pursued his goals as God's "anointed one." He viewed his victories as God's victories (2 Samuel 8:6b, 14). He dedicated all the

rewards of his victories to the Lord (2 Samuel 8:9-12). David's motivation for success was not his personal gain but the good of his people and the glory of God.

### David's response to success

The crisis of success is seen not only in how one achieves success, but also in how one responds to it. Chapter seven of 2 Samuel relates that David had accomplished his goal of providing rest for his people from all their enemies around them.

There was no evidence of pride or demand for recognition on David's part. Rather, there was gratitude and a desire to go on toward his next goal - to build the temple. All along, David probably had this goal of building a temple in mind. He had already accumulated much of the materials for building it, but he needed the Lord's permission to proceed.

David must have been keenly disap-

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pointed to learn that he would not be permitted to build the temple. One of the major goals of his life would not be accomplished. Yet he quickly discovered that failure for a person whose life is under the direction of God many times simply opens the door to something much better than success.

David would not build God a house; rather, God announced that He would build David a "house" (dynasty). Through the Davidic covenant, God promised David that one of his descendants would sit on the throne of Israel forever!

Little did David realize that this promise would be fulfilled in the One whom Matthew writes about as being "Jesus Christ, the Son of David." (Matthew 1:1).



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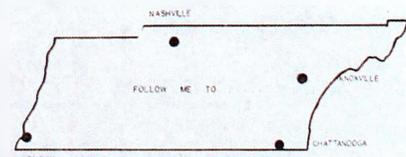


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# Descendant of Confucius preaches Christ

By Bill Webb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A lot of people in Taiwan think Baptist Pastor Paul Fan-pei Kung is a little strange.

Why would a 74th-generation descendant of the great Confucius preach the gospel of Jesus Christ instead of the teachings of his ancestor, the most revered of Chinese philosophers and teachers?

"Yes, Confucius was a very good man," Kung tells them politely, "but he could not save people. So I cannot preach Confucius. I have to preach Jesus.

"Many of our Chinese are very superstitious," he explained during a visit to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board offices in Richmond, Va. "They

believe in Buddhism, animism, and one of a hundred different kinds of religion. They just don't know the true God."

But that situation is changing, due in part to Bold Mission Taiwan, a three-year evangelism partnership involving Chinese Baptists and Missouri Baptists. The partnership climaxed in September with crusades across Taiwan in which professions of faith numbered nearly 2,300, roughly one for every five Baptists in the island country.

Kung, chairman of the Chinese Baptist Convention and of Bold Mission Taiwan, visited the United States at the invitation of Missouri Baptists.

He and missionaries feel the partnership has helped Chinese Baptists turn the corner in active evangelization of Taiwan, particularly in providing successful models for cooperation.

"It has given us a vision of the strength that working together can have," said Kung. "We have seen the strength of the Missouri convention. We have seen the strength of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Baptists in Taiwan have their own convention but churches have not always seen it as integral to training and evangelism at the local level.

"We are instituting a number of changes in our procedures, our officers,



**PREACHES JESUS** — Paul Fan-pei Kung, chairman of the Chinese Baptist Convention of Taiwan, is a 74th-generation descendant of Confucius. Kung says only Jesus, not Confucius, can save people.

our policies, and in the way we relate to the (Taiwan Baptist) mission," Kung said. (The mission is the organization of

Southern Baptist missionaries in Taiwan.)

Kung also credits the partnership with exciting the Chinese Christians about personal witnessing. Before, isolated groups and churches were active in personal evangelism. During the crusades, nearly all the churches had members out visiting with Missouri Baptists.

"People have experienced it (personal witnessing). They've been successful. They've seen results. That is what has been exciting to the Christians in Taiwan," Kung said. "They are more than encouraged. They are alive."

Though the partnership has been completed, the Chinese convention has ambitious plans for the next three years.

Next year will be devoted to follow-up and discipleship training of the crusade converts as well as existing members. That training will set the stage for 1985, when the emphasis will be one-to-one evangelism.

"In 1986 our goal will be summed up in the motto, 'Living for Jesus,'" Kung explained. The events of that year will lead to revival services throughout Taiwan in September in celebration of 150 years of Baptist witness in China.

The convention hopes to establish 15 new churches, 30 missions, and 300 groups in homes en route to winning 5,000 persons to Christ during the three-year span, Kung said. The convention's immediate goal is to conserve the impressive results of the September meetings.

"One of our problems in follow-up has been that a number of people who accepted Christ live in areas which have no Baptist church," Kung said. Committed Christians are assigned to those people and stay in touch by writing, then sending materials, phoning, visiting, and enrolling them in correspondence study. "We hope that out of this, where there are people who are new Christians, new churches will be established," he explained.

Baptists have to be particularly sensitive in their follow-up because many parents who adhere to other religions, such as Buddhism, have disowned their children for becoming Christians.

## Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden

TBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer



Recently, within a brief span of time, I saw two different kinds of lights.

The first kind I observed as I walked into a quick food restaurant in order to get a sandwich. All of the personnel wore attractive headbands with Christmas treelike flashing lights. Each band had a battery fastened to it. On the headband were words advertising a new product of the restaurant. It was plain that the lights were there to attract attention.

Later, as darkness came on, I noticed another kind of light. An attractive building had its portico bathed in brilliant light. I could not see the source of light, for it was not visible. However, it was obvious there was light and the object of it was to light up the portico and not draw attention to the lights themselves.

With this in mind, I turned to the Sermon on the Mount and read these words, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

There are some lights that draw attention to themselves. There is another kind of light that directs its brilliance toward another object.

Our Saviour wants our lights to shine, not to draw attention to ourselves, but to glorify our Father in heaven.

## Journeyman uses drama on radio in Botswana

GABORONE, Botswana — Radio and television programmer Scott Collins knew it would be tough to get Baptist programming on the air in Botswana, where religious programming is controlled by an interdenominational council.

But Collins, a Southern Baptist missionary journeyman, succeeded by offering Henry Nrau, the Mennonite missionary who coordinates religious programming for Radio Botswana, something new — radio drama.

After promising to deliver an Easter drama, Collins could not find one suitable so he wrote his own. A group of students from the University of Botswana read it on the air.

Nrau liked the drama so well that he has encouraged Collins to write others.

## Interpretations

### Teaching the teachers

by Herschel H. Hobbs

"Then said they to him again, What did He to thee? How opened He thine eyes?" (John 9:26).

A second time the Pharisees asked how the man's eyes had been opened (see v.15). In reply they received more than they asked. His parents may have feared the Pharisees, but he did not. In the following verses he mocked them in clever dialogue as he taught the teachers (vv.27-34).

First, in derision, he asked if their second inquiry was evidence that they also wished to become his benefactor's disciples (v.27). They reviled him, saying that they were Moses' disciples. They knew that God spoke to Moses, but they did not really know (ouk oidamen) whence this fellow came (vv.28-29).

Second, he chided the Pharisees for their ignorance (v.30). Note "we know" in verse 31. He included himself among the scholars. This was pure mockery of the Pharisees. They had called Jesus a sinner. Yet "we know" (oidamen) that God does not hear such, only those who worship and obey Him (v.31). The Pharisees taught this, so the man reminded them that they must agree. Could a sinner restore his sight? They needed to do their homework.

Third, he applied this truth by rubbing salt into their wounds (v.32-33). In all history no one had ever heard of someone giving sight to one born blind! "If this man were not of God, He could do nothing." It fully refuted their position. And they did not even know of such a wonder-worker! He had them in a trap from which they could not escape.

The only answer to an unanswerable argument is ridicule or violence. The Pharisees did both as they "cast him out" (v.34), either out of their presence or out of the synagogue. What did it mat-

ter to him? For Jesus at this point revealed His identity to the man (vv.35-38). The man's bonus was spiritual sight as he was saved from sin.

Jesus then performed the coup d'etat. Since the Pharisees denied physical and spiritual blindness, their sin remained with them (vv.39-41). No one is so blind as one who does not will to see!

### Indians lose bid to protect site

WASHINGTON (BP) — Several tribes of Sioux and Cheyenne Indians lost a legal bid to halt development of a South Dakota state park they consider sacred to their religions when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear their challenge.

The Nov. 7 action by the high court leaves in place rulings by two lower federal tribunals, the effect of which will be to allow South Dakota to continue developing Bear Butte State Park in the Black Hills for tourism and recreational camping.

Sioux and Cheyenne tribes, practicing the religions of Lakota and Tsistsistas respectively, had sought to stop the development, begun several years ago. They also sought exemptions from required use permits to a sacred ceremonial site, removal of all previously constructed roads, parking lots, and buildings, and more than \$1-million in damages. They lost on every count in both lower courts.

Joining the tribes in their unsuccessful appeal to the high court were several religious denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Church Association.

### Neyland to direct RTVC counseling

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP) — Fred R. Neyland, minister of education and outreach at Plymouth Park Baptist Church, Irving, Tex., will fill the new position of director of telephone counseling at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The move, effective Nov. 28, will put Neyland in charge of developing a telephone counseling ministry to people who respond to broadcasts on the American Christian Television System (ACTS), the national Southern Baptist TV network scheduled to begin next May.

The counseling strategy will be used primarily with ACTS' evangelistic programs, such as "Invitation to Life." Viewers will be able to call a telephone number in their local areas and receive counseling for spiritual decisions. Neyland will coordinate the program and develop training materials for counselors.

Neyland served as minister of education at First Baptist Church, Jackson, from 1967-74.