

# Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Tennessee Baptists meet in Memphis

By Al Shackelford

Gathering for their 111th annual session, messengers to next week's Tennessee Baptist Convention will consider a record Cooperative Program budget-goal, amendments to the TBC Constitution and Bylaws, and the election of officers for the coming year.

The convention will meet Nov. 19-21 at First Baptist Church, Memphis.

Other business items expected are the election of members to various TBC boards and committees, reports from two special studies, and amendments to the program statements of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and the three TBC colleges.

The Executive Board will recommend a \$21-million Cooperative Program basic budget-goal for the November 1985-October 1986 convention year. The proposed goal is 7.01 percent above the \$19,625,000 1984-85 Cooperative Program goal and is 7.39 percent higher than the \$19,555,062.57 actually received during the November 1984-October 1985 convention year.

Another part of the budget recommendation would be to increase the percentage shared with Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program from 36.5 percent to 36.75 percent.

This year's recommendation will also include a \$1-million challenge section above the \$21-million basic budget-goal. In this section, the SBC Cooperative Program will receive 40 percent. Of the 60 percent retained in Tennessee, \$175,655 will go to TBC educational institutions; \$23,500 to Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes; \$29,256 to reserve and contingency funds in the Executive Board budget; and the remaining amount for Bold Mission Thrust creative ministries.

Any funds received in the challenge section will be distributed on a pro rata basis, according to the recommendation.

A summary of the Executive Board's recommendation was printed in the Oct. 16 Baptist and Reflector.

A proposed amendment to the TBC Constitution would require that TBC officers be resident members of cooper-

ating Baptist churches. This amendment was approved on first reading by the 1984 TBC, but in order to become a part of the Constitution, it must also be approved by a two-thirds vote at this year's convention.

The Committee on Constitution and

Bylaws will also recommend an addition to the bylaws which specifies that in nominating TBC committees, the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees are to nominate temporary chairmen who have served at last one

(Continued on page 2)

## Workgroup proposes SBC bylaw revision

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — A proposal to revise a controversial Southern Baptist Convention bylaw will be recommended when the SBC Executive Committee meets Feb. 17-19, 1986.

Bylaw 16 concerns nominations of persons to serve on the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees. The Committee on Boards nominates persons to serve as trustees of the 20 national agencies of the SBC, and has been at the center of the seven-year controversy in the denomination between conservatives and moderates.

The revision, unless it is changed before presentation to the Executive Committee, will retain the provision that the Committee on Committees will nominate a layperson and a denominationally-related person from each of the conventions qualifying for representation. It will add two sentences which will allow nominations from the floor, but will prevent the presentation of alternate slates of nominees.

The additional two sentences say: "Further nominations may be made from the floor. No messenger shall be allowed to nominate more than one person for election to the Committee on Boards . . ."

The SBC controversy has swirled around the convention presidency. The

president appoints the Committee on Committees, which in turn nominates the Committee on Boards.

During the 1985 annual meeting, parliamentarian Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church of Memphis, ruled that the bylaw says nominations to the Committee on Boards can come only from the Committee on Committees, thus eliminating an effort from the floor to nominate an alternate slate for the Committee on Boards.

Bylaw 16, however, says only that the "Committee on Boards . . . nominates to the convention by the Committee on Committees," and does not speak to nominations from the floor.

Following Allen's recommendation, SBC president Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, ruled out of order attempts to amend the Committee on Committees' report, setting off near pandemonium at the convention.

In the aftermath of the convention, a Birmingham, Ala., layman and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder, retained an attorney and announced the possibility they will file suit in civil court because they claim their rights as messengers were violated by the ruling.

The Crowders' attorney, Enmit J. Bondurant of Atlanta, made a 10-minute presentation to the Executive Committee during its September 1985 meeting, claiming the 1986 Committee on Boards was illegally elected and requesting the Executive Committee to "take prompt and effective action . . . to remedy the violations . . . and to assure similar violations of the bylaws are not repeated in the future."

The Executive Committee, however, after a closed door meeting, voted to "affirm" the actions of the convention. The committee, however, left open the possibility of review and revision of the bylaws, particularly Bylaw 16, "for clarity . . ."

The six-member bylaws workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee conducted two telephone conference calls on the bylaw — Oct. 30 and Nov. 4 — during which a revision was adopted. The proposal will be made to the full Executive Committee when it meets in February. If adopted, it will be considered by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

## TBC disaster teams return home after feeding victims of floods

Tennessee Baptists' disaster relief units and teams returned home last week after serving over 7,000 meals to flood-ravaged citizens of southern Louisiana.

The teams and equipment left Tennessee at noon on Oct. 31 for Slidell, La., and served the first meal there at noon on Nov. 1. After serving the noon meal on Nov. 6, the Tennesseans headed home.

Heavy rains related to Hurricane Juan had caused widespread flooding throughout the Gulf Coast area. By the time the Tennessee Baptist teams arrived, most of the residents in the Slidell area had returned to their homes but were without food, water, and utilities.

Archie King, Tennessee Brotherhood director, said that 95 percent of the meals served were delivered to residents of the area at their homes, rather than having the people come to the van, which was set up in the yard of St. Genevieve Parish, a Catholic church 10 miles west of Slidell.

In addition to the meals, the Tennesseans and local volunteers also delivered blankets and pillows; food items, such as rice, eggs, butter, and bread; and health kits to residents.

King said that the local officials and citizens "received us well" and assisted the Tennesseans in performing their ministry. "They helped us discover rural areas of tremendous need where no help was available," he added.

The Catholic church, where the van was located, provided a room, an office with a telephone, and rest rooms for the Tennesseans' use.

King said that Calvary Baptist Church of Slidell and men from about six other



**DISASTER CLEANUP** — Tennessean Jeff Collier (left) of Mt. Juliet, a student at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, left his studies long enough to assist the Tennessee Baptist disaster team as they fed Louisiana hurricane victims. Here Collier assists another NOBTS student, Bob Davison, in cleanup after a meal.

churches came to help.

On leaving for home, King said that Calvary Baptist Church presented two crab cookers to the Tennesseans for use in the disaster van. These cookers make it possible to heat large amounts of food in a brief period of time.

King said that the Tennesseans saw many pathetic scenes, with mud at least three inches deep in many homes.

### Convention to offer parking, shuttle bus

Free parking for those attending next week's Tennessee Baptist Convention in Memphis will be provided on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Armory Parking Area. This area is in addition to 700 parking spaces at First Baptist Church.

The Armory lot is located at 3335 South Hollywood and is 1.3 miles south of the church. Security will be maintained day and night on the lot.

Free shuttle bus service will operate between the Armory Parking Area and First Baptist Church:  
from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.;  
from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.;  
from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.;  
from 6 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

## Professor ties SBC action to anti-abortion protests

By Jim Newton

SAVANNAH, Ga. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention will, in effect, become co-sponsor of anti-abortion protests when the denomination observes its first Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Jan. 19, 1986, according to an Atlanta religion professor.

Nancy T. Ammerman, assistant professor of the sociology of religion at Emory University in Atlanta, made the observation in a paper presented to the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meeting in Savannah in late October.

Ammerman, a Southern Baptist, pointed out that the Southern Baptist Convention voted last June in Dallas to add the annual observance of "Sanctity of Human Life" Sunday to the official denominational calendar starting in January of 1986. The date coincides with nationwide protests sponsored by Right to Life organizations advocating a Constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion.

"Though no church is obligated to do anything, Southern Baptist churches that choose to participate in the Right to Life protests on that day will do so with the implied approval of the denomination," Ammerman said. "Whether the messengers in Dallas intended it or not, the Southern Baptist Convention is now, in effect, a co-sponsor of those protests," she observed.

Ammerman said the SBC action on "Sanctity of Life Sunday" was part of "an organized attempt . . . to wrest control of the largest Protestant denomination in America from the hands of relatively 'moderate' evangelicals and place it firmly in the hands of fundamentalists." *Right to Life* links to the New Christian Right.

She observed the 1985 convention in Dallas, with the re-election of Charles Stanley as president and control of presidential committee appointments for the last seven years, tips the scales in the conflict in the direction of long-term control by fundamentalists.

According to Ammerman, fundamentalists aligned with the New Christian Right used several means to get the SBC to pass the anti-abortion calendar emphasis.

Ammerman said their most potent resource was that they approached the issue with moral clarity about the evils of abortion as a threat to the very fabric of America.

## Sevier County conducts business, elects leaders

The Sevier County Baptist Association elected Ernie Coleman, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Sevierville, as moderator during its annual meeting Oct. 21-23 held in three different cities. It met at First Baptist Church, Gatlinburg; Zion Grove Baptist Church and New Era Baptist Church, both in Sevierville; and Union Valley Baptist Church, Knoxville.

The new assistant moderator is Joe Wren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sevierville. The treasurer/clerk is Bobbie Williams, a member of Gists Creek Baptist Church, also in Sevierville.

The messengers also voted to hold the next meeting Oct. 20-22, 1986, at French Broad Valley Baptist Church, Kodak, and at three churches in Sevierville: Bethel Baptist Church, Valley View Baptist Church, and Oldham's Creek Baptist Church.

Secondly, the fundamentalists used the "charismatic leadership" of former SBC president Adrian Rogers, who urged adoption of the motion "on behalf of millions of unborn babies who are being slaughtered every year."

"On the other side, the moderates, represented by the (SBC) Christian Life Commission, argued with neither clarity nor charisma," she said, claiming moderates "are afraid to attack the political right head on" and are unwilling to take a clear position, opting instead for "a cautious middle ground."

The motion to add the observance to the SBC calendar was opposed by Charles Wade, chairman of the SBC Christian Life Commission, who offered a counter-proposal to observe a "Concern for Life" Sunday in April. Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, said the commission supported a "concern for life" emphasis but proposed a different name and date in order to avoid entangling the convention in a political movement, a course he said the SBC has "wisely followed" in the past.

The convention, however, rejected Wade's amendment.

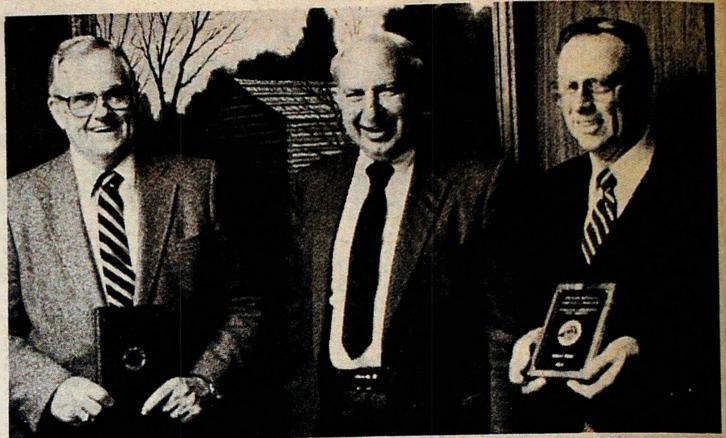
Fundamentalists also used the mass media more effectively in advance of the convention, Ammerman said. The fundamentalist-oriented Southern Baptist Advocate published 10 anti-abortion stories in the 10 issues before the SBC, while the moderate-oriented SBC Today and the SBC official news service, Baptist Press, ran no stories alerting their readers to the proposed addition to the denominational calendar.

Furthermore, the "Sanctity of Human Life Sunday" action was taken on the last day of the Dallas convention and slid through virtually unnoticed as part of the report of the SBC Calendar Committee, "which rarely presents anything very interesting or controversial," she said.

Now that the event is scheduled on the SBC calendar, SBC endorsement implies an obligation for denominational agencies, especially the Christian Life Commission, to produce materials to support observance of an event the agency opposed, Ammerman added.

Those on the right would like to see the Christian Life Commission produce a full complement of resources for churches, such as bulletin inserts, posters, Bible study and sermon suggestions, and film and book lists, Ammerman said.

If official denominational agencies do not produce materials wanted by anti-abortion advocates, they may turn to a branch of the "Right to Life" movement created especially for Southern Baptists, Ammerman said. Former SBC president James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, heads the organization called "Southern Baptists for Life," Ammerman reported.



**APPRECIATION PLAQUES** — As they rotate off the Church Staff Compensation Study Committee, O. C. Downs (left) of Jonesborough and Robert Brumit (right) of Johnson City were presented plaques from the Tennessee Baptist Convention by Tom Madden. The presentations were made at the committee's Nov. 7 meeting in Brentwood.

## Tennessee Baptists meet . . .

(Continued from page 1)

year on that committee. (The report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is printed on page 3 of this issue.)

The convention will hear a progress report from its Trustee/Executive Board Interrelationship Study Committee which was authorized by the 1982 TBC.

Another report from a convention-authorized study will be made by Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. The 1983

state convention asked the agency "to study the utilization of existing institutions and agencies for elderly care and to formulate specific plans for the future ministry of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc."

The Executive Board will recommend amendments to the program statements for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and for the three TBC colleges.

The TBCH program statement's amendments are basically to bring the program statement in line with the institution's charter and present functions.

The program statements of the three colleges would be amended to allow "for professional service degrees at the master's level in education and business, subject to Executive Board approval of specific plans submitted by the institutions."

According to the recommendation, graduate programs will not be approved unless these degrees "meet appropriate standards of quality, financial support, and denominational service." It is further stated in the recommendation that Cooperative Program funds to TBC colleges will be distributed without regard to graduate student enrollments.

During the convention, messengers will elect a president, vice-president, second vice-president, registration secretary, recording secretary, and statistical secretary.

Other elections will involve the naming of 128 trustees for TBC institutions, agencies, and the Executive Board and 61 members of various TBC committees. Nominations from the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees were printed in the Oct. 16 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

Major speakers for the Nov. 19-21 state convention include the convention sermon by Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City; the president's address by Jack May, pastor of Memphis' Broadmoor Baptist Church; Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., president of Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention; Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; Jacobo Garcia, executive secretary of the Venezuela Baptist Convention; and Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis.

Three miscellaneous business periods are scheduled during the convention — Tuesday morning, Tuesday afternoon, and Wednesday afternoon.

The theme for this year's TBC is "Servants . . . Always and in All Ways."

## Loudon County sets Venezuela mission

Messengers of Loudon County Baptist Association allocated \$6,500 for 25 volunteers to be a part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership program, and made a memorial gift to Glen Melton at their annual meeting Oct. 24-25 at Union Fork Creek Baptist Church, Loudon, and Friendship Baptist Church and West Broadway Baptist Church, both in Lenoir City.

The volunteers will go to Venezuela in August 1986 to help in a crusade. The association received a \$280 offering for the Stockton Valley Church Bell Fund to honor Melton, a former director of missions.

Mack White, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church, was re-elected as moderator. E. M. Sherwood, pastor of Blairland Baptist Church, Loudon, was re-elected as associate moderator; Mrs. Charles E. Amos, secretary of the associational office, was re-elected as treasurer/clerk. Director of Missions Raymond C. Atwood was re-elected as assistant treasurer/clerk.

The next meeting will be Oct. 23-24, 1986, in Lenoir City at Calvary Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, and in Kingston at New Midway Baptist Church.

## SBC notes \$9-million October

NASHVILLE (BP) — The national unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program, recorded its first \$9-million October last month as voluntary contributions through the program reached \$9,039,034.

That reflects an increase of \$435,821 (5.07 percent) over October 1984 and compares with the previous best October (1983) mark of \$8,638,255.

October was the first month of the 1985-86 fiscal year for the Southern Baptist Convention. The basic operating budget for the period is \$120.6-million which is more than \$3-million more than receipts during the 1984-85 fiscal year.

To reach the basic budget goal, gifts through the Cooperative Program must increase 2.604 percent over last fiscal year. October 1985 reflected an increase of 5.07 percent.

## Reagan hosts 18 religious leaders in pre-summit prayer luncheon

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Charles F. Stanley and 17 other religious leaders had lunch with President Ronald Reagan at the White House Nov. 8 and prayed for the success of the upcoming arms negotiation talks in Geneva.

Reagan spent nearly one and a half hours with the religious leaders who included Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy, Jewish rabbis, and representa-

tives of Orthodox faiths in the United States.

Stanley said afterwards he had asked the president if he would feel free to explore the prayers of the American people before his departure for Geneva. Reagan's immediate answer, said Stanley, was yes.

Stanley told reporters outside the west wing of the White House that Reagan specifically requested prayers for himself and asked the group not to forget to pray for Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, reminding them, "he is loved too."

Stanley and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Bernard Law both emphasized Reagan's attention to human rights inside the Soviet Union.

During the luncheon meeting, the president said he intends to raise human rights issues in the Geneva talks and expressed concern for persecuted Christians, Jews, and other religious and ethnic minorities. According to several participants, human rights was the dominant theme of the unusually long session with Reagan.

## Hedquist names '87 SBC hotels

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Hotels which will be reserved for use by the housing bureau at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo., have now been listed, said Tim A. Hedquist, SBC convention manager.

Hedquist said 20 hotels — involving an estimated 5,200 rooms — will be included in the housing bureau block, releasing other rooms for reservations by individuals or groups. He added release of the other hotels is "earlier than in the past, but we are ahead of schedule in convention preparation."

He said the list is being released "because some of the hotels already are being bombarded with requests for reservations" for the mid-June meeting in 1987.

The SBC retains about 4,500 to 5,200 rooms for use by the housing bureau. Those rooms are assigned by drawing from requests mailed Oct. 1 or 2 of the year preceding the convention, Hedquist said. The system was established to allow individuals an opportunity to obtain rooms for the annual meeting.

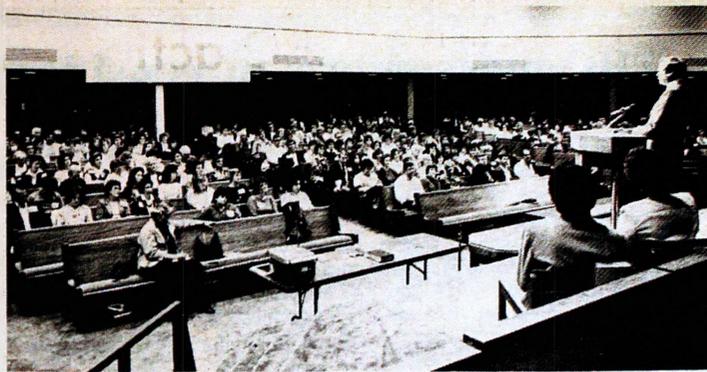
The hotels reserved for SBC use, he said, are: Adam's Mark/St. Louis, Bel Air Hilton, Best Western St. Louisian, Clarion, Embassy Suites, Holiday Inn Market Street, Holiday Inn Riverfront, Marriott's Pavilion, Mayfair, Omni International, Radisson St. Louis, Rode-way Inn Downtown, Sheraton St. Louis, The Chase, Cheshire Inn & Lodge, Forest Park, Howard Johnson Midtown, Inn At The Park, Quality Inn-St. Louis, and University Plaza.

## Reagan signs bill for day of fasting

WASHINGTON (BP) — Following approval by Congress, President Ronald Reagan has signed a bill designating Nov. 24 as National Day of Fasting to Raise Funds to Combat Hunger.

The measure is designed to encourage Americans to fast one or more meals on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and contribute the unspent food money for hunger relief. Participants may send contributions to the charity of their choice or to a specially established post office box in Washington.

"This is a chance for Americans to continue to voluntarily share their blessings with the not so fortunate," stated Rep. Ron Packard, one of the bill's sponsors. "By giving up a meal or two just a few days prior to our national day of thanks — and donating the money that would have been spent on food for those meals — even the less affluent Americans can afford to contribute."



CHILDREN'S WORKERS — A "How Children Learn" Seminar, sponsored by various departments of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was held Nov. 9 at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood. Registration was 419. William Hendricks of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was the speaker for the general sessions.

## Shelby adds three churches

Messengers to the 81st annual two-day meeting of the Shelby County Baptist Association admitted three new churches, approved a budget of \$547,039, and elected Joe Littlefield, pastor of White Station Baptist Church in Memphis, as moderator of the 122-church body.

In sessions Oct. 21-22 at Range Hills and Whitehaven Baptist churches in Memphis, the messengers received into the association Korean Baptist Church of Memphis, Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Cordova, and Westhaven Baptist Church in Memphis.

A recommendation by the association's missions committee to receive Vanderbilt Baptist Church of West Memphis into the association was turned down. Opponents cited location in another state and baptismal policy as major reasons.

Approval for affiliation required a vote of two-thirds of the messengers.

Other officers elected to one-year terms include John Bedford, pastor of Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Memphis, vice-moderator; and Lowell Adams, retired pastor and member of Graceland Baptist Church in Memphis, re-elected clerk/treasurer.

In other action, the messengers approved a reorganization plan which groups the work of the association into programs and institutions under an executive director (director of missions).

Within the institution category are Baptist Student Union, camp, ministry to military, and chaplaincy at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The programs of work include missions, education, recreation, and ministry.

Messengers also changed the association's constitution to limit representation from each church to a maximum of 10.

The 1986 annual meeting will be held at Second Baptist Church on Oct. 20 and Broadmoor Baptist Church on Oct. 21 in Memphis.

## Youth ministers set meeting during TBC

Tennessee Baptist Youth Ministers Fellowship will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Leawood Baptist Church in Memphis, according to Ken McCoy, president.

Speaker for the dinner meeting will be Richard Ross, youth consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Music will be provided by Chuck Maxwell, full-time music evangelist and entertainer.

The cost for the banquet will be \$6.50. Reservations can be made through John Ellzey at Leawood Baptist Church, (901) 324-7169.

McCoy said that the banquet and the fellowship itself are open to anyone who works with youth in a Baptist church.

## MWBTS alumni to meet

Alumni and friends of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., will meet during a noon luncheon Nov. 20 at Po' Folks Restaurant on Union Avenue in Memphis.



MISSION GIFTS — Earl Wilson, president of TBC Baptist Foundation, presents a check for the Cooperative Program to Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary. Last year, \$221,099.99 was earned for this cause from trust funds established by Tennessee Baptists.

## Telephones set for TBC meeting

Two convention office telephones, a press room telephone, and a Baptist and Reflector telephone will be in operation next week during the Tennessee Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church, Memphis.

The convention office telephones may be used by those needing to contact messengers and visitors attending the convention. The numbers will be (901) 323-1373 and 323-1374.

Messages telephoned to these numbers will be relayed to convention attenders.

The press room number will be (901) 323-1452.

The Baptist and Reflector number will be (901) 323-1451.

Editor's Note: Printed below are changes which will be recommended to next week's Tennessee Baptist Convention by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The present wording is in the left column; the proposed wording is in the right column. Specific changes and additions are printed in boldface type.

## Convention to consider changes to TBC Constitution, Bylaws

### Second Reading

#### CONSTITUTION (Present)

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS:  
2. Officers shall be members of a cooperating Baptist church.

#### CONSTITUTION (Proposed)

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS:  
2. Officers shall be resident members of a cooperating Baptist church.

#### BYLAWS (Present)

2. STANDING COMMITTEES  
(1) Nominations

(There is presently no item "C.")

#### BYLAWS (Proposed)

2. STANDING COMMITTEES  
(1) Nominations

C. The Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees shall nominate temporary chairmen who have served at least one year as members of their respective committees with the exception of new standing committees.

## EDITORIAL

## TBC messengers to consider important matters

Messengers — perhaps in record numbers — will meet next week at First Baptist Church, Memphis, and constitute the 111th annual gathering of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The seven sessions, between Tuesday morning and Thursday noon, will form the annual business meeting for the state convention.

Requests from messenger registration cards from the TBC office and from associational offices would seem to indicate that this convention might pass the record registration of 1,738 messengers who attended the 1984 TBC at Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville.

The Committee on Arrangements will recommend an outstanding program for the Nov. 19-21 convention — built around the theme, "Servants . . . Always and in All Ways."

TBC President Jack May, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Memphis, will bring his president's address at the Tuesday night session. The convention sermon by Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lenoir City, will be preached during the Tuesday morning opening session.

Speakers invited by the Committee on Arrangements are Jacobo Garcia, executive secretary of the Venezuela Baptist Convention; Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis; and Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union.

Named by the committee to bring devotionals are James Best, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greeneville; Howard Cockrum, a member of Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville; Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis; Lloyd Hansen, a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis; H. D. Hudson, pastor of Henry Baptist Church, Henry; Ora Lee Love, a member of First Baptist Church, Memphis; and Paul Wong, pastor of the Chinese mission of First Baptist Church, Memphis.

Although inspirational messages and music are a vital part of these annual gatherings, the convention technically meets each year to transact the business of the convention — and this year, there are indeed a number of significant matters to be faced.

### COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET-GOAL

The Executive Board will recommend a \$21-million basic budget-goal of mission giving through the Cooperative Program. The recommended budget-goal for the November 1985-October 1986 convention year of \$21-million is 7.01 percent higher than the \$19,625,000 goal for the convention year which closed last month and 7.39 percent higher than the Cooperative Program receipts of \$19,555,062.57 given during the 1984-85 convention year.

For the ninth consecutive year, the Executive Board will recommend that the percentage shared with Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries through the SBC Cooperative Program be increased. The recommendation is that the percentage shared be increased from 36.5 percent to 36.75 percent.

Although this one-fourth of 1 percent might seem rather small, it means that the amount going to the SBC Cooperative Program will increase by 8.12 percent while the Tennessee portion will increase by 6.97 percent.

For the first time in several years, the Executive Board's Cooperative Program recommendation will include a challenge section above the basic budget-goal.

The \$1-million challenge section will share 40 percent of the Tennessee Cooperative Program gifts with the SBC Cooperative Program. The Tennessee portion of the challenge section will fund three items which are the differences between budget requests and the amounts included in the basic budget (\$175,655 for TBC educational institutions; \$23,500 for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes; and \$29,256 for the Executive Board's reserve and contingency funds). The remainder of the TBC portion will be used for Bold Mission Thrust creative ministries.

### ELECTION OF TBC OFFICERS, TRUSTEES

Elections are always an important part of any Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Although any messenger supposedly is free to nominate any Tennessee Baptist for TBC president, tradition would dictate that the new president will come from the eastern part of the state, since the presidency rotates among the three grand divisions of Tennessee.

Because tradition also forbids "public" campaigns, no one can predict who will be nominated on Wednesday afternoon. The most frequent names we have heard as possible nominees (listed alphabetically) are James McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, and Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City.

In addition, the messengers will elect five other officers: vice-president, second vice-president, registration secretary, recording secretary, and statistical secretary.

Other important elections will come on Wednesday afternoon, when the messengers will name 128 Tennesseans as members of the Executive Board and trustees for 10 TBC institutions and agencies and will name 61 members to 10 TBC committees. Nominations will be made by the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The messengers will consider on second and final reading an amendment to add the word "resident" to the TBC Constitution's section on officers. The amendment, which was approved on its first reading last year, would make Article VI, 2 read, "Officers shall be a resident member of a cooperating Baptist church."

This amendment corresponds to similar requirements for trustees and committee members added to the bylaws by the 1984 TBC.

The convention will also consider an amendment to the bylaws that a person nominated as temporary chairman of a TBC committee would have served at least one year on that respective committee.

### GRADUATE SCHOOLS FOR TBC COLLEGES

A major step in the future of Christian education as provided by the three TBC colleges will be considered by the messengers on a recommendation by the Executive Board to amend the colleges' program statements.

The amendments would add the phrase "...and professional service degrees at the master's level in education and business..." to the functions of Belmont College, Carson-Newman College, and Union University. The addition would also contain a footnote which states, "Subject to Executive Board approval of specific plans submitted by the institutions."

When this recommendation was approved by the Executive Board, it contained this clarification: "These plans must include assurances that each degree meets appropriate standards of quality, financial support, and denominational service. It is further understood that Cooperative Program support for Tennessee Baptist colleges shall be distributed without regard for graduate enrollments."

We believe that this is an important and necessary step for our TBC colleges to fulfill their commitment to Christian higher education.

### POSSIBLE OTHER MATTERS AT 1985 TBC

In recent years, resolutions have attracted much interest at meetings of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention. The Resolutions Committee will report at the Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning sessions.

These would appear to be the major business items on next week's agenda. However, there could also be other important matters presented, since any messenger can make any motion consider appropriate during the three miscellaneous business periods.

All of this would indicate that the 111th annual Tennessee Baptist Convention will be an important one for our state convention. Please pray that God's Holy Spirit will lead the messengers to make decisions which will advance the work of God's kingdom through our state convention.

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# Ministry describes character of Jack May

By Connie Davis

The sharecropper's son has a gentleman's humbleness that almost disguises his leadership abilities.

Jack May, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, and Tennessee Baptist Convention president for the past year, is more interested in talking about his ministry than himself.

May was not hesitant to describe the impressive sanctuary being built. He enthusiastically detailed the seating for 3,000, educational space, multidimensional cross on top of the building, and pews on the stairs leading to the balcony. "It's going to be a beautiful, beautiful sanctuary," exclaimed May.

The church, which he has helped grow from 340 to 1,275 in attendance in less than 14 years, has had two or three worship services for the past 12 years, and two Sunday Schools for five years. The building was begun in July and is set to be completed March 30, 1986.

May describes the amount of steel used in the new building with the same pride as he points out the dairy barn in which the church was started and the 36 acres that include soccer fields and baseball diamonds.

As only Broadmoor's second pastor, May shares, "The excitement level at the church is as high if not higher than I've ever seen it — that is spiritual excitement."



**DIRECTOR** — May's involvement in the building of the new sanctuary indicates his leadership and commitment to his church.

Born the oldest son of 11 children, John Franklin May was always known as Jack. After becoming a Christian at age 17, May entered the military for 10 years, serving in Hawaii and Japan. He also met and married his wife, Erlene. Several years after his military service when he was 32 years old, May had a good job, a family including a young son, and even owned a house, something his father never did.

May feels that God let him get all he needed materially for happiness to teach him that "unless you are in God's will you won't really be happy. When God called, we surrendered," explaining that Erlene did not marry a preacher, so she shared the decision. "It has been our ministry, a team effort," May continued.

May moved his family to New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and earned a master's degree in theology. He served at Speedway Terrace Baptist Church, Memphis; a church in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and First Baptist Church, Rip-



**GROWING CHURCH** — As pastor of the church for almost 14 years, May believes pastors begin to be effective after five years.

**GENTLEMAN** — Jack May's (photo at left) sincere thoughtfulness must direct his ministry as a pastor.

ley, for a total of about eight years before going to Broadmoor Baptist Church.

Proud of serving Tennessee Baptists, May emotionally recounts his recent trip to Venezuela in preparation for that nation's partnership program with Tennessee Baptists. The enthusiasm of the Christians there and the majestic mountains are fresh in his memory and revealed his love of travel. Another highlight of his year as TBC president was conducting a retreat for missionaries in Michigan, where he was reminded that being a Baptist is not as accepted as it is in the South.

May is also proud of serving for 12 years on the TBC Executive Board, which included service as president of the board, currently on the administrative committee, and on the program and education committees.

"Tennessee is our home, though we're transplanted Mississippians," shared May.

An avid traveler, May has continued his travels begun in the military. He and his wife have been to the Holy Land six times and have conducted tours there. They also have traveled to Europe, Canada, and Nova Scotia, in addition to Venezuela. May described his traveling companion as his best friend and the greatest Christian he knows.

May's hobbies include golf, which he tries to play every Friday on his day off, and gardening. Explaining that he likes to see things grow, May sees that as a response to the often intangible results of his ministry. He exercises at a spa, jogs, though not as much as in years past due to the advice of his doctor, and walks with Erlene. They also often spend Fridays with their three-and-one-half-year-old grandson.

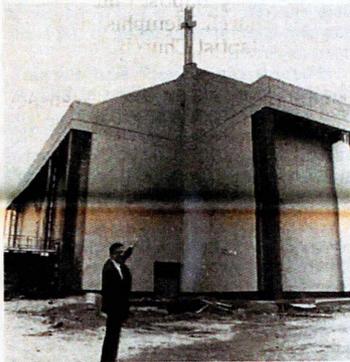
May's priorities are first, his personal relationship to the Lord; second, his relationship to his family; and third, his relationship to the church.

"I have never questioned that my call was to the pastoral ministry," stated May. His ministry philosophy is "proclamation of the gospel and for that reason I give principle attention to study and sermon preparation and delivery." He spends from 6 to 11 a.m. in his study at home and afternoons at the church doing administrative work, counseling, and visiting. He pointed out that he can do this "because I have a full-time minister of education, minister of youth, minister of music/administration, associate pastor, and adequate secretarial staff."

"If I am right with God and with my family, then I will be right at church,"

said May. "The hardest place to be a Christian is at home," describing the person that doesn't provide for his own home as "worse than an infidel."

A major obstacle he has seen in his



**UNIQUE CROSS** — May points out that any way a person looks at the multi-dimensional cross on the top of the sanctuary, they will see a cross, which the building committee believes is a unique feature of the building.

ministry is the lack of commitment to the Lord he sees in good people. "Whatever time, money, or talents they have left over, they give to the Lord."

Indebted to his "preacher brothers" who have helped him, May praised them and other full-time vocational workers as the "greatest people in the world." He feels most laymen do not know the demands of phone calls and middle-of-the-night visits made on church staff workers. May strongly believes, though, that a pastor cannot "be effective until he has been there at least five years."

Looking forward to presiding at the convention next week, May praised the staff at the TBC Executive Board Building, adding that it is "not just flattery, but the honest truth."

"I would say this in red, underlined in green, with purple quotes if I could." His travels in the state have shown "the unity of Tennessee Baptists. I don't believe there is any divisiveness in our state. The sense of call, sense of commitment, sense of loyalty to the Lord Jesus, to His Word, and Baptist causes has been phenomenal," affirmed May, ever the humble gentleman, but also the effective leader.

## Hollis urges Christian influence to affect biomedical revolution

MEMPHIS (BP) — Christians in the field of medicine must "be bold and aggressive in bringing Christian values to bear on the biomedical revolution," a Baptist ethicist urged.

Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission outlined current issues in biomedical ethics during the national meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship Oct. 31 through Nov. 3 in Memphis. About 700 persons attended the meeting of the nine-year-old organization which now has 1,560 members.

Hollis called the biomedical revolution, with its "far-reaching consequences for all human beings," a "time bomb ticking in our midst. Christians must get involved before it explodes."

He identified a variety of concerns: the current "malpractice mentality" threatening the medical community, the need for continued competence in the medical field, sexual exploitation in professional-client relationships, exploitive experimentation, genetic engineering, abortion, implanting artificial organs, and issues

related to the beginning and end of life.

Emphasizing that Biblical principles comprise the foundation for all decision-making, Hollis challenged Christians in the medical community "to develop a Biblically-informed, carefully thought out, scientifically accurate method" for making biomedical decisions. Dealing with biomedical issues calls for an interdisciplinary approach by "compassionate people with an absolute aversion to all provincialism and a deep respect for all human life," he said.

Other featured speakers at the national meeting included BM-DF President Jack Beckett, Kansas City, Kan.; Wendell Belew, director, missions ministries, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; William E. Hull, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; Duke K. McCall, president, Baptist World Alliance, 1980-85; William R. O'Brien, executive vice-president, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; and James H. Smith, president, Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

# SBC leaders experience conditions of hunger

By Leisa A. Hammett

KNOXVILLE (BP)— Three Southern Baptist denominational leaders experienced what it is like to live in a cardboard-insulated house in an Appalachian hollow with no electricity or running water and wonder if the food will last until the end of the month.

Nathan Porter of Fort Worth, Texas; Carol Noffsinger of Louisville, Ky.; and Jimmie Winter of Birmingham, Ala., were among 30 religious, non-profit, and governmental agency representatives who ventured into east Tennessee and western Virginia hollows for three days and two nights and reconvened in Knoxville.

Porter is the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's consultant on domestic hunger; Noffsinger is Woman's Missionary Union consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention; and Winter is Baptist Women's consultant for the SBC Woman's Missionary Union. They were joined in Knoxville by Robert Parham, SBC Christian Life Commission director of hunger concerns.

In Our Own Way, (IOOW) a Washington-based non-profit organization and conference sponsor, hoped the intermeshing of Appalachian community leaders and resource participants would create strategies to alleviate hunger and poverty in Appalachia, which covers 13 states south of Interstate 64 and east of Interstate 75.

Founded in 1982, IOOW bridges grassroots community leaders and policy makers to ensure community development in the United States and overseas.

At typical Appalachian hollows like Roses Creek, Tenn., and St. Charles, Va., resource participants found that transportation, modern conveniences, and food are scarce due to a depressed economy which does not afford jobs.

Ron Eller, a Southern Baptist from Appalachia who heads the University of Kentucky's Appalachian Center in Lexington, Ky., said Appalachia is suffering from the nationwide transition from an industrial to an information-based society. Coal mining, once a booming industry, no longer provides the majority of jobs in Appalachian hollows, where illiteracy is high and unemployment soars three points above the national average of 11 percent.

Letta Casey, a local single parent, voiced the concern of Roses Creek and residents of other hollows. Roses Creek borders east Tennessee and Kentucky state lines. Casey said, "The main thing we want is jobs to avoid being hungry." Winter stressed Casey found a need for "food that's not tied up in the bureaucracy of food stamps."

Bea Huff of St. Charles, said she and others often find themselves involved in a "vicious cycle" of trying to qualify for governmental assistance. When Huff received government assistance so she could become a nurse's aide, her food stamp supply was cut off, forcing her to choose between going to school or eating.

Resource participants agreed that general living conditions in Appalachian hollows are moral and political issues. Last month, four Southern Baptist denominational leaders, including Porter and Parham, were present in Washington for a House hearing on rural hunger and poverty in America.

Parham said Southern Baptist political involvement is a key to eliminating

hunger in America. "We have to let our public officials know we want obstacles removed which keep our people poor and hungry," he said.

For example, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, has joined a coalition of church, government, and private agencies to help alleviate hunger in their community. Participants in "Partners Against Hunger" write federal and state officials, urging them to support legislation which would eliminate poverty.

Parham added Christians have moral as well as political obligations to strike out against poverty, noting "the Bible speaks clearly and passionately about the poor and hungry and the responsibility of God's people for them."

Becky Hudson, officer of Emergency Food Helpers and a member of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, said Baptists have failed to see the needs within their own communities. "The expectations for opportunity in America are probably warped because this is 'a land of plenty' . . . There is a prevailing attitude that if people want to do better, they can. We do not perceive people in our own communities being in the same need as Africa."

"The African crisis," said Parham, "has distorted the definition of hunger. It's defined the hungry child as the match stick child with a swollen belly and large eyes." He said the next world hunger crisis may not look "bad enough" because of images painted by the African crisis.

Southern Baptist participants concluded that the denomination could contribute to anti-poverty efforts by getting churches and state leadership involved and by increasing awareness through Southern Baptist literature and conferences.

Churches could become involved, they added, with literacy education, transportation, food, and day care programs. Contributions to Southern Baptist domestic hunger funds, Porter added, could purchase the \$1,200 of seed and fertilizer needed each spring for gardening in each hollow. Volunteer teams could also assist with residential construction.

# Appalachian residents 'eke out' an existence

By Leisa A. Hammett

ROSES CREEK (BP)— Far from sophisticated suburbia, hidden in the "hollers" of Appalachia, many families insulate their homes with cardboard, haul water from natural wells, and cook on wood stoves.

For Tennesseans who live in Roses Creek, the nearest supermarket is about 20 curving, hilly, gravel-hurdling miles down the hollow — a challenge for a car in any condition and the death of many rusted, disassembled vehicles characteristic of Appalachian hollows.

"When you go to the store," says Carol Judy of Roses Creek hollow, "\$4 worth of groceries ends up costing \$10 because it takes \$6 in gasoline just to get there."

Roses Creek hollow, an unincorporated community bordering east Tennessee and Kentucky state lines is home for Judy and 59 other families.

Typical of other Appalachian hollow residents, Judy goes to the supermarket in Jellico once a month and stretches the remainder of her \$100 to \$150 food stamp allowance at the local grocer, five miles down the hollow. Although the local grocers strive to break even, prices are still exorbitant for rural residents.

Fresh fruit, meat, and adequate refrigeration for their community are rare or non-existent commodities in Roses Creek. Instead, homegrown beans and potatoes are dietary staples.

Letta Casey (Judy's cousin) is one of several women community leaders. She models the typical Roses Creek woman — a slight-frame, single mother of two or more who appears twice her age. Toothless but articulate, she voices their primary concern: jobs. "The main thing we want is jobs to avoid being hungry," she insists.

Only two men in Roses Creek have found work, one in coal mining and the other in community development. Harold Osborne, who returned to Roses Creek after a stint of military service, manages the locally organized Woodland Community Land Trust. The Trust builds and sells homes for about \$22,000.

Some homes remain ownerless because few banks are willing to finance

the homes. Osborne has postponed further construction until financing becomes available. If the land trust does not receive further financing, Osborne will have to receive unemployment this winter in order to support his family.

Barren, yellow-tinted mountain ridges remind Osborne and his neighbors that in better days, strip mining once provided plentiful jobs for Roses Creek and other Appalachian hollows. Now only one Roses Creek resident is employed in the dwindling coal industry.

Even if residents could afford the daily drive down the hollow to Jellico, the nearest town, existing jobs are filled by town residents.

Judy admits moving may seem like a solution. But few residents can financially afford to move and have no place to go if they did. Some have tried living in the cities but the lifestyle is foreign, crime greater, and jobs competitive.

"As hard as it is in Appalachia, (the residents) cannot and do not want to leave," says Charlotte Barr, a Dominican sister who lives temporarily in Roses Creek. Marie Cirillo, a former sister from Brooklyn, N.Y., who moved to the Roses Creek area 18 years ago, maintains the people of Appalachia have a right to live there.

Tilda Kemplen, an eighth grade dropout, decided education would help defend that right. At age 32, Kemplen went back to school, received her GED certificate, a college degree in special education, and also completed postgraduate studies.

With \$11,000 in government funds plus a qualifying \$2,000 prerequisite from the Catholic Diocese of Nashville, Kemplen started the Mountain Communities Child Care Center in a trailer.

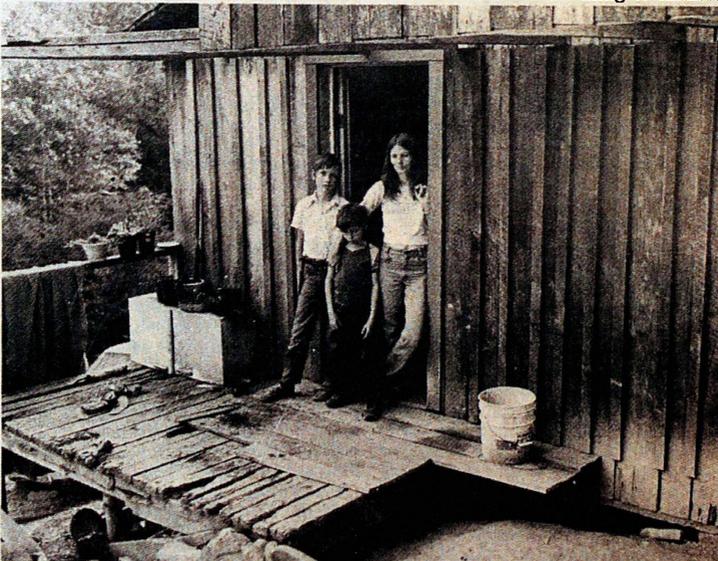
Today the day care and an adjoining prenatal clinic employ 35 women making it the second largest employer in Campbell County. The school system is the largest.

The "native herb co-op" also is housed with the day and prenatal care complex. At the co-op locals make wreaths from local foliage to sell. Funds from the wreaths are channeled back into the center. Larger facilities are needed to expand the co-op and also to provide space for local women to make quilts for sale. But facilities take funds which are not available locally.

Locals see markets and marketing strategies as a way to sell home-produced wares but have not yet been able to cultivate either because of geographical isolation, lack of resources, and marketing contacts. In addition to the center, co-op, and land trust, experimental gardening techniques are another local self-help program.

Osborne is spearheading efforts to garden more productively. Government funds have bought seed and fertilizer but, according to Osborne, more gardens could be cultivated if additional funds were available. A bush hog and tractor disk for plowing also are needed for gardening. Locals now pay by the hour to rent a disk.

Despite the conditions, Roses Creek residents feel better off than many in Appalachian hollows. "We aren't poor by choice," said Roses Creek resident "Georgie" Morris. "We're poor because of the lack of jobs. But we're proud and we're trying to do something about our condition."



APPALACHIAN LIFE — Letta Casey, a single parent, voices concern for jobs in the Appalachian hollows. "The main thing we want is jobs to avoid being hungry," she says. Photo by Bob Kollar, courtesy of Tennessee Valley Authority.

# Jerusalem church plans fight for right to build

JERUSALEM (BP)— The Narkis Street Baptist Church intends to present its case for rebuilding to both Israel's prime minister and High Court.

The Jerusalem congregation — a victim of arsonists three years ago — is sticking by its rebuilding plans, despite an adverse ruling by an Israeli district planning commission.

"We all feel this is a moral issue that we've got to stand on," said Robert Lindsey, pastor of the congregation of 300 and a longtime Southern Baptist representative in Israel.

Church leaders have launched a letter-writing campaign to urge Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to intervene in their behalf. They are asking Southern Baptist pastors and church members to participate in the effort.

Church leaders also have approved the preparation of an appeal to the High Court, Israel's highest judicial body.

The church is mailing a notice of its letter-writing campaign to more than 1,000 individuals and groups in various countries who have contributed to a rebuilding fund. So far, more than \$500,000 has been contributed.

"Just a simple letter" to Peres in Jerusalem is sufficient, Lindsey said.

Explaining the inherent moral issue, the pastor said, "First, our chapel was burned down by what we call religious terrorists, fanatics. Everybody is against terrorists today and that's exactly what they are." No arrests were made after

the Oct. 7, 1982, fire that gutted the 60-seat chapel.

"And secondly, political-religious pressure has kept us from being able to rebuild according to our needs," Lindsey said.

In essence, "... we are suffering a limitation on our religious freedom. The same kind of thing could happen to some other Christian church (in Israel)."

Lindsey also pointed out, "A kind of subtle permission is being granted to those who would violently attack Christian institutions by the refusal of the authorities to speedily grant permits to rebuild and enlarge."

Letters to Peres may prompt concern

that the commission's failure to protect religious liberty is "making a bad name for Israel," Lindsey said.

The congregation worked with the Jerusalem municipality for two years for approval of its rebuilding plans. Since November 1984, the delay has been with an Israeli agency, the Jerusalem district planning commission. Meanwhile, worship services have been in a tent-like structure next to where the chapel was built in 1933.

In October, the commission turned down plans for a new facility encompassing a 400-seat auditorium, several Sunday School rooms and office space. Instead, it offered to let the congregation build to

about half that size. New plans would need to be developed and the entire review process repeated.

Lindsey believes "it's almost certain" that pressure from Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox Jewish groups prompted six of the commission's nine members to vote against the church's plans.

The commission is part of the interior ministry, which is headed by a member of Shas, one of several ultra-Orthodox political parties in Israel. Shas members hold only three of the Israeli Knesset's 120 seats, "but they have much more power politically because (larger) rival parties woo them to join in a coalition," Lindsey said. The interior ministry also controls visas and other travel-related matters.

Another ultra-Orthodox group, Y'ad L'achim, organized a protest in front of the Baptist church in January, promoting it with posters throughout Jerusalem. About 100 people participated.

Lindsey believes the letter-writing campaign can be an encouragement to many Israelis to take a stand for religious liberty.

Orthodox Jews number about 20 percent of all Israelis. Secular Jews, who comprise 80 percent of the population, generally have more of a "live-and-let-live" view toward Christians, Lindsey said.

Many of the Orthodox are zealous for their faith, having weathered various sorts of persecution in Europe. Many regard belief in Christ as contrary to Judaism. "We think of Jewish believers as still Jewish," Lindsey said. "Legally they stay Jewish if they become believers."

Even though the church is in a Jewish neighborhood, the pastor said, "I've never had any dissension until some group began to incite some of our Orthodox neighbors."

## Keith Parks urges prayer for Reagan, Gorbachev

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— The summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev should be on the prayer lists of Southern Baptists, the convention's Foreign Mission Board president said Nov. 4 after a two-week visit to the Soviet Union.

R. Keith Parks, who visited Baptists in Moscow and seven other cities, said the tone and outcome of the Nov. 19-20 summit meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, not only will be vital to world peace but also may affect opportunities for reciprocal relationships between U.S. and Soviet Baptists.

Church leaders in the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB) want such reciprocal relationships with Baptists in the United States, Parks noted. If diplomatic relations between the two countries improve, opportunities for further exchanges may increase, he said, but there may be fewer opportunities if relations sour.

The FMB leader's discussions with Baptists in the Soviet Union involved ways to "continue to learn from each other and strengthen each other." If the AUCECB gains government approval to open a seminary in the Moscow area, for example, Southern Baptists might help with planning curriculum and theological education by extension, Parks said.

Video resources for leadership training also might be offered.

Various Baptist leaders from the Soviet Union, meanwhile, might share insights into nurturing lay preachers. It is not uncommon, for example, for a 700-member congregation in that country to

have 25 lay preachers who preach in many of the worship services several nights a week and at least twice on Sundays.

Producing a film on Baptist churches in the Soviet Union to enable Southern Baptists to "experience the intensity of worship" there also was discussed, Parks said. "I think it would be inspiring and challenging."

"It is more demanding to be a Baptist there than in our country ... and perhaps as a result (they) function at a higher level of intensity in worship," Parks said. "Whether the preacher preaches a good sermon or not, they worship. There is a contagion about that which I would like to infuse into some of our churches."

In urging fellow Baptists "to be much in prayer" for the summit, he cited Biblical prayers such as the Apostle Paul's in 1 Timothy 2:1-4 for "kings and all those in authority" so that Christians "may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness ..." Ultimately evangelism is involved, Parks said, pointing to the fourth verse, which says God "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Beyond praying for the summit, praying for peace "is historically a part of the Baptist heritage there (in Russia)," Parks said.

Parks cautioned against skepticism toward prayers for peace by Baptists in the Soviet Union. He quoted one Baptist leader as saying, "The government that is in control is atheistic, but the people are not." The leader distinguished the people of the United States from its government and asked the same for people in the Soviet Union.

Parks said the number of Christians there ranges from an estimated 30-million to 50-million, compared to a Communist Party membership of 18-million.

Baptists in the Soviet Union who earnestly pray for peace "are at one in spirit with us," Parks said. They are "very similar in belief and practice" and are deeply concerned "that the world will never have to undergo the horrors of war again. And I would join them in that prayer, praying that somehow we could live in peace ... in order that we might have opportunity to evangelize the world."

Parks spoke on peace in one of his sermons during the trip, saying, "Christians hold the only solution in the world for abiding peace, which is changing the human heart, crowning Jesus Lord of our lives. I think this is what Jesus was talking about when he said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'"

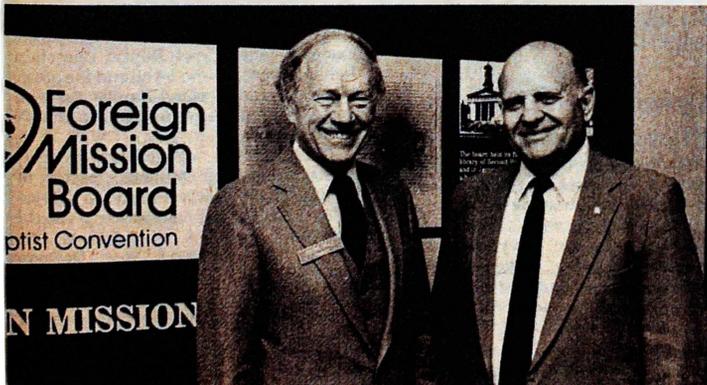
## East Tennessee gets new offices

New facilities for the associational offices were announced at the annual meeting of East Tennessee Baptist Association on Oct. 24 at Wilsonville Baptist Church and on Oct. 25 at Cave Hill Baptist Church in Newport.

The offices will move into a renovated educational building of First Baptist Church in Newport.

Re-elected as moderator was Frank Bell, pastor of Webb Baptist Church in Newport. Elected as assistant moderator was F. M. Blevins, pastor of Wilsonville Baptist Church. Re-elected as treasurer was Linda Watts, member of Riverview Baptist Church in Newport. Elected as clerk was Grace Hall, member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Newport.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 23 at First Baptist Church in Newport and Oct. 24 at Bethel Baptist Church in Parrottsville.



TENNESSEAN ON FOREIGN MISSION BOARD — New Foreign Mission Board member Morris H. Mills (left), a real estate developer in Memphis, poses with FMB President Keith Parks during the annual board meeting in Richmond, Va.

## Paraguay effort brings decisions

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)— More than 1,100 people accepted Christ as personal Saviour during two recent weeks of simultaneous evangelistic campaigns across Paraguay.

The campaigns boosted national awareness of Baptists in the South American country, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Thomas Law. A nationwide media blitz before and during the campaigns helped the 53 participating Baptist churches attract an average total of more than 4,300 people each night.

About 40 Baptist preachers from neighboring Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay participated in the campaigns. Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner invited national Baptist leaders and several of the visiting preachers to meet with him. The Baptists told Stroessner about their evangelistic efforts during the meeting, which drew considerable press attention.

The campaigns helped Baptists realize more than ever that evangelism is possible in Paraguay and "the people are hungry for the gospel," Law reported.

The campaigns climaxed the third year of Paraguayan Baptists' five-year evangelistic project begun in 1983. Study and planning dominated the first year, followed in 1984 by extensive training of church members in personal evangelism. Next year will feature united evangelistic campaigns in four metropolitan areas, followed in 1987 by evaluation and projections for the future.

# Tennessee associations assemble for meetings

## Cooper Basin meets, elects new officers

On Oct. 17 the Copper Basin Association held its annual meeting at Coletown Baptist Church in Copperhill and Turtletown Baptist Church in Turtletown.

Elected as moderator was Charles Cheatham, pastor of Coletown Baptist Church, succeeding C. David Brown, pastor of Mine City Baptist Church in Ducktown. Elected were Kenneth Montgomery, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Copperhill, as assistant moderator; Glen D. Hughes, a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Turtletown, as treasurer; and O. F. Amburn, a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Copperhill, as assistant treasurer. Re-elected were Vernon Kennedy, a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, as clerk and Stanley Martin, a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Postelle, as assistant clerk.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 16 at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Turtletown for the day session and Mount Zion Baptist Church for the evening session.

## Shiloh acts on debt, new church, mission

At the annual meeting of Shiloh Baptist Association, the members voted to pay off their building's debt by Christmas and to accept a church into its fellowship, and took an offering for a mission. The meeting was Oct. 14-15 at First Baptist Church in Savannah and First Baptist Church in Michie.

The new church is Unity Baptist Church in Ramer of which Tommy Wilder is pastor. The offering for Walnut Grove Mission in Savannah was \$1,112.84 and will purchase plumbing equipment needed before winter.

Elected as moderator was Steve Hardwick, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church in Savannah, replacing John Pippin, pastor of First Baptist Church in Savannah. Also elected were Joe Jernigan, pastor of First Baptist Church in Adamsville, as assistant moderator, and Don Hendrick, a member of Chewalla Baptist Church in Ramer, as clerk. J. T. Drace, pastor of Pleasant Site Baptist Church in Adamsville, was re-elected as treasurer.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 13-14 at Trinity Baptist Church in Michie.

## Concord Baptists hold annual meet

Concord Baptist Association held its annual meeting Oct. 24 at Third Baptist Church and on Oct. 25 at Hillview Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

Re-elected were Carl Allen, retired minister and a member of Third Baptist Church, as moderator; Ralph Duncan, pastor of Mount View Baptist Church in Antioch, as assistant moderator; Horace Welchance, a member of First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, as treasurer; Brenda Hopper, a member of First Baptist Church in Smyrna, as clerk; Irby Bryant, a member of First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, as assistant treasurer; and Sue Webb, a member of Taylors Chapel Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, as assistant clerk.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 23 at First Baptist Church and Oct. 24 at Westwood Baptist Church (formerly Brinkley Road Baptist Church) in Murfreesboro.



**LONGEST SERVICE** — DOM Ralph Cordell of Campbell County association was honored with his wife, Helen. They were given a check for \$150 at the annual meeting for serving 25 years, the longest service by a DOM in one Tennessee association.

## Campbell County honors Cordell

Ralph Cordell was honored for 25 years of service as director of missions by Campbell County Baptist Association during its annual meeting, Oct. 21-22 at First Baptist Church and Cedar Hill Baptist Church in LaFollette.

This is longer than any other director of missions has served a Tennessee association. Mr. and Mrs. Cordell were presented flowers and gifts.

It was noted that Cordell had attended 40 consecutive annual meetings of the association.

Re-elected were Carl Young, pastor of West LaFollette Baptist Church in LaFollette, as moderator and Nila Sellers, a member of Indian Creek Baptist Church in Jacksboro, as treasurer/clerk. Jim Lively, a member of East LaFollette Baptist Church in LaFollette, was elected as assistant moderator.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 20-21 at Calvary Baptist Church in LaFollette, First Baptist Church in Jacksboro, and Coolidge First Baptist Church in LaFollette.

## New Salem buys office building

Messengers voted to buy their present office building in Carthage and heard reports of increases in baptisms and giving in their annual meeting of New Salem Association of Baptists Oct. 27 at Rome Baptist Church, Lebanon.

The building purchase will save the association money and give it more space. The association reported a 26 percent increase in baptisms, a 6.1 percent increase in giving to churches, a 10.2 percent increase in giving to the association, and an 8.1 percent increase in giving to the Cooperative Program.

Elections continued the terms of the officers: moderator Lawrence Hadley, pastor of Brush Creek Baptist Church, Brush Creek; vice-moderator, Gary Akins, pastor of New Middleton Baptist Church, Gordonsville; treasurer Tim Smith, a member of First Baptist Church, Carthage; and clerk Christina Hadley, a member of the Brush Creek church.

The Brush Creek church is the location of the next annual meeting on Oct. 26, 1986.

## Hamilton County acts on issues

Resolutions against abortion and pornography, and for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday were passed by the Hamilton County Baptist Association at its annual meeting Oct. 24 at First Baptist Church in Soddy-Daisy and Bayside Baptist Church in Harrison. Also a church was voted into fellowship in the association.

The abortion resolution seeks to prohibit abortion except to save the life of the mother and encourages churches and members to provide counseling, housing, and adoption placement services for unwed mothers. The resolution on pornography asks churches and members to oppose "adult bookstores" and to witness to the patrons and employees. The resolution on the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday to oppose abortion charges the association's Christian life committee to promote it and the TBC to deal with it.

South Soddy Baptist Church in Soddy-Daisy, of which Gene Varner is pastor, was added to the association.

Elected as moderator was William E. Owens, pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church in Chattanooga, succeeding Bobby Douglas, pastor of First Baptist Church in Hixson. Elected as vice-moderator was Steve Witt, pastor of Mountain Creek Baptist Church in Chattanooga. Re-elected were Bill Plemons, pastor of Woodland Heights Baptist Church in Chattanooga, as treasurer and E. Elwood Settle, pastor of First Calvary

Baptist Church in Chattanooga, as clerk. Elected as assistant treasurer was Arthur Bruner, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 23 at Ridgeview Baptist Church in Chattanooga for the morning session and Central Baptist Church in Hixson for the evening session.

## Robertson County gathers for meet

The annual meeting of Robertson County Baptist Association was held Oct. 21 at First Baptist Church in White House and Oct. 22 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Springfield.

Re-elected as moderator was Joe L. Evans, pastor of Orinda Baptist Church in Orinda. Also elected were assistant moderator, Bill Owen, pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Cross Plains, and clerk, Diane Crain, a member of First Baptist Church in Greenbrier. Jo Nelle James, a member of Flewellyn Baptist Church in Springfield and secretary at the associational office, is the permanent treasurer.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 20 at Bethel Baptist Church in Greenbrier and on Oct. 21 at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Cross Plains.

## Giles County adds Pulaski church

Giles County Baptist Association accepted a new church into its fellowship during its annual meeting Oct. 18-19 at Welcome Valley Baptist Church in Pulaski.

Wales Baptist Church in Pulaski, of which Mack Pinkelton is pastor, was voted into the association.

Re-elected were Cleo Bunt, pastor of Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Ethridge, as moderator; Bobby Howell, a member of Shores Baptist Church in Goodsprings, as treasurer; and Evelyn Powell, a member of First Baptist Church in Minor Hill, as clerk. Bill Worthy, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Goodsprings, was elected as assistant moderator.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 21-22 at Thompson Chapel Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Pulaski.

## Cumberland gathers elects new officers

Messengers re-elected Steve Murphree, pastor of Cross Creek Baptist Church in Indian Mound, as moderator at the meeting of the Cumberland Baptist Association Oct. 28 at Memorial Baptist Church in Clarksville.

Other officers elected to one-year terms were Roy Mullens, pastor of Spring Creek Baptist Church in Clarksville, as assistant moderator; Harold Shoulders, director of missions, re-elected as treasurer; Mrs. Norman McWhorter, a member of First Baptist Church in Clarksville, re-elected as clerk; and Mrs. Spencer Johnson, a member of Kenwood Baptist Church in Clarksville, re-elected as assistant treasurer.

The association scheduled the 1986 meetings for April 28 at First Baptist Church in Woodlawn and Oct. 27 at Little West Fork Baptist Church in Clarksville.

## Madison-Chester hits liquor sales

A resolution against alcoholic beverages was passed and a church was added at the annual meeting of Madison-Chester Association of Baptists Oct. 28 at Sanford Hill Baptist Church in Henderson and Oct. 29 at Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson.

The new church voted into fellowship was Mason Wells Baptist Church in Beech Bluff, where Glen Kolwyck is pastor. The resolution specifically was opposed to liquor-by-the-drink sales.

Elected moderator was Paul Bryant, pastor of North Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, succeeding Fred Ward, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Jacksboro. Elected as assistant moderator was Harry Nolen, pastor of Beech Bluff Baptist Church in Beech Bluff. Re-elected as treasurer/clerk was Sheri Barden, a member of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 27 at Madison Baptist Church and Oct. 28 at Highland Park Baptist Church in Jackson.

## Alpha Baptists re-elect officers in annual meet

Members of churches in Alpha Baptist Association re-elected their officers during their annual meeting Oct. 10 at Tom's Creek Baptist Church, Linden.

Serving another one-year term are Thomas Mayberry, pastor of Fairfield Baptist Church, Centerville, as moderator; Louis Minner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hohenwald, as assistant moderator; James Cook, a member of the Hohenwald church, as treasurer; and Mary McDonal, a member of New Hope Baptist Church, Linden, as clerk.

Next year's meeting will be Oct. 16 at Cross Roads Baptist Church, Centerville.

## Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden  
TBC Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer



I have been thinking lately about storms. Our disaster van has just returned from Louisiana where several crews of our men ministered to those who were devastated by Hurricane Juan. They had scarcely returned when they were put on standby to go to Virginia where the same storm has caused extensive flooding and untold damage.

I am reminded that our Lord told us we were going to have storms in this life. He shared with us the account of the house which was built on the rock and the one built on the sand. When the storms came, the one built on the sand was destroyed and the one built on the rock stood.

We are grieved that storms cause terrible devastation and suffering and loss of life and property. Storms give God's people a chance to demonstrate love, compassion, and witnessing. I believe that people are inclined to be open to Christian witnessing during this time. Those who serve always return with not only experiences of gratitude for people being ministered to, but also the opportunities they had to share the gospel, see lives blessed, and souls saved.

When storms come they help us determine where our priorities really are. I have heard the story of the rancher who employed a young man to work on his farm. Questioning the young man about his work habits, he answered, "I sleep well when the wind blows."

The rancher didn't quite understand what he meant until one night a terrible storm came up and he quickly went to the room where the young man was sleeping and said, "Are all the doors fastened and the gates secure?"

The answer was, "Sir, I told you I sleep well when the wind blows." There are some things that are not shaken when the storms come.

Perhaps a parallel to this story is the story of a workman who fell from a high girder of a building that was under construction. The foreman said, "I asked him again and again not to lean against the wind." Obviously the workman had braced himself against the wind. Suddenly the wind stopped, and he lost his balance and fell to his death.

Acts 27:14-25 records the time Paul was on a ship caught in the Euroclydon. When they knew they were drawing close to land, they threw out anchors and waited until morning. It is always good to have anchors in a storm. Anchors of faith, hope, love, and prayer hold when the storms come.

When the storms of life are raging, it is good to know that our Saviour stands by us.

# Tennessee Scene

## LEADERSHIP...

First Baptist Church, Smyrna, called Darrell McCauley as minister of music and single adults on Oct. 1. W. D. Thomason is the pastor. McCauley comes to the church from Oakwood Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

Grandview Baptist Church in Nashville called Billy Kemp as minister to youth effective Oct. 27. He is a student at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. Jess Love is the pastor of the Grandview church.

Trent Bullock was recently called to Temple Baptist Church in Paris as minister of youth. He is a sophomore at Union University, Jackson. Otis L. Hinton is pastor of Temple Baptist Church.

Steve Haskell, pastor of Bethel Hill Baptist Church, Centertown, for the past two years, will become pastor of First Baptist Church, Raiford, Fla., effective Nov. 17. Earlier, Haskell had served as pastor of Brush Creek Baptist Church, Brush Creek; Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Cottontown; and a church in Ohio.

## REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Munford Baptist Church, Munford, will have revival services Nov. 17-22. The evangelist is Buck Morton of Leclair Baptist Church, Memphis. Bill Brown of Portageville, Mo., will lead the music at the church where Mike Owens is pastor.

John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., will be conducting a series of services at Brook Hollow Baptist Church, Nashville, Nov. 17-20. There will be two sessions each day at the church where N. Lavan Modling is pastor. Special music at the services will be under the direction of Bert Coble.

## REVIVALS...

First Baptist Church of Smyrna held revival services Oct. 13-20. Billie Friel of Mt. Juliet was evangelist for the week and Joe Atkinson led the music. There were 12 professions of faith and several rededications. W. D. Thomason is the church's pastor.

Fall revival services were held at Eagleville Baptist Church, Eagleville, Oct. 13-20. Everett Hooper, from

Rosedale Baptist Church in Nashville, was the evangelist. There were 14 baptisms and several rededications at the church where Vance King is pastor.

Reece Harris, pastor of Sinking Creek Baptist Church in Johnson City, and Larry Wiley, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Greeneville, conducted revival services Oct. 27-30 at Guaranda Drive Baptist Church, Johnson City. Thomas E. Savage is the pastor.

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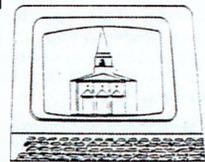
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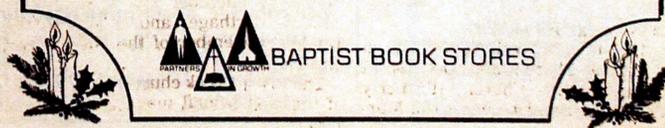
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**BIBLE BOOK SERIES**

Lesson for Nov. 17

# God's plan for evil leaders

By Fred M. Wood  
full-time author, preacher, teacher  
Memphis

Basic Passage: Ezekiel 33:1 to 36:38  
Focal Passages: Ezekiel 34:2-6, 15-16, 22-25

Though we should avoid being constant critics with a sour attitude, especially of our leaders, we nevertheless are responsible for understanding what type of people guide us in our political life. We must evaluate the policies that govern our country, since we, unlike ancient Israel, have the privilege of going to the ballot box regularly to choose our leaders.



Wood

Thus far Ezekiel, in our studies, has majored on stern warnings. First, he told his own people of coming judgment. Then he warned the nations they would not escape punishment for their sins.

Beginning with chapter 33, however, he became almost exclusively a prophet of hope. Since he realized the people had become tired and discouraged, he pointed to the future with optimism. But he also realized that they must show enough maturity to take responsibility for their actions, especially when they returned to their homeland.

Some of his deepest insights are found in these chapters. His message was twofold: First, they must continue to make a comfortable adjustment in Babylon. Second, they could and should look forward to the future with confidence.

**Picture of selfish leaders (34:2-6)**

Greedy and irresponsibility are reprehensible wherever we find them, but when leaders are guilty of these traits, we find it even more tragic. Many times, when a nation continues to go deeper in sin, the fault can be laid at the feet of those who should be leading them to a better life.

Already, Ezekiel has spoken against the religious leaders. In chapter 34, he speaks against the kings. He takes a look backward at four centuries of Israel's history and places blame for the nation's troubles on the rulers whom he calls "shepherds." The term, however, could also apply to others within the governmental system.

Ezekiel's words in this chapter are probably the most politically oriented in all of his ministry. He believed political power was a necessary part of human life, but he also contended it should be exercised in a way that is consistent with God's concern for human values.

Look at Israel's leaders! They placed first among their priorities the satisfying of their own material needs, feeling their constituency's first obligation was to bring them personal security and comfort. Exploiting everyone at will, they had no sense of responsible ministry. The fact that some were weak and unable to cope in society meant nothing to them. Since the sheep had no shepherd, they were scattered everywhere, and no one even put forth an effort to find them.

Jesus, no doubt, had Ezekiel's words in mind when He saw the multitude and was moved with compassion because they were as sheep who had shepherds (Matthew 9:36). God declared that He was the enemy to those who acted this way toward people for whom they were responsible.

**The caring shepherd (34:15-16)**

Beginning with verse 11, God, through Ezekiel, tells how He will search out His sheep and rescue them from their places of danger. He will bring them into their own land and feed them. He Himself will be the Shepherd of the sheep, seeking the lost, bringing back the straying, binding up the crippled, strengthening the weak, but destroying the "fat and strong." He will seek to bring justice and equity to all.

**The coming Shepherd (34:22-25)**

The prophet continues the thought of the previous section in verses 17-22, but when he reaches verse 23, he introduces a new thought. God will set up a new Shepherd Who will rule over them and take care of their needs. He calls this new leader "my servant David." This is, of course, the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

This message requires the New Testament for its ultimate fulfillment. Christ paid the price for our sins and arose from the grave. He now sits on David's throne, in a spiritual sense, ruling in the hearts of those who accept Him as Saviour and Lord. The Lordship of Jesus Christ is the one doctrine that binds all believers into a spiritual kingdom. The New Testament tells us that those who are in Christ have received the promises made to Abraham (Galatians 3:29). The true seed of Abraham is not national Israel, but, according to Paul, it is Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16).

We who are in Christ are in God's kingdom now, not at some later date! Hallelujah, what a Saviour! Hallelujah, what a King!

**UNIFORM LESSON SERIES**

Lesson for Nov. 17

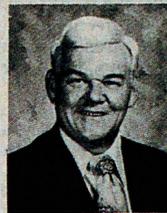
# Things worth remembering

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

Basic Passage: 2 Timothy  
Focal Passages: 2 Timothy 1:1-7; 3:10-17

The lesson title is intriguing. It suggests that some things are worth remembering. By implication, it also suggests that some things are best forgotten.

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he said that he thanked God for every remembrance of them (1:3). In that same letter, however, he talked about "forgetting what lies behind" (3:13). There are occasions for remembering and for forgetting.



Irby

The lesson for this week is from 2 Timothy, a personal letter from Paul to Timothy, his young fellow-worker. The letter reflects Paul nearing the end of his life's journey. In this, his last letter, he wrote: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (4:6-7).

Prior to his departure, however, he looked back over his and Timothy's life and ministry together and wrote about things worth remembering.

**What Paul remembered (1:1-7)**

Paul had several good memories about Timothy. He used the term four times in these seven verses.

First, he remembered to pray for Timothy. "I remember you constantly in my prayers" were his words (v.3). Perhaps this is the true indicator of our love for others. Do we care enough to pray for others, by name, on a regular basis? Our best and most effective prayers are those that we pray for others.

**Second, Paul remembered Timothy's**

## University of Richmond to seek new president

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— E. Bruce Heilman, president of the University of Richmond since 1971, will become chancellor effective Sept. 1, 1986. He will continue as president until he assumes the role of chancellor.

A search committee is expected to select a new president by Sept. 1, 1986.

Heilman is only the fifth president in the university's 155-year history. He was president of Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., from 1966-71. He also had been coordinator of higher education for the state of Tennessee.

tears (v.4). Whether or not he had reference to a particular incident we do not know. Could it be a reference to tears they had shed together in ministry, or to a time of parting? Acts 20:17-38 tells of Paul's farewell speech to the elders of the church at Ephesus, where he and Timothy had served for three years. In it he referred to his ministry among them as "serving the Lord with all humility and with tears" (v.19). Had Timothy shared in these tears of concern? Are these the tears of Timothy that Paul remembered?

Third, Paul remembered Timothy's sincere faith (v.5). The word "sincere" in Greek is a word meaning "unhypocritical." There was no pretense, no hypocrisy, in Timothy's faith. It was genuine, for real.

Fourth, Paul remembered, rather, reminded Timothy to rekindle the gift that he had received from God (v.6). He did not identify the gift, but his statement in verse seven suggests that the gift might have been related to a "spirit of power and love and self-control" (RSV) which was given by God. Paul's advice to Timothy, then, was: "Don't forget to cultivate and stir up your God-given talents and gifts."

**What Timothy should remember (3:10-17)**

Paul wanted Timothy to remember Paul: his teaching, his conduct, his purpose in life, his faith, his patience, and his sufferings (vv.10-11).

What a legacy of things worth remembering! Not only things worth remembering, but a person worth remembering! No doubt Paul was thinking about his approaching death, and he wanted Timothy's remembrances of him to be a source of motivation and inspiration in his continuing ministry. This reminds us that by touching and shaping others' lives, we live on beyond death.

The writer would like to acknowledge the influence on his life of a few people in a small town Baptist church that he attended during the days of his childhood and youth — two godly women, one a Sunday School teacher and the other the church training (BTU) director; a pastor; some devout deacons; and his own mother. Because of their love for me and their prayers and encouragement, they still live today in my life and ministry.

Paul also desired that Timothy remember the truths that he had learned from the Scriptures (vv.14-17). Timothy was blessed in having known the Scriptures from his childhood, perhaps through the influence of his mother and grandmother (1:5). The Scriptures, Paul reminded Timothy and us, lead us to salvation and are profitable to us in many ways. "Every inspired Scripture has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, for reformation of manners and discipline in right living, so that the man who belongs to God may be efficient and equipped for good work of every kind" (vv.16-17 NEB).

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**LIFE AND WORK SERIES**  
Lesson for Nov. 17

# Affirming ultimate loyalties

By Paul Woodford, pastor  
First Baptist Church, Lewisburg

Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 12:1-25

Focal Passages: 1 Samuel 12:7, 12-15, 19-20, 22

There should never have to be a question as to where a believer's loyalties are pointed. Yet in life and in new environments, loyalties are put to the test.

On a previous occasion (chapter 8) the children of Israel had asked for a king to lead them, and the reason given by them was a familiar one to all of us: "Everyone is doing it."

They said it thus: "We will have a king over us, that we also may be like all other nations" (1 Samuel 8:19b-20).

Samuel's defense of his reign as a judge would indicate that he felt personal rejection because of the people's request. But it is to his credit that he turned to the Lord for wisdom and understanding, thereby learning that it was God, not himself, that the people were rejecting. Having made his personal defense, Samuel more objectively sets forth in summary the theological principles upon which God will deal with His people under their newly chosen system of government, an earthly king.



Woodford

God's past dealings attest to His faithfulness (12:7)

Samuel may invite criticism from the children of Israel of his own actions as judge over Israel, but he makes it clear that God is not on trial for His dealings with Israel; rather he makes Israel the defendant. He invites the children of Israel to "stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord of all the righteous acts of the Lord, which He did to you and to your fathers."

God's record is unimpeachable and attest to His faithfulness to them in spite of their sin and rebellion. A focused look at God's past dealings always helps a follower to gain his bearings in any environment and under any circumstance. Even so, Samuel calls the children of Israel to this reflection about the ultimate source of their help.

God deals with His followers through freedom (12:12-15)

Samuel reiterates the manner of God's dealing with the children of Israel through Israelite history to refresh their memories as to God's devotion to allowing His followers the exercise of their free will. Furthermore he underscores the judgment that comes from wrong choices.

In verse 12, he seems to use sarcasm to point out that the crisis of enemy attack should have turned them to repentance and faith in God, but instead they asked again for a king. He underscores the fact that king and people alike are subject to God as to the outcome of their choice to obey or disobey God.

Obedience is the Lord's rightful expectation (v.14) and the implication is that it will issue in good for the king and the people. But failure to obey God's voice will bring God into the role of enemy to king and people (v.15). King and people, under God, have freedom of choice but are responsible for the consequences of their choices.

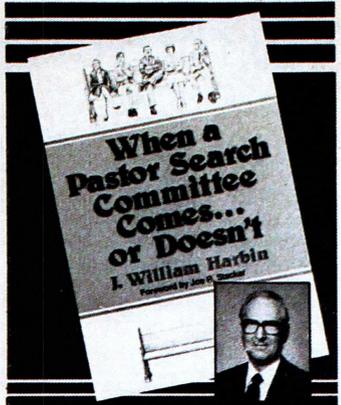
God's faithfulness is always greater (12:19-20, 22)

Samuel's weather miracle as recorded in verse 18 brought the people to a spirit of repentance about asking for a king. But Samuel makes it clear that the issue is greater than a king. The issue is ultimate loyalties, and Samuel makes it clear that their part is to be loyal to God above king or circumstance. He assures them that they may have been wrong to ask for a king, but God has granted them this freedom and that God can even work through this new leader.

The people feared that their independence in asking for a king would mean rejection by the Lord, but Samuel makes it clear that simply because God is Who He is, He will bring His purpose to fruition through these people as they are faithful to Him. They may of their own freedom and volition stray, but God will hold the way ever open for them to return to the Lord. Another writer concludes that "God can work out His purpose even when His people refuse to follow His leadership."

God's relationship to those whom He by His free grace and mercy chooses to be in special relationship with Him is greater than anyone's faithfulness or unfaithfulness. God always finds a faithful remnant who reaffirms their loyalty through repentance and faith. Such allegiance is far greater than any political allegiance; it is the ultimate loyalty, loyalty to Jehovah God.

Leaders are important. Leaders are good if God ordains. But the best of human leaders fall short of being worthy of our ultimate loyalty. Only one deserves our ultimate loyalty, and that One is God in Christ. The hymn writer was correct when he wrote: "We'll soon possess the land, thro' loyalty... to Christ." Let your ultimate loyalty be to the ultimate Lord, Jesus Christ.



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# North Korean Christians survive, visitors say

By Erich Bridges

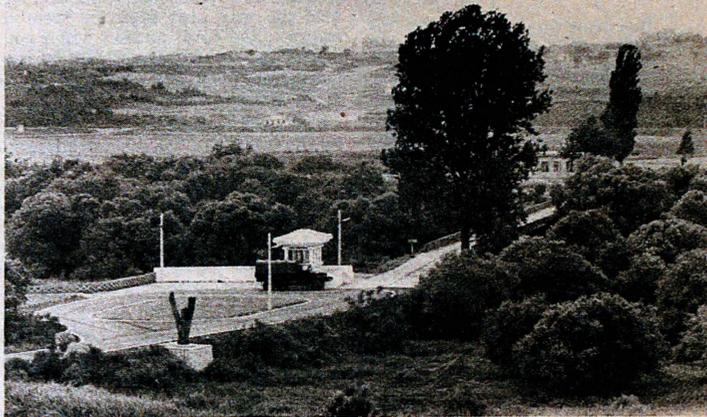
PANMUNJOM, Korea (BP) — Once the strongest Christian churches in Korea flourished in the north. Today, while Christianity thrives in South Korea, visitors say not a single church building stands north of the 38th parallel.

The Communist North Korean government claims enemy bombs destroyed the churches during the Korean War. But outsiders charge that the churches — and the people inside them — fell victim not only to war but to unrelenting Communist persecution.

Many Christians in North Korea fled south after World War II. Many more left during the Korean War or died in the conflict. Others, as family members now in the south or abroad testify, were imprisoned or killed for their faith. Then a wall of silence encircled the North Korean church.

Are there any Christians left? Recent American visitors to North Korea say yes. At least three church-related groups from the United States traveled to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, last year and met with members of the tiny, government-approved Korean Christian Federation. The federation is said to represent just 5,000 believers nationwide out of a total North Korean population of 20-million.

But the federation's president told visiting American Paul Wee, Lutheran World Ministries general secretary, "There are a great many more (Christians) . . . The church is growing. Although we have only 15 ordained pastors, there is now a three-year seminary course and seven new pastors are being trained. We have produced a new hymn-



**BRIDGE OF NO RETURN** — The "bridge of no return" crosses into North Korea at Panmunjom, where North Korean and United Nations forces have maintained an often tense truce since the Korean War. Recent visitors claim Christianity survives in North Korea even though not a single church building stands today.

nal and a new translation of the New Testament. The Old Testament will be printed in a few months."

Christians worship in about 70 home meeting places, say federation leaders. Westerners have visited a few of the meetings, though always accompanied by representatives of the Korean Cultural Society for Foreign Countries, the advisory body to the government which issues invitations to foreigners.

The national Constitution declares "citizens have religious liberty and the

freedom of anti-religious propaganda."

North Korean Christian representatives have been allowed to attend a few conferences overseas. In May, a North Korean delegation visited China at the invitation of the China Christian Council, which has sponsored Bible printing for Koreans living in northeastern China. It was reportedly the first face-to-face encounter between Chinese and North Korean Christians in a generation.

Foreign observers disagree about whether the North Korean church repre-

sentatives now visible are courageous believers or helpless public relations tools in the hands of an anti-Christian government out to remold foreign opinion. The debate resembles the international controversies that have raged around government-registered churches in China and the Soviet Union. But given North Korea's self-imposed isolation, far less information exists to support either side.

United Church of Christ mission leader Paul Gregory, another recent visitor to North Korea, offers this perspective: "It obviously is a very weak church. It's very difficult on the basis of a very brief and admittedly superficial contact to make any judgments . . . They are people who have been pretty heavily oppressed over the last 30 years and are obviously people of deep faith. They have persisted in identifying themselves as Christians in a country where that is exceedingly unpopular."

The dominant belief system in North Korea flows from the state. It centers on Kim Il Sung, known as the "Great Leader," who has ruled the nation since the 1940s. Every citizen wears a Kim Il Sung badge or button. His status as all-knowing, all-loving father of the nation is drilled into all North Koreans from childhood. Kim's son and heir apparent, the "Dear Leader," Kim Jong Il, is now receiving similar adoration.

Christian observers hope the younger Kim, if and when he takes over, will allow Christians to increase their tentative opening to the outside world. If he does, perhaps the world will discover a church which has not only endured, but prevailed.

## Mexico earthquakes spawn church-starting project

MEXICO CITY (BP) — Amid the rubble of two major earthquakes, Mexico City Baptists have launched a project challenging every Baptist church in the city to organize a new church during the next year.

The "September 19th Project" — named for the date of the first two earthquakes which struck Mexico City — emerged as Baptists recognized the many new opportunities for ministry beyond immediate earthquake relief work.

"We don't know if we'll start 40 churches or 60 churches, and we don't know if we'll see a bunch of them organized in the very month of the anniversary of the earthquake, or whether some will organize in nine months and others in a year and a half," said Southern Baptist Representative Craig Johnson, urban missions director for the National Baptist Convention of Mexico. "We're not going to impose on them some kind of artificial deadline."

But Johnson said he hopes Mexico City's 55 Baptist churches will see the project not just as something to start, "but as something to finish as well. We have faith that God is going to start the churches. We hope the number will be at least 50. He may be planning on many more."

Johnson designed the project proposal with Raul Castellanos, a Mexican Baptist layman and treasurer of the Baptist convention. The convention's Executive Committee quickly approved the plan. It fits in with Mexican Baptists' national goal of growing to 2,000 churches by the year 2000. There were 556 churches at the end of 1984.

Mexican Baptists already were aiming to start 100 churches nationwide by the end of 1986. In light of the many needs and opportunities created by the earthquakes, the even more ambitious goal of 50 new churches in Mexico City alone is seen as realistic.

Mexico City pastors met for a project kick-off breakfast Oct. 12, the morning after Southern Baptist representative James Philpot was shot and killed following a traffic accident. Johnson considered canceling the breakfast after

hearing of the shooting, but several Mexican pastors urged him to go ahead with the meeting.

According to Johnson, the whole tone of the meeting was conditioned by Philpot's death. Many arrived for breakfast not knowing of the tragedy, but as they became aware of it, "God took hold of the meeting and gave a real spirit of solidarity," he said. "Everyone sensed that God had placed them in a very special hour in history, and that one of God's special servants had given his life for the Christian cause in Mexico."

## Wardin notes historians' perils

Anyone attempting to write a church history will face many perils but the effort will be rewarded, according to Albert Wardin, history professor at Belmont College, Nashville.

Wardin, speaking to the fall meeting of the Middle Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, listed four perils for the writer of a church history. Sources that may be unavailable or questionable headed the list. Wardin cited his own experience of writing a local church history with almost no minutes of the church in existence before rather recent years.

The professor also raised the question of whether to report or ignore scandals in a church's history. In most cases, he advised, they are better left unreported unless the story helps explain the development of a church.

If histories are meant to be nothing more than public relations brochures, the writer must contend with the peril of superficiality. Wardin noted that a his-

tory ought to be credible but, on the other hand, it need not be bland or dry.

The fourth peril, which Wardin called "solidification," is the difficulty of reporting current experiences of a church. Too often, the present appears to be nothing more than statistics and organizational lists without anecdotes or color.

Even with such obstacles to surmount, the writing of a local church history rewards one with the satisfaction of having informed others of their heritage, Wardin claimed.

In a business session, the society elected Wardin as president, Kathy Grenga as vice-president and program chairman, and Pat Brown as secretary.

The Middle Tennessee Baptist Historical Society will meet again Jan. 21 for lunch during the Tennessee Baptist Evangelism Conference. Fred Kendall, former executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will speak.

Responding to challenges from several Mexican Baptist leaders, 40 pastors publicly committed themselves and their churches to the project. Johnson believes many pastors unable to attend will make commitments later.

Some churches already have begun working to meet their goals. Members of Zion Baptist Church joined Johnson and a group of Southern Baptist volunteers from Texas for four hours of home visiting. They led 20 people to faith in Christ and started three home Bible studies.

Jesus Leon, a Baptist layman and Christian bookstore owner, has committed himself to closing his store for half a day on Saturdays so it can be used as a preaching center. Several churches have set goals to begin more than one church during the coming year.

In other earthquake-related developments, Southern Baptist Representative Eldon Sturgeon completed a survey of deaths and damage suffered by Mexico City Baptists. Three Baptists are now known dead: 22-year-old Noemi Avila Betancur, a nurse earlier reported missing and presumed dead in the ruins of a hospital; Angel Alfaro, a 17-year-old student; and Jose Luna Marin, a sailor whose age was unknown.

Four Baptist families lost their homes. Four Baptists saw their businesses destroyed or severely damaged. Five others lost their jobs.

Nazareth Baptist Church was extensively damaged, as was a house used for worship by a mission of the Light of the World Baptist Church. At least seven other Baptist churches sustained minor damages.