

# Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## TBC votes record goal, graduate degrees 1,504 messengers attend 111th annual convention

By Al Shackelford

MEMPHIS — Messengers to the 111th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention adopted a record Cooperative Program mission giving budget; approved program statement changes which allow graduate programs at TBC colleges; and defeated a challenge to a nomination from the Committee on Committees.

The convention met Nov. 19-21 at Memphis' First Baptist Church. Registration was 1,504 messengers — the smallest since the 1982 TBC.

In other actions, the messengers approved five resolutions, including one in support of the Peace Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention; referred two proposed bylaw amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee;

and elected James McCluskey, pastor of Knoxville's Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, as TBC president. Also elected were vice-president, Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, and second vice-president, J. B. Morris, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pulaski.

The Cooperative Program budget-goal for the November 1985-October 1986 convention year was set at \$21-million — a 7.01 percent increase above the \$19,625,000 goal for last year and a 7.39 percent increase above the actual receipts of \$19,555,062.57 for the 1984-85 convention year.

The new budget will increase the percentage shared with missions and

ministries supported by the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program from 36.5 to 36.75 percent.

As approved by the convention, the new budget also includes 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  
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CHORALE — The Tennessee Baptist Chorale, composed of ministers of music in TBC churches, sang for the Tuesday evening session of last week's state convention at First Baptist Church, Memphis.

## Crowders to proceed with bylaws lawsuit

By Dan Martin

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — A group headed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder of Birmingham, Ala., will proceed with the filing of a lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention.

Crowder told Baptist Press the group — "Baptists Committed to Fairness" — "has instructed its attorneys, Bondurant, Mixson, and Elmore of Atlanta, to proceed with the filing of a suit to enforce the existing bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The Birmingham layman declined to name others involved in the group, but said he and other representatives were planning to meet with attorney Emmet J. Bondurant in Atlanta Nov. 22 to discuss the suit, including the specific complaint, who will be named as defendants, and in which court — state or federal — the suit will be filed.

Crowder said "Baptists Committed to Fairness" are from "several states" but declined to comment further "because that is involved in the drafting of the complaint." Earlier, Crowder had indicated the suit may be a "class action," which seeks to have a number of persons join the complaint.

He said "it is expected the suit will be

filed in a court in Georgia in late November or early December," noting the SBC is a Georgia corporation.

Bondurant told Baptist Press the suit could be filed either in federal district court or in Fulton County Superior Court. "That decision will be made when we have our conference with Mr. Crowder and the other plaintiffs."

The focus of Crowder's complaint is Bylaw 16 of the Southern Baptist Convention, which says members of the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees "shall be nominated" by the convention's Committee on Committees.

During the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC, June 11-13, in Dallas, SBC President Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta, ruled challenges to the nominations of the Committee on Committees must be made one by one. His ruling was overturned by a ballot vote (12,576 to 11,801).

Subsequently, on the advice of Parliamentarian Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church of Memphis, Stanley said nominations may come only from the Committee on Committees and ruled further efforts to amend the report out of order. Amid near pandemonium, the Committee on Boards slate of nominees was elected 13,123 to 9,581.

Crowder has claimed the interpretation and rulings on Bylaw 16 violated his rights as a messenger. The Crowders and Bondurant appeared at the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee, seeking to have the body overturn the action of the convention. The Executive Committee, after an executive session, voted to "affirm" the actions of the convention.

In late October and early November  
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## Tennessee disaster units assist hurricane victims

A disaster relief team and units of the Tennessee Baptist Convention left Brentwood at 2 p.m. Friday (Nov. 22) for Apalachicola, Fla., to help in feeding victims of Hurricane Kate.

Archie King, TBC Brotherhood director, said that the team arrived in time to set up in Battery Park and Marina and serve about 1,000 meals on Saturday, 3,000 meals on Sunday, and over 1,000 meals Monday morning.

A second Tennessee team arrived over the weekend.

King had received a call from the Red Cross on Friday morning, asking for assistance in providing basic needs for those left homeless by the 100-mph winds and heavy rains which struck the Florida Gulf Coast last Thursday.

King said the Red Cross asked the Tennessee units to bring as many meals as possible, because Red Cross supplies had been depleted by recent disasters caused by tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods.

The van with a trailer and accompanying truck were loaded with approximately 10,000 meals, as well as blankets, first aid supplies, and personal health items. The team also took chain saws to assist in the removal of uprooted trees.

As of Monday, 15 Tennesseans were working in the area. They were expected to serve breakfast on Tuesday of this week before returning to Tennessee.

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### Major TBC stories inside

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## TBC votes record goal...

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section will be distributed on a pro rata basis.

The messengers also approved a recommendation from the Executive Board to amend the program statements of the three TBC colleges 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 action taken at last week's convention, graduate programs will not be approved unless these degrees "meet appropriate standards of quality, financial support, and denominational service."

For the first time in the memory of longtime convention attendees, a nomination from the Committee on Committees was challenged on the convention floor. When the committee's nominations were presented, Robert Sharp, pastor of Knoxville's Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church, was nominated from the floor to oppose the committee's nomination of Ruth O'Leary, a member of First Baptist Church, South Pittsburg, to the TBC Committee on Boards. The challenge was explained because two other members of O'Leary's church serve on TBC standing committees.

The messengers accepted the nomination of O'Leary and then approved the Committee on Committees' entire report.

The nomination was challenged after the messengers earlier had referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee a bylaw amendment from J. C. Parrott, pastor of Black Oak Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville, related to this issue. The amendment would have added to the duties of both the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Boards a restriction that "no church be represented by more than one member at any time."

Another proposed amendment to the bylaws was also referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The committee had recommended that the Committee on Committees nominate only temporary chairmen for the committees who had served at least one year on that committee.

The messengers did approve on second reading an amendment to the Constitution that convention "officers shall be resident members of cooperating Baptist churches." The change is to add the word "resident" to the current Constitution.

The convention approved five resolutions which: acknowledged the unique ministry of the late Jonas L. Stewart, encouraged churches to use Homecoming '86 activities during the 1986 simultaneous revivals; opposed pari-mutuel gambling; expressed gratitude and support for the Peace Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention; and expressed gratitude to all contributing to the state convention's annual meeting.

The messengers also approved a motion by Johnny Johnson of Trinity Baptist Church, Clarksville, that a time of prayer for the SBC Peace Committee be held during the state convention. May called on Johnson to lead this prayer.

In other actions, the messengers voted to dedicate the 1985 convention annual to George Capps, the late associate director of the SBC Education Commission, and to Wendell Price, who retired this year after 20 years as TBC Sunday School department director.

The messengers approved a recommendation from the Historical Committee that \$5,000 be allocated for the collection

of Tennessee Baptist archives by the three TBC colleges.

The convention heard a report from J. L. (Pete) Ford, interim executive director of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, that TBAH had secured the services of Willis Bennett, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., to conduct a feasibility study which was authorized by the 1983 state convention.



**BOARD OFFICERS** — Elected as officers by the TBC Executive Board were president, Calvin Metcalf (left); vice-president, Marshall Gupton (right); and secretary, Mike Madewell (center).

## Metcalf to lead Executive Board

**MEMPHIS** — Calvin Metcalf of Knoxville was elected president of the TBC Executive Board at a Nov. 20 meeting during the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He is pastor of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City.

Other nominees for the board's presidency were Hoyt Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington, and Paul Bryant, pastor of North Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson.

The other two Executive Board officers — both elected without opposition — are vice-president, Marshall Gupton, pastor of Una Baptist Church, Nashville, and Secretary Mike Madewell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Byrdstown.

No other business items were considered at either the board's Nov. 18 pre-convention meeting or the Nov. 20 organizational meeting.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be Dec. 12-13 in Brentwood.

## Jackson to host 1988 convention

The 1988 Tennessee Baptist Convention will be held at Jackson Civic Center, Jackson.

By approving recommendations from the Committee on Arrangements, the 1988 state convention will be hosted by Madison-Chester Baptist Association. The date will be Nov. 15-17, 1988.

The messengers named Dillard A. Mynt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, to preach the sermon at the 1988 convention. The alternate will be Dennis Pulley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ripley.

According to an earlier TBC action, next year's convention will be held Nov. 11-13, 1986, at Freedom Hall in Johnson City.



**PARTNERS** — Jacobo Garcia (left), executive secretary of the Venezuela Baptist Convention and his wife, Sara, present to Tom Madden (second from left), executive secretary-treasurer of the TBC; and Jack May (right), president of the TBC, a tapestry for Tennessee Baptists to mark the beginning of the partnership between the country and state.

## Crowders plan lawsuit...

(Continued from page 1)

The Executive Committee's Bylaws Workgroup conducted two telephone conference calls and announced they will present an amendment to Bylaw 16 when the Executive Committee meets Feb. 17-19, 1986, in Nashville.

The amendment will allow further nominations from the floor, but limits nominations to one per messenger, thus eliminating the proposal of alternate slates.

Crowder and Bondurant were critical of the Bylaws Workgroup action, as well as the Executive Committee's response to the complaint.

"The... amendment imposes even greater restrictions on the messengers than did Dr. Stanley's ruling in Dallas," Crowder said. "As a practical matter, this proposal effectively blocks all power of the SBC messengers to amend the report..."

Bondurant said there currently are 54 members of the Committee on Boards and to amend "would require 54 people making 54 separate nominations. As a practical matter, it could never be successfully amended unless the convention is prepared to stay convened for several weeks and to devote sufficient time to this matter."

Crowder said because the Executive Committee "affirmed" the actions of the Dallas convention, and the SBC Peace Committee "has announced its decision to address doctrinal questions first, it does not appear that any of the issues concerning the integrity of the SBC bylaws will be addressed within the SBC before the Atlanta convention," June 10-12, 1986.

"For these reasons, 'Baptists Committed to Fairness' feel that all remedies within SBC procedures have been exhausted. The SBC Executive Committee must now bear the responsibility for the fact that the bylaw violations must be remedied by a court decree, rather than by action from within the SBC," Crowder added.

Bondurant said that the suit "will probably" name the SBC, and the Executive Committee, which is incorporated in Tennessee. It might name Stanley, Allen, or others, he said, adding "there are a number of other possibilities."

Southern Baptist leaders from the left and the right generally have responded with "regret" that Crowder has instructed his attorney to proceed with the lawsuit.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church

of Atlanta, told Baptist Press: "My feeling is Mr. Crowder has expressed his views and others have expressed their views and it seems at this point there is no agreement. We would prefer it not to go to court for the sake of the whole Southern Baptist Convention and our image before the nation but if he insists on doing so, then that is the course we will have to take."

Allen said, "It grieves my heart and I think it grieves God's heart. This is an unscriptural way to handle matters between brothers... and is a bad expenditure of missions money, both from the Crowder's side and from our side."

## Disaster team...

(Continued from page 1)

Accompanying King on Friday were:

—Lyndell and Virginia Bunn, Harold Pinkley, and Jim Hadley of First Baptist Church, Humboldt;

—Bobby Brown of First Baptist Church, Trenton;

—Toy Poyner of New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Dyer; and

—Richard Todd of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

On the second team which arrived late Sunday or early Monday were:

—Bob Armour, Robert Pinkston, and Lloyd Dyer of First Baptist Church, Troy;

—Harold Waggener and Hollis Littrell of Mt. Pelia Baptist Church, Martin;

—L. B. McClain of Lantana Road Baptist Church, Crossville; and

—Donald Steerman of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Crossville.

Apalachicola is located on the Florida Gulf Coast, about halfway between Panama City and Tallahassee.

King said that the Tennessee team is also providing food which is being taken by boat to the stranded residents of St. George Island.

Disaster teams from the Alabama and Mississippi Baptist conventions were also helping in the area, King said.

Hurricane Kate — the 11th tropical storm of the season — hit the Florida Panhandle on Thursday with high winds and tides about 10 feet above normal. Panama City officials said that 8.2 inches of rain fell within a 12-hour period.

More than 100,000 residents in the path of the storm had fled the area for the fourth time in as many months.

Reports indicate that Hurricane Kate had caused up to 10 deaths in Cuba and up to seven deaths in the United States.

# Messengers elect McCluskey as president

By Connie Davis

MEMPHIS — James McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention last week, defeating Charles W. Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City.

Sullivan, in turn, was elected vice-president, and Bill Morris, who was also nominated as vice-president, was elected as second vice-president. Morris is pastor of First Baptist Church, Pulaski.

McCluskey was nominated by John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, who noted McCluskey's involvement in Tennessee Baptist organizational life.

Sullivan was nominated for president by Jerry Glisson, pastor of Leewood Baptist Church, Memphis, who noted endorsements from Adrian Rogers and the

late Jonas Stewart. Sullivan was nominated for vice-president by Lloyd Bardowell, pastor of Bell Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville. Sidney Waits, pastor of Hickory Hills Baptist Church, Memphis, nominated Morris.

Another nominee for president, Leonard Markham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, asked that his name be withdrawn from nomination.

Also nominated for second vice-president was John Carpenter, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

McCluskey, a native of Chattanooga, has served the Knoxville church for 26 years. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Previous pastorates include two churches in Kentucky.

McCluskey has served as a trustee of East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Carson-Newman College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and as moderator of the Knox County Association of Baptists. For the Tennessee Baptist Convention, McCluskey has served as president of the Executive Board and is currently serving on the Trustee/Executive Board Interrelationship Study Committee; Program, Personnel, and Planning Task Force; and Conference Center Committee.

Sullivan has served the Lenoir City church since 1982 and other churches in Memphis, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. A native of Missouri, he is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.; Baylor University, Waco, Texas; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Sullivan has served as a trustee of two Baptist colleges, president of the Shelby County Baptist Association's Pastors' Conference, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference. He has

been a member of the SBC Committee on Committees and is currently a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Morris, a native of Alabama, has served his church in Pulaski since 1981. Previously he was superintendent of the Baptist children's home of Franklin. He has also served as pastor of churches in Hixson and Dayton, and in Kentucky and Alabama. A graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Morris has served as moderator of the Tennessee Valley Association of Baptists and as an extension teacher for Samford University and the Seminary External Education Division, SBC. For the TBC, Morris has served on the Executive Board and Program Committee.

Re-elected were Pat Porter, Brentwood, as registration secretary; Wallace Anderson, Nashville, recording and statistical secretary; and Tom Madden, executive secretary of the TBC Executive Board, as treasurer.

## Moderates, conservatives hold late night meetings

By Al Shackelford

MEMPHIS — Both "moderates" and "conservatives" held late night meetings while the Tennessee Baptist Convention was meeting in Memphis last week.

Moderates gathered for an informal "come-and-go" fellowship on Monday night (Nov. 18) at Second Baptist Church. There were no speakers nor program, as the estimated 50 attendees partook of coffee, soft drinks, and doughnuts.

The sign on the door at Second Baptist Church labeled the meeting as "Friends of TBC."

After the Tuesday night session, Bellevue Baptist Church hosted a gathering of the "Tennessee Baptist Conservative Fellowship." Attendance was estimated between 200 and 250.

The announced agenda was refreshments; a devotional by Bellevue Pastor Adrian Rogers; and a panel composed of Rogers; Wayne Allen, pastor of Memphis' Briarcrest Baptist Church; and TBC President Jack May, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis. However, May did not attend.

In his opening remarks, Rogers said the purpose of the meeting was "just to have fellowship in the Lord Jesus and to pray for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention."

Following special music, Rogers brought a 30-minute devotional from Ephesians 1, noting that a happy, wholesome Christian needs — and in Christ has — significance, sufficiency, and security. During his devotional, Rogers made no mention of the current controversy in the denomination.

"Christianity is more than behavior modification," Rogers said. "If you do that, you have legalism. There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more or any less."

In introducing the discussion period, Rogers announced, "We want to discuss the convention, who we are, and where we are going."

Rogers, a former SBC president who is a member of the SBC Peace Committee, said, "We are at a point that I don't know what is going to happen. I am afraid we are going to have a spiritual letdown after Dallas," with a temptation "to sit this one (1986 SBC) out." He urged the at-

tenders — which included some known "moderates" — to "go to Atlanta prayed up with a full allowance of messengers ... to stand for Christ and the Bible."

Although he emphasized he was not the spokesman for the Peace Committee, Rogers said there is a great spirit on the committee, characterized by frankness, openness, and good fellowship.

He said the first decision of the committee was that the problem is not political, but theological. "Politics has come because of theological tensions," he added.

Rogers said that the Peace Committee had also agreed that the theological problem is inspiration of the Bible, not ordination of women nor pre-millennialism; that the Baptist Faith and Message statement is the standard; and that this statement declares that the Bible is "truth without any mixture of error" in all subjects, including history, science, and philosophy.

The Bellevue pastor observed that the denomination must face these questions: How can we cooperate with people we differ with?; Are the things that unite us greater than the things that divide us?; and Are some things negotiable?

"We need people on the other side, and they need us," Rogers said.

Allen, who is a trustee for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, urged the attendees to write to editors, to trustees, and to denominational leaders. "The people who are accountable to you are the trustees, not the administrators."

The discussion shifted to the TBC when Guy Milam, pastor of Knoxville's North Knoxville Baptist Church, expressed "real concern about the nominees from the (TBC) Committee on Committees. All we want is fair and equitable representation."

Rogers interrupted to remind attendees that this is not a strategy meeting but was just to answer questions.

However, Pete Roberts, pastor of Holywood Hills Baptist Church in Knoxville and a member of the Committee on Committees, continued the issue by observing that two churches had several nominees from that committee.

When Roberts finished, Rogers adjourned the meeting and called on Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, to lead the closing prayer.



**NEW TBC OFFICERS** — The new officers elected last week in Memphis are (from left to right) Charles W. Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, vice-president; James McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, president; and Bill Morris, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pulaski, second vice-president.

## Baptists offer food, shelter to Buenos Aires' homeless

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP) — Flood waters continued to rise Nov. 21 as Baptists fed and sheltered families driven from their homes in what some Argentine officials are calling the worst flooding in the history of Buenos Aires province.

"About 22,000 people are officially evacuated," said Southern Baptist Missionary Sarah Wilson, who is assisting in the ministry to flood victims. "That means probably about twice that number evacuated on their own. We have five different Baptist centers (in the city of Buenos Aires) serving as a place to receive the people. They're sleeping overnight and being fed."

Southern Baptist missionaries and Argentine Baptists are working in cooperation with provincial civil defense forces, who are handling evacuation efforts.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board sent \$5,000 in hunger relief funds Nov. 21 to buy food for homeless families crowding into the Baptist centers. The board sent \$10,000 earlier in the month to

pay for mattresses, blankets, and roofing for victims of earlier flooding.

"After we get more definite facts, we'll probably ask for some more (money)," Wilson said. "Civil defense has been giving food pretty well up until now, but they're running out." She added that students from International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires also are bringing food and clothing to the shelters.

Wilson said 13 people had been killed so far by the latest flooding, which was caused by weeks of heavy rains in Buenos Aires province. Areas west of the capital city of Buenos Aires have suffered especially heavy damage. Water has submerged houses in some areas, and one town was "completely eliminated," Wilson said. Western and southern suburbs of the capital itself also have sustained heavy damage.

Earlier news reports said rains had flooded at least 10-million acres of land in Buenos Aires province, with property and crop damage estimated at \$1-billion.

## EDITORIAL

## TBC messengers hold peaceful, positive convention

More than 1,500 messengers from Tennessee Baptist churches gathered in Memphis last week and conducted the business of the state convention in a calm, considerate, and non-controversial manner.

Again this year, the missions and ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention dominated the reports and actions of the messengers. Adding to this cooperative spirit were the outstanding messages and special music which created a spiritual atmosphere for the messengers.

The record Cooperative Program mission giving goal of \$21-million is a tangible evidence of our continuing concern for reaching Tennessee and the world with the gospel. This challenging goal is 7.39 percent higher than the \$19,555,062.57 given by Tennesseans to missions through the Cooperative Program during the 1984-85 convention year.

Our worldwide mission concern is seen in that for the ninth consecutive year we increased the percentage shared with the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. Since 1977, that percentage has grown from 33.33 to 36.75 percent.

As an evidence that last week's convention was non-controversial, the messengers used their ballots only in the election of officers — written ballots are required by the Constitution on officer elections. Other matters were settled easily by voice or hand voting.

Two bylaw matters which brought discussion were referred by the messengers to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

In contrast to recent years, the resolutions produced no discussion nor opposition. Four resolutions were presented by the messengers, and these received strong support from the Committee on Resolutions and from the messengers themselves.

The only controversy which surfaced at last week's convention was related to who can serve on various TBC committees and boards — or more specifically, how many people from a single church can serve.

First, an amendment to the bylaws was presented which would have imposed a limit that only one person from any church can serve on any TBC committees or boards. This matter was referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for consideration and report next year.

Then, a nomination from the floor challenged a nomination from the Committee on Committees, because the committee's nomination would mean that three members from one church would be on TBC standing committees. The messengers sustained the committee's nominee.

The election of officers followed — and surpassed — the SBC pattern in June. When James McCluskey was elected as TBC president, the defeated nominee, Charles Sullivan, was then elected vice-president — just like the SBC did with Charles Stanley and Winfred Moore.

Tennessee took this one step further. When Sullivan defeated J. B. Morris for vice-president, Morris was then elected second vice-president.

Perhaps our peaceful state convention may have been a result of the restraint being exercised in Southern Baptist life as requested by the SBC Peace Committee. Certainly, the Peace Committee was on the messengers' minds: a resolution was passed expressing gratitude and support for the committee and a motion was passed that a period of

prayer for the committee be held during the state convention.

Another factor was the exceptional way that the pastor and members of First Baptist Church, Memphis, hosted the convention. Their graciousness and adequate facilities contributed to the harmonious gathering of Tennessee Baptists.

We would also commend President Jack May and the vice-presidents for the gracious, thoughtful way the sessions were conducted. Their spirit was contagious, and helped all of us enjoy the 111th annual TBC.

The 1985 Tennessee Baptist Convention has now become a part of the glorious history of our denomination. Its unity and commitment to cooperation will continue to bear fruit for our Lord in the years ahead.

## SBC politics to Tennessee?

After the Tuesday night session at last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention in Memphis, the "Tennessee Baptist Conservative Fellowship" was hosted by Bellevue Baptist Church.

This is apparently the first gathering of TBC "conservatives," although TBC "moderates" have held after-session meetings at least since 1980. The "moderates" gathered late Monday night at Second Baptist Church for a "come-and-go" fellowship, with no speakers or program.

The "conservative" session featured a devotional by Bellevue Pastor Adrian Rogers, followed by questions and answers on the subject, "The State of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Both gatherings provided refreshments.

We realize the SBC controversy has been a major topic of discussion in the TBC exhibit area and hallways for several years, and this topic led to gatherings — formal and informal — during recent state conventions.

However, the "conservative" fellowship raised a red flag which could have grave consequences for future sessions of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. To our knowledge, this is the first time such gatherings have dealt with TBC "politics."

Back in the early 1970s, Southern Baptists who were concerned with alleged "liberalism" in SBC life formed the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship. This organization issued its own publication (*The Southern Baptist Journal*), produced its own Sunday School literature, formed its own mission board, and encouraged support for non-SBC seminaries.

Later, "conservatives" shifted toward controlling the trustees of SBC institutions by seeking to elect SBC presidents sympathetic with their cause. In SBC life, the president appoints the Committee on Committees, which nominates the Committee on Boards, which nominates trustees.

"Conservative" leaders have acknowledged that this was done because of "cronism" which had put the same people from the same churches on various SBC boards and committees.

These same arguments were used last week in comments made at the Tennessee Baptist Conservative Fellowship in announcing that challenges would be made to the TBC Committee on Committees' nominations which were to be presented the next afternoon.

To Rogers' credit, he adjourned the gathering when this matter was brought up.

When the Committee on Committees' nominations were presented Wednesday afternoon, a nomination was made from the floor to oppose a committee nominee to the Committee on Boards. The justification for the second nomination was that the committee's nominee was from a church which already had one member on a standing committee and another nominee to another standing committee from the same church.

Is it significant that the challenge was to the church member nominated to the *Committee on Boards* — rather than the one nominated to the *Historical Committee*? Obviously, if "cronism" is the concern, the powerful Committee on Boards, which nominated trustees and members to 10 TBC institutions, agencies, the Executive Board, and the Committee on Committees, would be a prime target.

We shudder to consider the future of our state convention, if the SBC brand of politics moves into Tennessee Baptist life — with its political parties, strategy meetings, presidential campaigns, and floor fights between the "conservatives" and the "moderates."

The Tennessee Baptist Convention — as most other state conventions — has been fortunate that SBC political and theological divisions have not interfered with our fellowship and ministries. Let us pray that our state convention will be spared such controversies.

We have seen the cost of controversy and suspicion in our national denominational life. We do not need such division among Tennessee Baptists to divert us from our priority objectives of missions, evangelism, Christian education, and church growth.

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# TBC resolves on Peace Committee, gambling

By Charlie Warren

MEMPHIS — Messengers to the 1985 Tennessee Baptist Convention in Memphis last week approved five resolutions, urging support for the SBC Peace Committee, encouraging churches to combine Homecoming '86 activities with simultaneous revivals, voicing opposition to legalized gambling, honoring Jonas Stewart, and expressing appreciation.

All five resolutions were passed without discussion or opposition after being presented in their final form by the TBC Resolutions Committee, chaired by Wesley Pitts, pastor of First Baptist Church, McKenzie.

Lynn King, pastor of Maplewood Baptist Church, Paris, first presented the resolution supporting the SBC Peace Committee during the Wednesday afternoon business session.

The resolution pledges the messengers' support for the Peace Committee "by praying earnestly that it will be sensitive to the leadership of God; by fostering an atmosphere of love, cooperation, and understanding; and by nurturing an expectant faith in the sufficiency of God to meet every need."

The gambling resolution was presented at the Tuesday morning session by Carl Price, pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church, Nashville. Price, a member of the public affairs and Christian life committee of the TBC Executive Board, is chairman of the subcommittee on gambling issues.

The resolution restates the TBC's "consistent opposition to any form of legalized gambling" and notes that vote for a racing bill is "a vote to legalize betting regardless of rhetoric about 'letting the people decide.'"

The resolution on Homecoming '86 and the simultaneous revivals urges TBC churches to include Tennessee's Homecoming '86 activities, such as dinner on the grounds, hymn sings, outdoor public meetings, and founders celebrations in "Good News Tennessee: God Loves You" simultaneous revival plans set for April 1986.

The resolution was first presented to the convention floor Tuesday morning by Bill Bates, retired development officer at Union University, Jackson. Bates brought the resolution on behalf of the TBC Historical Committee.

Hoyt Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington, introduced the resolution on Jonas Stewart during the Tuesday morning session. Stewart, long active in TBC life, was pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerville, when he died Oct. 6. Earlier, he had served as executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation for 15 years.

The resolution acknowledges "the unique ministry of this man of God to Tennessee Baptists."

The Resolutions Committee also presented a resolution expressing the Memphis convention's gratitude to God; First Baptist Church, Memphis, Jack May; the Committee on Arrangements; the officers and staff of the TBC; individuals who served on committees, boards, and agencies; the city of Memphis; and the news media.

The complete texts of the resolutions, in the order of their adoption, is as follows:

## 1. Dr. Jonas L. Stewart

"WHEREAS, Jonas L. Stewart was born January 17, 1919, in Brownsville, Tennessee, and was born again in 1936,

beginning immediately to preach the gospel; and

"WHEREAS, Jonas L. Stewart was selected by fellow Baptists through the leadership of the Holy Spirit to serve as a preacher for 49 years; pastor of numerous Southern Baptist churches; director of missions, Big Hatchie Association; moderator of Fayette and Carroll-Benton associations; member of the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, for 11 years; trustee, Union University for 18 years; member of most major committees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (1966-67); member of the Committee on Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention; trustee of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; and member of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; and

"WHEREAS, Jonas L. Stewart served for 15 years as executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation; and

"WHEREAS, Jonas L. Stewart fulfilled those tasks with enthusiasm, dedication, and efficiency; and

"WHEREAS, Jonas L. Stewart remained pre-eminently a follower and preacher of the Lord Jesus Christ until called to glory on October 6, 1985.

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the 111th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention join with the trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation in acknowledging the unique ministry of this man of God to Tennessee Baptists."

## 2. Homecoming '86, Good News Tennessee

"WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee will celebrate Homecoming '86 emphasizing the rich and varied heritage of the Volunteer State; and

"WHEREAS, Tennessee Baptist experience marks a significant portion of Tennessee's history; and

"WHEREAS, Tennessee Baptist churches will participate in 'Good News Tennessee: God Loves You' by means of simultaneous revivals during April 6-27, 1986.

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention encourage Tennessee Baptist churches to include homecoming activities such as dinner on the grounds, hymn sings, outdoor public meetings, and founders celebrations in the simultaneous revival activities."

## 3. Legalized gambling

"WHEREAS, the Tennessee Senate has passed a bill intended to legalize wagering on horse races; and

"WHEREAS, the Tennessee House of Representatives will be faced with a decision on 'The Racing Control Act of 1985'; and

"WHEREAS, proponents of legalized pari-mutuel betting are calling for the General Assembly 'to give the people the right to vote'; and

"WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee already have the privilege and the responsibility of calling referenda on legal questions.

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the messengers to the 1985 Tennessee Baptist Convention restate our consistent opposition to any form of legalized gambling; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we make it clear that a vote for a racing bill is, in fact, a vote to legalize betting

regardless of rhetoric about 'letting the people decide.'"

## 4. SBC Peace Committee

"WHEREAS, the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, November 13-15, 1984, affirmed the spirit and principle of the Franklin Paschall proposal to seek specific ways to effect reconciliation and strengthen unity within the denomination; and

"WHEREAS, the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas, June 11-13, 1985, appointed a Peace Committee to 'determine the sources of controversies in our convention and make findings and recommendations regarding these controversies, so that Southern Baptists might effect reconciliation'; and

"WHEREAS, the Peace Committee is investing time, hard work, and prayer to achieve its assigned task.

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the messengers of the 111th session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Memphis, November 19-21, 1985, express gratitude for the Peace Committee and pledge support by praying earnestly that it will be sensitive to the leadership of God; by fostering an atmosphere of love, cooperation, and understanding; and by nurturing an expectant faith in the sufficiency of God to meet every need."

## 5. Gratitude

"In the 111th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention we express our gratitude:

"To God for creating our fellowship in Christ and His leadership in our liberations;

"To First Baptist Church and its pastor, Earl Davis for gracious hospitality and a spirit of service throughout our meeting;

"To John F. May, president TBC, for his warm and effective leadership;

"To Broadmoor Baptist Church for sharing its pastor with the Convention during this year of service;

"To the Committee on Arrangements, Leonard Markham, chairman, for wise planning and careful attention to detail;

"To the officers and staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention;

"To all individuals who served on the committees, boards, and agencies for their faithful service to our Lord throughout this year and specifically during the convention sessions;

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

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

## Kingsley calls Tennessee Baptists to servanthood, diversity, unity

MEMPHIS — Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., told Tennessee Baptists at their annual meeting last week to search their past, seek servanthood, accept diversity, and reclaim unity.

"We are individuals walking with the Lord," Kingsley explained. "One by one we enter the kingdom of God. One by one we serve God. We come in our diversity and in our unity. Our diversity in these days preface to become not only diversity but division and sometimes does become divisive," he added.

"Maybe that is fundamental. Maybe it is necessary. Maybe it has to be so," he admitted, "I think it should not be so."

An annual meeting, according to Kingsley, should be a time for Baptists to consider where we come from and to assess where we are going.

"Baptists have never agreed on everything," he noted. "All Baptists have never agreed on anything."

"I grew up as a fundamentalist as can be," Kingsley stated. "I grew up as a pre-millennialist. And I'm one of the few people in Southern Baptist life today that can spell 'millennium.' I was taught early on that I should not have fellowship with people who held any other view of the millennium.

"I have learned over the years that if I am to be a faithful Baptist," Kingsley continued, "I can hold my view assiduously, I can hold it firmly, but I can also have fellowship with people who have other views and even people who can't



ACCEPT DIVERSITY — Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College, told Tennessee Baptists to accept their diversity and reclaim unity.

spell 'millennium' and would be bewildered if I talked about a millennium."

Kingsley suggested that there can be unity in diversity and such unity comes when people give their gifts to God in service. Like the lad who offered his bread and fish to Jesus to be shared with the multitude, Jesus blesses our gifts and breaks us so we become servants and not masters, Kingsley stated.

"That servanthood is our giving up our five barley loaves and two fishes — our little gifts — to the great Lord, Who blesses and breaks and multiplies and does His great work through our little endeavors because He is in the miracle business."

## Haskins joins BSSB

NASHVILLE — Dan Haskins Jr., has joined national student ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as a consultant in leadership and program development.

Haskins has served as BSU director at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, for 10 years and previously was BSU director at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville.

He is a graduate of Tennessee Tech; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

## Devotionals at TBC cover wide variety of subjects

MEMPHIS — Seven Tennessee Baptists presented devotionals last week during the Tennessee Baptist Convention on a variety of topics from unity and encouragement to Christian maturity and servanthood.

The devotionals were delivered near the beginning of each of the convention's seven sessions. Following are highlights of these devotionals in the order in which they were presented.

### James Best

Noting that the average pastor stays with a church for less than two years, James Best, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenvale, used John 14 to observe that "too many shepherds are more interested in self-preservation than the sheep. When storm and dangers come, he leaves the sheep to be torn by the wolves."

Best said that sheep tend to wander and must be sought and are easily distracted, but they know their shepherd and are loyal to him.

Turning to another parable in that chapter, Best stated that our enemy can and does sow tares among the wheat. He added that the wolves scatter the sheep, never have a good word about the shepherd, and seek to draw the sheep away from the shepherd.

"Shepherds are not called to fight wolves, but to feed the sheep, to care for them, and to seek lost sheep," Best said.

### H. D. Hudson

The prodigal son reminds us that man is composed of three things: mind, emotion, and a will, said H. D. Hudson, pastor of Henry Baptist Church, Henry.

Hudson declared that a person must know that he is a sinner and that salvation is available through Jesus Christ, "but you will not be saved on the basis of what you know."

Turning to the danger of trusting emotion, Hudson said, "When some people's emotion dies, their religion is gone. When you fall head over heels in love with Jesus, you've got all the feelings you need."

In closing, Hudson noted that a mind can do a little thinking, a heart can do a little loving, but only the surrender of a person's will can make him a pleasing child of God.

### Lloyd Hansen

Webster defines discouragement as "depriving of confidence, or disheartening," noted Lloyd Hansen, a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis. To encourage is to "give inspiration, courage, spirit, or hope."

In Hebrews 10:25 the church is instructed to encourage one another; "and all the more, as you see the day drawing near." Each day brings the time when Jesus comes one day closer, Hansen said. As the day draws near, the words of people in the church should be inspired by encouragement.

### Ora Lee Love

Although Baptists are seeing increased volunteerism, missionaries, and mission training in our churches, Baptists cannot be "complacent or lukewarm" because a recent Gallup survey noted that only 40 percent attend a church or synagogue almost every week, reported Ora Lee Love, a member of First Baptist Church, Memphis.

Love told about the sacrifice of an African woman giving four pods of okra in the offering as an example of Christian living.

Conceding that it is "difficult to pray and do it right and long enough," Love said, "God will send revival when He wishes, but we must meet some conditions and I pray that we will."

### Howard Cockrum

In Ephesians 4:14 and 15, Paul says that we should no longer be like children tossed about by every kind of doctrine, said Howard Cockrum, a member of Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville. Rather, we should grow up in all aspects into Him."

The mature person knows who he is. He does not have to prove who he is to

others, and he lives in the world with minimum conflict, according to Cockrum. He has an accurate view of his own self-worth. He is committed and dedicated and communicates with God. The mature person is unconditionally loving and forgiving.

The mature Christian is in God's service always in every way to His glory, Cockrum stated.

### Paul Wong

Noting Southern Baptists' controversies, Paul Wong, pastor of the Chinese congregation at First Baptist Church, Memphis, said, "We overemphasize our divisions much, but we don't emphasize our common ground."

Using singing in unison and harmony to illustrate his point, Wong said, "Harmony... is only experienced by division. Most of the time we'd like conformity." He encouraged messengers to accept each other's shortcomings. Instead we "attack, expel, make damages to each other."

Explaining Peter and John's differences, Wong suggested that they cooperated as leaders in the church by loving each other and by going to the temple to pray together. When they healed the lame man, more people may have been saved than at Pentecost, he said.

### Earl Davis

Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, the host church for the convention, spoke of a flaw in our concept of servanthood.

"We lift up among us for praise those who best exemplify the criteria that a secular world sets up for success," Davis charged. "We do not lift up for praise those who best exemplify servanthood in Christ Jesus."

He noted that a servant does someone else's will, takes orders, and stays in the background.

We measure success in our churches by numbers, but we use the wrong numbers, according to Davis. "We need to measure how many did we feed this week, how many broken hearts did we mend this week, not how many people came this week."

## Sample cites servanthood as course to fulfillment

### By Mona Collett

MEMPHIS — "Too many people have lived without really living," Dorothy Sample told the Tuesday afternoon session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church, Memphis.

The president of Woman's Missionary Union for the Southern Baptist Convention cited accountability, authenticity, and service as the three principles that a servant of God should follow to reach fulfillment.

Reading from Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God," Sample said individuals are accountable to other people as well as to God.

Referring to the abundant life in John 10:10, she said that a person becomes authentic by growing whole within his or her own personality. As a follower of Christ, the person who is secure within himself is better able to take the focus off of self.

The purpose of personifying Christ as His servants is that we can be authentic with others. In order to do this, Sample recognized that acceptance, forgiveness, and love are needed from those people.

Saying that "we live in a lost and lonely society," Sample recognizes the challenge of fulfilling our purpose as servants in a changing world. Sample used Lewis Carroll's character Alice to capture the frustration sometimes felt: "Just to keep pace I must run as fast as I can. To pass, I must run twice as fast."

Until three years ago, there were only three household descriptions on documents such as government applications; now there are 13. Sample said she met a little girl on a plane who had more grandparents than anyone she knew because of broken marriages and remarriages. She went on to demonstrate that broken relationships can threaten self-security, quoting the nephew in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" who begs his uncle not to leave. "Ever since father left, I've felt rather temporary about myself," is



**SERVANTHOOD** — In her message at last week's TBC, WМУ leader Dorothy Sample discussed the Christian's role as a servant.

the young man's plea for stability.

By seeking the power of God available through prayer and multiplying individual vision, servants can discover what they have to offer to this lost and lonely society, according to the leader of the denomination's largest mission organization.

Jesus takes what we give and multiplies it, as illustrated in Matthew 14 when He fed the multitudes.

The WМУ leader encouraged her listeners to extend their vision beyond themselves. When surveying the needs of the world, it is easy for the individual to say that missionaries and pastors will take care of them. Sample encouraged the group to overcome the "Jonah complex" of being afraid to give all to God. A good start would be to get a fresh vision, Sample suggested, and draw strength from Jesus Christ, the perfect role model.

Closing her message with a personal challenge to serve, Sample simply stated that "true love shows itself in action. Let us be God's servants in the world."

## Rogers declares God uses difficulties for training

### By Al Shackelford

MEMPHIS — "You may not know that Jesus is enough for all your needs until He is all you have," Adrian Rogers told the Tennessee Baptist Convention last Thursday. The pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention was the closing speaker at last week's convention.

Using passages from Exodus 13-16, Rogers compared the difficulties of modern Christians to those faced by the Israelites shortly after they left Egypt. His subject was "Detours, Dead Ends, and Dry Holes."

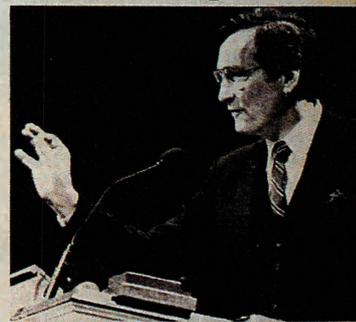
Noting that God led the Israelites in circles through the wilderness, Rogers said the "discipline of detours" was necessary to toughen them up for the battles they would later face. This was God's training camp.

He urged Christians to "pick your fights carefully and prepare before you enter the battle."

Rogers warned that there is a danger for young preachers in getting too much too quickly. "The most important place is where God is leading you," he added. "God gives the best to those who leave the choices to Him."

In discussing the "dilemma of dead ends," the Bellevue pastor observed that God led the Israelites to an impossible place on the banks of the Red Sea. "God knew what He was doing. They were bait to exercise God's judgment on the Egyptians."

Rogers recounted that God then led



**FOLLOW GOD** — Adrian Rogers challenged conventioners to trust God in the face of difficulties.

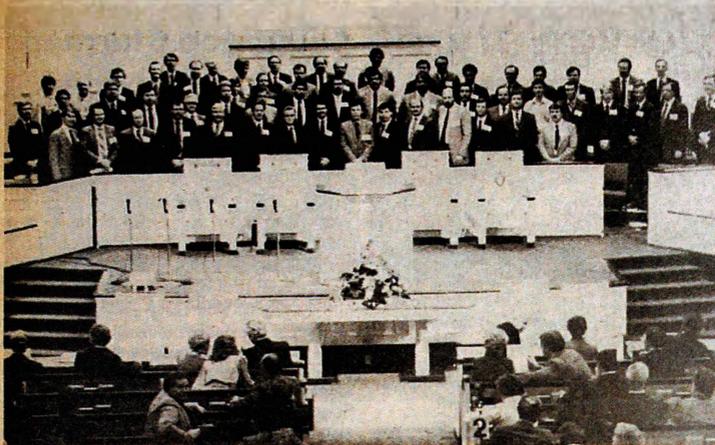
them to a place of no water and on to a place of bitter water, in what he called the "disappointment of dry holes." Here the Israelites failed God's test, he noted.

"If God leads you through the wilderness, through the 'Red Seas' of life, to a dry hole, it is a time of testing," Rogers believes.

"We need to learn that God is not only necessary, but He is also enough," he added.

In closing, Rogers reminded the TBC messengers and visitors that after the "bitter water" experience, God showed the Israelites that just over the next hill there were 12 oases.

Quoting from Corrie ten Boom, the Memphis pastor said, "God has no problems; only plans. There are no emergency situations in heaven."



**NEW TENNESSEANS** — Church staff members who have moved to Tennessee since last year's state convention were introduced at the Tuesday afternoon TBC session.

## TBC introduces new church staffers

**MEMPHIS** — Sixty-one new church staff members who have begun their ministry in Tennessee since last year's Tennessee Baptist Convention were reorganized at last week's annual meeting by Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the convention.

Pastors introduced were Don Arwood Sr., Oak Hill Baptist Church, Crossville; Ken Altom, First Baptist Church, Cookeville; Earl R. Baker, Fairview Baptist Church, Lebanon; Waller Boyer, Lights Chapel Baptist Church, Greenbrier; David Cooper, Rock Hill Baptist Church, Lexington; James S. Dickson, Ramer Baptist Church, Ramer; Chuck Fowler, Fairlawn Baptist Church, Memphis; Joe Gardner, First Baptist Church, Obion; Mickey Hanks, First Baptist Church, Maury City; Randall Harris, West Shiloh Baptist Church, Stantonville; Glen A. Holifield, Willingham Memorial Baptist Church, Ridgely; Robert P. Jolly, First Baptist Church, Jellico; Harold G. King, First Baptist Church, Collinwood; James King, Maplewood Baptist Church, Clarksville; and Greg L. Long, First Baptist Church, New Tazewell.

Other pastors included Mark McClard, Charlotte Road Baptist Church, Nashville; Don McCulley, Fowlkes Baptist Church, Fowlkes; Kenneth A. McElhaney, Stuart Heights Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Bob McFarland, First Baptist Church, Whitwell; Wayne Max, Saulsbury Baptist Church, Saulsbury; Terry G. Meeks, First Baptist Church, Spring City; Paul K. Moore, Charleston Baptist Church, Stanton; Ronald F. Murray, First Baptist Church, Kingston; Ed North, First Baptist Church, Humboldt; Travis Otey Jr., First Baptist Church, Trenton; Wyatt Parker, Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville; Ken Polk, Woodbine Baptist Church, Nashville; Gene Price, Tumbling Creek Baptist Church, Gleason; Rocky Ramsey, Corryton Baptist Church, Corryton; Franklin D. Samuels, Southland Baptist

Church, Memphis; Wendell G. Smith, First Baptist Church, Sharon; Russ Stephens, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon; Robby Tingle, Bath Springs Baptist Church, Bath Springs; Benny Wallis, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Humboldt; Sam Watkins, First Baptist Church, Linden; Ronnie Wilburn, Meridian Baptist Church, Jackson; Charles D. Williams, Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church, Shelbyville; and Bill Wolfe, Cottonwood Baptist Church, Ridgely.

Two associate pastors introduced were Jimmy Muston, Whitehaven Baptist Church, Memphis; and James R. Powell, Long Heights Baptist Church, McKenzie.

Ministers of education included Dan Dates, Berclair Baptist Church, Memphis; Fred R. Neyland, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville; Frank Starr, First Baptist Church, Jackson; Victor T. Stefanini, Speedway Terrace Baptist Church, Memphis; and Steve Wisner, Ardmore Baptist Church, Memphis.

Filling minister of music positions were R. Mark Branson, First Baptist Church, Medina; Pat Van Dyke, Whitehaven Baptist Church, Memphis; and James Watson, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown.

Serving as minister of music and youth included David C. Brandon, Bethel Baptist Church, Greenbrier; Rusty Eason, Southland Baptist Church, Memphis; Fred Laugherty, Brainerd Hills Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and Robert Lawson, Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Ministers of education and youth recognized were David A. Burris, Shiloh Baptist Church, Coeoe; and Bruce Hickman, Mountain Terrace Baptist Church, Memphis.

Other church staffers introduced were Ron Chandler, minister of administration, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown; Billy Kemp Jr., minister to youth, Grandview Baptist Church, Nashville; David Lature, minister of youth/recreation, First Baptist Church, Memphis; Bruce Maples, minister of music and education, Ridgeview Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Alan Pace, minister to students, First Baptist Church, Franklin; Carl A. Smith, minister of activities, First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; Billy Thomason, bus pastor, Capleville Baptist Church, Memphis; and Joann Williams, director of youth, Northside Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Two other church-related workers recognized were Charles Conley, director of missions, Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association, Whitwell; and Daniel Walker, BSU director, Belmont College, Nashville.

## President Reagan vetoes bill on federal postal subsidies

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — Citing what he called "an ingrained incapacity to tackle the large budget deficit," President Ronald Reagan vetoed a bill containing \$820-million in federal subsidies to provide reduced mailing rates for non-profit mailers.

The vetoed bill would have provided fiscal 1986 funds for the Treasury Department, Postal Service, Executive Office of the President, and various other agencies. Funds budgeted in the bill for the Postal Service would have allowed the retention of reduced mailing rates for non-profit publications, including state Baptist newspapers and church newsletters.

In a statement issued Nov. 15, Reagan sharply reprimanded the Senate for submitting a bill — two and one-half months behind schedule — that not only exceeded his own budget proposal but also the congressional budget resolution limit.

Reagan specifically pointed out his op-

position to inclusion of the postal subsidies in a similar statement to the House of Representatives.

"My budget proposed a major paring of the remaining postal subsidies, and the congressional budget resolution envisaged a lesser saving," Reagan stated. "This bill provides \$820-million for these subsidies, which represents little saving from current levels and is \$72-million above the budget resolution level."

The Reagan administration had proposed only \$39-million in postal subsidies, thus terminating the program altogether except for benefits to organizations that send materials to the blind.

Although dramatically above the Reagan proposal, the \$820-million figure still fell \$161-million short of what the Postal Service said it needed to maintain the present level of subsidy. Had the bill been approved, non-profit mailers still would have faced an approximate 30 percent postal rate increase.

## Garcia encourages partners to go to the world with the Word of God

**MEMPHIS** — Announcing the beginning of the partnership mission between Tennessee and Venezuela as approved by last year's convention, Carroll Owen, convention ministries director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention noted that the first construction team will go to Venezuela in January.

Representing Venezuela Baptists, Jacobo Garcia, executive secretary of their convention, spoke on the convention's theme, servants.

Saying a servant of the Lord is not a lazy person, Garcia added that, "We don't have time for the Lord. We have commitments. This is not a servant of the Lord."

According to Garcia, a servant is one who "adores the doctrine of the Lord," referring to Titus 2:10. A person can be a pastor, leader, know Greek and Hebrew, be a church administrator, or many other things in life, but it is not as important as being a servant of the Lord, said Garcia.

Servants are "truly priests of the Lord." A servant is "a person who is as strong as steel," who is willing to "serve the Lord at any price, even unto death."

Additional characteristics include having strong convictions, taking initiative, using every opportunity, not being easily discouraged, being teachers and preachers, having high morality, being wise, and being willing to minister to anyone.

Acknowledging differences and problems, in his country, Garcia shouted, "I have a dream of Venezuelans and Tennesseans going to the world, preaching the Word of God."

Garcia and his wife presented the convention a multicolored tapestry which includes an outline of the state superimposed upon the country of Venezuela.

Another speaker encouraging support of the partnership was Bryan (Breezy) Brasington, western South America area director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

Owen advised persons interested in being mission volunteers to fill out application forms from his office. He also warned that persons are asking for contributions for projects that are not supported by the Venezuela Baptist Convention and that questions should be cleared through his office.



**FROM VENEZUELA** — Jacobo Garcia's preaching was interpreted by Tito Fafasuli of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

## Boards, committees add new members

New members for Tennessee Baptist Convention boards and committees were elected last week during the TBC meeting in Memphis.

Upon recommendation by the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees, those elected in addition to the names listed in the Oct. 16 issue of the Baptist and Reflector were:

**Executive Board** — Dennis Pulley, Ripley, term expiring 1987;

**Union University** — Jesse Price, Somerville, and Power Smith, Henning, both terms expiring 1988;

**Committee on Committees** — Earl C. Davis, Memphis, term expiring 1986;

**Committee on Arrangements** — Glenn Hester, Flintville, term expiring 1988;

**Committee on Audits** — Joe Blankenship, Jonesborough, term expiring 1988;

**Committee on Boards** — Carl Martin, Nashville, term expiring 1988;

**Church Staff Compensation Study Committee** — Porter Routh, Nashville, term expiring 1988, and Lawrence Bright, Memphis, term expiring 1986;

**Constitution and Bylaws Committee** — David Miller, Rutherford, term expiring 1988;

**Historical Committee** — Wallace Bryan, Memphis, term expiring 1987; and

**Committee on Resolutions** — Jeff Davis, Tellico Plains; Guy Milam, Knoxville; and John Morris, Nashville; all three terms expiring in 1986.

## C-N home economics gets accreditation

**JEFFERSON CITY** — The department of home economics at Carson-Newman College has been approved for national accreditation by the Council for Professional Development of the American Home Economics Association.

Carson-Newman is the first private institution in the state of Tennessee and one of the few small units of home economics in the nation to have been granted full accreditation by the American Home Economics Association.

## FMB sends funds to assist victims of Filipino typhoon

TARLAC, Philippines (BP)— Restoring houses and replanting crops were top Baptist relief efforts in the wake of a typhoon that struck the northern Philippines island of Luzon Oct. 18, killing more than 70 people and destroying 21,000 houses.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has allocated \$10,000 to purchase roofing and corner posts for more than 450 Filipino families, said John Cheyne, the board's senior consultant for human needs. He expects an additional allocation of \$4,000 will be approved for seed to replace crops swept away by the typhoon.

Southern Baptist missionaries Roy and Marcia McKay, church planters in Tarlac, lost electricity for several weeks. None of the other nearly 100 Southern

Baptist missionaries on the island were affected.

Further requests for relief funds are expected from Southern Baptist missionaries there. Repairs are needed, for example, at four Baptist churches in central Luzon, Cheyne said.

Civil authorities have estimated damage from the typhoon at more than \$25-million, encompassing public works, private property, crops, livestock, and fish ponds.



PLAQUE — Tom Madden (left), executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, presents a plaque of appreciation to Jack May, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, for his service as TBC president.

## Conservative resolutions mark Mississippi Baptist Convention

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)— Mississippi Baptists concluded their annual convention by passing, almost without discussion, a slate of conservatively oriented resolutions.

The resolutions opposed state lotteries and pari-mutuel gambling, pornography, alcohol, illegal drugs, child abuse, and tax code revisions which would eliminate tax deferred annuities.

Mississippi Baptists resolved to oppose and work for legislation to prohibit all abortions except to save the life of the mother. That resolution also called for churches to work to provide counseling, housing, and adoption services for unwed mothers.

Another resolution, which was sent back to committee for reworking, but only to make it stronger, opposed the elimination of Blue Laws, calling for Sunday to continue to be a uniform day of rest.

Earlier in the convention, which registered a record 1,831 messengers from churches across the state, Frank Gunn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Biloxi,

was elected president. Jerry Mixon, pastor of First Baptist Church, Winona, was elected first vice-president. Marvin Bond, a professor at Mississippi State University and a former missionary to Hong Kong, was elected second vice-president.

The convention also voted to sponsor a pastors' conference to precede next year's convention. This move effectively killed an unofficial pastors' conference begun this year. The officers of the unofficial version reported to the convention they would participate in the official one and were named to a planning committee.

Messengers voted an \$18.5-million Cooperative Program budget for 1986, 36 percent of which goes to SBC causes outside the state (compared to 35.5 percent in 1985). A report of a \$40-million endowment campaign for Mississippi College, William Carey College, Blue Mountain College, and the Baptist Children's Village said that in the first few months of the campaign, \$10.9-million had been raised. Previous total endowment had been \$9-million.

## Missouri approves reorganization, highlights 'Good News America'

ST. LOUIS (BP)— Approval of a new organizational structure for the Executive Board staff and a statewide kickoff for Good News America highlighted the annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention last month in St. Louis.

Messengers also approved resolutions pledging support for the SBC Peace Committee and opposing tuition tax credits for parochial schools.

Widely rumored conflict between conservatives and moderates never materialized during the three-day meeting. Instead, the messengers elected a new president from among three candidates on the first ballot and approved 30 of 31 recommendations of its strategic planning committee, including the restructuring of the Executive Board staff.

The new organization combines departments from several other staff areas to recreate a church services division which includes Cooperative Program and stewardship promotion, church administration, church minister relations, and annuity and insurance.

The office of evangelism, previously under the state executive director, was placed in the renamed missions/evangelism division. Also, the departments of Christian moral concerns and family

ministries were eliminated and their work assigned to the church training department.

The 1,674 registered messengers rejected the creation of an Executive Board position to coordinate the work of the convention's seven related institutions — four colleges, a children's home, a hospital, and a home for senior adults.

Elected president of the Missouri Baptist Convention was Wally Jones, pastor of Fee Fee Baptist Church in St. Louis.

A record \$14.25-million budget approved by messengers is a 1 percent increase over the 1985 budget goal. Southern Baptist causes will receive 34.75 percent in 1986, down from 35 percent.

Messengers also opposed patronizing businesses which sell pornographic materials.

Climaxing the three-day convention was a statewide Good News America rally. The event drew the largest crowd of the three days, about 2,000 people, and featured the national premiere of the evangelistic media spots prepared for use on television and radio as part of Southern Baptist's nationwide evangelistic campaign scheduled for next spring.

## Lillie Mae Starmer dies in Knoxville

Lillie Mae Starmer, a Southern Baptist missionary to Europe for 40 years before her retirement in 1978, died of cancer in Knoxville Nov. 21. She was 76 years old.

She and her husband, Roy F. Starmer, had retired to Knoxville, where they were members of Central Baptist Church of Bearden. A funeral was held Nov. 23 at the church, with burial in Knoxville's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Born in Knoxville, Mrs. Starmer was a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and the Women's Missionary Training School (now a part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Louisville, Ky.

Appointed in 1938, the Starmers served in Romania until forced to leave by World War II. Mrs. Starmer taught at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Bucharest.

Transferred to Italy in 1948, the Starmers served there until retirement in 1978. Mrs. Starmer was a teacher and evangelism worker in Rome and Turin and helped develop a youth camp near Rome. She and her husband were active in publications work in Italy.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Starmer is survived by two sons, a daughter, four grandchildren, two brothers, and a sister.

## Georgia Baptists meet in peace

JEKYLL ISLAND, Ga. (BP)— More than 3,000 Georgia Baptists attended the annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention and focused on peace and reconciliation.

Messengers met for three days without a squabble or debate. They approved a record budget for 1986 of \$24,042,000 and a new capital improvements and endowment program totaling \$16,100,000. The budget, if fully funded, will send 48 percent of undesignated gifts to support worldwide Southern Baptist causes.

Messengers adopted a resolution pledging prayer support for the SBC Peace Committee. They also urged Baptists not to take their grievances into the public arena, an obvious reference opposing a possible lawsuit against the SBC for parliamentary action in Dallas last June.

The Georgia Baptist Children's Home changed its name to add "and Family Ministry" to the title. In so doing, it will begin providing adoptive services, aid to unwed mothers, and other family ministries.

Georgia Baptists voted to extend for five years a missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of New York, a sister state relationship that started in 1978. Georgia Baptists also have a missions partnership with Baptists of Liberia.

They also voted to observe a special day of pray for farmers and their families and to urge government leaders to do all possible to assist farmers.

One brief motion voiced gratitude for SBC President Charles Stanley "showing the nation that Baptists as a whole are Bible believing, God fearing people." Stanley is pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta. He spoke at the pre-convention rally at Jekyll Island attended by an overflow crowd of about 3,500 persons.

Floyd F. Roebuck, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rome, was re-elected president of the Georgia Baptist Convention without opposition.

## Texas Baptists set \$63-million budget

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)— Messengers to the centennial gathering of the 2.3-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas elected East Texas Pastor Paul Powell as president, approved a record \$63.5-million missions budget, and reaffirmed their commitment to a Mission Texas goal to begin 2,000 new congregations by 1990.

A record number of voting messengers, 4,273 from 906 churches, attended the three-day meeting in San Antonio.

Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, was elected president. Jerold R. McBride, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Angelo, was elected first vice-president, and Daniel J. Rivera, president of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, San Antonio, was elected second vice-president.

The 1986 Cooperative Program budget for missions includes more than \$22-million (36.5 percent of the budget — an increase of 0.2 percent over last year) for worldwide causes. The remaining \$38.4-million is for Texas Baptists' 27 educational and benevolent institutions and state missions causes.

Messengers affirmed resolutions asking Texas Baptists to continue ministries to the poor, commending the 69th Texas Legislature for addressing the hunger and health care needs of the poor in Texas, and encouraging churches to increase percentage giving to missions through the Cooperative Program.

Messengers at the final session also passed a motion calling for reconsideration at the next annual session in El Paso of 10 Constitutional amendments which had been proposed but failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote. The motion asked that the amendments be referred to the BGCT Executive Board for further study, and that the convention's Constitution and bylaws be studied and the findings published in the Baptist Standard, the Texas Baptist weekly newsjournal.

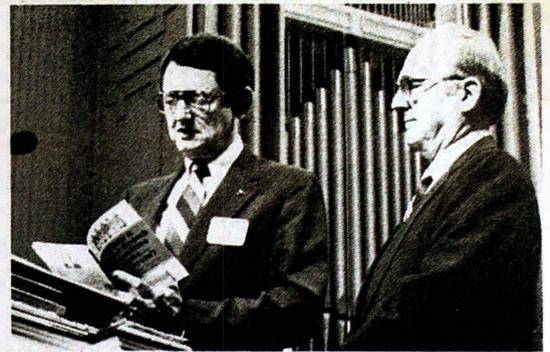
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**HONORARY MEMBER** — Frank Charton (left), retired director of the TBC church music department, was named the first honorary member of Tennessee Church Music Conference. President John McCall of Tullahoma presented a plaque at the annual banquet during the TBC.



**MEMPHIS MUSICIANS** — The Shelby Singers, church musicians from Memphis-area churches, sang at the closing session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention last Thursday.



**NEW BOOK** — Joe Stacker of the Sunday School Board (left) presents the author's official copy of Bill Harbin's new book, *When a Pastor Search Committee Comes ... or Doesn't*, to the author.

# 1985 TBC brings music, elections, recognitions



**MUSIC OFFICERS** — Elected as 1985-86 officers for the Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference were (seated left to right) David Stephan, Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, second vice-president; Herman May, Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, vice-president and president-elect; David Whipple, First Baptist Church, Franklin, president; Jere Adams, TBC church music department, secretary-treasurer; (standing) Julian Suggs, TBC church music department director; and John McCall, First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, past president and member of the executive council.



**NOT IN CHINESE** — The youth choir, one of four choirs, of the Chinese Baptist congregation of First Baptist Church, Memphis, which is led by Paul Wong, Jr., sang in English during a session of the TBC last week in Memphis. The congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary recently.



**HOST PASTOR** — Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, welcomes messengers to his church, site of the 1985 convention.



**CALL TO ORDER** — TBC President Jack May pounds the gavel to call the 111th annual Tennessee Baptist Convention to order.



**CONVENTION PAGES** — Royal Ambassadors from Shelby County Baptist Association served as pages during the state convention. Among those helping were (front row, from left) Chris Griffin, David Powers, Allen Cole; (back row) Mark Sigler, Greg Flint, Robbie Joyner, Ron Serino, and Gary Ross.



**YOUTH MINISTERS' OFFICERS** — Youth ministers elected to lead the Tennessee Baptist Youth Ministers' Association are (left to right) Mike Thomas, BelleAire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, president; Rob Ray, First Baptist Church, Millington, western region vice-president; Tony Rankin, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, middle region vice-president; Andy Morris, First Baptist Church, Maryville, northeast region vice-president; and Ken McCoy, Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, secretary-treasurer. Also elected but not pictured was Mike Goodner, Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, southeast region vice-president.

# TBC pastors explore great Biblical texts

By Charlie Warren

**MEMPHIS** — Eleven sermons, three devotionals, and a variety of other features focused on the theme of the 1985 Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, "Preaching Great Texts."

Messages on dry bones, clay vessels, wayward prodigals, power for preaching, and good news for a lost world all highlighted major Biblical messages.

Speaking on "Telling the Good News," Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, focused on the Great Commission, emphasizing the power and authority with which Jesus Christ gave the mandate to His followers.

"We have not yet acknowledged the authority of Jesus Christ or decided to be obedient to Him," Parks charged. "The greatest tragedy I know is not just that most of the world is still lost, but the fact that there are multiplied millions ready to respond to the gospel and there's no one to tell them. We would reach all the people in our generation if ever we decided to be obedient to the Lord's command and claim His power."

"There are hordes of people in our churches who want to keep their children and their grandchildren close enough to see them every Sunday afternoon," Parks said. "I'm glad the God of eternity didn't decide to keep His Son at home."

Parks also told of a young prospective missionary who stated, "I do not believe God expects me to take my wife and children to a dangerous place to preach the gospel."

"Where do you think he got his idea of what God expects of a preacher?" Parks asked. "He got it out of somebody's Baptist church where we have preached and modeled that it's all right to win the world if you don't get fanatic about it and make any sacrifices or have any inconveniences or deprive yourself of any of the luxuries you like."

James McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, preached from Acts 2, on "Power for Preaching."

"People are not coming (to our churches) to hear a word from the preacher, but to hear a word from God," McCluskey stated. "The preacher has something to say about God or something to say from God, or he has nothing to say at all. People are hungry for a word from God."

There is power for preaching, according to McCluskey, when the Holy Spirit prevails, when the Word of God is proclaimed, when the preacher is prepared, when the message is plain, and when the cross is pre-eminent.

Bob Bell, pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland, preached on the "Valley of Dry Bones," based on Ezekiel 37.

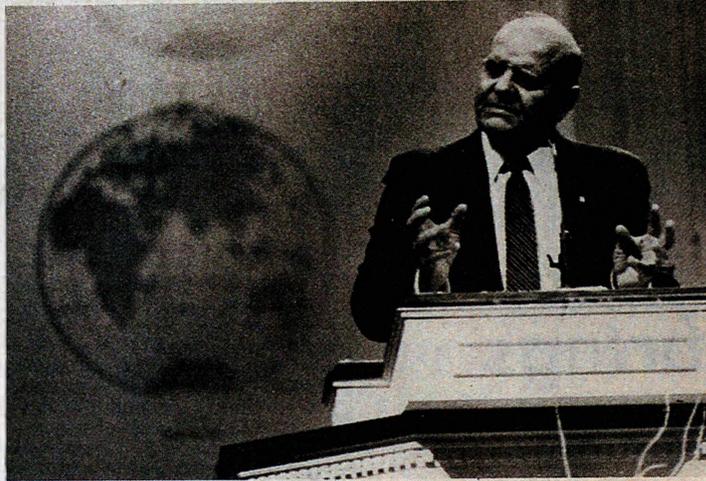
He said the dry bones, where there is no sign of life, paints a "pitiful picture" of God's people.

"We are in the midst of some dry bones that have little life in them," Bell suggested. "Most of us don't want to admit the deadness of many of our churches."

"It (the church) is never going to live until we pray the breath of God into it," he said. "God will never give us Holy Spirit power in our preaching until we've paid the price in the closet of prayer."

Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, preaching on "The Potter and the Clay," from Jeremiah 18, suggested that the hope for individuals, the church, and America today is in God's sovereignty.

"If God doesn't like what He has made, He can stop it. He can crush it, and He



**WORLD MISSIONS** — Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, urged Tennessee's pastors to keep a vision of the world in their hearts.

can start it all over again. He is sovereign," Leavell said. "Whatever the blight or defect that affects your life, God can perfect it."

Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, explored "The Search for Identity" from Luke 15, the parable of the prodigal son.

The Biblical parable suggests three crises of identity, according to Stacker: who am I?, Who is God?, and who is my brother?

"The greatest temptation for Southern Baptists may be to lose contact with the Father. That's what the prodigal did," Stacker observed. "If we don't come back to the Father as a denomination, we have no future. When you and I desire to become servants of the Father, then we become again sons of the Father."

John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, and president of this year's Pastors' Conference, preached on "The King is Coming" from Acts 1.

Taylor noted the mystery of His coming — that we can't know all the details of His coming, but we know all we need to know. He spoke of the manner of His coming — that it will be personal, sudden, unexpected, visible, and gloriously triumphant. He cited the message of His coming — a message of hope and an admonition that there must be constant watchfulness.

During the conference, Bill Morris, the mayor of Shelby County, and Richard Hackett, mayor of the City of Memphis, each welcomed the pastors.



**PASTORS' OFFICERS** — Elected as Pastors' Conference officers were Larry Kirk, Liberty Grove Baptist Church, Jackson, secretary; and Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Hixson, president. Also elected but not pictured was Aubrey Hay, First Baptist Church, Erwin, vice-president.

Hackett, sharing a personal testimony of his faith in Jesus Christ, did some preaching on his own.

"I'm a child of God," Hackett testified. "I'm a Christian and I'm not ashamed to say it. I'm not scared to live it."

As the youngest mayor of a major city in America, Hackett said he does not feel the pressure because God helps him to

make the decisions and bear the pressures.

"That's not politically popular but that four-year term is a lot shorter than eternity in hell."

"That doesn't mean that all other mayors are going to hell," Hackett quipped, "but I'm sure we'll have a fair representation."

Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a sermon, "The Curse and the Cure," prepared for the conference by Jonas Stewart before his death on Oct. 6. Excerpts from the message are printed on this page. Stewart was pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerville, when he died. The sermon was read by Bob Orr, interim pastor of the Somerville church.

Mrs. Stewart was presented a flower, a plaque, and a printed copy of Stewart's message.

Other speakers at the conference were Bill Wilson, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood; Calvin Metcalf, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Knoxville, who delivered a dramatic monologue; Marvin Cameron, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gatlinburg; and Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Devotionals were presented by Fred Ward, pastor of Unity Baptist Church, Jacks Creek; Glenn Sullivan, pastor of Concord Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Jacobo Garcia, executive secretary-treasurer of the Venezuela Baptist Convention.

## 'The Curse and the Cure'

*Editor's note: Following are excerpts from a sermon prepared for the Pastors' Conference by Jonas Stewart before his death on Oct. 6. The sermon was read during the conference by Bob Orr, interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerville, where Stewart was pastor when he died.*

By Jonas Stewart

In the morning of life, one drop of sin entered into the world and before evening had come, the whole human race was drowned, damned, and doomed.

The curse

That little act of sin has spread like a raging disease. It has involved every nation, and rules in majesty on the thrones of kings. It has polluted the atmosphere of every city, town, and village. It lurks in subtle fashion in office, factory, shop, and store. It invades the privacy of every home and has done its devastating work on every soul that knows not its antidote.

Sin is ever present with those in high places and lowly positions, disrupting life, destroying dreams, darkening hopes, blighting beauty, fanning the flame of lust, ruining character, and seeking to destroy everything in life that is good and beautiful.

Its instigator is the devil, its history is shame, its purpose is destruction, its object is your soul, its final consequence is eternal death, and the destination of everyone who continues in its practice is the fires of hell.

One cannot play with it in any form without going in its direction, partaking of its poison, and landing in its torments.

The cure

From the beginning, God had a plan to defeat Satan. He sent His prophets and preachers proclaiming mercy to all and

grace to those who would claim it through faith.

God said, "I will send My Son to be born in the form of sinful flesh that He might bruise the head of that old serpent while His own heel is being bruised. That bruising will bring Him to die among the transgressors as if He were one of them. Thus He will pay the price demanded by My law."

I see Him now, being beaten up Calvary's hill like a quarry slave scourged to His death. He bears the heavy cross until He can stand no more. To the top of the hill they go, where cruel hands fling Him down, the open wounds of His back throbbing with pain as He falls upon the cross beams. Two strong soldiers stretch His hands far apart. Another with a great maul drives a rusty spike through each hand. His feet are crossed as one holds a larger spike and the other, with one giant blow, sends the metal crushing through flesh and bone of both feet at once.

The cross is raised into the air and drops with a thud into a previously prepared hole. Hanging there, suspended between heaven and earth as if He were forsaken by both, all hell let loose her fury upon Him.

God didn't see His Son that day. He saw you and me as we piled our sins upon the cross.

Jesus bowed His head upon the cross and said, "It is finished." Satan must have cried for all the spiritual forces of the universe to hear, "Look at Him. He said He was the resurrection and the life. He said He would never die. Now I have Him in my cold embrace. He is dead."

But it was a different story three days later. Jesus came out of that grave and Satan slinked back into the shadows like some beaten animal.

Jesus said to me, "Come over here, son, and stand with me. That old bully can't hurt you anymore."

# Tennessee WMU meets for 97th session

By Connie Davis

MEMPHIS — At her first annual meeting of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, Executive Director-treasurer Katharine Bryan presented three new staff members which complete her staff and led the 400 participants to "Go Ye Therefore..." during the 97th session Nov. 18 at Second Baptist Church, Memphis, prior to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

New WMU associates Carrol Kelly and Donna Maples, from the WMU-SBC, and WMU administrative assistant Pat Porter, from TBC's administrative office, were approved by the state WMU Executive Board Nov. 17.

Tennesseans and national leaders updated participants on missions work and the support needed. Pre-recorded messages and a theme song, "Go Ye Therefore," written by Mary McDonald of Knoxville were also highlights, along with the Tennessee Baptist Chorale, made up of church music workers.

## Foreign missionary

Tennesseean Charlotte Davis, missionary to Grenada, West Indies, shared about her nine years of work there with her dentist husband, Carter. Davis described the local Baptists' response to the political unrest several years ago of repairing windows broken during the fighting.

She told of a congregation that could not find land to purchase and asked for prayer that their current request be approved by the government's cabinet. The fellowship gathers once a month to pray all night for land. It is the only congregation in the community of 1,000.

Noting that for 10 years Baptists had had work on the island, Davis said that the resulting 500 Baptists, four churches, and one mission were not encouraging to the missionaries. "The political unrest of the past few years has meant that we are never confident of permission to remain in Grenada." It has also caused some of the few church leaders to migrate to other countries, she said.

Another discouragement to the missionaries is that the religious culture often masks true commitment to Christ. "We were not called to be producers, but rather to remain faithful to the task," testified Davis.

Davis detailed their work with one village congregation where the illiterate members would pretend to read from the hymnals and Bibles. The Davises started MasterLife courses for those who could read and assigned others church responsibilities such as the grounds, flowers, and depositing the offering. During her furlough, Davis has been studying literacy so she can begin teaching when she returns in January.

## Home missionary

Maurice Graham, director of pastoral care at St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Memphis, does chaplaincy work supported by Shelby County Baptist Association and the Home Mission Board. While telling about his work with children who have life-threatening diseases and their parents, Graham stirred emotions as he told about one mother.

"This mom didn't do anything wrong. This isn't why her child was afflicted," then he paused, unable to speak. He said that in our narcissistic society, people do not help people who are dying, hurting, and in prisons.

## FMB president

R. Keith Parks continued the emotional appeal, but moved from home to foreign missions. Parks warned against thinking that the message is just for our



**NEW LEADER** — Katharine Bryan, WMU executive director-treasurer, stands in front of a backdrop of a world map as she leads her first annual pre-convention meeting.

communities, families, or people like us.

In his recent trip to the Soviet Union, Parks learned about increased freedom to print Bibles and commentaries and met in packed Baptist churches nearly every night. A Baptist preacher asked him to pray for peace, explaining, "If the summit goes poorly, darkness will fall again for the Christians here."

Switching to other needs, Parks thanked WMU members and other participants for sending and being volunteers and for their generous giving. Parks said that within hours of the volcano eruption in Colombia, Baptists had provided a generator, food, and medicine.

When he receives a letter saying the FMB has more than it needs, he thinks of the missionaries who never have enough people or money and the national leaders who are ready to be partners in missions, but still need our gifts and people.

With urgency, Parks said we must hurry for Colombia, South Africa, the Philippines, Liberia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. "We are about to get a toehold back into Vietnam, back into Laos. We've gotten a little handle back into Cambodia."

"If we can harness the energies of love, it will be as revolutionary spiritually as the discovery of fire physically," Parks entreated, as he wiped tears from his eyes.

## WMU president

WMU national president Dorothy Sample claimed strong ties with the state as she shared her thoughts in her final term

which will end in June 1986.

Sample, who lived in Tennessee for four and one-half years, thanked the approximately 30 women present who had been to Michigan as part of the sister-state relationship with Michigan.

Noting women in the Bible and in missions, Sample explained that these women had made a difference as others can by responding to the WMU theme, "Multiply the Vision." Mrs. Golden did not know in 1899 that \$7-million would be given by this year in a special offering in Tennessee, she said.



**WMU PRESIDENT** — Dorothy Sample spoke of her last year as president and thanked Tennessee WMU for their part in world missions.

Pointing to the "Vision '88" centennial celebration goal of WMU to have "two-million in effective missions education by 1988," Sample explained that if each person shares with just one other person, after 33 times 8-billion people would have learned about Christ.



**INSPIRATION** — The Tennessee Baptist Chorale and other musicians provided music on the theme, "Go Ye Therefore."

Since becoming WMU president, Sample has visited 34 countries and every U.S. state except North Dakota. She was given \$18 by some Christians in an undeveloped part of Malaysia who were not farmers, but only food gatherers, to help others. She was told in Zambia that what they need are "clothes with missionaries in them." In Michigan more than 20 counties are without an evangelical witness, she said.

Encouraging the women to help the many hurting people, especially hurting women, Sample concluded, "We keep ourselves safely separated with nice-sounding questions and courteous remarks."

## Venezuela Baptist director

Announcing the partnership between Venezuela and Tennessee, Tennessee WMU President Judy Trivette introduced Jacobo Garcia, his wife, and the Nashvillian interpreter.

"I bring greetings from the Baptist ladies from Venezuela," announced Garcia. The crowd laughed when he added concerning the partnership, "If it were left to the men, I have my doubts if it is going to work."

## HMB director

Esther Burroughs, director of the special missions ministries department, Home Mission Board, praised Acteen Activator groups as the "best trained and most qualified of teams we send through the Home Mission Board."

She also praised the work of Home Missionaries Bill and Cindy Black in Gatlinburg, some youth workers who served hungry children in a community before themselves, and others who got head lice from holding children they were helping.

## Associational WMU worker

Edith Malone, chairman of the Bible and tract distribution committee for Shelby County Baptist Association WMU, told how she began this work which uses \$5,000 from the Golden State Missions Offering and distributes materials to the more than 3,700 inmates in the county. She also shared how this had led WMU to help men start a weekly prison fellowship, to provide care packages, and to lead churches to minister to the families and those released.

## Business

Katharine Bryan made her first annual report expressing her excitement at having a full staff. Bryan announced the appointment of Betty Iverson, WMU director at First Baptist Church in Kingsport, as chairperson for the 1988 centennial. She also reported 1,100 attended GA-las and 3,000 attended the Acteen summit meetings.

In other business Judy Trivette, Knoxville, was re-elected as president and Nancy Tilley, Jackson, was re-elected as recording secretary — both to their fourth and final terms by acclamation.

Also elected as vice-presidents were Marjorie Bates, Mohawk; Betty Summers, Camden; Faye Cox, Knoxville; Inez Franks, Cleveland; Lucille Hatfield, Jamestown; Theta Campbell, Bethpage; Lillie Stricklin, Decherd; and Freddie Lou Bolton, Memphis.

WMU members voted to change by-laws that would "bring them up-to-date and make preparation for our new staff," explained Trivette. She also recognized Wilda Parks, who had served as chairman of the personnel committee and on the Executive Board.

Other speakers were Shelley Jordan, a GA at First Baptist Church, Somerville; and Cherie Carson, an Acteen at Ardmore Baptist Church, Memphis.

## Missionary Sam Cannata attacks 'country club' Baptist churches

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)— Southern Baptists are middle- to upper middle-class Americans who have isolated themselves from the poor of the land, a foreign missionary says.

Their latest "million-dollar fad" is to build big buildings — "Christian country clubs" of family life centers, bowling alleys, saunas, and gymnasiums — while only giving "crumbs from the table" to missions, said Sam Cannata, a medical missionary in Africa, who with his wife, Ginny, is missionary-in-residence at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Cannata spoke during the final session of the Texas Baptist Men convention at First Baptist Church, San Antonio.

"We say these buildings are built for the glory of God, but they're basically for us — it's for ourselves," Cannata said. While acknowledging some individuals have been saved through the ministries of "Christian country clubs," he charged there are "thousands, perhaps ten-thousands," who drive by those buildings every day who are angry at the injustice those buildings represent.

As a whole, Southern Baptists are not caring for the poor, according to Cannata.

"We don't want to help them and we get mad when the government does," he said. "A lot of churches have soup kitchens where they dole out soup, or have closets where they dole out clothes. But it's a paternalistic type of giving — not a loving, lifting kind of giving."

What Southern Baptists give for mission offerings (both home and foreign missions), compared to what they give for buildings and for their church staffs, "is like crumbs from the table," Cannata said. "I tell you this: God is going to judge us."

He also lambasted Southern Baptists

## Envelope service moves to Nashville

NASHVILLE — The Baptist Book Store Envelope Service, which provides offering envelopes to thousands of Southern Baptist churches, is moving from Chester, W. Va., to Nashville.

According to Mark King, supervisor of direct sales in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's book store division, all envelope service operations will be located in Nashville by Jan. 1, 1986.

Effective immediately, Tennessee churches may contact the service by calling, toll free, 1-800-824-0171. Customers outside Tennessee should call 1-800-874-6319. Correspondence may be addressed to Baptist Book Store Envelope Service, MSN 155, 127 Ninth Avenue, N., Nashville, TN 37234.

The service, which provides Southern Baptists with more than 150-million individual envelopes each year, offers pre-printed, printed-to-order, and undated envelopes.

Record forms, church stationery, bulletins, and calling cards are available, as well as envelopes to support stewardship efforts such as Together We Build and Planned Growth in Giving.

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for arguing and fighting during the current convention controversy.

"This crazy controversy in our convention is causing our people to argue about the Word of God, while the Murle (tribe in Southeast Sudan) are crying out for the first copies of the New Testament that we worked on last summer," Cannata said. He and his wife spent last summer translating the New Testament into the Murle language.

"We don't need to argue about the Word of God. We need to obey it."

Cannata said he is more afraid of the selfishness within Southern Baptist churches than he is the convention's controversy, or anything else. "If we don't watch it, we are giving to ourselves, to our children, to our children's children. We act like we're building an empire that's going to last forever.

"I'm not saying churches shouldn't have buildings. I'm saying we've gone overboard. We as individuals need to learn what it means to invest our lives in people and in the Word of God."

## Trustees of MWBTS affirm peace effort

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, during their semi-annual meeting in October, adopted a statement affirming the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, voted to complete a trustee scholarship endowment, and heard committee reports.

Trustees affirmed the role and purpose of the SBC Peace Committee, formed by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1985. "We expressed our appreciation for the deliberate and prayerful way in which the committee... has begun its work and focused its energies," the statement read. "We pledge to the committee our prayer support, our personal encouragement, and our official cooperation."

Trustees also voted to complete the endowment of a \$500 trustee scholarship awarded annually to a qualified Midwestern student. Trustees began the scholarship in April 1982.

Reports included information on a record fall enrollment of 613 students and an update on the campus master plan, a 10-year campus development program approved by trustees in 1983.

In other action, the board:

- adopted a \$3,168,920 budget and reviewed a five-year projected budget.

- adopted a resolution of appreciation for William B. Coble, professor of New Testament and Greek. Coble, who came to Midwestern in 1960, will retire from full-time teaching Dec. 31, 1985.

- named William H. Morton professor emeritus of Biblical archaeology, effective Aug. 1, 1985. Morton joined the faculty in 1958.

- named George D. Thomason professor emeritus of New Testament and Greek, effective Aug. 1, 1985. Thomason came to Midwestern in 1959.

- accepted a recommendation from the development committee urging 100 percent participation by trustees in the seminary's Annual Fund. Money raised for the Annual Fund is used to supplement Midwestern's regular operating budget. Kermit McGregor, trustee chairman, thanked Midwestern alumni for their "extraordinary achievement in supporting the Annual Fund."

## 'Reflector' selects Palmer to write lesson comments

William L. Palmer, president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, has been selected to write the Uniform Lesson Series commentary for the Baptist and Reflector, beginning with this issue.

Palmer was elected president of HCBA in April 1984 and began his duties in June. He was inaugurated as the fifth president on April 29, 1985.

The Colorado native came to his present position from First Baptist Church, Galax, Va., where he served as pastor from 1981-1984. Previously, he was pastor of three churches in South Carolina.

While serving as pastor of First Baptist Church in Morristown from 1969-1981, Palmer was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1979. In



Palmer

## Haywood takes post with BTN NewScene

NASHVILLE (BP) — David Haywood, photojournalist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's office of communication since 1980, has been promoted to NewScene design editor in the office.

Haywood will coordinate production of SBC NewScene, a weekly denominational news program on the Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN).

A North Carolina native, Haywood is a graduate of Mars Hill (N.C.) College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He is a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood.

## Tennessee churches accept offer of BTN

NASHVILLE — West Paris Baptist Church, Paris, and Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, are among the first churches in the Southern Baptist Convention to accept an offer for free use of a satellite telecommunications system for receiving BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network).

During the first week of the offer from the Baptist Sunday School Board, more than 150 contracts were mailed to interested churches and 16 contracts were received from churches in 12 states.

A total of 250 satellite receiving systems are being made available at no charge to churches agreeing to sign a five-year subscription to BTN.

Included in the offer is a 10-foot satellite receiving only antenna, a Uniden receiver, 100 feet of cable, and all regular manufacturers' warranties. Churches will be responsible for shipping costs from the manufacturer, installation, additional options, on-site survey if needed, and repair and maintenance beyond warranty coverage.

At the end of the five-year period, churches have three options. They may sign another five-year agreement, at the end of which the equipment would belong to the church; purchase the equipment for \$500; or remove and return the system to the Broadman division of the board, freight paid.

Churches may make arrangements to use the satellite receiving equipment, valued at \$2,295, by contacting the Broadman sales department at the board.

denominational life, he served as a trustee for Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Knoxville. He was elected first vice-president of the TBC in 1978. He also served as a member of the TBC Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Palmer was general chairman of the 1979 Second Century Campaign for Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

After graduating from college, Palmer earned the doctor of ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

## C-N ranks second in missionaries

JEFFERSON CITY — A report released by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in October shows that Carson-Newman College ranked second in the nation among all colleges and universities in the number of HMB-related summer missionaries sent out during the summer of 1985.

The only school in the nation which sent out more summer missionaries than Carson-Newman was Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

The student missionaries sent from Carson-Newman constituted nearly one-third of the total of summer missionaries from Tennessee schools, 28 out of 90.

In addition, six graduating seniors from Carson-Newman's class of '85 are now serving as US-2 missionaries and two Carson-Newman students are presently serving as semester missionaries.

According to Carson-Newman Campus Minister Jim Wilson, the BSU has set a goal for mission fund raising eight times greater than previous goals. Carson-Newman students hope to raise \$7,000 for summer missions, \$1,000 for the Foreign Mission Board's World Hunger Relief through "Hogs for Haiti," and \$32,000 for the poverty relief program, Appalachian Outreach, which was started through the social action committee of Carson-Newman's BSU.

"We believe that God is working in a greater way than ever before through our students, and through our Baptist Student Union," said Wilson, "and so we think we should not shirk but set goals worthy of the work that seems to have been given us to do. We ask the prayers and support of Baptists all over Tennessee as we undertake these great tasks."

## Marvin E. Hines retires in 50th year of ministry

Marvin E. Hines Sr., pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Clarksville, has announced his retirement date as Dec. 31. He has been pastor there for 14 years and will be in his 50th year in the ministry at that time.

Hines attended Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., and Union University, Jackson. He was licensed and ordained into the ministry by East Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky.

Previous pastorates include churches in Illinois, Kentucky, and Mississippi. Ramer Baptist Church, Ramer; Fowlkes Baptist Church, Fowlkes; and New Providence Baptist Church, Clarksville, are previous Tennessee pastorates.

Clarksville will remain Hines' home as he continues to lead revivals and provide other ministerial services.

# Tennessee

## LEADERSHIP . . .

First Baptist Church, Bructon, called Greg Watkins as minister of youth.

Eddie Holmes resigned as pastor of Enon Baptist Church, McKenzie.

Thomas L. Wickes has accepted a call from Cleveland's First Baptist Church to come as minister of music, beginning January 1986. He comes from Orange Park, Fla., where he served in a similar position at First Baptist Church. Wickes is a graduate of Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., and received a master of church music degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Previously, he served as minister of music in churches in Enterprise, Ala., and Alpharetta, Ga.

Wilson Walley resigned recently as pastor of Emmaus Baptist Church in Newbern.

Baptist Hill Baptist Church, Jasper, called Jack Goodwin Jr. as interim pastor.

## CHURCHES . . .

Curve Baptist Church, Ripley, held special services on Oct. 20 to celebrate their 100th anniversary. The celebration included dinner on the grounds and special singing. William Summers is pastor.

## PEOPLE . . .

First Baptist Church in Crossville ordained Mike Berry and Sam Weidner into its deacon ministry. Carl Yarnell Jr. is pastor of the Crossville church.

Emma Scheuerman, a member of First Baptist Church, Lebanon, celebrated her 100th birthday recently. Ray Cleek is the pastor of First Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pope were honored on Nov. 17 at First Baptist Church

## Salem votes to add church at meeting

One church was added at the annual meeting of Salem Baptist Association Oct. 22-23 at Whorton Springs Baptist Church and Indian Creek Memorial Baptist Church in Smithville.

Faith Baptist Church in Smithville, of which Eddy Rushing is pastor, was voted into fellowship in the association.

Elected as moderator was Charles Olson, pastor of Snow Hill Baptist Church in Dowelltown, succeeding Robert Powers, pastor of Auburn Baptist Church in Auburntown. Elected as assistant moderator was C. E. Clark, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Woodbury. Re-elected were Ed Edwards, a member of West Main Baptist Church in Alexandria, as treasurer; Ray Stonecypher, pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Liberty, as clerk; and Helen Edwards, a member of West Main Baptist Church, as assistant treasurer. Elected as assistant clerk was Mark Stinnett, pastor of Burt Baptist Church in Woodbury.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 21-22 at New Hope Baptist Church in Alexandria and Salem Baptist Church.

in Tiptonville on the occasion of his 50th anniversary as a minister.

John Clifton Sharp was ordained to the ministry on Nov. 17 at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Maryville.

Three men were ordained into the deacon ministry recently at Parkway Baptist Church, Knoxville. They are Tim Fox, Tracy Roberts, and Jim Stanifer. The pastor of Parkway Baptist Church is Walter H. Davis.

Gary Sloan was ordained to the gospel ministry on Nov. 17 by his home church, First Baptist Church in Millington. Bruce Aubrey, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Atoka, gave the charge to the church and Ray Newcomb, pastor of the Millington church, gave the charge to the candidate. Sloan is pastor of Keeling Baptist Church, Keeling.

## REVIVALS . . .

Harry Birlew, pastor of Mary's Chapel Baptist Church in Ripley, reported the addition of two families by letter, five for baptism, and many rededications during a recent revival led by Eldon Byrd.

Fowlkes Baptist Church, Fowlkes, was led in revival by John Adams recently. Pastor Don McCulley reported there were three professions of faith and several rededications.

## Western District honors Bill Smith

Director of Missions Bill H. Smith was honored at the Western District Baptist Association's annual meeting Oct. 17-18 at Ramble Creek Baptist Church in Big Sandy and Cottage Grove Baptist Church in Cottage Grove.

Smith was given a plaque and monetary gift for his 10th anniversary as director of missions of the association.

Elected as moderator was Malcolm Norton, pastor of North Fork Baptist Church in Puryear, succeeding Thomas Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church in Paris. Elected as vice-moderator was H. D. Hudson, pastor of Henry Baptist Church in Henry. Re-elected were Charles Conger, a member of First Baptist Church in Paris, as treasurer; Charles Orr, minister of education at First Baptist Church in Paris, as clerk; and Mrs. J. C. Roberts, a member of First Baptist Church in Paris, as assistant clerk.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 23-24 at Oak Hill Baptist Church and New Harmony Baptist Church in Paris.

## Spring City church calls Terry Meeks as pastor

First Baptist Church, Spring City, has called Terry Meeks as pastor. He began his ministry with the church Oct. 6.

Meeks is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He attended undergraduate school at Kennesaw College in Marietta, Ga.

A native of Thomaston, Ga., Meeks was ordained by Calvary Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. This is his first pastorate.



**NEW CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER** — Highland Baptist Church, Pulaski, held groundbreaking ceremonies Nov. 10 for a Christian Life Center. Pictured above are Richard Russell, Bobby McMillen, Dwight Mercer (pastor), Edgar Dunnavant, and Bobby Franks.

## Cumberland Plateau adds new church

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association voted into fellowship Friendship Baptist Church in Westel where, in addition to Fredonia Baptist Church in Crossville, the Oct. 21-22 annual meeting was held.

The pastor of Friendship Baptist Church is Tom Davis.

Re-elected as moderator was H. C. Couch, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Crossville. Elected as assistant director was Houston Inman, pastor of Homestead Baptist Church in Crossville. Re-elected were O. B. Cole, a member of Memorial Baptist Church in Crossville, as treasurer and Burxie Copeland, a member of Mountain View Baptist Church in Crossville, as assistant treasurer. Elected were Karen Russell, a member and secretary of First Baptist Church in Crossville, as clerk, and Kathy Eleam, a member of Pomona Baptist Church in Crossville, and secretary at the associational office, as assistant clerk.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 20-21 at Homestead Baptist Church in the evenings and at Bethel Baptist Church in Crossville for the day session.

## ABTS scholarship to honor Capps

**NASHVILLE** — The executive committee of the Board of Trustees at American Baptist College of the American Baptist Theological Seminary has voted to establish a scholarship fund at the college in memory of George E. Capps Jr.

Capps, who died June 21 of a heart attack, was associate director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He previously was pastor of churches in Cookeville and Parsons and served as interim pastor of several other Tennessee churches.

Hoffman Harless, chairman of the trustees' scholarship committee, said the purpose of the fund is "to express appreciation and show recognition of Dr. Capps' contribution and service over many years to ABTS."

Harless said the goal of the committee is to raise \$15,000 for the scholarship fund. Interest from the fund, he added, would be used to provide one scholarship each year to a deserving student at the primarily black Bible school which is jointly sponsored by the SBC and the National Baptist Convention U.S.A.

"We want to honor a man who ably served the Lord by serving ABTS," Harless said.

Contributions to the scholarship fund may be sent to Capps Scholarship Fund, SBC Education Commission, 901 Commerce, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37203.

## Nashville acts on committee

The Nashville Baptist Association passed a resolution calling for prayer for the SBC Peace Committee and added two churches at their annual meeting Oct. 21-22 at Judson Baptist Church and Inglewood Baptist Church in Nashville.

Clearview Baptist Church in Brentwood, whose pastor is Robert J. Norman, and Oak Valley Baptist Church in Franklin, whose pastor is Don Atkinson, were voted into fellowship in the association. Clearview Baptist Church was a mission of Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood and Oak Valley Baptist Church was a mission of Walker Memorial Baptist Church in Franklin.

Re-elected as moderator was Everett P. Hooper, pastor of Rosedale Baptist Church in Nashville. Elected as vice-moderator was Kerney L. Bailey, pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church in Nashville. Re-elected were Carl Duck, executive director of the association, as treasurer and Doyle Chatham, a member of Inglewood Baptist Church in Nashville, as clerk.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 20-21 at Two Rivers Baptist Church and Radnor Baptist Church in Nashville.

## Pat Kough accepts call of Zion Baptist Church

Pat Kough has accepted the call of Zion Baptist Church in Brownsville. He comes to the church from First Baptist Church in Bemis where he was pastor for 14 years.

A native of Kentucky, Kough is a graduate of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, Ky.

Denominational service includes one term as president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference. He is presently serving on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Kough will begin his ministry with Zion Baptist Church Dec. 1.



Kough

## Sequatchie Valley welcomes Conley

Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association welcomed its new director of missions and voted a church into its fellowship at its annual meeting Oct. 17-18 at East Valley Baptist Church in Dunlap and Kimball Baptist Church in Jasper.

Charles M. Conley became director of missions Oct. 9. Harmony Baptist Church in Whitwell, which has been under watchcare for one year, was voted into fellowship.

Re-elected were Jack Goodwin, pastor of Cartwright First Baptist Church in Whitwell, as moderator, and Jim Moore, a member of First Baptist Church in Whitwell, as treasurer. Also elected were Nancy Holmes, a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Whitwell, as assistant treasurer and clerk; William Hall, a member of First Baptist Church in Jasper, as assistant clerk; and John Magness, minister of education at First Southern Baptist Church in Pikeville, as assistant moderator.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 23 at Cartwright First Baptist Church in Whitwell and on Oct. 24 at First Baptist Church in Whitwell.

## BIBLE BOOK SERIES

### Lesson for Dec. 1

# Daniel and his friends

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

Basic Passage: Daniel 1:1 to 3:30  
Focal Passages: Daniel 1:8, 14-17; 3:17-18, 26-28

Every Christian should be familiar with Foxe's Book of Martyrs which contains a survey of those who, through the centuries, have made the supreme sacrifice for their faith. We have not yet been placed in that position, but in some places in the world today, people are actually dying for the sake of their Lord.

Our lesson this week concerns four young men who were willing to risk everything to remain true to the godly teachings they had received in their homes.



Wood

#### A young man with conviction (1:8)

The Babylonians carried the Jews captive in three stages: 605, 597, and 586 B.C. Daniel and his three friends were in the first deportation. They were chosen by the king to be trained for a position of trust in his court. Part of this involved adopting certain customs, including allegiance to Babylonian worship and diet.

Daniel, whose name was changed to Belteshazzar, had strong convictions about his own God and personal discipline. Though we cannot be sure about what types of food the Babylonians wished him to eat, the feeling among scholars is that they were related in some ways to idol worship.

Daniel determined that his religious heritage meant more to him than any anticipated promotion in a new country.

#### Results of loyalty to God (1:14-17)

Though many things about the Babylonians clashed with Hebrew religion, some, like the eunuch, respected and even admired certain Jewish people. Daniel was one of those rare people who knew how to stand up for his convictions and yet not irritate those who had different ideas on the subject. This ability to disagree without being disagreeable is a fine art. We should all work hard to attain it.

The "ten days" of the test represent a "round number" although, of course, even such a short period could have produced a great difference in physical appearance. The writer, however, left no doubt as to the source of the young people's wisdom which is stressed more

than their external superiority.

#### Faith in the face of fear (3:17-18)

Chapter two tells how Daniel revealed the meaning of the king's dream, after which the king paid homage to Daniel's God, made him ruler over the whole province, as well as chief of the governors over all the wise men, and also assigned a position of administrative importance to his three friends.

Yet he still had a high opinion of himself and was an easy target for those who played on his vanity in order to get rid of Daniel's three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah whose names he had earlier changed to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

The record does not tell us where Daniel was during the incident. Perhaps he was away on a diplomatic mission. Scholars see a relationship between the golden image in chapter three and the "head of gold" in chapter two that Daniel said stood for Nebuchadnezzar. This was a subtle way of claiming those who refused to worship the image were showing disloyalty to the king.

The translation, "if our God," in verse 17, is not the best. More acceptable is "The God Whom we serve . . . is able to deliver us." We find no evidence that the young men had any doubt. They pinned their lives on the fact that God would honor their faith. This does not mean they had no anxiety, but they did not vocalize any apprehension. They realized God might have chosen them to be martyrs, but they faced the situation not merely with courage but with faith.

#### Faith honored by God (3:26-28)

In his wrath, Nebuchadnezzar heated the furnace seven times its normal temperature, but God delivered the young men. The king had a unique experience. He saw a fourth person in the furnace. Many scholars believe this was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. We do not have enough evidence to make a firm decision, but since the king said, literally, "one like unto a son of the gods," no reason exists to refute this contention. We should remember, however, that this appearance was for the benefit of the young men since God had promised, though an earlier prophet, to be with His people when they passed through affliction (Isaiah 43:2). Whatever the king might have understood by the "fourth person," he could not deny the fact that the youths were delivered, as they claimed they would be, by their God.

Verse 28 is a doxology honoring the One Who delivered them. The king spoke of an "angel" which might well stand in parallel to the one "like the Son of God" (v.25, KJV). This supernatural deliverance brings us great encouragement. He is able to help us in our needs.

Paul says, "In the One Who pours power into me, I am able for anything" (Philippians 4:13).

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## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

### Lesson for Dec. 1

# The announcement

By William L. Palmer, president  
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour

Basic Passages: Isaiah 9:1-7; Luke 1:26-56  
Focal Passage: Luke 1:26-38

One of the glorious aspects of studying the Bible is that its depths are inexhaustible. No matter how many times we read about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are refreshed and thrilled by the old, old story which is ever new and exciting. The Biblical record of the announcement of the birth of Jesus stirs our minds and our hearts with freshness.

A formal announcement of a birth is frequently received through the mail. We rejoice with our friends and acquaintances. Being a grandfather, I recollect the excitement which came when news was given to us that our daughter was expecting a child. My interest is aroused when a friend shares the good news that a grandchild is expected. The events preceding the birth of a child are always exciting times.

We can imagine the excitement of Mary when the angel Gabriel was sent from God to share with her the good news that she was to have a child who was to be called "the Son of the Highest" (v.32). We can also understand her questioning, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (v.34). Mary was a virgin.

Mary was a special person. Gabriel described some of her characteristics and qualifications for being the mother of Jesus Christ. She was "highly favoured" (v.28b). Gabriel said, "the Lord is with thee" (v.28c). She could want no greater commendation and assurance than the fact that God was with her.

Then Gabriel said, "blessed art thou among women" (v.28d). Mary was special. She was a person chosen by God to be the mother of His only begotten, unique Son.

The angel Gabriel also told Mary that she had "found favour with God" (v.30c). Of all women, Mary was the one selected by God to bear His Son. An attempt to understand these tremendous expositions was enough to dismay this young woman.

The angel gave Mary specific details about the event which was to occur. She was not just to have a child, she was to have a son (v.31b). That a male child was to be born to her was in itself a distinct revelation. Can you imagine the incredulosity of her family and friends when she said that she was going to a baby boy!

My daughter was beyond 30 when her second child was born. Because of the fear of lawsuits in our day, her doctors requested that she undergo amniocentesis. Amniocentesis is the surgical insertion of a hollow needle through the abdominal wall into the uterus of a pregnant female especially to obtain amniotic fluid for the determination of fetal sex or chromosomal abnormality. As a

result of the test, we were told that we were to have a granddaughter. You should have seen the skepticism of my friends when I affirmed that we were expecting a new granddaughter! She was a girl, too.

Not only was Mary to have a son, but she was told that she was to name Him "Jesus" (v.31c). The Gospel of Matthew gave explanation of the child's name when the angel of the Lord told Joseph, "thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins" (1:21b). The mission and ministry of Mary's Son was assigned before His birth. He was to be Saviour.

Mary was told that "He shall be great" (v.32). Mary did not forget these predictions. Luke records the evidences of her expectations about His greatness. Many things she did not understand as we do not understand. Nonetheless, she believed and trusted.

Mary accepted God's message which was given to her through the angel. Comprehension of such thoughts as "The Holy Ghost shall come up thee" and "The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee" (v.35) is beyond human ability. Exercise of faith is an absolute essential.

Whatever questions we may have about the immaculate conception, the virgin birth, and the incarnation, we can rest by faith in the positive statement given by the angel to Mary, "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (v.37).

I believe in the God of the impossible. God is not limited by my finitude, by my limited nature and understanding. He is God.

We recognize that God knew what He was doing when He selected Mary to be Jesus' mother. I like her spirit and attitude. In verse 38, Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me according to Thy Word." That is beautiful. I can see why God chose this young Jewish woman to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. She deserves our respect. Our fear of the deification of Mary ought not to rob us of recognizing the fact that Mary was a lovely person, a special person in her being chosen to bear the "Son of the Highest."

Along with Mary we can say, "My soul doth magnify the Lord" (v.46).

## Carson-Newman hosts Torchbearers' Dinner

JEFFERSON CITY — The 1985 Torchbearers' Dinner, held to honor supporters of Carson-Newman College, was held on campus Nov. 1. John Jay Scales, associate vice-president for external affairs and development director at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, spoke.

In the 1984-85 fiscal year, Carson-Newman received \$1,631,387.63 from individuals, including estates and trusts. Total gifts for the year broke all records with \$4,222,716.97 received from all sources, an increase of 24.6 percent.

"But," commented President Cordell Maddox, "tonight is not about money. Tonight is about community and commitment, shared hopes and lives and dreams. Giving our money is one way we say, 'This we believe.'"

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**LIFE AND WORK SERIES**  
Lesson for Dec. 1

# Dealing with prosperity

By Paul Woodford, pastor  
First Baptist Church, Lewisburg

Basic Passages: Hosea 10:1-15; 12:1-14  
Focal Passages: Hosea 10:1-2, 12-14; 12:1, 6-9

"God's People Solve Problems" is the title of the unit we begin this week. Ironically, prosperity can be one of those problems. In this week's lesson we are learning about "Dealing with Prosperity." One commentator has wisely observed that prosperity and faithfulness do not always go hand in hand.



Woodford

The setting of our Scripture passage is thought to be that period of time of great stability and prosperity enjoyed by the Northern Kingdom just prior to the ultimate fall of that kingdom in 722 B.C. to Sargon II of Assyria.

During this period, prosperity became a problem along with prosperity's appendage of infatuation with power and wealth. And as always, the local pagan influences were very prevalent and an abiding influence drawing the people away from true worship of Jehovah God. The natural outgrowth of such a situation is usually a divided allegiance.

The period of a divided heart (10:1-2) A certain paradox is set forth, whether by a mistranslation of a key word or not, in the fact that a vine that is called "empty" is also in "the multitude of his fruit" showing true emptiness by increasing altars of worship. In other words, the vine (Israel) may give the appearance of fertility but the fruit is showing up as false because "their heart is divided."

Israel had built altars to God and pillars to the pagan gods. Divided loyalty always ends in disloyalty to both sides. The times were times of prosperity and success but the worship is these last days of the Northern Kingdom had degenerated to the point that the nation's altars had become places to evade God's de-

## Union Campus Day sees 31 decisions

JACKSON — Campus Day at Union University was a day of decisions. For most who participated, it was a day to decide whether to choose Union as their college, but for 31 students, it was also a day to decide to follow Christ.

Climaxing a day teaming with activities, designed to persuade area high school students to consider Union as their college choice, a Christian concert was presented by "Truth" in the college chapel.

Following the performance, 31 students answered the invitation issued by Richard Holloman, assistant director for religious affairs and Baptist Student Union director at Union. Eight students made a profession of faith and 23 made rededications or answered a call to full-time Christian service.

"Music is a tremendous vehicle with which to propagate the gospel," said Holloman. "At Union, we schedule concerts not only to entertain, but to minister as well by providing quality Christian music."

Holloman speculated that more than 100 students would be reached for Christ this year through Christian music.

mands upon their loyalties and commitments.

To paraphrase a common adage: "Followers of God can stand anything but prosperity." The danger of affluence is that it tends to divide our loyalties and to change the focus of true trust in God. There is real peril in a divided heart.

The fruit of falsehood: judgment God's prophet pointedly states of the Israelites, "You have eaten the fruit of lies." Truly man's woes often stem from refusal to abide in the sowing and reaping cycle and plan of God. God says to "sow ... in righteousness, reap in mercy" but they have "plowed wickedness, (and) have reaped iniquity." The sure and terrible harvest of doom coming upon them are difficult, not pleasurable, tasks and devastation by enemies in a manner like unto a horrible event, familiar to them though lost to known historical records (v.14).

The absurdity of Israel's attempts at security (12:1) What could be less satisfying and more foolish looking than a person chasing after and trying to find nourishment and deliverance by means of the wind. Yet such was the case as recorded in 2 Kings 17:3-4 when Hosea, king of Israel, negotiated treaties with both Egypt and Assyria in 732 B.C. Aside from the contradictory

## FMB names Bruce to recruit pastors

Furloughing Southern Baptist Missionary Joe Bruce of Nashville has been named by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to travel across Tennessee speaking to pastors about the possibility of answering a call to foreign missions.

Bruce, who plans to return to his work as associate area director for middle America in June, will meet with as many preachers as he can to ask them if they have ever considered an overseas ministry.

He is one of 18 furloughing missionaries being used as consultant assistants by the Foreign Mission Board's missionary enlistment department. Through a presence at pastors' gatherings and in personal meetings, the assistants will help identify pastors who could be general evangelists overseas and encourage them to consider missionary service.

"Our view is that while every Christian should be a witness, there are those to whom God has given the missionary gift to operate with other spiritual gifts across cultural lines," said Bill Morgan, enlistment department director. It has been estimated that at least 30,000 Southern Baptists have the missionary gift who have not responded to it.

nature of these two treaties, the greater contradiction is the failure to trust their covenant with Jehovah God. Israel's making covenants with foreign governments was tantamount to breaking that covenant with God.

### The demand for change (12:6-9)

A time-worn illustration from an anonymous evangelist mimics the tone of these verses. A father warned a wayward son many times to change his ways with the final ultimatum being: "Either change your ways or change your name."

Even so, the Lord of Israel demands a change of their ways to true loyalty and service to Him. He uses an illustration from the life of Jacob the supplanter to show the arrogance of sin. Ironically, Jacob did change. And God (Who delivered them from Egypt) sets forth the promise that He is powerful enough to return Israel to the wandering "tabernacle" life of the wilderness. Hopefully they could see the wisdom and mercy of such a happening.

It is better to have less prosperity and more personal dependence on God. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as they soul prospereth" (3 John 2).

## ACTS fund drive passes \$1-million

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — In October, the first month of a five-year fund-raising campaign for the American Christian Television System (ACTS) network, the Radio and Television Commission received pledges of \$1,020,787 from nearly 500 donors.

The pledges resulted from a series of 33 dinners which launched the ACTS Tele-Missions campaign. Dinners were held in 14 states on four separate evenings.

The financial campaign for ACTS was approved by the SBC Executive Committee during its September meeting in Nashville. Dinner guests viewed a closed-circuit television program beamed by satellite from the Radio and Television Commission studios in Fort Worth.

Featured on the program were Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board; Hollywood actor David Soul; several people whose lives have been changed through the ministry of ACTS; and a report from Mike Huckabee, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark.



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# Apartheid protest breeds reverse intolerance

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This story is based on interviews with black Baptists who live in South Africa's riot-torn black townships. Names have been changed or omitted or interviews combined to protect individuals.

By Robert O'Brien

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP)—Quietly huddled in their small house, Nehemiah and his family listened in the darkness as radical blacks, angry over South Africa's apartheid system, vented their hostilities on them.

"We will burn! We will burn!" they chanted defiantly outside the home as the stench of broken sewers and uncollected garbage mingled with their bitter rage in the black township on the city's outskirts.

Nehemiah's family lived out a scene which repeats itself from seething ethnic township to seething ethnic township in South Africa. As riots rage and heavily armed South African police and military enter the fray, public services and orderly life have broken down in the townships, while in cities such as Johannesburg, life goes on pretty much as usual.

Tolerance over individual choice of how to combat apartheid also has taken a beating, according to black Baptist leaders in several affected townships. Black radicals, committed to violent protest, believe anyone who is not for their methods is against them and often persecute those who do not cooperate. Christians and others who protest apartheid non-violently draw the wrath of other blacks bent on violent destruction of apartheid or just plain violence.

"Black Christians are scared," explained one black Baptist. "We don't know where to stand as Christians because Christians take widely different views of how church should confront state and how to interpret the Bible."

Nehemiah, a black Baptist pastor who refused to discontinue services or allow use of church property for political rallies, added, "We live in a hell-on-earth situation which doesn't permit neutrality of different methods."

"Refusal brings threats to burn your home, destroy your church, kill you," Nehemiah continued. "That forces many blacks to join protests. Agreement with demands violates the law and brings the wrath of police. But we must stand firm, not just because of the law but because we believe the Word of God is more

powerful than violence and that the way to peace doesn't come through murder and destruction by people of any race."

Nehemiah will never forget the night he and his family faced death, a danger that never really goes away. "I vowed I would die rather than give in to the mob," Nehemiah recalled. "I was convinced we would die that night. But we took our stand, prepared to accept God's will."

Vividly aware of each other's fear, they prayed for protection and then began to sing Biblical choruses as the mob's fury grew. Gradually, their fear decreased, and they seemed to move from a hurricane of emotion into a peace that defied explanation. Then hope entered the hurricane's eye. An inner voice seemed to say, "I will protect you." Miraculously, the angry mob dissipated, leaving them alone, at least for awhile.

As calm came, it also eased Nehemiah's memory of another black mob burning a black girl to death. She was denounced as a collaborator, but no one knew that for sure. Something as simple as buying groceries from a white store or helping families of black policemen whom radicals burned out has brought such denunciations.

"Many of our brothers use the situation to destroy people's lives, as one faction fights another," one black Baptist said. "It's taken the place of our cultural practice of witchcraft and public denunciation of witches."

Nehemiah will never forget standing by, helpless and horrified, as the girl died, praying God would spare her. The mob, knocking her down every time she got up, threatened to burn out and kill anyone who tried to help.

"By their logic, the radicals think we're weak," Nehemiah said. "They can't understand non-violence because their bitterness runs deep. They've waited so long for justice I can understand why talk of peace angers them."

Nehemiah and others understand the pain brought on by apartheid and do not feel they have the only valid approach to protest. They are thankful the Baptist Union of Southern Africa strongly urged the government to abolish apartheid and give equal rights and representation to all races. "We also hate apartheid," one said. "Even though we disagree with our brothers' methods, we love them and hope others will have patience as they deal with their grief."

Black Baptist observers say many other factors besides anger at apartheid are at work; that it is more than just a

civil rights movement and defies the world's simplistic solutions.

For example, longtime observers say many protesters have become part of a Communist effort to use anti-apartheid sentiment to overthrow South Africa. Some minimize that threat, but observers see in South Africa the same earmarks — methods, slogans, arms — present when such neighbors as Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia fell to Marxist revolution.

Also, disinvestment campaigns abroad, designed to force an end to apartheid, involve an emotional issue which creates debate. The observers say disinvestment has succeeded in pressuring South Africa but also has damaged companies to the point they have laid off blacks. They say if it lasts too long it will have a severe impact on all racial groups in South Africa and the region's black countries. Those countries, economically dependent on South Africa, largely continue to trade with it while others disinvest.

Another factor involves tribalism and political fragmentation into language and tribal groups. A good bit of the killing in South Africa boils down to black killing black in tribal-political strife, a phenomenon of black African culture reminiscent of American Indian tribal warfare. Many do not believe it, and some blacks deny it, but it is a fact as dehumanizing as any other prejudice. Blacks kill each other by the thousands in black-run regimes of neighboring countries for tribal-political reasons — a form of genocide the world does not understand.

These factors and many other complexities cause many observers, including many blacks, to emphasize the need for a viable mix of the expertise and balancing influences of various races in which one does not dominate the other. They have seen the disintegration in other African countries which ignored that mix after revolution and doubt that fragmented-black factions could drop

differences and form a cooperative coalition if they alone ruled the country.

In fact, many blacks harbor so much anger they want apartheid in reverse and rule by blacks at the expense of millions of whites, Indians (Asians), and "coloreds" (persons of mixed race) in South Africa. Black Baptist leaders and others say that must not happen because the whole economic and political stability of southern Africa's countries depends on a strong South Africa, which shores up the entire region's economy.

The black leaders do not believe facing up to unpleasant or unpopular truths should be used either to stereotype them as "black on the outside but white on the inside" ("Uncle Toms" or "Oreos") or to excuse white brutality or apartheid.

"Apartheid has dehumanized all races, including whites," one black leader said. "Our country has reaped violence by creating barriers. It helped create the latest violence last year when 'coloreds' and Indians were given a minor voice in government — but not blacks." "Coloreds" and Indians, on the other hand, protest their minor role and represent another complex factor in the whole complex situation.

Baptists across the racial spectrum say they detest the thinking of many white Afrikaaners who put apartheid and its 361 laws on the books beginning in 1948. But they understand Afrikaaners' fear of extermination by surrounding black states.

"They're a minority which has lived in South Africa longer than whites have in America," one black Baptist said. "It was a different situation when America's majority whites granted civil rights to minority blacks."

Black Baptist leaders say they pray other blacks will learn by their own treatment not to seek revenge but to work for justice for all races. They also hope the world will try to understand their dilemma and avoid simplistic solutions for a complex situation.

## Interpretations

### Itching ears

By Herschel H. Hobbs

*"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3).*

Paul is not simply giving this as a sign of the Lord's return. He is urging Timothy to be true to the Bible in his own preaching and teaching. It applies to every generation. The apostle faces certain death, and is preparing his younger helper so that he can/will carry on after he is gone.

After hearing me as a young preacher, old preachers said to me, "It does my heart good to know that after I am gone there will still be preachers who believe and proclaim God's Word." Now I find myself doing the same. Such was Paul's purpose here.

In every age, there are those who turn away from "sound doctrine" or teaching. They have "itching ears," wanting to hear what they want to hear instead of

what God says. The Greek word means to scratch or tickle.

Clement of Alexandria tells of speakers tickling the ears of those who want to be "tickled" or scratched. They prefer "fables" (myths, muthous) to the plain truth of the Bible. Call these things communism, humanism, "new thought," "situation ethics," cults, the latest fads in popular thinking, or any bizarre teaching. They were poor substitutes for divine truth. Note the present popularity of "gurus." Many are intrigued by that title which simply means "teacher."

Many have itching ears even over some one phase of the Bible (for example, prophecy, eschatology) to the neglect of the rest of Scripture, and they go only where they can have their ears scratched. Many people also have itching ears as to their choice of reading matter.

Despite these things, we need to heed Paul's exhortation. Preachers and teachers should declare the whole counsel of God. Having heard it, each of us is responsible for the response we give to it.

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