

# Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 155/NO. 47/NOVEMBER 22, 1989

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION



**MESSENGERS ELECT OFFICERS** — New TBC officers picked in Knoxville are, from left, Guy Milam, North Knoxville, vice president; Murray Mathis, Third Church, Murfreesboro, president; and Jack Prince, West Hills Church, Knoxville, all pastors.



**BOARD LEADERS** — TBC Executive Board chose new officers. From left, Howard Olive, Monte Vista Church, pastor, Maryville, president; Ann Nolan, Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, secretary; Paul Durham, Radnor Church, pastor, Nashville, vice president.

## Convention elects Mathis, Milam, Prince as leaders

KNOXVILLE — F. Murray Mathis of Murfreesboro was elected Tennessee Baptist Convention president on the first ballot by garnering 51 percent of the vote.

The pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro, defeated Marshall Gupton, Una Church, Nashville, and Richard Patton, First Church, Portland, both pastors. Tradition called for the president to be from middle Tennessee this year. Mathis received 604 votes to Gupton's 419 and Patton's 166. Only 60 percent of the messengers voted.

W. D. Thomason, pastor, Green Hill Church, Mt. Juliet, nominated Mathis, citing the church's growth, giving, and the denominational involvement of Mathis. He concluded that Mathis was a "Bible-believing, Christ-honoring, and a people-loving person."

Kim Allen, pastor, First Church, Oakdale, nominated Patton, and Fred Steelman, pastor, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, nominated Gupton.

Also elected on first ballots were the vice president and second vice president.

Guy Milam, pastor, North Knoxville Church, narrowly defeated Mel Mason, pastor, South Fulton Church, South Fulton, for vice president.

Elected as second vice president was Jack Prince, West Hills Church, Knoxville. He ran against Tom Gatton, Second Church, Knoxville. Both are pastors.

Re-elected recording and statistical secretary was Wallace Anderson, TBC Program Services director. He has held the office 29 years. Pat Porter was re-elected registration secretary for her fifth term. — *Connie Davis*

## Convention issue

MOVING? Cut out and mail this address label to the Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 along with your new address.

## 2031 at Knoxville Convention

# Registration record smashed by messengers

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

KNOXVILLE — Despite snow and rain, heat, cold, and crowded facilities, a record-breaking congregation of messengers last week took care of business at the 115th Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention here.

Meeting at Central Church, Bearden, 2031 messengers passed a \$26.7 million budget for 1989-90, approved first reading of a revised statement of purpose, elected a Murfreesboro pastor as president, and heard inspirational and challenging messages and music.

The 2031 messengers eclipsed the old mark of 1884 from last year's meeting

## \$26.7 million TBC budget approved after discussion

KNOXVILLE — Messengers to the 115th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 14-16 adopted a budget of \$26,797,860 for 1989-90.

The amount represents a six percent increase over the previous year.

The approved budget calls for 37.5 percent of Cooperative Program receipts to be distributed through the Southern Baptist Convention while 62.5 percent will be distributed through the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Jerry Oakley, Springfield pastor who chaired the Budget and Program Committee, told messengers "it is not the budget I would like to bring."

He emphasized the budget will "be tight" this year and that Executive Board departments will operate at 95 percent of last year's budget. Figured into the budget was a four percent increase for employees, Oakley added.

Oakley cited several reasons for the tight budget including the budgeting of departments that previously were funded from the general fund, and the

in Jackson. Registration of 1871 on opening day almost topped the record.

Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Church, Murfreesboro, received 604 votes in winning over Marshall Gupton, pastor of Una Church, Nashville, with 419, and Richard Patton, pastor of Portland Church, 166, in a three-man run for the presidency.

Mathis gained backing from moderates and conservatives in the election to win with a majority vote on the first ballot. He said he represents a trend to "come together as Tennessee Baptists."

Other officers include two Knoxville pastors: Guy Milam, North Knoxville

Church, vice president; and Jack Prince, West Hills Church, second vice president. Milam defeated Mel Mason, pastor of South Fulton Church; and Tom Gatton, pastor of Second Church, lost to Prince. Wallace Anderson, recording secretary, and Pat Porter, registration secretary, were unopposed. Both are employed by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Central Church handled the crowded situation with aplomb. The sessions had been scheduled for the Civic Center but Central came to the rescue when a scheduling error allowed the facility to be booked by another group. (See page 10)

funding of the expanded annuity program for TBC ministers and staff as a preferred budget item.

Oakley emphasized the new Baptist Center in Brentwood, while a part of the "financial predicament" is not the total cause.

The Springfield pastor noted that no agency or institution received a budget cut except the Executive Board program. The institutions will receive more money than last year because of the increased budget, but will not receive a percentage increase he clarified.

One institution — Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes — received a \$41,000 increase to begin work with mentally retarded adults which was authorized by messengers at last year's convention in Jackson.

"We felt this work was significant, new, and important enough to give additional funding," Oakley said.

One attempt was made to change the budget before it was approved.

James Robertson, pastor of Sharon Church, Knoxville, offered an amendment to add \$28,000 to the budget of Adult Homes to be used for Rainbow Acres, a ministry to mentally disabled adults in Knoxville.

Robertson was told that while fund-

ing was not available for Rainbow Acres, the staff of Adult Homes could consult with the Knoxville home.

Oakley said he was in sympathy with the program, but urged messengers not to vote any addition to an already tight budget.

Before the matter was voted on, Larry Reese, messenger from First Church, Jacksboro, offered an amendment to the amendment.

He suggested the matter be referred to the trustees of Adult Homes so they could study the possibility of funding Rainbow Acres from Adult Homes' unrestricted reserves.

The amendment to the amendment was approved. Messengers then adopted the 1989-90 budget as presented. — *Lonnie Wilkey*

## An inside look

- Metcalfe reflects
  - TBC president looks at past year ..... Page 3
- Amendment fails
  - To TBC constitution ..... Page 5
- Photo highlights
  - From 115th session ..... Pages 8-9

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Nashville, Tennessee

## Editorials

# Priority of prayer and messenger concerns

Tennessee Baptists climbed a mountain last week at the Annual Meeting in Knoxville, and found at the crest the key to the power of God, the answer to tension, the relief of burdens.

Prayer. Add appropriate adjectives and flowery nouns if desired, but that one colossal word is sufficient. Prayer.

We can point to many evidences of prayer, and we admit that there is always potential for strife. But attitudes and actions indicate the presence of God's Spirit, and potential confrontations seemed to dissolve. The Tennessee Baptist Convention is not perfect — but we are learning from experience that it is better to go forward than to surrender to dissension.

Prayer was the central theme of D. L. Lowrie's Wednesday night message. When he concluded a stirring sermon of compassionate pleading for prayer, the congregation was eager to respond. Hundreds of messengers bowed in small groups, praying together. Many hastened to the platform to kneel at the steps in prayer. There were sounds of impassioned pleas to a loving God. There were tearful prayers of forgiveness and intercession.

There we were, at the top of the mountain. The strength of the Lord comes in giving, not getting, we were reminded. And on going back to the valleys of life, we take renewed strength for ministering in Christ's name.

We make several observations about the Knoxville convention, knowing there was not unanimity, and that some messengers may have gone home feeling defeated. The observations:

- **Messages.** Lowrie, Calvin Metcalf, Leonard Markham, Franklin Paschall, Frank Houston, and Damon Patterson stirred, remonstrated, inspired, and chastened messengers. Added to those a powerful impromptu testimony from Gene Williams, layman from Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel, who is president of the Tennessee Baptist Men. With power, he related experiences from missions.

- **The music matched the strength of the sermons.** By voices and instruments, we were lifted up in praise to the Lord.

- **Election of officers.** Three candidates from Middle Tennessee were nominated — Murray Mathis, Richard Patton, and Marshall Gupton. The records of the three as pastors are outstanding. Patton chaired the committee that led to the TBC vote to begin work with mentally retarded adults. Gupton was the "on site" leader of the Task Force as the new Baptist Center emerged from dream to reality. Mathis was a member of several committees, including the Executive Board.

The choice of Mathis was made with support from conservatives and moderates. He is probably recognized as the most conservative of the three conservatives nominated, and knows Tennessee Baptists. There was no rancor in the election process.

- **New statement of purpose for the convention.** The statement is concise and clear. Our mission for Christ is plainly delineated. With concerted commitment, we can fulfill its goals, even before the statement gets final approval next year.

- **Business sessions.** In discussion of the budget, of recommendations, or resolutions, and points of order — there was little argument. These sessions were orderly for the most part. Presiding officers, with the help of parliamentarian Jim Stroud, were considerate of messengers.

- **Predictions come true.** As predicted by the Baptist and Reflector, there was a record number of messengers. It seemed right to predict a record since Central Bearden is near two interstate highways with easy access, Knoxville is near the center of East Tennessee where there is a plethora of Baptists, and the potential of an attempt to increase the TBC budget for assistance to Rainbow Acres. After reaching the 2031 mark, a convention of 3000 is attainable in Nashville next November.

- **Add to that fact a quirk of Baptist character.** Challenged by a shortage of seating and parking, they took the dare, and made it work. Messengers, convention leaders, and Central Bearden people are due thanks and appreciation. It was superlative cooperation all around.

- **Meaning of the message.** We carried last week in condensed form the sermons of President Metcalf and Leonard Markham. Stories about the others are in this issue. Digest them. Study them. Lowrie's call to prayer is not to be dismissed. We need that challenge. Paschall's comments at the close of his message should not be taken lightly — nor with insult. He spoke to all of us. There is potential for a great division if peace is not secure. Peace comes with cooperation among brothers and sisters in Christ, with like minds and the same goals — rescuing the perishing under the banner of Jesus Christ.

- **What did we learn?** At least two things stand out. We must take the high road at all times. Tennessee can lead the way to an atmosphere devoid of suspicion. And, we must pay attention to the sincere calls for broad representation on boards and committees. We must find the outstanding leadership that exists all across the state, across differing views, and include them.

Questions and discussions surfaced during, and as a result of, the report of the Committee on Committees. Messengers dissatisfied with nominations and with answers to their queries brought up the matter again on Wednesday. Former members of the committee gave their views of the nominating process.

Some said pleas for nominees largely went unanswered. Others said there were "stacks" of nominations — but no resulting broad representation among nominees. There is evidence that both statements are correct — perhaps in different years. The process must be intensive, inclusive, and completely free of politics.

This year can be noteworthy for Tennessee Baptists, as we take mountaintop experiences into the valley for spiritual sustenance. May the world say of us, "See those Baptists — how they love their Lord." — WFA

## Thanksgiving Day

This week Tennessee Baptists join other Americans in celebrating Thanksgiving Day.

Tradition long has set aside this November Thursday as one of expressing thanksgiving and praise to God. It is appropriate to call it a day of celebration, because giving thanks is celebrating the sovereignty of our Lord Christ.

The celebration originated with harvest festivals of early colonial days. People thanked God for bountiful crops. Early on the observance included feasting and prayer for blessings.

During the Revolutionary War, eight days were specialized for victories won and for being saved from dangers.

In latter years, we have grown accustomed to observing Thanksgiving Day with football games, visits to family, vacation times, and much more feasting than prayer.

We do not seem to remember victories won or salvation from danger. We emphasize the quantity of food on the table, the material "blessings" we have gained, and give short shrift to the majesty or greatness of God.

We would do well to hearken to Biblical admonitions, to Biblical praises, to God's mercy, love, grace, and compassion. He has indeed blessed us.

At this celebration, let us be less concerned about food and more interested in prayer. Let us be more involved in caring for homeless, hungry, lonely, and lost people, and less inclined to accustomed comforts.

Let Thanksgiving Day truly be a celebration to honor, praise, and magnify the Lord, and to pray for contrite and thankful hearts. — WFA



MICHIGAN PARTNERSHIP workers are, from left, Bill Smith, pastor, Lincoln Heights Church, Tullahoma; Dorise Haynes, TBC; and Carrol Fowler, Michigan Baptist Convention.

— Photo by Connie Davis

## Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention  
Established in 1835

Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor	Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Lonnie Wilkey, Associate Editor	Barbara Cox, Administrative Secretary
Connie Davis, Assistant Editor	Rita Gambill, Production Assistant
Connie Umstead, News Assistant	Susie Edwards, Church Pages

Baptist and Reflector is published weekly except Christmas week by the Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$6.25; church budget plan, \$5.56 when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780).

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

Baptist and Reflector holds membership with Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Telephone: (615) 371-2003.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024.

## Outgoing president

### Metcalf says 'beautiful people' make up convention

Recognizing Calvin Metcalf for his year as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, D. L. Lowrie put it this way, "His heart has been big enough to take in all of us. He has filled the role of reconciler — a big man, a compassionate leader."

Metcalf, pastor of Central Church, Fountain City, in Knoxville, would not put himself squarely in that role — but he did say he had tried to be president of all Tennessee Baptists.

In a post-convention interview, Metcalf said, "It has been a great experience to represent Tennessee Baptists in Venezuela, Michigan, and the Philippines."

Metcalf was elected TBC president last November in Jackson, narrowly defeating Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City by less than a hundred votes. He took that close vote as strong incentive to try to lead all Tennessee Baptists.

"I have discovered a host of beautiful people across our state," he said, "and I found a spirit of love and cooperation which deeply impressed me. I found it among pastors and laity."

He said the Knoxville convention ended on a high note. "The spirit was good. We worshiped together and we did convention business with cooperation, discretion, and we honored the Lord."

The highlight of the three-day meeting, Metcalf said, was the Wednesday night message of Lowrie. "That message on prayer called us to renew and to spiritual excitement," the outgoing president said. "The prayer session was an indication of the spirit of the people."



METCALF

He remembered that some messengers who were not completely satisfied on certain votes, came to him after Wednesday's closing benediction and said, "We don't want to do anything to hinder this spirit."

For him, being honored to give the president's address was the high point of his year as president. "I thought about the message through the year," he said. "I worked on it as I observed and listened to people. It was a product of all I have been involved in."

For the future, Metcalf said he believes the convention has sound basis "for us to have harmony and togetherness. In the coming days, we must capture the spirit of these days in Knoxville."

"Presidents come and go," he said, "but the influence of the executive director is lasting and continuing. And the congenial attitudes of the people are enduring." — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*

## Six speakers address TBC messengers

"Koinonia in Philippians carries two meanings: fellowship and partnership. Paul stated, 'For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for Him. . . .'" — *Leonard Markham*

Paul shared with us the core of the Christian faith: the source is Jesus Christ, the course is Jesus Christ, the glorious hope is Jesus Christ." — *Markham*

For Paul to know Christ also meant he had to become like Christ in his death." — *Markham*

"We need not lose ourselves in hopeless despair, because our loving God has interjected grace." — *Calvin Metcalf*

"The Gospel of the Kingdom was designed to bring a divided world together around a love that would discourage our argumentative and competitive tendencies." — *Metcalf*

"Scars remind us that we have been injured. They remind us that healing has happened." — *Metcalf*

"We will survive the storm because He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world." — *Metcalf*

"All God gives to us comes through Jesus exclusively; He gives us purpose and direction in the problems of our lives." — *Frank Houston*

"The testimonies of our lips are not footnoted by our lives." — *Houston*

"It seems that our moral fiber has been snagged and is about to unravel." — *Houston*

"With Philippians 1:3, 'I thank God for every remembrance of you,' we know to the extent we cannot say that, we limit the Lord in what we can do in Tennessee." — *Franklin Paschall*

"We shall do much more when the world knows we love one another. We may not like everything about each other, but we will love one another." — *Paschall*

"The absentee cannot stay away from church, if he really longs for you as Scripture teaches. We must be lovable." — *Paschall*

"When He entered the temple, it took more than the roar of the crowd and the jingling of the money to make the Lord pleased with what He saw." — *D. L. Lowrie*

"Prayer is the means by which God's people commune with Him. Prayerlessness is a serious matter." — *Lowrie*

"Jesus did not shrug His shoulders at the disarray of the people. When He sees our churches are prayerless churches, judgment is near." — *Lowrie*

"When Jesus went to the temple, he found that the people had rearranged his house, making it like they wanted it to be. He was there and they didn't even know who He was." — *Lowrie*

"The Spirit of God needs to prevail in our praying. We can agree with each other, but we must constantly pray to agree with Jesus." — *Damon Patterson*

"After the resurrection, the world was turned upside down, but the disciples carried with them live coals of revival." — *Patterson*

"The mighty Holy Spirit of God must move on us. We are just as impractical as the pipes of a pipe organ — without wind blowing on them." — *Patterson*

## Offers plan for peace

### Paschall says koinonia key to fellowship

"We are to be the koinonia of God's children." Franklin Paschall told messengers at the TBC Annual Meeting in Knoxville last week.

"Koinonia means having, holding, sharing together — and it applies to marriage relationships, business partnerships, and in the church. We are to be in koinonia as God's children," he said.

"We have the same Father," Paschall added. "Our fellowship is the basis of what and who we are. We are one family, of one blood — that being Christ's blood."

"His blood redeems us all, and we are children in the family, having the same breath, born of the Spirit of God."

"Koinonia also means we believe all Scripture is the breath of God, His Word," said Paschall. He added that we have the spirit of gratitude toward each other as Christians, as Baptists. "We shall do much more when the world knows we love one another." Paschall said, "We may not like everything about each other — but we love one another."

He introduced a written statement by saying, "I want to read this — because I want to know exactly what I've said — and I want you to know. This is serious, there is no malice, only love for our convention and for the Southern Baptist Convention."

He said that brokenness in fellowship exists in the SBC, and in state conventions, associations, churches. Oneness in Christ and cooperation to preach the Gospel of Christ to the world are denied or contradicted, he said.

Brokenness in unity and fellowship will limit outreach, he said. Only the power of God can restore unity in Christ and fellowship in the Gospel, he

said. "We must get out of the way and let God reconcile 'both' and 'all' in one body by the cross, having slain the enemy thereby."

"Conservatives are in control of SBC agencies," he said. "Parity has been forgotten. The political press is still on for domination of all boards, commissions, and committees."

"Parity and balanced representation are desirable, but dominion and unfair representation are unacceptable and intolerable. If the present trend continues, the alleged condition of domination, which the conservatives said they wanted to correct, will appear again," Paschall told messengers. The mark of a Christian leader is not the

### 'His blood redeems us all, we are children of the family.'

demonstration of his power but of the power of God," he said.

Paschall spelled out a three-point plan to heal the "brokenness."

First, he said, "we must appeal to the Baptist Faith and Message as the theological basis for unity, fellowship, and missions."

He noted some "practical ways to restore fellowship" as his second point. Among them, he included cessation of organized political activities and strategies under central control. He said the SBC had voted to do that, but political activities continue.

He said the SBC must eliminate inflammatory rhetoric, make fair and balanced appointments and nomina-

tions, elect messengers in local churches without instructing them on how to vote.

The former SBC president and retired pastor of First Church, Nashville, said, in his third point, "We must elect a president who is his own man and who will be fair and balanced in his leadership."

He said this person would be a "consensus candidate." He added, "Let the leaders of the political groups agree to support one person who would commit himself to an open convention and to fair and balanced leadership for all Southern Baptists."

Paschall said this would result in a process of immediate healing. He said he had suggested a consensus candidate to individual leaders of "the two major factions." The response, he said, was, "We are not interested in cutting a deal."

Another hope is available, he said, if the consensus plan does not work. "We can turn from all political groups, rise up en masse as common, ordinary Baptists and elect a president who will represent all Southern Baptists," he said.

"Then we shall be Baptists again," he added. "There are many good people among us who qualify to lead us in this manner . . . I appeal to all conservatives, moderates, and unaligned to unite and save our beloved Southern Baptist Convention . . . We must not allow differences to become divisions or friction to become fracture."

Convention messengers, who had heard Paschall's statement in silence after contributing applause and "amens" earlier in his talk, gave standing applause when he finished. — *Wm. Fletcher Allen*

# Our Readers Write

## Appreciates honor

I wish to express sincere appreciation to Tennessee Baptists for the honor of preaching the convention sermon. The president of the convention, Dr. Calvin Metcalf and Rev. Paul Peek, chairman of the Arrangements Committee, were kind to permit my sons to share this experience with me by allowing them to read the Scripture and lead in prayer. For this I am very grateful.

I also wish to thank Alton Brown, a member of the Arrangements Committee, who served as my host during the convention. He called me several times to offer his assistance and presented my wife a beautiful corsage before the worship service.

I have been a pastor in Tennessee since 1968 and have enjoyed the fellowship, encouragement, and opportunities of service through the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Let's work together for the cause of Christ. I hope each church will prayerfully consider increasing its gifts to the Cooperative Program so that we can do a better job of reaching Tennessee and the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Leonard Markham, pastor  
Bluegrass Church  
235 Indian Lake Rd.  
Hendersonville 37075

## Keep O'Brien

When Dellanna O'Brien was selected to lead Woman's Missionary Union, my fear was that the Foreign Mission Board might lose the services of her husband, Bill O'Brien. When Keith Parks announced that Dr. O'Brien would continue as a special assistant to the president, I was delighted.

It disturbs me that one third of the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board have protested this appointment. Can it be that so many are unaware that Bill O'Brien is one of the leading missiologists on the Christian world scene today? It would be tragic for Southern Baptists to lose the service of this gifted and dedicated man.

For many years I have observed closely the work and conduct of Keith Parks. He is a man of unquestionable integrity. To charge him with "cronyism" in this matter is reprehensible. He has taken a step which will move Southern Baptists a bit closer to reaching the goals of Bold

## Mission Thrust.

Another disturbing point is in what this protest implies. Personally, I am a conservative, denominational loyalist, but have never been identified with any organized group in our convention, whether it be "conservative" or "moderate." I have contended that both groups need and can learn from the other and that both can work in harmony within the convention. Does this mean I have to abandon that hope? Does this mean that one group is determined to ouster from agency leadership any person on the other side? Does this imply that the real agenda of some of the Foreign Mission Board trustees is to get rid of Keith Parks?

If we are to go forward in Bold Mission Thrust, it will be necessary for those of both sides of the convention controversy to find the common ground on which we can stand together, and we do not have long to do it.

James L. Monroe  
Box 1268  
Fort Walton Beach, Fla. 32549

## Opposes moral wrongs

I am writing in reference to the article, "Opposition to Pornography Grows; Nashville Coalition Established" that was printed in your Nov. 8 edition. I am glad your publication printed the article. Christians need to be aware of the harmful effects that pornography has on our communities.

It is important that Christians take a stand on issues that are destructive to individuals and families. Jerry Kirk, in his book *The Mind Polluters* says, "Evil abounds in our society, not because there are no concerned Christians, but because so many Christians do nothing. Or perhaps they do a little and then get frustrated and give up."

I urge pastors in our communities to take a stand against not only pornography, but other issues affecting the family such as abortion and drugs. Please encourage church members to take a stand against these issues. I know some pastors may feel a church is out of bounds in fighting these issues, but if Christians don't take a stand for America's children and families, who will?

I encourage Christians to pray for their families and communities, to become

educated on issues affecting the family, and to become involved in a local pro-family organization. If there isn't one in your community, start one. By working together, we can make a difference.

Debbie Rice Barnett  
568 Hopper Barker Rd.  
Jackson 38305

**GUIDELINES: Opinions of Tennessee Baptists on religion-related subjects are welcomed. Letters should be brief and concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be shortened and edited at discretion of the editor. Unsigned letters will not be read or used, but writer's name may be withheld for sufficient reason. There must be at least one month between publication of letters from the same writer. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone. Writers are encouraged to write in a positive, Christian manner. Short letters are preferred. Address and phone number must be included.**

## Timely sermons

I attended the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the first time in 1952. The annual meeting is something that I have always looked forward to attending.

In all these years of attending the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, I have never heard two finer sermons that were more timely and appropriate than those delivered by Calvin Metcalf and Leonard Markham. I hope that all of us who were there realized how very fortunate we were to hear

## Morristown pastor delivers message at Tennessee Baptist Convention

KNOXVILLE — Anderson County native Frank Houston, pastor of Bethel Church, Morristown, delivered the message in the Wednesday morning session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Remarking about a typographical error that appeared in the convention program Houston said that someone must have heard about the "black preaching experience," since he was allotted from 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. to speak.

"Even by our standards, that's generous," Houston said. Speaking from Matthew 28 on "Proclaiming Redemption in Christ," Houston said Jesus is the answer to the thousands of questions people have today.

When Jesus walked the earth, Houston said, He had some power and authority, but His power and authority became absolute after He was resurrected.

"All God gives to us comes through Jesus exclusively. He gives us purpose and direction in the problems of our lives," Houston said.

"It seems that our moral fiber has been snagged and is about to unravel," he continued, adding that we live in an "age of greed and selfishness and egotism."

Houston said there are four ultimate questions for which people demand answers. They are a) By what standard should I live my life? b) How do I find meaning and purpose in my life? c) How do I get saved? d) Is there

them. Very few state conventions, if any, are fortunate enough to have this caliber of preaching.

Keep up the good work.

Dillard A. Mynatt  
Rt. 2, Box 529  
Gatlinburg 37738

## Dealing with sin

Southern Seminary's action concerning avowed homosexual Ken Kouba seems to have been handled in a Christlike fashion. He broke a written Seminary policy, was caught, and dealt with as guidelines dictate. This strikes a raw nerve in me; during my seminary days, some were not caught while doing a variety of unethical and immoral things. Even now, I see ministers, who if they were to recall the "first stone," principle would live a different lifestyle.

It comes out this way . . . before you stone the gay, check out your most recent tax return. Before you judge, condemn and "execute" the Christian who interprets Scripture differently than you, check out your stand on racism and aide to the disadvantaged. And as you gather to ridicule the one caught in an adulteress affair, be sure to bring up your own lustful desires.

You see, Ken's sin is his, and he will deal with his Creator the same way you and I will deal with ours. Be thankful Christ came when He did to keep the stones from falling on you when you felt that they surely would. Sin is sin, wrong is wrong, whether you're caught or not! Deal with it.

Mark T. Holland  
Minister with Youth  
Hatcher Memorial Church  
Richmond, Va. 23225-6014

hope beyond this life?

Houston observed people haven't found the answers in schools, homes, or some churches, and many Christians live lives of "spiritual plagiarism."

"The testimonies of our lips are not footnoted by our lives," he added.

Houston continued, saying what Jesus did and said were the same and He is the solution to all the questions.

"He is the answer. My hope is built on nothing less," Houston concluded.

## FMB officials warn against 'phony story'

RICHMOND — Someone calling himself "Dr. Bill Slater" is calling churches with a phony story designed to extract money from unsuspecting staff members, reports a Foreign Mission Board official.

"Slater" places collect telephone calls to Southern Baptist churches, identifying himself as a missionary to Brazil. He claims he is at JFK International Airport in New York City, where he has just been robbed and stabbed. He must catch a flight back to Brazil that night, he tells listeners.

Then he asks for \$64 to be wired to him at the airport. Don't believe it, warned Bill Damon, FMB associate area director for Brazil and the Caribbean.

"There is no Southern Baptist missionary by that name, nor am I able to find anyone in Brazil who knows such a person," Damon said. "I have received several calls from people who have received such collect calls over the past six to eight months with the same story."

## TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

One of the joys of my work is receiving expressions of thanksgiving on the behalf of Tennessee Baptists. They come to my desk regularly. I received such a letter this week. It is from Hillcrest Church in Trenton. This new congregation writes, "on behalf of the members of Hillcrest Church, please accept our thanks for your support financially and in other ways during the past years. Without all your help, our church might not have made it. God provides help in so many ways. As we continue in His work we remember our friends at the Tennessee Baptist Convention." This appreciation was really directed to you.

A few days ago I received a similar note from an individual. The young man is one of those students being



LOWRIE

assisted in his education through your giving. He is a student at Union University and is pursuing God's calling in his life. He indicated that the scholarship he receives is making the difference between being able to stay in school and having to drop out of school.

Another such letter came a few days ago from a person who had been served by one of our Baptist hospitals. This person expressed special gratitude for that Christian dimension that had been expressed while a patient at this hospital. The letter expressed gratitude to Tennessee Baptists for their part in the ministry of this hospital.

As you express thanksgiving this week, I encourage you to thank God for what He is doing through our work together as Tennessee Baptists. People are being saved, burdens are being lifted, hope is being given, God is being glorified. This makes the difference and you are a part of it.

# TBC pastors challenged to return 'to the basics'

By Connie Davis, assistant editor  
KNOXVILLE — About 700-800 pastors voiced amens and applauded as fellow preachers directed them "back to the basics" of preaching the Bible and soul-winning at the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

The conference elected as officers Larry Gilmore, pastor, College Heights Church, Gallatin, president; Walter H. Davis, pastor, Parkway Church, Knoxville, vice president; and Steve McDonald, pastor, Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, secretary-treasurer.

Gilmore, nominated by Rick White, pastor, First Church, Franklin, and president in 1986-87, defeated Bill Henard, pastor, First Church, Lawrenceburg, who was nominated by John Powers, pastor, Trenton Street Church, Harriman. Davis and McDonald ran without opposition.

## Lowrie speaks

During the pre-convention sessions held Nov. 13, TBC executive director, D. L. Lowrie, spoke on the recent call to prayer by prayer consultants of the Foreign and Home Mission boards and the Sunday School Board.

Referencing Ezekiel 22, Lowrie noted that Jerusalem was defeated because God couldn't find an intercessor or "man to stand in the gap."

He observed that current occurrences parallel that age — the "tragic downfall" of spiritual and political leaders. Lowrie added that a foreign missionary reported America's spiritual darkness exceeded that of Africa's.

God's method through the ages is to find an intercessor, he said.

"The future of Tennessee Baptists does not rest in the hands of its administrators, its program promoters, it rests in the hands of its intercessors," concluded Lowrie.

## Officers speak

President of the pastors' conference, Reed Wright of Cleveland, identified with those pastors with "a broken heart."

Admitting times of discouragement, Wright said he has felt alone while preaching. But Jesus is always present and even if the congregation receives a small portion of the sermon, it is worth it, the pastor of Maple Street Church,

Cleveland, observed.

"I'm tired of us just dragging around. ... There is no way to separate the joy from the salvation we've got. Let a few of our churches see some people saved and it'll cause us to shout."

In response to a reporter's question about potential controversy at the conference, Wright said he responded, "When you preach the Bible you can't be controversial."

Don Long, vice president and pastor, Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga, called the pastors to guide their churches away from their materialism and "back to the basics" of soul-winning.

They should seek unity during these "last days," lead their churches, and commit themselves to the verbally-inspired Word of God.

"There was a time we would cry against homosexuality, abortion, coed dorms, and sin from the pulpits in our Tennessee Baptist Convention," Long proclaimed.

## Other addresses

Presenting the keynote address concluding the conference was Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.

"The average Baptist church seems to be stuck and not really able to make a difference," Hunt claimed. Today's world demands a salvation that is recognizable, he said.

"I'll tell you how to get your church on track — start winning people to Jesus," he stated, adding that the needed passion comes from God-given power.

"Jesus said I must be about my Father's business. He was not talking about WMU or Brotherhood," said Hunt.

Gray Allison, president, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, prophesied that God would judge America like He judged Sodom and Gomorrah if the country doesn't seek revival.

He denounced the churches that allow practicing homosexuals to serve as ministers, the promotion of "safe sex," and the abortions that "murder 4000 babies every day."

"Our sins as a nation make Sodom



**PASTORS' CONFERENCE** officers are, from left, Steve McDonald, Calvary Church, Oak Ridge, secretary-treasurer; outgoing president Reed Wright, Maple Street Church, Cleveland; Larry Gilmore, College Heights Church, Gallatin, president; and Walter H. Davis, Parkway Church, Knoxville, vice president. — Photo by Connie Davis

and Gomorrah look like a Sunday School picnic. If we don't turn as a nation to God then God will destroy this nation."

"We've got trouble among us. We know that. Those problems will be solved with revival."

Charles Sullivan, pastor, First Church, Lenoir City, addressed the issue of preachers leaving the ministry, reporting that 1000 leave it every year.

Before he journeyed to Corinth, the Apostle Paul was fearful, tired, ready to quit, and faced a formidable task. Other preachers who have struggled are Elijah, Jeremiah, and David, and Martin Luther and Charles Spurgeon, noted Sullivan.

God told Paul not to quit for several reasons. It was too soon to quit; God would be with him; and "I have much people in Corinth," stated Sullivan.

The pastor of Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, Bob Pitman, spoke on Jesus' claims about Himself.

Jesus claimed to be divine, to be from another world, to have lived before He was born, on a mission from God, and the only way to heaven, Pitman said.

Napoleon, Hitler, Buddha, Sun Yun Moon, Charles Manson, the murderer dubbed the Son of Sam, and others have made similar claims, but none

rose from the dead, proclaimed Pitman.

"The liberal theologians tell us that Jesus never claimed to be divine. The problem with liberal theologians is that they never read the Bible," declared Pitman.

Glenn Weekley of Hendersonville spoke about Jesus' experience with the Greeks recorded in John 12.

"He did not come to be our example or teacher. He came to die for our sins," noted the pastor of First Church, Hendersonville.

Just as a seed only grows after it dies, so must the Christian, reminded Weekley. And the fruit results when Christians influence others' lives.

"Him will my father honor ... in front of the judgment seat one day," concluded Weekley.

Addressing his peers on the need for baptism with fire was Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Church, Hixson, Chattanooga.

"I'd rather see pew-jumping fanatics who need toned down than some deadheads trying to get on fire."

"If you get on fire you don't have a lot of trouble with doctrine or the Bible."

Leave those "safe comfortable, affluent churches" and find the needs of the world, prompted Phillips.

# Tennessee Baptists vote down change to constitution

KNOXVILLE — A constitutional amendment which would have increased the number of years an outgoing Executive Board member would have to wait before being eligible for re-election failed to gain the necessary two-thirds majority required for passage during the convention last week at Central Church, Bearden.

At the 1988 convention in Jackson messengers approved on first reading the amendment which would require a "director who has served two successive terms" to wait four years before being eligible for re-election. The constitution presently requires a one-year wait.

In presenting the amendment to the constitution to messengers for the necessary second reading, Larry Parrott, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, noted the committee "has studied and restudied" the recommendation for four years.

He said the four-year wait was a compromise as some committee

members felt it should be six years.

Parrott, pastor of McPheeters Bend Church, Church Hill, pointed out the bylaws require that outgoing members of both the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards to wait four years before eligibility for re-election to either committee. "We recommend the same for the Executive Board," Parrott said.

Jim McCluskey, pastor, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, spoke against the amendment. It places a restriction on the Executive Board that is not placed on the institutions, McCluskey said, adding that it "will keep experienced people from serving."

McCluskey also discounted the idea that the same people are being elected, noting that over the last six years "of 107 new members, only 14 had served before."

Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Church, Hixson, disputed McCluskey's statements, saying McCluskey dealt

with only new members, not those re-elected.

"The same people are filling the same positions over and over again," Phillips said.

Hoyt Wilson, pastor of First Church, Lexington, said he saw the constitution amendment as "binding the Lord's hands in this matter."

Paul Durham, pastor, Radnor Church, Nashville, and a member of the Executive Board, said he did not understand the work of the board until he had served. "I feel it wise to hear both sides because both are right."

Durham offered a compromise amendment of two years before eligible for re-election. After discussion on the amendment, it was defeated.

Messengers then voted on the original proposal, but it failed to gain the two-thirds margin needed for passage.

Two other changes were approved. Officers shall be members of churches affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist

Convention. Previously it had said officers shall be members of cooperating Baptist churches.

The second change simply substitutes the words "executive director-treasurer" wherever the title "executive secretary-treasurer" appears.

One amendment was approved on first reading which changes the purpose statement of the convention.

The new statement reads: "The mission of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is to fulfill the Great Commission by assisting, encouraging, and strengthening affiliated churches to reach the evangelistic, educational, missionary, benevolent, and other ministry goals in a cooperative relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention."

The statement must be approved again by messengers at the 1990 convention in Nashville. — Lonnie Wilkey

## Messengers adopt resolutions opposing legalized gambling, alcohol

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee Baptist messengers adopted five resolutions during last week's convention in Knoxville.

The resolutions dealt with restricting smoking in public places, legalized gambling, child care legislation, alcohol and public policy, and gratitude for those involved with the convention.

The resolution restricting smoking urges "individuals, churches, and associations to contact immediately their state representatives and senators, asking them to support legislation in 1990 which would restrict smoking in public places."

Messengers also adopted a resolution appealing "to all members of the United States Congress from the State

of Tennessee to oppose any child care legislation that permits tax monies to flow into any church-related child care programs through vouchers, grants, or by any other means."

The resolution noted that "legislation that would make government funds available to religious bodies would intrude government regulation into church business, and would clearly violate the principle of separation of church and state."

In the resolution opposing legalized gambling it noted legislation was passed by the Tennessee House of Representatives to repeal the legality of pari-mutuel gambling. It also indicated the state senate had not voted on the issue because it failed to be referred from the state senate and

local government committee.

The resolution called for messengers to "contact their state senators, urging them to encourage" consideration of the bill.

An amendment was offered by Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, who introduced the resolution, to add the names of the five senators or the committee who did not vote to refer the matter to the full senate — Avon Williams Jr., Steve Cohen, John Ford, Joe McKnight, and Robert Rochelle. The amendment passed.

The resolution on alcohol and public policy pointed out 24,000 Americans are killed and another 500,000 are seriously injured each year in alcohol-related traffic accidents; alcohol is an illegal drug for Americans under age 21, but continues to be their number one choice of drug, and \$2 billion is spent by the alcohol industry each year

in advertising and promotion.

The resolution, as approved, called upon Congress to "pass legislation that would restrict alcohol beverage television advertisements when a significant percentage of the viewing audience are under the legal drinking age, that would prohibit distribution of free alcoholic beverages on college campuses and any promotional material for alcoholic beverages, and that would prohibit any college or university from allowing any alcoholic beverage company to finance, sponsor, or support any athletic, cultural, musical, or social event or competition."

The final resolution expressed gratitude from the messengers of the 115th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Among those cited were Central Church, Bearden and its pastor, Larry Fields, for hosting the convention, and outgoing president Calvin Metcalf, for his leadership.

## Messengers adopt Executive Board report

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee Baptists last week approved the adoption of IMPACT Tennessee, a five-year mission thrust emphasis for the state.

The long-range planning report was among several items presented by the Executive Board during the convention in Knoxville.

The plan has four basic objectives — evangelism, church growth, ministry, and church starting.

Goals include increasing baptisms by six percent per year, increasing Sunday School net enrollment by three percent and average attendance five percent per year, lead 2000 Tennessee Baptist churches to assess the ministry needs in their communities by 1993, and assist associations and local churches in the establishment of 175 Southern Baptist church starts during the years 1991-95, including 40 black, 35 ethnic, and 100 other groups.

Messengers also adopted two new program statements for the departments of telecommunications and partnership missions.

A name change was approved for one TBC department. The Church

Training Department will now be known as Discipleship Training Department to conform to a recent change at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Two institutions were granted changes in their program statements.

Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy will now be able to accept students in the seventh grade. Previously the school operated for grades 8-12.

Changes for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes reflect the institution's new ministry to developmentally disabled persons which was approved at last year's convention in Jackson.

Messengers also approved the designation of the third Sunday in January as "Baptist Hospital Sunday."

One messenger pointed out the day conflicted with "Sanctity of Life Sunday" sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Gary Anderson, Dunlap pastor who chaired the church program committee, said that the committee studied the matter and felt the two emphases would not conflict.

## Lowrie challenges TBC churches to be 'houses of prayer'

By Connie Umstead, news assistant  
D. L. Lowrie, executive director-treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention, offered a message about prayerlessness at the Wednesday evening session of the convention.

Fred Isaacs, vice president of the TBC, introduced Lowrie as the man "doomed to lead Baptists in a great direction in the state of Tennessee."

Lowrie based his sermon on a goal listed in the convention-approved long range goals that urges every Tennessee Baptist church to establish an organized prayer ministry.

"No matter how many goals we set, unless they're undergirded by God and prayer, we've wasted our time on goals and objectives," Lowrie said.

Reading Matthew 21:12-22, Lowrie explained that God expects His house to be a house of prayer.

"We sometimes measure a church's effectiveness by the crowd, activities, bottom line," Lowrie said. "It takes more to please our Lord."

Focusing on three points during his message, Lowrie first noted that God's people are a praying people.

"Prayer is the means by which His people commune with Him," Lowrie said. By not praying, people are telling God that "we have better things, more exciting things to do than to have communion with God."

"Prayerlessness is a serious matter," Lowrie stressed.

The early church, mentioned in Acts, understood that prayer brings "family togetherness," Lowrie said.

Prayer also offers God's people a channel of supply to meet their needs. They need only ask.

"A prayerless house says to God 'we can do it ourselves. We don't need Your help,'" he said.

"Baptists have become world famous for our programs. Our programs can work without God, but they won't produce what God wants us to do. They will produce a den of thieves," he continued.

Lowrie added that the early people of Israel prayed until their needs were met. Baptists today "appoint a committee or program," he observed.

In his second point, Lowrie said God judges prayerlessness and fruitlessness.

"God is interested in fruit and the

fruit will be found only when the people are in the favor of God and this comes only when they pray," he said.

He added that judgment also comes when prayerlessness shuts God out of His house and makes Him unwelcome. When Jesus entered the temple, He found people had rearranged His house and made it what they wanted it to be. He was there and they didn't know who He was.

"If Jesus were to visit some Tennessee Baptist churches next Sunday, they would think He was an intruder," Lowrie observed.

In his third and closing point, Lowrie said prayer must become a priority, and people must repent of their prayerlessness.

"If you want to get a bunch of Baptists together, don't announce a prayer meeting. Announce an activity," Lowrie said. "We have offended our Father."

He added that part of repenting is people rearranging their lives and putting them in God's order.

He said Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust focus calls for Bold Prayer Thrust.

"I want to see every Tennessee Baptist church becoming a praying church," Lowrie said.

Lowrie closed the service with an altar call and invited the congregation to break into small groups to pray.

## CLC's Richard Land protests ABC program

NASHVILLE (BP) — The executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has called upon Southern Baptists to join him in protesting to ABC-TV for "breaking one of the few remaining barriers to decency on prime-time television."

Tuesday, Nov. 7, the ABC prime-time show "thirtysomething" portrayed two male homosexuals in bed.

CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land wrote ABC Chairman Thomas Murphy and sponsors of the program to express outrage at what he termed the intentional and vivid portrayal of homosexuality in the show.

Land encouraged Southern Baptists to write Murphy at 77 West 66th St., New York, NY 10023.

### Final message

## Michigan pastor challenges messengers

KNOXVILLE — Using a modern day "parable of the forge" former Tennessee pastor Damon Patterson illustrated a new fervency for Bold Mission Thrust is needed among Southern Baptists.

Patterson, former pastor of Corryton Church, Corryton, is now pastor of Monroe Church, Monroe, and president of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.



He based his message on Isaiah 54:16 and related experiences from the times he used to spend in his grandfather's blacksmith's shop.

After his grandfather would leave for the day, Patterson recalled he would go into the shop and use the forge.

In order for fire to be produced from those "darkened, dead coals," there had to be some live coals underneath, he remembered.

And just as those live coals

needed the wind produced by the fanning of the billows, Southern Baptists need the "wind of the spirit of God," Patterson said.

Patterson observed there has been a preoccupation of trying to develop orators in the pulpit. What is needed is "men who are moved upon and stand within God's grand power," he emphasized, adding that the spirit of God should "move through us through the message."

The Michigan pastor reminded messengers that once the blacksmith's forge gets hot, it can soften iron.

We have tried to expose our sinful world to forges that are cool when instead it needs the hot fire of the presence of God, Patterson said.

If we use the fire of God, it will get new and amazing results, Patterson predicted.

"Consider the parable of the forge," Patterson challenged the messengers. Just as the wind produced a fire that brought changes in those coals, the wind of the spirit of God will bring about changes, he promised.

# Tennessee WMU challenged to 'reach, teach, and touch'

*By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor*  
**KNOXVILLE** — Members of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union we're challenged to "reach, teach, and touch" others so "that every tongue shall confess" during their 101st annual meeting.

Approximately 1200 WMU members registered for the day-long meeting Nov. 13 at Central Church, Fountain City, in Knoxville.

The day's events included missionary testimonies, inspiration in song, and business.

Esther Burroughs, national evangelism consultant with women for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, gave the closing message based on the theme.

Reading from Philippians 2:9-11 and Matthew 20:18-20, Burroughs told the WMU those verses are intended for everyone, not just paid clergy.

"We're all priests before the Father," Burroughs said, adding that God "has given us the authority to go to the Father and to touch the work in His name."

Burroughs noted Southern Baptists have devised plans to carry out the Great Commission, but have failed to execute them.

"We should rename the Great Commission the Great Discussion," Burroughs said.

She challenged those in attendance, including several pastors, to "stop discussing the Great Commission and to be obedient to the Word of God as you go, sharing the important name of Jesus."

Burroughs shared several stories of groups and individuals who took

seriously the message to "reach, teach, and touch" others so "that every tongue shall confess."

She told of an Acteen from Atlanta who spent a week on a missions trip in inner city New Orleans.

While there, the teenager befriended a little girl whose father had been murdered just prior to her arrival.

At first, the little girl would not talk or actively participate, but the teenager took a special interest in the little girl, Burroughs shared. She related that the Acteen held the girl in her arms and told her over and over "Jesus loves you."

About a year later the Acteen from Atlanta received a letter, Burroughs recalled.

The girl's mother thanked the teenager for befriending her daughter. The girl had accepted Christ as her Savior, the Acteen learned, but reading on she discovered her little friend had been killed in an automobile accident.

"Don't you think it's time we stop standing around in our churches singing 'Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me,' and instead go into the world singing, 'Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you,'" Burroughs challenged.

Testimonies from missionaries and others involved in local WMU and Acteen work were interspersed throughout the program. The testimonies were built around the program's theme.

Missionaries at the meeting included Bill and Cindy Black, home missionaries based in Gatlinburg; Carter and Charlotte Davis of Grenada; Paula Settle, Togo; and Pat Stooksbury, Costa Rica.



**WMU OFFICERS** — Elected as 1989-90 officers of Tennessee WMU were, from left, (seated) Faye Cox, recording secretary; Carol Pharris, president; and Patty Seal, regional vice president. (Standing) Inez Franks, Martha Haynes, Diane Stewart, Patsy Hurd, Viola Brewer, Doris Humphreys, and Lola Byrd, regional vice presidents.

Charlotte Davis of Grenada summed up the purpose of the theme. "The nearest person to me who doesn't know God is the one He wants me to reach," she affirmed.

During the business session, WMU members approved several bylaws changes.

The WMU previously had a president, recording secretary, and eight regional vice presidents.

Under the new guidelines adopted by the WMU members, Tennessee WMU will now have a president, recording secretary, three vice presidents representing the state's three grand divisions, and eight regional promotion directors.

The approved changes will go into effect beginning with the 1990-91 church year.

In the report of the executive director, Katharine Bryan reminded WMU members 1988-89 was a good year for missions giving. Giving exceeded the goals for both the Lottie Moon Christmas and Annie Armstrong Easter offerings and just fell short of the Golden State Missions Offering goal.

## Messengers consider miscellaneous business

**KNOXVILLE** — Business originating from messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention during the annual meeting last week included an amendment to the convention's bylaws.

Richard Holden, pastor, Calvary Church, Lenoir City, introduced a motion to amend two bylaws to allow the convention president to appoint members to the committee on committees which names members of the committee on boards. These committees name members of convention committees and boards of agencies and institutions.

Holden asked for the change to allow "broader representation."

Bruce Maples of Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga, spoke to Holden's amendment. He noted that the issue of representation had been discussed, referring to the proposed bylaw change defeated Tuesday that would have placed a longer waiting period between appointments to the Executive Board.

"Currently the presidency is an honorary position. Let's not allow it to

Carol Pharris of Fairview Church, Lebanon, was re-elected president of Tennessee WMU. Faye Cox of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, was elected recording secretary.

Vice presidents are Patsy Hurd, Big Creek Church, Rogersville; Lola Byrd, Edgemoor Church, Powell; Inez Franks, Westwood Church, Cleveland; Patty Seal, Elizabeth Chapel, Smithville; Diane Stewart, Woodmont Church, Nashville; Viola Brewer, First Church, Manchester; Doris Humphreys, First Church, Huntingdon; and Martha Haynes, First Church, Ripley.

Six state Acteens panelists were introduced: Jennifer Coble and Julie Jones, Mount Olive Church, Knoxville; LeAnn Denney, First Church, Gordonsville; Alisha Fortner, Ridgeview Church, Knoxville; Ellen Richardson, First Church, Memphis; and Rachel Todd, Pine Ridge Church, Harriman.

Acteens who achieved a new level this year in the Stadiact program from Knox County and surrounding associations were recognized and a reception was held in their honor following the 101st annual session of Tennessee WMU.

become a political plum and subject our state convention to the same conflict that our national convention is subject to," said Maples.

The motion did not receive the needed two-thirds majority vote.

Sam Watkins, pastor, First Church, Toone, moved that a partnership between Tennessee Baptists and Baptists in an eastern bloc country be studied because of the current lessening of communist restrictions.

John Laida, First Church, Clarksville, past president, TBC Executive Board, moved that a telegram be sent to Ralph Norton of Chattanooga, TBC executive secretary-treasurer from 1973-78, to encourage him during his illness. It was passed unanimously.

Bill Palmer, president, Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, moved that the minutes be dedicated to Glenn Toomey, retiring director of missions, Nolachucky Association, for 35 years of service, the longest of any state DOM. — *Connie Davis*

## One Word More

*By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor*

The cost of life in Israel is expensive. Sacrifices are made there that would be rare in the United States.

Though attitudes change, most of the population could be called patriotic, partisan — even zealots. Four million people are squeezed into the narrow strip of land that hugs the western coast of the Mediterranean, about 7000 square miles of precious homeland.

It is also homeland to a large number of Arabs — who are part of that four million.

All healthy adults are required to spend time as members of the nation's armed forces. They provide an instant army — even though some of them live the ordinary civilian life.

Sgt. Zeev Traum was on patrol one night last week when his patrol jeep was raked by gunfire, spewed from weapons held by Palestinian terrorists.

Traum, father of four, was helping defend his country against such attacks. He paid with his life. A second soldier was killed.

It is seemingly a never-ending fight, this centuries old strife between Jews and Arabs in the middle east. Zeev Traum and his comrade were only two of the casualties.

Add them to the list of 42 Israelis killed in the current 23-months struggle against Israeli rule in Arab zones of occupied territory. And, add to that death list more than 600 Palestinians.

But a rare and unheard-of thing happened after Traum's death. Zeev

Traum's heart was transplanted into the chest of Hanna Khader, an Arab who was in critical condition waiting for a miracle.



**ALLEN**

So the heart of a Jew beats in the chest of his enemy, an Arab. And even as the operation was taking place, Jewish soldiers were searching for the guerillas who ambushed Traum. This is a tiny ray of light, a minuscule crack in the wall of animosity. One human's death gives life to another. The Khader family praised the operation that is saving the life of the father, and the donation of the Jewish heart.

The sick man's wife said there is no difference between a Palestinian and an Israeli in such cases, and, "I can't tell you how happy I am."

The dead soldier's wife said her husband was a man who helped people as a natural thing, and to save a life was right.

Jesus Himself, who walked in the land, also believed that. Moreover, He gave His life for enemies, all of mankind, blackened with sin. Zeev Traum's heart lives in Hanna Khader. Jesus Christ lives in the hearts of disciples. Pray to the Father for the peace that sacrificial prayer and living can bring — even to Israel.



**ON MISSION** — Partnership Mission volunteers who have participated overseas talk with Sam Waldron, second from right, mission administrator for Philippine Mission. From left: David Shivar, New Haven Church, Oneida; Sam Suddarth, Calvary Church, Nashville; Nell Green, First Church, Sneedville; Waldron; and Frank Kemper, First Church, Kenton.

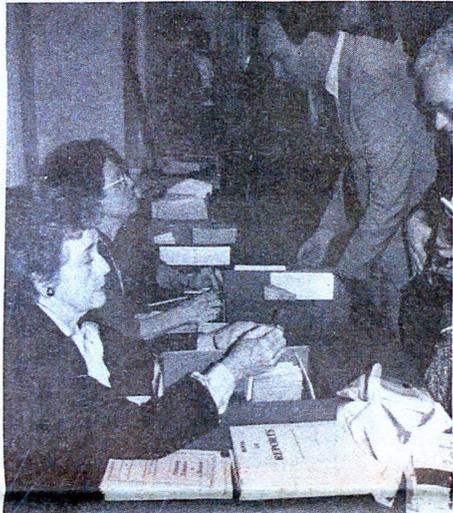


**GENE WILLIAMS**, Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel, and state Baptist Men's president, spoke out for Partnership Missions.

## 115th annual session Tennessee Baptist



**THE TUESDAY** morning crowd.



**VOLUNTEERS** help church members register.



**HERITAGE AWARD** winner Harold D. Gregory, left, former director of missions and author, receives plaque from Glenn Toomey, vice president, Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.



**MISSION FRIENDS** choir of First Church, Fountain City, entertains.



**FIRST CHURCH**, Dresden, Pastor Don McCulley, left, and wife Sherryl visit John Adams, Union University.



**MRS. D. L. LOWRIE** pins a corsage on Barbara Metcalf, wife of outgoing TBC President Calvin Metcalf, as he looks on.

## Proclaiming Redemption in Christ

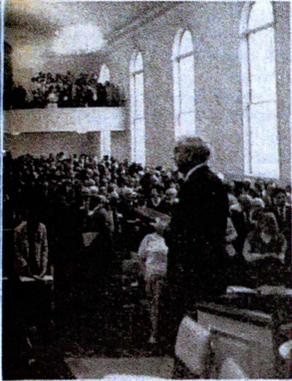


**FROM LEFT**, Don Colyer, Chapman Grove Church, Kingston; Cameron Byler, TBC Brotherhood Department; Curtis Fowler, West Lonsdale Church, Knoxville; and Mickey Cason, pastor of Providence Church, Moncks Corner, S.C.



**NEW NAME** — Johnny Hall, Mary Allen, and Cindy Franks, all of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Discipleship Training Department, demonstrated five name changes from Baptist Young People's Union in 1928 to Discipleship Training in 1989.

# Convention



ARNOLD and Violet Porter of Centerville relax.



PARLIAMENTARIAN Jimmy Stroud, right, counsels president Calvin Metcalf.



◀PRAYING for fellow pastor Jim Hisel, center, who has recently resigned from Enterprise Church, Morristown, because of illness, were Reed Wright, left, Maple Street Church, Cleveland, and Larry Gilmore, College Heights Church, Gallatin.



essee WMU.



PASTORS visiting were, from left, Bob Pitman, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis; Thomas Walker, First Church, Paris; Al Styron, Temple Church, Memphis; and Roger Lovette, Second Church, Memphis.



HAROLD HARRIS, pastor Union Hill Church, Goodlettsville, gets a cholesterol check from Frankie Cate of Baptist Hospital, Knoxville.



◀PASTORS PAUL TABOR, left, Rock Springs Church, Greenbrier, and William L. Swafford, Magna View Church, Talbot, share memories.



QUINTET PERFORMED — The Wednesday morning session of the Knoxville Convention featured the Knoxville Area Men's Ensemble.



MESSENERS vote on one of five resolutions that were presented through the Resolutions Committee.



THE KOREAN ENSEMBLE of Cumberland Church, Knoxville, performed.

# Registration record smashed by messengers . . .

(Continued from page 1)

On Wednesday evening, the message by D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director, erupted into a prayer meeting among messengers. His sermon emphasized the Southern Baptist Convention-wide call to prayer and solemn assembly. He stressed the necessity of prayer and warned messengers that God does not long endure prayerlessness.

At the conclusion of the message, the congregation split into scores of small prayer groups.

Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church, Nashville, spoke on "Fellowship in the Gospel." Using Philippians 1 as his text, he discussed the *koinonia* of how "to have, to hold, and to share together."

He suggested in a written portion of his message that Southern Baptists must come together to work for peace — and presented a plan for implementation.

Messengers heard and/or acted on these and other actions:

- Explanation by Jerry Oakley, chairman of Budget and Program Committee, of the 1989-90 proposed budget. He said the cost of the new building in Brentwood did not cause the tight budget proposal. "It would have happened anyway," he said, explaining that several departments had

been funded for three years from the General Fund — and now had been placed into the new budget process. "We will be a little better next year," he told messengers, who approved the budget on Wednesday.

- Heard greetings from Sam Waldron, executive director of the Philippine Baptist mission.

- Adopted five resolutions on restricting smoking in public places, against legalized gambling, about child care legislation, on alcohol and public policy, and gratitude for those involved with convention support. (See separate story on resolutions.)

- Approved IMPACT Tennessee, a five-year mission thrust emphasis for the state, dealing with evangelism, church growth, ministry, and church starting. The recommendations came from a long-range planning committee headed by Ken Story, pastor of Germantown Church.

- Approved two constitutional bylaws correcting language in the TBC constitution, and turned back a third which had its first reading last year. The lost proposal would have prevented any trustee or board member who had served two consecutive terms from serving again before four years had elapsed. Currently only one year between completion and re-election is required.

A move to change the constitution so the TBC president, instead of the Committee on Boards, would nominate persons to the Committee on Committees, was defeated on Tuesday, and again when it was on the floor Wednesday.

- Heard reports from all TBC departments, institutions, schools, Baptist and Reflector, WMU.

- Heard superlative music performances by choirs from Central Church, Fountain City; Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville; Central Church, Bearden; Calvary Church, Knoxville; and Corryton Church; and Knoxville Area Men's Ensemble; Tennessee Baptist Chorale; Korean Ensemble, Cumberland Church, Knoxville; instrumentalists Carla Hawkins, Mary McDonald, Nancy Skidmore, Evelyn Sproule, and Suzanne Adams.

## Program statements

- Approved, as presented by the Executive Board, program statements of Partnership Missions and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, changing the name of Church Training Department to Discipleship Training Department, designation of the third Sunday in January annually as "Baptist Hospital Sunday" in the churches, Long-range Planning Objectives and Goals, and the 1989-90 budget.

James Robertson, pastor of Sharon Church, Knoxville, appealed to the messengers for a change in the budget, adding \$28,000, for work at Rainbow Acres, a Knoxville area home for mentally retarded adults, owned by Baptists of the area.

Last year, the convention had added a program for mentally handicapped adults to the Adult Homes program. Rainbow Acres offered its facility to the TBC. The \$28,000 in Robertson's amendment to the budget would be needed for first year's work. The Executive Board already had voted to allow TBAH to provide consultation service to Rainbow Acres. Earlier this year TBAH had employed Mark Anderson. Accepting the offer of leasing the facility would involve some funding.

## Budget amendment

Larry Reeves of Jacksboro moved an amendment to Robertson's amendment, that TBAH provide this year the \$28,000 from its unrestricted reserved funds. His amendment passed, and budget was approved.

- Approved a report from the Committee on Arrangements: Bob Norman, pastor of Clearview Church, Franklin, to preach the 1990 convention sermon, with Ray Cleek, pastor of First Church, Lebanon, as alternate; and convention sites for three years: 1992, Convention Center, Gatlinburg; 1993, Convention Center, Nashville; 1994, Bellevue Church, Memphis. Broadmoor Church, Memphis, had already been approved for 1991.

- Defeated a second attempt on Wednesday to change the method of naming the Committee on Committees — allowing the president to nominate, rather than the Committee on Boards. Messenger Richard Holden had given previous notice of the motion on Tuesday. He asked for broader representation on the committee, stating that would be accomplished with the change. Bruce Maples, Chattanooga, speaking against the motion, reminded messengers that such a change could make the presidency "a political plum." The motion lost by a large

majority.

- Participated in a long discussion of the report from the Committee on Boards. Several messengers referred to broader representation, pointing out churches that had more than one member serving on committees and boards. The report was approved, as was the report from the Committee on Committees.

## Statement of purpose

- Approved a new statement of purpose for the TBC: "The mission of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is to fulfill the Great Commission by assisting, encouraging, and strengthening affiliated churches to reach the evangelistic, education, missionary, benevolent, and other ministry goals in a cooperative relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention."

The purpose statement came from the Long-Range Planning Committee and was presented by Ken Altom, pastor of First Church, Cookeville.

Thursday, during a period for unfinished business, Bill Bargiol, director of missions, Big Emory Association, asked about plans to repay the debt on the new Baptist Building facility.

D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director, responded that a debt retirement plan would be developed this year, but that in the current budget, \$200,000 will be paid on the loan interest.

He said the General Fund comes from accumulated staff vacancies, unspent budget, and similar funds. "By careful spending, we hope to be able to begin retirement payments next budget year," he said.

Next year's meeting will be Nov. 13-15 at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

## Drastic weather changes

When convention sessions began Tuesday, the warm, sunny weather continued after an "Indian summer" weekend. Messengers noted a quick change in the skies Tuesday night, however, and rain prevailed Wednesday.

Rain gave way to scattered sleet and snow early on Thursday. By the time the meeting adjourned at 11:30, skies were clearing but the temperature hovered around 35 degrees.

Messengers heading home, especially to central and western areas, faced snow squalls en route.

Messengers adapted to tight parking facilities, and the Central Church staff helped considerably in alleviating what could have been uncomfortable arrangements. Several sessions had overflow audiences which were accommodated in a second auditorium. The record number of messengers plus visitors tested the capacity of meeting rooms and parking.

## LaFollette church calls Robert Brown as pastor

Robert Brown joined the staff of First Church, LaFollette, as pastor, effective Oct. 1.

Brown was most recently minister of youth education at First Church, Concord. He served in several other churches in Tennessee and Connecticut.

A Knoxville native, Brown graduated with a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, 1985.

He and his wife, Linnie, have three children.

## One Woman's View

By June McEwen

He is 26 years old, a seminary student, and a minister to middle school youth in a large church. His classwork is challenging, his church work is demanding, but he enjoys both. He says he is surprised about the kinds of calls for help and responses he gets from the people he serves.

The young man then describes what he thought would be the most rewarding part of ministry. "I thought the people whom I served would be telling me of their growth in grace, the new understandings gained from our study of the Bible, and their appreciation of the assistance in walking in the way Jesus walked. Instead most of the calls I get are to complain about the program, the staff, the leaders, and other aspects of the church. Then the calls next most often are the problems of everyday living and relationships. I rarely get any call, letter, or conversation that expresses appreciation or thanks."

To his credit, this fledgling pastor is not discouraged, but he is surprised and disappointed. One can comfort him by merely commenting on human nature and hoping he will continue with God's help to serve and to meet human needs. However, with Thanksgiving Day on the horizon, each church member could resolve to express appreciation and thankfulness to staff members and to the lay leaders in the church.

Each church member can come up with a list of persons who serve and who need to hear something positive. My list would start with the extended

session workers who make it possible for parents of young children to attend the worship service and focus on the service without concern for little children disturbing those sitting nearby.

Then I would thank the custodial staff and the kitchen workers who make the building and the meals suitable for the many activities of the week.

Church clerical staff are taken for granted, handed last minute rush jobs, and expected to keep a courteous attitude without much positive reinforcement.

Performers probably get more immediate feedback than most who serve the church. However a note to the choir for the many hours required for regular worship services as well as the extra effort for special seasons would be appropriate. Pastors receive mostly appreciative words from those who pause after service to go through the line. There are times when a sermon meets a special need that might mean more if one took time to write a brief letter or make a telephone call.

The remaining staff have fewer occasions when affirmation is easily and routinely offered. Those of us served would do well to make a point to cite specific times when these ministers have aided us in the practice of Christianity and have helped us grow in wisdom and understanding.

The Psalms offer verse after verse of thanksgiving to God for all His good gifts. Jesus' experience with only one of the ten healed lepers taking time to express gratitude makes a comment on the human tendency to take the good for granted. We as Christians who are commanded to love one another cannot be excused if we fail to give thanks to God and to our brothers and sisters who serve Him by serving us.



McEWEN

# TenneScene

... From Boom, pausing at Brace, and moving on west to Finger ...

## Associations ...

Cumberland Gap Association responded to Hurricane Hugo by raising \$5604.90 for the victims. A newly-developed disaster relief committee, which includes Brad Gilbert, pastor of Alanthus Hill Church, Tazewell; Greg Long, pastor of First Church, New Tazewell; and Doug Cottrell, clerk, Gap Creek Church, Arthur, are working with a Charleston association and Providence Church, Moncks Corner, where the Tennessee Baptist Convention disaster relief team served.

## Churches ...

Cherokee Church, Memphis, will present "The Puppet Living Christmas Tree," Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 2, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; and Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m.

The Helen Keller School Choir, Talladega, Ala., presented a noon concert for the senior adult group of First Church, Memphis, Nov. 9. Choir members range in age from 5 to 21 and are affiliated with the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind.

The congregation of Bethel Church, Henderson, broke ground Sept. 24 for a new 5000 square foot addition to include a kitchen, baptistry, and classrooms. Each person attending the ceremony took a turn at pulling the plow to turn the earth.

## Leadership ...

Bill Dennington has joined the staff of First Church, Bluff City, as minister of education/youth.

Virginia Avenue Church, Bristol, recently called Bob Fleming as minister of music.

Fall Creek Church, Kingsport, recently called Dewey Ramey as pastor.

Hal Davis recently resigned as pastor of Bear Creek Church, Cookeville. He did not retire as previously reported in the Baptist and Reflector.

Grant Bishop resigned as pastor of Lyons Creek Church, Strawberry Plains, to accept the position of associate pastor/minister of education at Florence Church, Florence, Ky.

Piedmont Church, Dandridge, called Tim Morton as minister of music. Morton previously served as interim minister of education at First Church, Maryville. He graduated from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He was ordained to the ministry by First Church, Maryville.

Mark Seymour has been called as youth pastor to First Church, Hunter.

North Etowah Church, Etowah, called Ansell Baker as interim pastor and Rick Wilson as interim youth director.

## Missions ...

A mission team from West Jackson Church, Jackson, recently went on a construction mission trip to Monroe, Mich., at Raisinville Church. Those who attended were Tommy Barden, Homer Cagle, Billy Futrell, Paul Garner, Hershel and Juanita Kemp, James Kolwyck, Robert Nolen, Delbert Steed, Archie Thomas, Pete Wilson, and Associate Pastor Bill Northcott.

## Revivals ...

The youth ministry of First Church, Lawrenceburg, sponsored a one-day crusade Oct. 29 featuring Jerry Muckensturm, former outside linebacker for the Chicago Bears. The youth group surpassed their high attendance goal of 85 with 92 youth present for Bible study. The crusade resulted in eight professions of faith and several rededications.



MUCKENSTURM

Woodmont Church, Nashville, will begin revival Nov. 19. Winfred Moore, recently retired pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, will be evangelist, and Joe Morrell will lead music.

Grace Church, Springfield, held revival services Oct. 22-26 with guest evangelist Richard Green, a native of Johannesburg, South Africa. There were six additions to the church.

First Church, Mount Pleasant, will hold Thanksgiving revival Nov. 26-30. John Segree from First Church, Estill Springs, will lead the services. Music will be led by Wendell O'Neal, David Boyd, and Bill Emmitt.

Lucy Church, Millington, held revival Nov. 5-10 with evangelist Joey Rosas, a professor at Union University, Jackson.



**SALEM PASTORS PARTICIPATE** — Several local pastors participated during the annual meeting of Salem Association. From left, (front row) Ricky Scott, pastor, New Hope Church, Alexandria, and Thurman Seber, director of missions. (Back row) James Daniel, pastor, West Main Church, Alexandria, and Bill Robertson, pastor, Elizabeth Chapel Church, Smithville.

Jack C. Randles spoke at revival Nov. 5-8 at Little Flat Creek Church, Corryton.

Willie Freemon spoke at fall revival services Nov. 5-8 at Highland Park Church, Lawrenceburg. George Pabst led music.

Henard's Chapel Church, Rogersville, will hold revival Nov. 26-30. Roy Miller will lead services.

Bob McFarland led revival Oct. 1-6 at Baptist Hill Church, Jasper.

Fairview Church, Lebanon, held revival Nov. 5-10. Don Pharris led services.

Open Bible Church, Woodbury, held revival Nov. 5-11. Thurman Seber, Salem Association director of missions, led services.

Thomas J Madden led revival Nov. 5-8 at First Church, Woodbury.

Mount Eager Church, Washburn, recently held revival with evangelists David Nicely and Jason Berry. Eleven people made professions of faith and three answered calls to the ministry.

Billy Carroll recently led revival services at Washburn Church, Washburn.



**NEW SALEM PASTORS** — At the afternoon session of New Salem Association's annual meeting were the following pastors, from left, Emery Farmer, director of missions; Michael Clower, Brush Creek; Tim Miles, Peyton Creek; Ronald Ralph, First Church, Carthage; Larry Graves, Riddleton; James Williams, Hickman; Gerald Graves, Rome; Jimmy Gregory, Lancaster; and Nat McKinney Jr., Carthage Road Chapel. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey



**SWEETWATER LEADERS** — Officers of Sweetwater Association elected at the annual meeting are, from left, Glenda Spradlin, associational secretary, secretary/treasurer; Director of Missions Bennie Creel; Frank Hicks, pastor, Bethlehem Church, Madisonville, moderator; and David Allison, pastor, Christianburg Church, Madisonville, vice moderator.



**GATHERED IN MOUNT PLEASANT** — Leaders of Maury Association's annual meeting were, from left, moderator Dan Carlen, pastor, First Church, Mt. Pleasant; along with newly-elected officers, Charles Jackson, pastor, Rock Springs Church, Columbia, moderator; Amos Jarman, pastor, First Church, Spring Hill, vice moderator; Linda Bass, member, Pleasant Heights Church, Columbia, clerk; Jean Gilliam, associational secretary, treasurer; and Director of Missions Elmer Crosby. — Photo by Connie Davis



Dr. Gerald L. Stow  
Executive Director/Treasurer  
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

## 'Chosen Children' Provide Special Blessings

Quite often I refer to my three children as "chosen children." I do this because we made a choice when they came to live in our home. We think these were wonderful choices. It has given us the privilege of providing a Christian home to three beautiful children and rejoicing in seeing them grow into adulthood.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has been a licensed adoption agency since 1960. Over these thirty years, we have placed several hundred infants and older children in good Christian homes. This is a service that is filled with joy

and excitement.

When I think about my own children and how we took them into our home, gave them our name, provided for their needs and shared our love, I remember that we have been adopted into God's family. He has done all of these things for us and more. As we move toward the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I am reminded of Paul's words in Galatians 4:4-6.

"But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order that He might redeem those who

were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father." (NAS).

I am also thankful that this ministry serves as a wonderful alternative to abortion. I grieve when I think of the joy lost and the loving homes that could have been provided for babies that never had a chance to decide. Thank God for this alternative provided by TBCH. God bless all of the friends of our children during this special Thanksgiving season.

## Lives of Adoptive Parents, Birth Mothers Touched by TBCH Ministries

As would many couples, the Rev. and Mrs. Michael Christian of Cookeville prayed daily for their unborn child. But their prayers were a little different than those of most expectant parents.

As prospective adoptive parents, Michael and Phyllis had no idea when their child would be born. Once their application had been approved by the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, they faced a potential wait of four years or more for their baby.

"We also knew that our child would most likely arise from unusual circumstances, such as from a pregnant teenager or a single mother who — for whatever reason — could not care for her child. So as we prayed for the baby, we also prayed daily for her birth parents, and for God to produce something good from something bad."

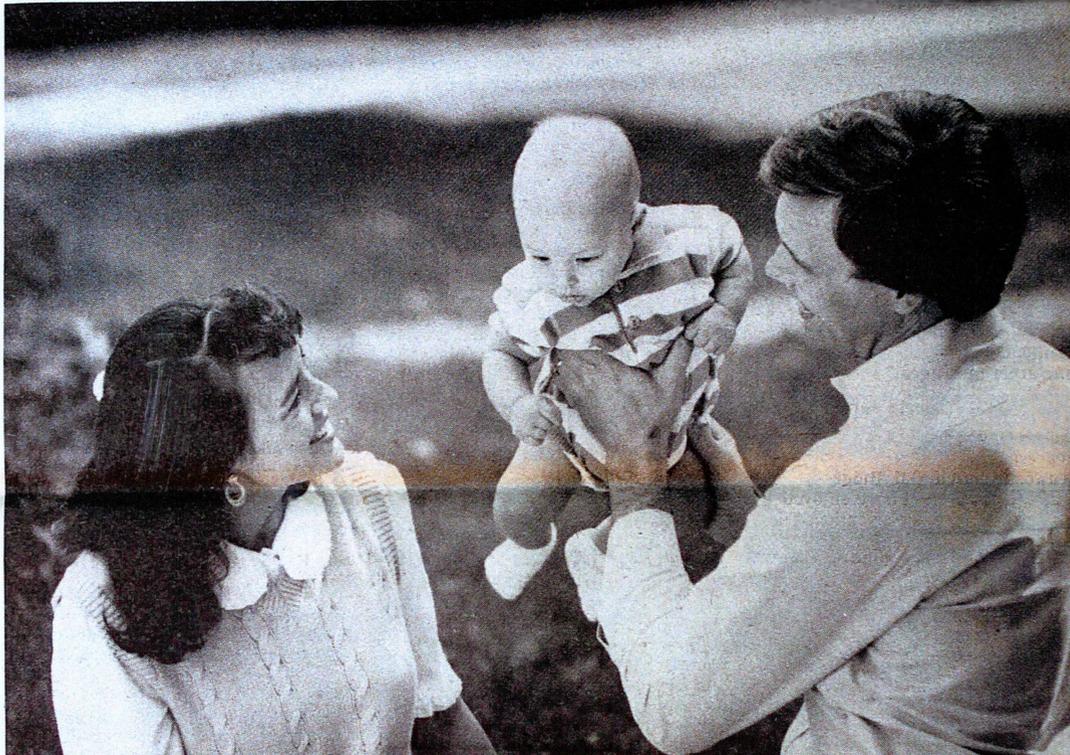
Their prayers were answered four years ago with the birth of Rachel Lauren Christian. The phone call announcing her arrival came on a Wednesday. By Friday, the Christians and dozens of rejoicing friends, family members, and fellow members of Stevens Street Baptist Church had painted, wallpapered and furnished the nursery. Gifts of clothes and toys filled an entire closet.

"The celebration still hasn't ended," says Michael, four years after he and Phyllis made the drive to a TBCH campus to meet their daughter.

Today, Michael and Phyllis continue to pray for Rachel's birth mother and father, whose identities and circumstances are not fully known to the Christians. Michael can sympathize with the needs of the birth mother perhaps more than most adoptive parents because, as a pastor, he has counseled families facing unwanted pregnancies.

"Shortly before Rachel was born, a family came to my office with their pregnant daughter. They said they wanted Phyllis and me to have the baby. Well, I knew we could not do that, but I was thankful to have an alternative to offer them," recalls Michael. "As Tennessee Baptists, we have a means to minister to these families in crisis through the Children's Homes."

Care for unwed mothers is offered by TBCH at three locations — Greenville, Madison, and Memphis. In the first ten months of this year, 67 expectant mothers received medical care and Christian counseling through this special ministry. While more than half of these young women chose to keep their babies, the other infants were placed with Baptist families through TBCH, a fully licensed adoption agency.



The arrival of an infant brings a joyous change to the life of a young family. Infants and Baptist parents have been brought together by the adoption ministry of TBCH for almost 30 years. (TBCH photo by Jim Whitmer)

One adoptive mother who feels she can relate to both sides of the adoption equation is Joyce Bumpus of Nashville, who has two teenagers she and her husband, Sam, adopted through TBCH.

"Our daughter, Tracey, has a friend in college who became pregnant and chose to place her baby through adoption," says Joyce. "Helping her through this experience has given our family a whole new perspective on adoption. We can see how the love and support of family and friends have comforted her."

The decision by Tracey's friend to carry her baby to term and place the infant in an adoptive home is almost a rarity today. With the unfortunate growing social acceptance of abortion, the number of infants available for adoption has dropped dramatically.

One mother who stayed at the Greenville Alternative Home during her pregnancy says the ministry provided her with much needed emotional support after she had been rejected by her parents and threatened by the baby's father.

"I had made a few appointments for an abortion, but I didn't keep them. I didn't know what else to do," says the 22-year-old, who wishes to keep her identity unknown. "And then my pastor suggested the Children's Home."

"When I got to the Home, I was scared to death. I was in a position of high mistrust, and there I was with people I had never met before. I didn't know if the people there would help me or hurt me."

Gradually, the young unwed mother came to feel secure and loved. "I felt protected. And

whenever I was upset, I knew I could go to Jane's office, close the door, and scream or cry. She was always there to listen." Jane Stroud has been the social worker at the Alternative Home since it opened in 1984.

This young mother chose to place her infant for adoption through TBCH. "I know my little girl has gone to a Baptist family, and I'm comforted in that. I knew I couldn't care for her, and it helps me to know that she is being raised in a Christian home."

For more information on TBCH Alternative Homes, call toll-free 1-800-624-8591. A brochure is available on request.



Tennessee  
Baptist  
Children's  
Homes

Chattanooga • Franklin • Memphis • Johnson City • Greenville • Burrville • Nashville  
Kingsport • Millington

Central Office  
P. O. Box 728 • 5001 Maryland Way • Brentwood, TN 37027  
1-800-624-8591

A ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

(Advertisement)

Interviewed in Knoxville

# Tennessee Baptist messengers reflect on convention

**Chuck McElhannon**  
Pastor  
Valley View Church, Nashville



"I was encouraged by the number of messengers here. I believe people are interested in what we as Tennessee Baptists are doing. The vote on the budget was noteworthy. Everyone understood it needed to be done even though no one wanted to. We all need to go back to our churches and encourage giving because there are a lot of good things that need to be done, but we do not have the money."

**Robert Orr**  
Pastor Emeritus  
First Church,  
Dyersburg



"This has been a great convention. Everything has gone smoothly with no controversies. There has been a warm spirit and some great messages."

**Blanche Gaither**  
Layperson  
Glenwood Church, Oak Ridge



"I have enjoyed the convention. The messages have been uplifting and the music has been good. I've been disappointed to see there is still a little undercurrent of political activity."

**Roy Auvenshine**  
Pastor  
Bethlehem Church, Greenfield



"I thought the convention has been good and has been handled extremely well. The people at Central Church, Bearden, have done an excellent job handling the record attendance. Messengers have been very considerate of each other — especially in the parking lots."

**Carol Growden**  
Layperson  
Edgemont Church, Shelbyville



"It's been a great convention. There's been very little controversy, great preaching, great music, and a great spirit of cooperation between messengers, pastors, and denominational leaders. I was pleased with the discussion about Rainbow Acres."

**Fred Isaacs**  
Layperson, TBC vice president  
English Creek Church, Newport



"More laypeople don't come to the convention because it's so set it conflicts with the normal work of people. They do not take time to be involved in the process. It would be a lot better if they would. I think some people think they don't know enough. How do you learn unless you spend enough time to learn? ... The result is political action that is self-serving from our ministers. The local church needs to get healed at home. Too many people have a Lord of convenience."

**Polly Wood**  
Layperson  
High Point Church, Chattanooga



"I haven't been to a convention since 1977 and I'm enjoying it. I really wanted the Rainbow Acres amendment to pass for those people who need help. I feel the committee will do what's right. Since we voted before to do this, I can't understand why its taken this long."

**Chris Bates**  
Layperson  
First Church, Jackson



"I have enjoyed the sessions and I got a lot of real spiritual impressions from Dr. Metcalf's and Dr. Paschall's messages. The contents of their messages were meaningful to me and appropriate for the convention. The music was outstanding and uplifting. The tone of action showed Baptists are working toward unity and support for our convention."

**Tony Griffith**  
Pastor  
Unaka Church, Elizabethton



"I hope that this convention has exposed the need for broader representation and I hope that exposure will bring to light the need for something more concrete to be done to insure that. The two proposed amendments to the constitution would have helped. I was very pleased with the president elected. I committed to pray for him ... I feel very strongly that (H. Franklin) Paschall was asking for a compromise and I will never compromise God's Word. ... The pastors' conference was exhilarating. That's the way the convention ought to go."

**M. B. Howard**  
Layperson  
Oak Grove Church, Covington



"I'm very pleased with the harmony I've felt here ... I met some pastors I met last year and gave them some Michigan mission trip ideas ... I know both officers (president and vice president) personally, and I was pleased with their elections. I've been in Lay Renewal weekend in their churches. I was impressed with their Cooperative Program giving."

**Al Styron**  
Pastor  
Temple Church, Memphis



"The general atmosphere has been real harmonious. ... I come to be a representative. ... The location hasn't been as conducive as the convention center. I understand because the center was busy we had to find another place. The church was gracious but if we had a bigger facility it might have lent itself to more participation."

**Susie Reeder**  
Minister of youth and singles  
Union Avenue Church, Memphis



"As a youth minister I get lots of ribbing about coming because most youth ministers aren't really involved in what's going on in our convention. A lot of the convention is meeting up with people, the good old buddy kind of thing. We try to steer clear of that. But it adds credibility to our profession if we stay involved. If we just sit back and let the factions have control then we can't say anything. As a woman minister I want the convention to have open-minded views and jobs and to say that I have to show I'm concerned in what's going on."

**Mark Drake**  
Pastor  
Everett Hills Church, Maryville



"I'm very pleased with the election of the president and vice president. They are conservative men and will give the conservative leadership the convention needs ... I hope the position of president will continue to be one of leadership ... I've been pleased with the overall tone and direction of the convention."

**Inice Tarrant**  
Layperson  
Glenwood Church,  
Oak Ridge



"I think it's been a very good convention. I think the sermons have been fantastic and the business was very well handled. I just wish more of our people were involved."

**Johnny Johnson**  
Pastor  
First Church, McEwen



"I've been disappointed by the evidence of political jockeying. ... It hurts me to see us wasting time and energy that we could be using to tell people about Jesus. But I have been encouraged by the emphasis on the Lordship of Jesus, the authority of Scripture, and the power of the Holy Spirit. ... I would have liked to had a designated time in the program when we would stop and pray about things in the program. ... Fellowship is destroyed by factions."

**Paul Tirey**  
Pastor  
First Church, Waverly



"The emphasis I've seen to strive for unity is one of the greatest things. The way to build unity in the TBC or the SBC is through the recommendation to lead others to Christ and I have made a personal commitment to do that. On the budget there is a call for us to back what we believe. ... The church has done a very good job in providing for us."



## AIDS among teens alarms experts

Alarmed by new data showing that the AIDS virus is rapidly spreading among some groups of teenagers, experts are calling for an expanded national effort to stem the epidemic.

Not only are teenagers becoming infected with the virus, but it is being transmitted through heterosexual intercourse, and equal numbers of males and females are infected.

By contrast, among adults the virus has been transmitted primarily through homosexual sex or intravenous drug use, and the number of infected men far exceeds the number of infected women.

*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

# The nature of Paul's Gospel

By Deryl G. Watson, director of missions; Hardeman County Association

The apostle Paul asserts his independence of the Jerusalem apostles in this lesson by telling of his second visit to Jerusalem.

Paul's Gospel affirmed by Jerusalem apostles (2:1-5, 9)

Paul's purpose was to make plain his independence of the Jerusalem apostles. His first visit is recorded in Galatians 1:18-19. Paul noted that Barnabas and Titus were with him.

Barnabas is one of the most winsome Christians mentioned in the New Testament. Yet in these passages his humanity is obvious. He was a converted Levite from Cyprus and donated generously to the Jerusalem church (4:36-37).

Titus was a Gentile Christian, a Greek convert to Jesus.

Paul's trip to Jerusalem was by divine revelation. He was sent to Jerusalem by God. Paul apparently laid out his Gospel before the apostles in a private meeting with those who were highly respected in the Jerusalem church. He desired harmony between Jewish and Gentile Christians and wanted to overcome any attacks against his ministry by those who would discredit him.

Paul was a very bold person. He brought Titus, a Greek, uncircumcised Christian to Jerusalem. This brought

the legalism issue sharply into focus. Paul made it plain that this issue would never have been raised had the Judaizing Jerusalem members not raised it. The term spy used here means to spy on a city with hostile intent during a time of war. The Judaizers had only a hostile purpose for their actions.

Paul caused salvation by faith alone to be put into eternal perspective. Since Titus was not circumcised, his salvation was not dependent on this outward Jewish act. His salvation was dependent only on Jesus.

Verse 9 illustrates various types of ministry to differing groups of people. A model for differing ministries is found in the ministry of Paul, as contrasted with the apostles at Jerusalem. Paul's ministry was to the Gentiles. The other apostles' ministry was to the Jewish people. True Christian maturity was reflected when the Jerusalem apostles accepted the ministry of Paul to the Gentiles.

Peter rebuked at Antioch (2:11-14) Antioch was the place Paul and Barnabas had been commissioned as missionaries and was the first predominantly Gentile church. This makes these events even more significant.

Paul was not afraid of conflict, though he did not seek it. The event recorded here makes it plain that conflict for the sake of the Gospel can be turned to the Glory of God. Conflict for the sake of personal gratification, advancement, or recognition results in

confusion.

There are many ways to deal with conflict. Jesus used many methods. Sometimes He openly confronted the Pharisees (Luke 11:29-54). At other times, He walked away from conflict. He fit the method to the situation.

Paul usually confronted conflict head on, as was the case in Galatians 2:11-14. Peter often dined with the Gentiles, even though he was a Jew. The passage states that certain Jews came from the Jerusalem church where James was the head. These Jews said good Jews don't dine with Gentiles. The Pharisees implied the same thing about our Lord during His ministry (Matthew 9:11).

Peter and the other Antioch Jewish Christians, including Barnabas, quit dining with the Gentile Christians.

## BIBLE BOOK SERIES

November 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: Galatians 2:1-21

Focal Passages: Galatians 2:1-5, 9, 11-14, 20-21

They were play acting to please their visiting guests. The Antioch Gentile Christians must have felt degraded, for they were the first Gentile church. Paul said they "walked not uprightly," meaning not straight. Peter and those with him had failed the Lord at this important point.

Some say Paul should have rebuked Simon Peter privately. More was involved, however, than just the personal feelings of Simon Peter. The whole matter of the freedom of the Gospel was being tested as well as the unity of various ministries in Christendom. Paul did not rebuke Barnabas publicly but must have talked with him

privately. It may be significant that we have no record of Paul and Barnabas ever traveling together again. Paul did speak favorably of Barnabas in 1 Corinthians 9:6 and Colossians 4:10.

Paul reminded in verse 14 that salvation and Christian fellowship go hand in hand. The Jewish and Gentile Christians had only one condition for salvation and that was faith. Christian fellowship was based on this foundation of salvation.

Living by faith in Christ (2:20-21)

Paul identified the key to Christian experience in Jesus. He made it plain that salvation personalizes a person. His experience of a vital union with Jesus did not make him just one among many Christians, but gave him genuine self identity and set him free to be the person God meant for him to be.

Verse 20 should be viewed as a confirmation of the work of Jesus. In all our lives it means that salvation is: 1. Being crucified — a past action with a continuing effect in the present. 2. Living — a moment by moment fellowship with Christ.

The point of the salvation experience and the continuance of salvation is all because Christ died for us. In verse 21, Paul refused to annul the grace of God as the Judaizers had done. Instead, he made it clear that it is not by our own wits or adherence to Jewish law that we are saved, only by Christ!

Summation:

It gave Paul a great deal of comfort to know of the apostolic recognition of his call and ministry. Paul did not hesitate to confront Simon Peter for the very future of the ministry to the Gentiles was at stake, and Paul knew that Jew and Gentile alike were only truly alive in Jesus.

# New heaven and new earth

By Charles E. Gibbs Jr., pastor; Trace Creek Church, New Johnsonville

What is meant by a new heaven and a new earth? In 2 Peter 3:10-13, we find these words: "The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

The important thing is not how God is going to make a new heaven and a new earth; but that God is the one who will do it. Man has argued how God created the universe. They have missed the most important part of the story of creation in Genesis. We find in verse one, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The most important fact in creation is who made the world? Over and over in the first chapter, God said, "and it came into existence . . ."

Everything with respect to heaven will be new. We shall have new bodies, new names, sing new songs, live in a new city, and be governed by a new form of government. God says, "Behold, I make all things new."

After John mentioned a new heaven and a new earth, he told of a new city — the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. We have seen the city of man, Babylon. It was built in rebellion against God. After it was destroyed by God, He made a new city.

Ever since man lost paradise, he has sought to regain it. The good news of

man finding paradise again is in verse 3. A voice out of heaven says, "the tabernacle of God is with men, and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them."

What is the first thing God will do for us? In verse 4 it says, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

November 26 Lesson

Basic Passage: Revelation 21:1 to 22:5

Focal Passages: Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27

We live in the land of tears, for the experience of death, sorrow, and pain is common to every man. God said the things that bring tears to our eyes will be gone forever.

Verse 5 says, "He that sat upon the throne said, behold I make all things new." We are going to live in a brand-new world. Are these words too wonderful to be true? Knowing how hard it is for us to believe, John added that God's words are true and faithful. This not only means every word is true, but that God will be faithful in carrying out His promise.

In the midst of a world that is ever-changing, we find something that never changes — God. The good news is that God is loving today and will be forever. God's character never changes. In verse 6, He says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." In simple English, God knows everything.

The theme for the 1990 simultaneous revivals is, "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares

for You." The hope is for the overcomers. In verse 7, the promise of hope is for those who "overcometh." The reward is to inherit all things.

The New Testament says greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. It is because we have God's power dwelling in us that we become overcomers. There is victory in Jesus.

There is no hope to those who are fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars (v. 8). Those who continue to do these things shall have their place in the lake of fire, which is the second death.

Let us look at the New Jerusalem. Abraham forsook the cities of Ur and Haran in search of "a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). The quest for an ideal city has been man's desire since his beginning. Many thought they had found it in Jerusalem. Sin brought Jerusalem to ruin. The supreme sin of rejecting the Son of God was committed there and it has never been the same since.

The New Jerusalem is a great city, "the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." This city has the "glory of God" upon it.

What is absent in this new city? There will be no temple, no sun, no moon. The ancient temple represented the presence of God among His people. By His real presence there will be no need for a temple. The new city will not need sun or moon because it will be illuminated by the glory of God. God is light. Jesus said of Himself, "I

am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

What makes heaven? Heaven is found in verse 27, "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie."

Who shall be in heaven? Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Some teach that God will ultimately save everyone. The book of Revelation says this is false.

The simple Gospel message is that sin is an offense against God and if one continues to rebel against God, there is no hope of heaven.

How can we get our names in the "Lamb's book of life?" By believing in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).

## Hobson Pike Church calls Carroll Owen

Carroll Owen, interim dean of the School of Biblical Studies and Ministry at Belmont College, Nashville, has been called as pastor of Hobson Pike Church, Mt. Juliet.

A Missouri native, Owen has held pastorates in Rogersville, Paris; and Harrisburg, Ill. He served for nine years as director of Convention Ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Owen earned a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Union University, Jackson, in 1978.

Hobson Pike Church is a mission of LaGuarda Church, Lebanon.



WATSON



GIBBS

# Crossing barriers

by Mattie Carroll Mullins, layperson; Gray Church, Gray

Certainly I know what barriers are. You, too, know what barriers are, but quick look at the definition in Webster's Dictionary reminds us that barriers are anything that stands in the way of free movement from one place to another — an obstacle, limit, or boundary.

When this definition is applied to this lesson, a barrier is anything that stands between people and God. When I hear the word barrier, I immediately think of such things as race, nationality, prejudice, political opinion, age, and economic status.

Now as we study about missions and how we as Southern Baptists can get the message of salvation to every person in the world, we have to face reality that some of these barriers will make the task difficult. In this lesson we are studying about crossing some of these barriers.

In John 4 we read at least five such barriers Jesus encountered as He traveled from Judea to Galilee. The disciples had gone into the city for food and had left Jesus to rest beside an ancient well in Samaria. The well was the watering place for the area. It was about the sixth hour. Assuming He used Jewish time, it was near Noon, which was the hottest time of the day.

A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus immediately began a conversation with her. He asked her for a drink of water. Of course, Jesus recognized that it was not customary for a Jew to speak to or drink from the container of a Samaritan. Her reply showed she was reluctant to grant His request for a drink of water.

At this point Jesus crossed the first barrier. He took the opportunity to see her need. The woman's need for water as well as her need for God was evident.

Jesus' second opportunity was openness to the woman's needs. He drank after her and was willing to risk talking to her. He also took advantage of the privacy of talking to her alone. He had to combat the barrier of guilt.

When Jesus asked her to call her husband, she admitted she had no husband. With this, Jesus was able to show her, without reprimand, the reality of the way she had been living.

Jesus led the Samaritan woman to salvation. It was not an ordinary encounter. First, he dealt with her barriers which were related to racial or ethnic factors, gender differences, prejudice, sin, and false religion. Of course, Jesus had no barriers, but He had to cross the barriers of the woman.

There are all kinds of barriers that keep people from hearing the Gospel. What would have happened if Jesus had not taken the opportunity to overcome the barriers between Himself and the Samaritan woman? The answer is simple. She would not have been saved.



MULLINS

**CROSS HOOD ORNAMENT**

Handsome Chrome Finish  
Easy, Universal Exterior or Dash Mount

**Send \$9.95**

Plus \$1.00 Postage & Handling To:  
DISTINCTIVE DISPLAYS  
P.O. Box 11421  
South Bend, IN 46634

Write for quantity pricing for fund-raising or awards.

**A & O CHURCH FURNITURE**  
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053  
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— SOLID OAK PEWS —  
PEW UPHOLSTERY • REFINISHING  
BAPTISTRIES • STEEPLES  
LIGHTING EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE  
1-(800)-523-9058  
NC 1-(800)-222-7895

We will encounter many of the same barriers today that Jesus experienced with the Samaritan woman. If we are truly interested in a soul, we will do anything to win him or her to Christ. Jesus began with conversation on a topic of mutual concern; thirst. He answered her questions in a positive way, never arguing with her. He dealt with the issues at hand.

**LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES**  
November 26 Lesson  
Basic Passage: John 4:1-42  
Focal Passages: John 4:7-9, 16-22, 25-26

When the woman raised the question about the Messiah, Jesus told her that He was the Messiah. What did the woman do at this point? She immediately went and told others in the city. This lesson again challenges us to put into practice what Bold Mission Thrust is all about. We need to recognize the barriers in our lives or in our churches which would prevent us from sharing the Gospel. We also need to realize some barriers exist in the minds and hearts of those hearing the message.

Many years ago I heard an African story told by a missionary. A hunter went on a safari to search for game. He came across a huge elephant with

mighty tusks and killed it. But how was he to get the meat home to his village? He laid hold of the elephant and heaved and tugged with all his might, but he could not move the animal.

Finally, he went to the village, spread the news of the kill, and asked his neighbors to help. Gladly they went with him. Together, they began to heave and pull, singing to keep time,

"Our elephant, our elephant, our elephant." The hunter who had killed the elephant was not happy with their song, so he sang, "My elephant, my elephant, my elephant." Hearing this, the friends loosed their holds and went back home in anger.

Vainly the hunter tried again alone to drag the elephant, but found it was impossible to budge it. Shamefully he went back to the village and asked for help. His neighbors said, "We will help you on one condition — that we all sing the same song." The hunter agreed. This time it was clear the song they sang was "Our elephant." In no time they brought the elephant home and there was meat for all.

Christians today must dedicate themselves anew in winning the lost. Only as we sing together "Our mission, our mission, our mission" can we cross all barriers.

## SWBTS students available for revivals

**FORT WORTH** — Students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary are available to lead spring revivals in Tennessee churches next March 18-26.

Spring Evangelism Practicum each year sends Southwestern students to preach revival meetings. This program makes it possible for churches with smaller memberships or limited resources to hold at least one revival per year.

Major funding for the program comes from the Panhandle Baptist Foundation. Churches are responsible

for housing and meals and limited transportation in some cases, such as from the airport to the church, or from where a seminary van leaves the student.

Last spring, 228 Southwestern students led revivals in 220 churches in 35 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, four Canadian Provinces, and England. Through their witness, 307 people made public professions of faith and 322 others were led to accept Christ through personal witnessing outside the revival meetings.

Students participating will have taken at least 12 hours of orientation before arriving in Tennessee. To schedule a seminary student preacher for your church, contact Dan Crawford, associate professor of evangelism/missions and director of evangelism and mission practice, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, P. O. Box 22298, Fort Worth, Texas 76122.

**BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES**

Lights Baptisries Signs  
Manufacturers Steeples

1-800-468-7400  
Free Call

Box 2250, Danville, VA 24541  
In VA (804) 822-2000

Pews, pulpits, baptisries, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

**VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38849  
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627  
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

**PEW UPHOLSTERY**  
REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS  
PEW REFINISHING  
STAINED GLASS  
LIGHTING  
CARPET • PEWS

We have upholstered pews in over 1500 churches totaling over 600,000 lineal ft. We can reupholster and repair any pews on site for less cost than the original manufacturer.

**Church Interiors Inc.**  
Leading the Nation in Church Renovations  
P.O. Box 5346 • High Point, NC 27262  
Call Toll Free: 1-800-BUY-PEWS  
(1-800-289-7397)

**CLASSIFIED**  
WANTED: Part-time secretary. Rosedale Baptist Church. 20 hours per week. Phone 255-8175.

**FOR CHURCHES ONLY**  
**BUILDING MONEY**  
BELOW PRIME  
call ANDY HARDY  
**1-800-231-0375**

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES HEATERS PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT**

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
3511 HIXSONPIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**GREAT GIFT IDEA**  
Preserve Those Precious Memories  
Let VID-TEK transfer your 8 mm, Super 8, Super 8/sound, 16mm to video tape. For more information contact:  
VID-TEK  
5123 Paddock Village Court, Suite C-13  
Maryland Farms — Brentwood, TN 37024  
(615) 373-5936

**Congratulations!**

Tennessee WMU recognizes the following associations whose Woman's Missionary Union organization received achievement recognition:

ASSOCIATION	DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS	WMU DIRECTOR
Alpha	Charles T. Livengood	Carol Gilmer
Big Hatchie	Ira S. Perkins	Martha Haynes
Central	Ralph E. Hoover	Ann Davenport
Chilhowee	John Churchman	Patty Moore
Clinton	Michael L. Pearson	Lola Byrd
Concord	James H. Powers	Carolyn Outland
Cumberland	Harold Shoulters	Joan Hair
Cumberland Gap	William D. Hazelwood	Ruth Hooper
Dyer	Joe T. Naylor	Esmeralda Hughes
Fayette	B. F. McIlwain	Wilma Hundley
Gibson County	Kenneth Sparkman	Judy Cummings
Hardeman County	Deryl Watson	Ruth McNabb
Holston	Tal Thompson Jr.	Bobby M. Turner
Knox County	Walter Taylor	Dene Taylor
Lawrence County	Bob M. Polk	Louise Borden
McMinn-Meigs	Ted E. Davis	Diane Stewart
Nashville	Carl J. Duck	Deona Lee Thomas
New Salem	Emery O. Farmer	Thelma Grace
Robertson County	Frank M. Evans	Ginger McAfee
Stone	Michael L. Prowse	Clovelia King
Tennessee Valley	Omer Painter	Fane Castleman
Weakley County	Richard L. Skidmore	Dorothy Clendenin
Western District	Bill H. Smith	Mevis Swinford
William Carey	Joe W. Mayberry	Anita Cunningham
Wilson County	Robert D. Agee	Jonnie Neal
Beech River	Doyle Neal	Viola Brewer
Duck River	Baylon Hilliard	Zenona Harris
Jefferson County	Jerry DeZearn	Edna M. Tidwell
Judson	Charles T. Livengood	Joan Allen
Madison-Chester	Herbert Higdon	Marjorie Bates
Nolachucky	Glenn Toomey	Lucille Hatfield
Riverside	Terry C. Geren	Patty Seal
Salem	Thurman Sober	Lynn Ledbetter
Shiloh	Ed Alexander	Peggy Barton
Sullivan	R. Thomas Holtzclaw	Dorothy J. Hudson
Union	Ray A. Maynard	

**(BP) BRIEFLY**

Compiled from Baptist Press, news service  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

**Colorado Baptists now 'less in debt'**

DENVER — Colorado Baptists will end 1989 about \$1 million less in debt than when the year began. Executive Director Charles Sharp told participants at the 34th annual meeting of the Colorado Baptist General Convention. But, Sharp added, the convention remains about \$1.4 million in debt and budgeting will continue to be tight.

Sharp painted an improved financial picture for the 315 messengers who attended the Oct. 31-Nov. 2 annual meeting in Riverside Baptist Church in Denver. The convention has experienced financial difficulties for several years, brought on in part by a declining economy in Colorado and in part by poor over-the-counter investments by the Colorado Baptist Foundation and Church Loan Corp.

In the 1988 annual meeting, messengers trimmed the budget to bare bones, cut five staff positions and made the Woman's Missionary Union into a self-supporting auxiliary in an effort to pay off indebtedness and stabilize convention finances. Sharp told messengers to the Denver session part of the debt was paid when property owned by the foundation was sold and the \$940,000 proceeds were used to pay bank loans which had been entered into to pay off bond issues. Negotiations for the sale of the land and high-rise apartment building have been ongoing for about a year, he added.

Messengers adopted without discussion a \$2,391,109 budget, up slightly from the \$2,355,081 current budget. Of the budget, \$1,140,325 will come from the 245 congregations affiliated with the convention. The remainder will come from other sources, including the state mission offering, interest and contributions from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Messengers elected Lewis Atkinson president by acclamation. Atkinson, pastor of Circle Drive Church, Colorado Springs, had been first vice president, but succeeded to the presidency when Roy Spannagel of Pueblo left the state. Also elected were Clyde Thompson, pastor of First Southern Church, Trinidad, first vice president; and John Robbins, pastor of Bookcliff Church, Grand Junction, second vice president.

**West Virginians adopt \$1.5 million budget**

PRINCETON, W.V. — West Virginia Southern Baptist adopted a \$1,495,960 annual budget and elected a new president during the annual meeting at Immanuel Church in Princeton Nov. 3-4.

The 150 churches and missions of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists are to contribute \$719,499, or 48.1 percent, of the new budget. Most of the balance of the budget is to be provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Other revenue is expected from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and other sources.

The convention will send 26.5 percent of its receipts from churches on to national and international causes through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget. That percentage is a 0.5 percent increase over the previous budget and is expected to total \$190,667. The 1990 budget is 3.44 percent less than the current \$1,549,264 budget.

Messengers elected by acclamation Eddie Gandy, pastor of Westmoreland Church, Huntington, to a one-year term as convention president. Other officers are John Davis, pastor, Rosedale Church, Oak Hill, first vice president; James Hendricks, pastor, Immanuel Church, Princeton, second vice president; and Robert Keown, a salesman and member of Riverwood Church, St. Albans, recording secretary.

**Nevada Baptists set budget, re-elect Norvell president**

RENO, Nev. — Messengers from across Nevada gathered at First Southern Church, Reno, Oct. 24-25 and in unison elected Bob Norvell president of the Nevada Baptist Convention for his second term. They also adopted a record \$1,643,553 budget.

Norvell was elected without opposition. Michael Rochelle, pastor of West Oakley Church, Las Vegas, was elected first vice president, and Jim Meek, pastor of Steamboat Church, Reno, was elected second vice president.

Nevada Baptist churches are expected to contribute \$425,000, or 25.8 percent, of the new budget. They contributed \$409,000 — \$9000 over budget — to the just-completed annual budget. Nevada Baptists are to send 24.5 percent of the convention's undesignated receipts to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget. That is a 0.5 percent increase over the previous budget. The contribution is expected to be \$104,125, up from \$96,000.

Messengers adopted a resolution commending President George Bush for his veto of federal funding of abortions and for his "moral fortitude to wage an all-out effort against crime, drugs, and pornography." The resolution, which passed without discussion, also called for the convention to communicate the action to the president and to "pledge prayerful support in defeating these evils that are disrupting our nation."

Messengers also approved a motion by Jim McLeroy, pastor of First Southern Church of Las Vegas, to write a letter of commendation and support to Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board. After a suspension of rules, which was required because the motion was made during the last session of the annual meeting, the motion passed.

**Soviet Baptists press sympathy following quake**

NASHVILLE — Baptists in the Soviet Union have sent Southern Baptists in the United States a message of sympathy and encouragement following the California earthquake. The telegram was sent to Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, from three officers of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union.

The telegram is addressed to "dear brethren" and states:

"We express our sincere sympathy in connection with the earthquake in California. Let sources of heavenly consolation and protection for all (who) suffered and those who lost their relatives and near ones be opened, and let God be comforter and healer for them. Your sorrow will be comforted by Almighty God and time. In this tragic time, we are with you, dear friends, and we are praying that the Lord might help you to endure this tragedy."

The telegram came from Vasilii Logvinenko, the All-Union Council's president; General Secretary Alexei Bichkov; and Alexei Stoian, director of the council's international relations. Bennett sent similar telegrams to All-Union Council officers following the Chernobyl nuclear incident and the Ukrainian earthquake.

**Beirut Baptist schools reopen**

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Beirut Baptist School and Arab Baptist Theological Seminary have reopened for classes following the cease-fire that has been in effect in the Lebanese capital since mid-September.

Beirut Baptist School in West Beirut opened for younger grades ahead of the usual Nov. 1 opening date to allow students to complete last year's coursework interrupted by the fighting that broke out during the spring. The upper grades managed to complete last year's studies, reported Southern Baptist representative Jim Ragland, who monitors Baptist work in Lebanon from Cyprus.

Window installers worked overtime to replace glass that had been shot out of most of the windows of the school's two buildings. Rainfall was a problem in recent weeks, because of the missing windows, Ragland said. Students arrive at school in buses riddled with bullet holes, patched and taped up so the vehicles are usable.

A capacity student load of 700 is enrolled, meaning many new students who have applied for admission cannot be admitted, school Principal Elijah Bitar told Ragland. Eight students are enrolled at the seminary, where windows also were shattered during the fighting.

Electricity and water now are available most of the time in Beirut. Many Lebanese who left during the worst of the fighting have returned, and the city again is having traffic jams. Most of the Lebanese who fled to Cyprus also have returned home, Ragland said.

**Penn./So. Jersey mandates 50 percent lay board membership**

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Messengers to the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey's 19th annual meeting voted to mandate lay membership on the convention's executive board. They also approved a \$2,268,016 budget for 1990 and passed resolutions on abortion and gambling during the annual session, held at Memorial Church in Gettysburg, Pa., Nov. 2-4.

The messengers approved a constitutional amendment and bylaw change — measures that were postponed during the 1988 annual meeting — that call for 50 percent of the convention's executive board members to be laypeople. The constitution and bylaws previously did not stipulate categories for executive board membership, and pastors held the majority of the slots.

The 1990 budget includes a basic operating budget of \$1,963,016; \$245,000 in designated funds for state, domestic and foreign missions; and a \$60,000 "advance budget" goal. The convention's 199 congregations are expected to provide \$675,656 of the budget, an increase of \$13,144 over the 1989 budget. The convention is to receive \$1,186,080 from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, a decrease of \$108,000 from current receipts. The largest percentage of the balance of the basic budget is to come from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Pennsylvania/South Jersey Baptists will support worldwide mission causes by giving 28.75 percent of undesignated receipts to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget. They currently give 28.5 percent to the Cooperative Program.

Messengers approved without debate a resolution that reaffirmed their support for the elimination of abortion. They also passed a resolution opposing all forms of gambling and specifically opposing the establishment of casinos in the Pocono Mountains.

Charles Teague, pastor of Country and Town Church, Mechanicsburg, Pa., was elected convention president in a run-off with Lamar Duke, pastor of Absecon Church, Absecon, N.J. Duke was elected first vice president. Second vice president is Paul Helton, a steel company executive and member of Pittsburgh Church, Pittsburgh.

**Preserving family memories a must for senior adults**

RIDGECREST, N.C. — The room fell silent when Robert Hastings launched into a story of his childhood during the Great Depression. A natural storyteller, Hastings moved the room of senior adults back into a familiar time when food was scarce, money was tight, and sacrifices were made. At the end of his tale, Hastings, an author, writing consultant, and editor emeritus of the Illinois Baptist newspaper, had made an unspoken point. Family memories must be preserved.

Hastings led a seminar on ways to preserve family memories during a Senior Adult Chautauqua at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center Oct. 23-27. Author of the fictional Broadman Press books *Tinyburg Tales* and *Tinyburg Revisited*, Hastings began in 1970 penning the memories he had of his family. The death of his mother only two years after his father's death triggered those memories, which eventually became a book, *A Nickel's Worth of Skim Milk*, and its sequel, *A Penny's Worth of Minceed Ham*.

"It wasn't until after my parents passed away that I realized the rich treasures I had," said Hastings. "Buried in our childhood memories are a lot of rich stories. People can preserve their family memories in several ways, he said, adding, "There is no one way to do it, and it is never too late."

Keeping scrapbooks of memorabilia, old photographs, locks of hair, newspaper clippings, "or whatever helps bring memories back to you" is another way to preserve the past, Hastings said. It is best if names are marked on old photographs, he said. Cassette tapes, video tapes, and genealogy or family descent research are other ways of preserving family history, Hastings added.