

Baptist and Reflector

VOL. 155/NO. 49/DECEMBER 6, 1989

STATEWIDE EDITION

NEWSJOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Government prevails

Rebel coup defused in Philippines, missionaries safe

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — Three Southern Baptist missionary families and two other American families associated with Baptists in the Philippines evacuated their homes Dec. 4 as fighting intensified in Manila's financial district.

The moves were precautions to avoid the danger of crossfire between Philippine armed forces and rebels holed up in the district following an attempted coup, reported missionary Trudy Crittendon, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in the Philippines.

By early Dec. 4, government forces had confined fighting to an 11-block area in the financial district of the Makati area, where numerous embassies are located and where many foreign diplomats and businessmen live. Southern Baptist missionary homes are scattered throughout six subdivisions in the Makati area.

One of the families that fled moved into an evacuation center in their neighborhood. The other four families moved to mission guest quarters in another part of Manila.

Southern Baptist workers Marvin and Judy Raley of Houston decided to move into the nearby Assumption Con-

vent instead of leaving their neighborhood, San Lorenzo. But as fighting continued, they planned to leave San Lorenzo by Dec. 5. Missionaries Phil and Martha Anderson of Killen and Florence, Ala., respectively, and Mark and Geneva Weiler of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Elkins, Ark., respectively, moved Dec. 4 to the mission guest quarters.

Also at the guest quarters were two families who live in Manila and attend International Baptist Church there. They are R.A. and June Hayden, and Sherri Hamil and her two teenage children, whose hometowns are unknown. Hamil's husband was out of the country at the time. Hayden is the nephew of Herbert Gabhart, chancellor of Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn.

Hamil and her children were in the Twin Towers building in Manila when rebel troops took it over but were able to leave safely, Crittendon said.

Loyalist and rebel troops battled for a time around International Church, located in the Salcedo Village area of Makati, adjacent to the Bel Air neighborhood where two Southern Baptist missionary families live. The families consider themselves safe and did not leave the area, Crittendon said.

Those families and the 13 other Southern Baptist missionary families in Manila were keeping a low profile, Crittendon said. Missionaries outside the city were being advised to stay home also, since government officials used barricades to block travel on major arteries.

Mutinuous forces fighting to overthrow the government of President Corazon Aquino overcame the air force command headquarters, government broadcast center and parts of the inter-

national airport, as well as a number of other military installations in the Philippines, Dec. 1. But they failed in a fierce attack on military headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila.

Reports estimated more than 10,000 Filipinos fled their homes and were staying in churches, schools, and other evacuation centers. People throughout Manila were encouraged by radio to attend churches within walking distance and pray, Crittendon said. Schools were closed indefinitely.

Stewart urges strong prayer support

At press time Monday night, reports from the Philippines signaled an improved situation for government forces.

Clarence Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Ministries director, said missionaries on the field reported Monday to the Foreign Mission Board with word that all were safe.

The Tennessee/Philippines Partnership Mission is in its first year. Several groups of volunteers have been involved thus far, and current plans call for a group to go to the Philippines in late January.

Stewart encourages Tennessee Baptists to continue praying for the stabilization of events in the Philippines. "We have continuing contact with our missionaries through the Foreign Mission Board," he said.

Southern Baptist missionaries in other areas also encounter local unrest and strife, he noted, and "keep a low profile" when necessary. The FMB carefully monitors mission work where there is potential for fighting. Many areas where the SBC has mission work have similar stress. — Editor

Tennessee Baptists help South Carolinians rebuild

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor
MACEDONIA, S.C. — Though he wept not to, Dave Tracy wept.

A big man, Tracy could not hold back the tears as he recalled the events following Hurricane Hugo which struck the coast of South Carolina and surrounding areas in late September.



AT WORK — These men were among 327 Tennessee Baptists who spent all or part of Thanksgiving week helping South Carolinians rebuild.

"On the 21st day of September, God showed Dave Tracy His power," he recalled.

After that display of power came "God's grace, His love, and His mercy" in the form of Tennessee Baptists, continued Tracy, a deacon at Providence Church in Macedonia, a small community approximately 35 miles from Charleston, S.C.

And just as Tennessee Baptists were quick to respond within hours after the hurricane hit — serving 54,064 meals in a two-week period — help from the Volunteer State continues.

Approximately 327 Tennessee Baptist men and women spent Thanksgiving week helping South Carolinians pick up the pieces from one of the most devastating storms to ever hit the state.

Tracy's home was one of 21 houses, four church buildings, and a fire station which volunteers reroofed during the week.

In addition, workers, many of whom came on Thanksgiving eve, built five new homes "into the dry," poured five foundations, set blocks on six foundations, built 121 trusses, did minor repairs on three homes, replaced four large picture windows, and rewired one house completely, said Cameron Byler, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department

and coordinator of the relief work.

Byler noted the volunteers, who came from 14 associations and 44 churches in Tennessee, laid a total of 65,400 square feet of shingles during the week.

Providence Church, Macedonia, served as headquarters for the week's activities. Team members slept in campers and in sleeping bags in the church and a nearby high school gymnasium.

The TBC disaster relief van set up to provide hot meals for the workers.

And despite being away from home for the holiday, volunteers did not have to sacrifice their traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Thirty-five turkeys, 100 pounds of dressing, and 100 pounds of banana pudding were prepared along with other trimmings, Byler said, noting the food was quickly consumed.

"It was a super week. The volunteers had a spirit of cooperation, enthusiasm, and empathy for the people in the community," Byler said.

He observed "everyone pitched in" and did what they were asked to do. "It was a tremendous missions experience," he said.

Unforgettable Thanksgiving Judge Pippin, pastor of Ridgedale Church, Knoxville, agreed with Byler's assessment. "This probably will be the most memorable Thanksgiving we've ever had."

Pippin and his group, the majority from his church, began building a house for a person whose mobile home was flattened by the hurricane. "It's exciting to see how many people are here. It's like God sent His army

because these people needed help," Pippin observed.

Don Arwood, pastor of Clear Branch Church, Lake City, brought nine people from the church. He noted not only their sacrifice, but their families as well.

"It thrills my heart these people see the need to share their Christian faith to the point they can sacrifice their Thanksgiving holiday," he said.

The trip, however, was not one-sided. Said Pastor Tom Byrge of Clinch River Church, Lake City.

"Our guys will go back and talk about the fellowship. They feel they benefit from the work as much as the people they helped," Byrge said.

Don Colyer, a layman from Chapman Grove Church, Kingston, and his wife, Dwain, made the Thanksgiving journey. Colyer summarized his reason for participating.

"It's a fulfillment of what I feel the Lord wanted me to do," he said.

Butch Harris, a resident of the com-
(See page 5)

An inside look

Squelch that rumor

• Petition hoax lives Page 2

Laity involvement

• Needed in TBC:
leaders Page 3

November CP giving

• First month good Page 3

Churches at work

• Building, meeting,
moving Page 9

MOVING? Cut out and mail this address label to the Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 729, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024 along with your new address.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennessee

Editorials**Wasting time and money on false petitions**

It has more lives than the traditional nine lives of a cat. It lives on after it has been refuted, denied, proven groundless, revealed as a lie."

What is this thing that defies death? It is rumor. In particular, that old but false rumor about FCC Petition 2493. It is hard to believe that Baptists and other Christians still are victimized by this rumor.

Listen, Tennessee Baptists, yet again we tell you that there is absolutely no truth to 2493. There is no move by Madalyn Murray O'Hair to prevent the airing of Christian programming on radio and television. And, despite the latest twist to the rumor, there is

no plan to ban Christmas music or any other kind of Christian music. But like a cat chasing its tail, we keep going around and around.

Don't be fooled by the resurrection of "petition" 2493. There has never been any truth to it. Please spread the word. The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee offices in Nashville would be the first to know if such petitions were accurate. And Baptist Press would quickly spread the word to all state conventions through the state papers.

Again we are receiving phone calls and personal queries about petitions that are being promoted through church and civic groups. The FCC reminds us that millions of dollars

have been wasted — did you hear it, WASTED, by well-meaning but ill-advised folks. THERE IS NO VALIDITY TO THE PETITIONS.

Please help dispatch this rumor. Church people are wasting time and money in pursuing it. Imagine the pleasure Mrs. O'Hair gains by knowing that, because of her, Christians are chasing wild geese — and she doesn't even have to lift a finger! And — she gets her name printed in Baptist papers. Ugh.

We can't imagine Jesus signing petitions. It is such a small thing to do — we may think it is the least we can do for a good cause. But this, Baptist people, is not a good cause. Wasting money is not good. Circulating false petitions is also wasteful. Let's stop it. — WFA

The right stuff for reviving a great convention

Letters usually attract attention from readers of publications. Many of us regularly read letters in daily newspapers. We are interested in opinions of other people.

Baptist state papers are no exception. Sometimes Baptist letter writers inspire, agitate, irritate, provoke, initiate — and they often are entertaining and educational.

Two recent letters in state papers contain ideas worthy of study.

One letter writer was appalled at a blanket statement made at his state convention. He disapproved with the view, but most of all, he

did not like blanket statements. He wrote, "We are a diverse people. We must guard against our opinions taking the form of blanket statements which result in unfairly accusing, misrepresenting, and hurting not only those in our churches, but anyone."

The writer in yet another state paper commented on his deep concern on matters discussed at that state's convention. He said he lost every vote.

But he concluded that he would contact those in charge of matters where he had deep concern. Further, he said he could not believe those leaders would be insensitive to issues

that concerned the churches.

He closed with this, "Being united as a convention means that all parties are heard and the issues that concern them are dealt with honestly."

The strength of both writers lies not only in what they said — but they admitted they had lost votes, had disagreed with others, had unanswered concerns, and yet had faith in their elected and salaried leaders to hear everyone and to be responsive.

It could be that we have stumbled on a formula for revival within state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. — WFA

Stalled growth in SBC churches 'demands attention'

NASHVILLE (BP) — Stalled growth in Southern Baptist churches will be the target of renewed efforts by program leaders over the next few years to get the denomination back on track for reaching people for Christ.

Baptist state convention directors of church administration met Nov. 16-17 with personnel of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church ad-

ministration department and discussed the denominational slowdown. They also heard about customized growth plans, new products and increased cooperation among programs to encourage growth.

"We are not presently a growing denomination, even with the slight increases we have had recently," said Gary Cook, the board's vice president for church programs and services. "It is our commitment, dream and prayer that we will once again be a growing convention."

"We want to look at methods that will provide growth with integrity."

The growth plan that was unveiled for the state directors emphasizes the need for cooperation among programs of the denomination.

The Coordinated Church Growth Plan, which will help churches diagnose growth potential in light of the impact on all programs of the church, calls for balanced Biblical church growth in evangelism, discipleship, missions, and administration.

D. G. McCoury, pastoral ministries consultant in the board's church administration department, and Bill May, church administration director for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, have developed the Coordinated Growth Plan process to integrate the contributions of all church programs to maintain growth.

When a church achieves growth in Sunday School enrollment and resident church membership, the Coordinated Church Growth Plan points pastors and church leaders toward ways to bring all programs into the growth picture.

Roy Edgemon, director of the board's discipleship training department, told the church administration

directors that the Southern Baptist Convention is "playing the game that we are a stable denomination."

Growth in discipleship is vitally important to provide spiritual foundations for growth and maturity of believers to become effective church members, Edgemon said.

The Coordinated Church Growth Plan helps church leaders evaluate the purpose and tasks of the church to achieve growth in quantity and quality.

To help church leaders understand the dimensions of healthy, sustained growth, a new periodical, *Growing Churches*, will be available beginning in October 1990. It will provide suggestions for growing churches by considering needs in evangelism, missions and outreach and will carry testimonies from pastors and other staff members who have led churches in growth.

For larger churches in the conven-

tion, the church administration department unveiled a new cost-recovery growth consultation service that will customize a plan of growth to the situations and particular needs of churches with more than 1500 members.

Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department, said only larger churches are included in the strategic growth planning service at first because they tend to be more involved in long-range planning, which is an essential element of the project. The service will be expanded at a later date to include smaller churches.

This growth plan includes four visits to the church, including an initial two-day session to evaluate the church's situation and train the pastor and other church leaders. A requirement for involvement in the project is participation in all sessions by the pastor and strategic church leaders.

Baptist and Reflector adds three churches

Subscribers from three Tennessee churches this week increased the Baptist and Reflector subscription list by almost 300.

Long Heights Church, McKenzie; Concord Church, Ten Mile; and First Church, Dickson, are the latest to enroll in one of the Baptist and Reflector subscription plans. New subscribers from the three churches total 296.

Lynn Walker is interim pastor of Long Heights, David Largen is at Concord, and Don McCoy is the First Church, Dickson, pastor.

The newsjournal has three subscription plans: Individual, \$6.55; Church Club (ten or more), \$6.25; and Church Budget Plan, \$5.56 per subscription when sent to 50 percent or more of church families.

The Baptist and Reflector is published 51 times a year, omitting only the Christmas week issue date.

Information on individual subscriptions and the club and budget plans can be obtained by contacting the Editor, Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Call by telephone at (615) 371-2003.

Baptist and Reflector

Newsjournal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Established in 1835

Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor
Lonnie Wilkey, Associate Editor
Connie Davis, Assistant Editor
Connie Umstead, News Assistant

Betty Williams, Bookkeeper
Barbara Cox, Administrative Secretary
Rita Gambill, Production 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ray Fowler, chairman; Calvin Harvell, vice chairman; Gary Anderson, Raymond Boston, Herschel Chevallier, Paul Durham, M. B. Howard, James Hulson, Moncrief Jordan, John D. Laida, Murray Mathis, Calvin Metcalf, Howard Olive, Jerry Oakley, James Parch, Dennis Pulley, Lon Shoopman, and Emerson Wiles Jr.

In Tennessee Baptist Convention

Leaders cite need for more laity involvement

By Connie Davis, assistant editor

The cleric-dominated Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting is an "anathema," according to the first layperson to serve as an officer in the last 14 years.

Fred Isaacs, this year's vice president and a businessman from Cosby, believes the dominance results in understandable but "self-serving" actions by ministers at the convention.

Of the 2028 registered messengers at this year's meeting, about 43 percent or 869 were pastors or directors of missions. Other church staff members, retired workers, ministers' wives, and workers of the TBC and its schools, hospitals, children's homes, and other institutions were not included in that total.

As many as 5094 laypersons — five times more than currently — could be

messengers from Tennessee's churches under the current constitution.

For example, if the state's churches under 100 members (allowed two messengers) and with 101-200 members (allowed three messengers), send one church staff person; churches with 201-500 members (allowed four to six messengers) send two staff persons and only four messengers; and churches with 501 plus members (allowed seven to ten messengers), send four staff persons and a minimum of seven messengers; 5094 laypeople could be convention messengers. Church membership statistics from 1988 which report 53 percent of churches under 200 and 13 percent over 500 were used.

And even the clergy — more than two-thirds of them — did not participate in the convention. Of Tennessee's 2820 churches, only 781 or 28 percent sent messengers.

South Carolina Baptists have 370,000 fewer church members and 1000 fewer churches, but had 3110 at their convention this year.

Why "we" should become more involved

M. B. Howard of Covington has embraced the role of a layperson. The retired postal worker's Brotherhood work led him to become a Mission Service Corps volunteer at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. He is one of only 18 laypeople on the 101-member TBC Executive Board.

"We laypeople think the pastors are supposed to do these things. But the Tennessee Baptist Convention is those people who attend week after week giving their tithes in these small churches and supporting our programs. ... If we had to live on what the pastors (in comparison to the number of laypersons) pay into this we would be in trouble."

Another layperson attending the convention, Leon White of Lenoir City, has served on eight missions teams to other countries.

"We're interested in the direction of the convention. There are some real good messages," said White, who admitted that he started coming to bring his wife, Reba, to the Woman's Missionary Union meeting. They are more able to attend now that they are retired, added White.

"Not a lot of laypeople come because especially in later years laypeople expect the paid staff people to do this," said White.

Fred Isaacs has business interests ranging from the east to west coasts, but served from 1982-88 on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. He was chairperson of the Administrative Committee and assigned to the special task force that directed the recent reorganization and building program of the convention. He also served as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Radio-TV Commission.

"They do not take time to be involved in the process. It would be a lot better if they would. I think some peo-

ple think they don't know enough. How do you learn unless you spend enough time to learn? ... Too many people have a Lord of convenience," stated Isaacs.

Why "they" should become more involved

Pastor Roger Bailey of Grand Junction, who was accompanied by one layperson from his church though it is allowed four, feels the distance between a church and the convention office may be one index to involvement. Associational work is the springboard to state work, he added.

Many churches foster a false concept of church, Bailey stated.

"We're elevating, making stars out of ministers," said Bailey. Church members should be the leaders of the church and the ministers and deacons should be the servants, he explained.

Bailey claimed the TBC constitution, which currently allow a maximum of ten messengers per church, are "out of sync" because they limit a true quota of church members.

A measure of this void was the lack of emphasis on last year's convention-wide Year of the Laity, Bailey added.

Jerry Self, former TBC Christian Life/Public Affairs consultant currently with the SBC Education Commission and a member of Glendale Church, Nashville, stated that the weekday meeting and the cost impedes laity attendance.

Increased emphasis on missions, protection from "blind spots" inherent among like-minded clergy, and better business and financial practices are benefits of increased laity participation, observed Self.

Lee Lambert, a pastor in LaFollette, has succeeded in getting more church members to attend the annual meetings. This year the church had five of its six slots filled. One factor is his church's involvement in associational events, he proposed.

"The church body should function as a unit rather than as an individual," Lambert said. "The more people involved the more apt we are to ... come up with the very best decisions."

Missionaries leave El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries John and Peggy Alums planned to leave San Salvador Nov. 30 because of renewed rebel attacks in the capital city of El Salvador.

The Alumses and their two children, John Jr., 15, and Kelly, 6, were to drive to Guatemala City, about 100 miles northeast of San Salvador. Alums is from Mobile, Ala. Mrs. Alums is from Birmingham, Ala.

Rebel and government troops fought all night Nov. 29 in the area where the family lives, Alums reported. Many times the fighting or troop movements came within a block of their home.

"It's a tense time, an uncomfortable time for us," he said.

The Alumses live in the western neighborhood of Escalon, where the latest fighting broke out. Fighting in the Escalon and San Benito neighborhoods destroyed a U.S. official's home, trapped two American families and forced more than 100 Americans to seek shelter, according to press reports.

Alums said electricity in their area of San Salvador had been cut off, and traveling to food markets had become more difficult because of the new guer-

rilla attacks.

The other Southern Baptist missionary couple in the city of San Salvador, Bill and Libby Stennett, planned to remain there because the area where they live was relatively calm.

Stennett, of Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Stennett, of Washington, D.C., planned to continue operating the Baptist bookstore, situated in the center of San Salvador.

The renewed fighting prompted U.S. officials to charter a jet to evacuate Americans wanting to leave the country. The U.S. Embassy said 8000 to 10,000 American citizens live in El Salvador.

If the Alumses have to stay more than a few days in Guatemala, they temporarily will be assigned to the Christian literature ministry at the Baptist seminary in Guatemala City, said Joe Bruce, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area director for Middle America and Canada.

The other Southern Baptist missionary couple in El Salvador, Sam and Margaret Drummond of Camden, Tenn., and Louisville, Ky., respectively, said the city where they work, Santa Ana, remains calm.



NEW SANCTUARY — Mars Hill Church, Lawrenceburg, has a new sanctuary. The 12,000-square-foot facility also includes educational space and a fellowship hall. The building was constructed at an approximate cost of \$211,000, according to Pastor Jerry Geho. Most of the funds were raised through a Challenge to Build program sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program/Stewardship Department. Joining the dedication ceremony were, from left, Bob Polk, director of missions, Lawrence County Association; Paul Hall, TBC; Orvind Dangeau, TBC; Scott Brandon, associate pastor; Grady Brewer, Challenge to Build chairman; N. C. Russ, building committee chairman; Leon Inman and J. L. Brown, building committee members; and Geho. Another building committee member, Alton Hulsey, was unable to attend the dedication.

President Bush writes health center administrator

Cindy Wilmoth, administrator of Baptist Health Care Center, Lenoir City, recently received a letter from President George Bush.

A balloon launched from the Center May 16 during National Nursing Home Week took four days to reach Andrews Air Force Base in Virginia and landed in the hangar where Air Force I is stored.

The balloon was one of 104 launched from the Center, a nursing home with 104

residents. Each balloon contained a message describing the facility and asking the finder to write or call the Center and tell where the balloon was found.

The Boeing employee who found the balloon at Andrews and informed the President contacted the nursing home. He said his daughter, a nursing student, is interested in a career in geriatrics.

Wilmoth then wrote to the president, telling him the balloon was found in the Air Force I hangar.

First month report

November CP makes good start

November's Cooperative Program receipts have sent the Tennessee Baptist Convention's CP budget off to a good start.

Tennessee Baptist churches gave \$2,265,271.23 through the CP in November, the first month of the 1989-90 budget, according to D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director/treasurer.

That total reflects an increase of \$148,771.14 over last November, a percentage gain of 7.03.

The 1989-90 CP budget goal for Tennessee Baptists, approved at the Nov. 14-16 annual meeting in Knoxville, is \$26,797,860. Broken down into equal monthly segments, the monthly budget requirement is \$2,233,155. November income amounts to \$32,116.23 over the budget, or 1.44 percent.

A realistic view shows that some of the November receipts actually came from October gifts since October had five Sundays.

Our Readers Write

Screven sends thanks

In Annual Session on Oct. 24, the messengers of the Screven Baptist Association expressed their unanimous appreciation for all the assistance the people of your state gave to our area of South Carolina during the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo.

We are grateful for Christian brothers and sisters who gave so willingly of their time, efforts, and other resources, and who cooperated so beautifully with others in this time of need.

May God richly bless you for this labor and gift of love.

David P. Brien
Director of Missions
Screven Baptist Association
Summerville, S.C. 29484

Pray for leaders

In a few days we will enter into a new decade. We do not know what God has in store for us in these coming days. As I see the many things going on around us these days, there are many uncertainties abounding.

I want to challenge Tennessee Baptists and all Southern Baptists to follow God's teaching in His Word. The Bible teaches us to pray for those who are in leadership. During the last days of the decade, I pray that we will lift up Murray Mathis, president of the Tennessee Bap-

WMU taps McCoy

Leighann McCoy of Nashville has been named program associate of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union effective Nov. 20.

McCoy will work with Mission Friends, Girls in Action, new work, and camp.

The native of Georgia is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



McCoy

She has been a church day care director, city-wide YMCA child care director, Southern Baptist summer missionary in Nevada, girls' camp worker, assistant day camp director for a church, and church youth director.

Her husband, Thomas McCoy, is pastor of Thompson Station Chapel, Thompson Station, a mission of First Church, Nashville, and Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

tist Convention and Dr. Jerry Vines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. As a fellow pastor, I ask each pastor to set aside some time during the worship service on December 31 to pray for these and all our leaders.

It's time that we started praying for leaders instead of taking "pot shots" at them through the media. Let each of us have the heart and mind of Christ Jesus in this matter.

Jerry Summers, pastor
Mount Pleasant Church
395 Trezevant Hwy.
Bradford 38316

Write your letters about Christmas

Letters for the Dec. 20 issue of the Baptist and Reflector will be devoted to Christmas. Letters should be no more than 50 words and should finish out the sentence, "Christmas is ..." For this issue, letters must be received by Dec. 14. — Editor

Extolls June White

On behalf of the Executive Board of Hamilton County Baptist Association in its regular meeting on Nov. 20, we express our profound gratitude for Miss June White's life and ministry. Our churches have benefited from her life through her good spirit, helpful assistance, and responsive ministry through the book store for more than forty years. She made a significant contribution to our association serving on many important committees through the years.

June's positive spirit accompanied by a warm smile was contagious. Her positive outlook helped keep attitudes in proper perspective — always turned toward the good and uplifting.

June's helpful spirit was responsive to the churches and church leaders. She quickly responded in the Baptist Book Store with needed material and information — or just as happily, would order material not found in local stock. She personified the statement, "Service is our product." She enjoyed her ministry through the Book Store as evidenced by her attitude and untiring service to her customers. This is also reflected in her fine staff who mirror that same kind of attitude.

She was a personal friend to many of our church leaders. She listened attentively, encouraged genuinely, and assisted faithfully.

June will be missed among Tennessee Baptists, but particularly, she will be

missed acutely in Hamilton County among her family of Baptists here. We have been blessed by her life. We are better for having worked together with her in our Lord's work.

David Al Myers, DOM
Richard Blalock, moderator
Hamilton County Association
508 North Market St.
Chattanooga 37405

Preserving paintings

Southern Baptists have one special art form of their own, and that art form is in danger of passing out of existence. I want to help preserve that art form for future generations. I am speaking about baptistry paintings. The Center for Religion and the Arts at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is interested in receiving information on any baptistry paintings which still may exist.

I am planning to write a book in this area and appeal to your readers for: a colored picture and slide of the baptistry scene, the name of the artist and the date the scene was painted if that is known, the approximate size of the scene, and the location of the church.

If we make this news known through state papers, we will have a good chance of preserving many baptistry scenes which survive in churches around the convention.

Interested readers should contact me at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40280.

William L. Hendricks
Professor of Christian Theology
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville, Ky. 40280

Another look at Nigeria

Dr. John Tullock's description of experiences in Nigeria made interesting reading, not for its reference to missions growth, but for all the negative things it says about the country. Reading his account makes one wonder if missionaries returning from overseas assignments realize how much their reports help shape thoughts and actions of those who sent them, and those to whom they were sent.

Devoting only a paragraph or two to his missionary activities, Dr. Tullock highlighted all that would make a visitor to Nigeria think twice.

Why should all of these merit attention to Christians who live where similar incidents happen daily? Arriving in New York a few years ago, my family had similar experiences, except that we did not have the luxury of a Nigerian son like Mr. Okpara to help us.

Nigeria, like many other Third-World countries, has economic problems. The

\$4000 a year salary of a Nigerian vice-chancellor may sound inadequate. But not added is the fact that you could do in Nigeria more with \$4000 than you could in this country with \$30,000.

The writer did not point out that Nigerian Christians are as mature spiritually as any Christian society in the world. Considering that Nigeria recently celebrated a century of Southern Baptist ministry, those hard-working missionaries who cared little about income will not have merited the credit we give them if there were not an abundance of Nigerians today carrying the banner of Christ.

As a Nigerian Baptist whose father was also a Baptist preacher for almost half a century, I have immense respect and admiration for those missionaries I knew when I was a little boy in Nigeria. But after more than a 100 years of service, and seeing the progress Nigerians are making spiritually, the question Dr. Tullock and the Foreign Mission Board must ask now in respect to Nigeria is: What next?

I'm not suggesting that Nigerian Baptists are now self-sufficient. There are many areas of need. But I'm not sure that sending more missionaries is one of them. There are many Nigerian preachers and teachers in colleges and seminaries in Nigeria and in this country. There are others waiting for the opportunity to become preachers. Actually, Nigeria is producing now more teachers than it employs.

For millions of people who have given and who still generously give to the cause of missions, the encouraging report shows that, after a century, recipients of their stewardship are on the verge of self-reliance. In conjunction with commanding Christians to "teach them to observe all things," the Great Commission also urges us, as the ultimate objective, to "make DISCIPLES of all nations."

Preston Augustus
400 Nokes Court
Hendersonville 37075

The word limit on letters was waived for this letter since the writer is responding to an article (Nov. 15) relating to his native country. — Editor

National conference on AIDS scheduled

NASHVILLE — A national conference on the AIDS crisis will be held Feb. 12-13 at First Church, Nashville.

The conference is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, the missions ministries division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and the church administration, discipleship training, family ministry, and student ministry departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The meeting is a follow-up to the nationwide AIDS teleconference broadcast over the Baptist Telecommunications Network (BTN) in October.

Speakers for the February conference include Richard Goodgame, SBC missionary to Uganda; Beverly Hammack of the Home Mission Board; James Mason, Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta; John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention; and William Tillman, professor of Ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Topics include "The Medical Status of AIDS," "AIDS in the Third World," and "Ethical Issues Related to AIDS."

For registration information, contact the Christian Life Commission, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203 or telephone (615) 244-2495.

Funnyside up

When the collection plate was passed for the missionary offering, the little old lady began fumbling in her purse. The nearer the ushers came, the more frantically she searched her bag. Finally, noticing her plight, the little boy sitting nearby slid over and nudged her.

"Here lady," he said, "you take my dime; I can hide under the seat."

If you know anything about the speed of light, you'll agree that it gets here too early in the morning.

Tal D. Bonham, The Treasury of Clean Jokes (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Pulpit TEARS



THE ABOVE CARTOON IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS: IF YOU REPRINT IT, REPRINT MUST BEAR THIS NOTICE.

Tennessee Baptists help South Carolinians . . .

(Continued from page 1)
 munity, was in his grandfather's home when the hurricane swept through. He watched the winds demolish his mobile home and belongings.

But with the assistance of the group from Ridgedale Church, Knoxville, he now has a new house.

"To have Baptists come and help like this is beyond me," he said, noting "people have really pulled together."

Harris added that the experience has "shown me how I can help others."

Dave Tracy, whose home was re-roofed, had an appreciation beyond the physical needs that were met.

"The people who came over from Tennessee hold a special place in my heart. I was in the middle of something I didn't know how to handle. They taught me how to cope," he affirmed.

Pastor Mickey Caison of Providence Church, who helped find the most urgent needs for the volunteers to meet, said the witness provided by Tennessee Baptists has been a boost to the community.

"There's been a lot of favorable comments about Christians and in particular Tennessee Baptists and Providence Church because of the compassion that has been exhibited," he said.

Meeting the physical needs has made it easier to talk to people about their spiritual condition, he observed, adding that the people have been more receptive to hearing the Gospel.

Caison helped coordinate the supplies and food which poured in from Tennessee Baptists and others and also purchased building materials with money that was given.

"I don't feel like these things have

been given to Providence Church. We're a trustee for the people in Berkeley County who need it," he said.

A week prior to the Thanksgiving relief work, Caison visited the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Knoxville and spoke to the messengers.

He noted "thousands of dollars in disaster relief money have been given to our church. These donations are being used to buy building materials and many other items to help people's needs.

"We continue to give food to scores of people every week who continue to need assistance. We have been able to provide food for churches in other communities to be distributed to minister to their people.

"All of this is possible because Tennessee Baptists have heard the modern day call from Macedonia to 'come over and help us.'"

Revival occurs

Prior to the conclusion of the week's efforts, a lay-led revival team headed by Barry Barrett of Murfreesboro led services Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning.

Byler noted the revival led to 12 professions of faith and five rededications.

And though the teams returned to Tennessee after Thanksgiving, Byler said he expects Tennessee Baptists will continue to relate to the Macedonia community, because there is still much work to be done.

Byler said individuals or church groups interested in a missions trip to the Macedonia community can contact Mickey Caison at (803) 565-3295 or 565-3945.



PASTORS JOIN EFFORT — Two Clinton Association pastors were among several pastors who came with volunteers from their churches to help in the Thanksgiving week reconstruction efforts. From left, Mickey Caison, pastor, Providence Church, Macedonia, S.C.; Tom Byrge, pastor, Clinch River Church, Lake City; Don Arwood, pastor, Clear Branch Church, Lake City; and Cameron Byler, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department.

One Word More By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

I was talking with a pastor friend last week. We were excited because we shared the infectious exhilaration experienced by millions of new owners of freedom in eastern Europe.

"If I could be anywhere else at this moment," he exclaimed, "I would be with the crowd on the square in Prague." I loudly concurred. I've just read A. J. Langguth's *Patriots*, a composite biography of our founding fathers.

The Prague Spring of Alexander Dubcek which intoxicated Czechoslovakian citizens in 1968, then crudely crushed by Russian tanks a few months later, is born again. Dubcek's dash toward freedom was a sequel to my American patriots.

Ah, I remember. It was like a brilliant, extraordinary light at the end of a long dark tunnel. The Czechs wanted freedom, and Dubcek was giving it to them — a lusty foretaste of perestroika. We, inheritors of liberal joy springing from a fountain of independence, had escaped tyranny.

Now we wanted people everywhere to have that same freedom, to control their destiny by the power of the ballot. Their status under totalitarianism was much worse than King George's power over the colonies.

A few years earlier, Hungarian freedom fighters had been mercilessly smashed by Russian military might. In Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the USSR iron fist imposed its will on sovereign nations.

So now, in addition to our cheers of support and tears of joy, we voice a heartfelt, strong, "Let freedom ring! Let it truly ring for peoples of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, East Germany, USSR, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Albania, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Tibet, Nepal, Lebanon . . . Let it ring through the millions of voices shouting, 'Enough, we have had enough of selfish domination!'"

God help them!

I remember, during my service with the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment on the West-East German border a few years after World War II, the enemy staring back at me across no-man's land. Carpeted with land mines, saturated with strands of barbed wire, patrolled day and night by heavily armed sentries, no-man's land kept people in East Germany. It also separated them from friends and family across the border.

I was stationed at Fulda, well known as the Fulda Gap, a vulnerable spot on the border.

I remember my frequent trips to Tann. The Tann Pocket, it was called. Tann, the little German town, sits almost astride that border. A great hill, just east of town, juts high into the heavens. It makes a bulge eastward, appearing on the map like a large, bulbous nose. It makes a perfect observation post, with a view into East Germany on three sides.

From there, as we scanned the east through binoculars, we could determine the strength of the enemy. Funny thing, we often caught them staring back at us.

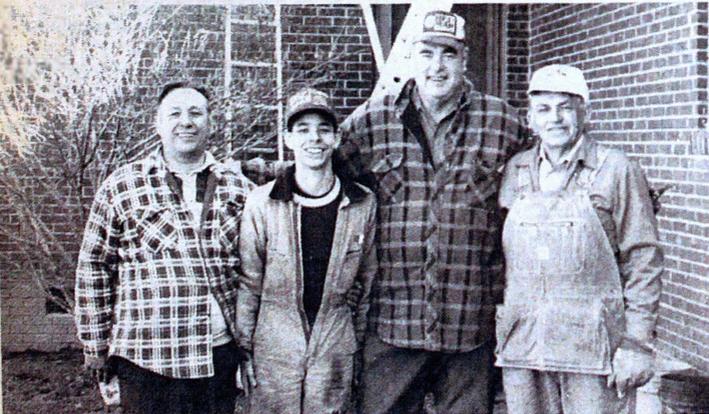
The hope of West Germans, and of the few from the east that I talked to, was that some day — oh, some day, they would all be free.

We fretted through the years for them, and the Czechs and Hungarians, the others that impatiently await. And now, in God's own timing and by His calendar, freedom is loosed.

There is no guarantee that these people will have the liberty of Christ — or even want it — though they've escaped despotism. We must pray and work toward the end that they have opportunity.



ALLEN



NEW FRIENDS, NEW HOME — South Carolinian Dave Tracy (photo above) made new friends as Tennessee Baptists helped reroof his house which was damaged by Hurricane Hugo. From left, Jerry and Jason Smith, Fellowship Church, Smyrna; Tracy; and A. D. Morgan Jr., Big Rock Church, Big Rock. In the photo below, workers frame a new house for a person whose mobile home was demolished by the hurricane's high winds.



Budget draws close ballot vote in Ohio convention

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)— The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, meeting in suburban Columbus, adopted a 1990 budget by a vote of 134 to 130.

The action was the first ballot vote on any business before the Ohio convention in at least 15 years, longtime observers said. A show-of-hands vote and a standing vote both were declared too close to call.

The \$5,476,614 budget allocates \$3,241,628 to support statewide ministries and \$2,234,986 for national and world ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention, including both undesignated and designated receipts.

The budget anticipates \$3,357,598 in

undesignated receipts from nearly 600 congregations; \$988,000 from special offerings; \$845,076 from SBC agencies for jointly supported educational, mission and promotional uses; and lesser sources of revenue.

The budget originally was adopted during the pre-convention meeting of the state executive board. An earlier proposal, adopted at the executive board's summer meeting, had been drafted again following protests, particularly by people who objected to cutbacks in student ministries, which were restored.

Budget opponents did not offer a substitute. Opposition appeared to develop from supporters of allocations

to evangelism, the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and the state paper, where cutbacks were made.

The portion of undesignated receipts that are to go to SBC causes was cut from 42 percent in 1989 to 41 percent in 1990. Twelve issues of the Ohio Baptist Messenger newspaper were dropped, cutting frequency to twice per month. A staff position in evangelism remains unfilled.

Messengers protested all three cutbacks. A spokesperson for the executive board said it faced "a very difficult time" in making the reductions to meet anticipated income.

A motion to change the method of

circulating the Ohio Baptist Messenger failed on a standing vote by an estimated 3-to-2 ratio.

The paper is sent to all Southern Baptist families in the state and underwritten by budget receipts. Before 1975, it was supported through church budgets.

Opponents to returning to church-budgeted circulation noted that prior to 1975 the convention subsidized 80 percent of the cost of the paper, while church income covered only 20 percent.

Louisiana election closest in history

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)— Louisiana Baptists elected a president by the closest vote in history, registered the largest number of messengers in history, adopted the 1990 budget of \$15,300,000, and created a committee on Moral and Social Concerns during the 142nd session held at Louisiana College.

State conve

Fred Lowery, pastor of Bossier City's 5000-member First Church was elected president by a 50,13869 to 49,8613 percent margin over Sid Young, pastor of Haynesville First Church.

Young subsequently was elected first vice president by a 62.3 percent margin of 910 ballots over Claude Fontenot, pastor of Rayne First Church.

The Committee on Moral and Social Concerns received a unanimous vote of the messengers. It combines two committees, the Public Affairs Committee and the Committee on World Hunger. A 15-member committee will be named later, according to Mark Short, LBC executive director.

The budget, unchanged from the current year, provides 35 percent to Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program causes.

Final messenger registration totaled 1660, exceeding the record registration of 1242 in Monroe in 1987, according to Larry Taylor of Alexandria, credentials committee chairman.

Resolutions approved by messengers included:

- A statement to "oppose any child care legislation that permits tax monies to flow into church-related child care programs."

- Opposition to illegal use of and abuse of drugs and "encouraged churches to minister to individuals and families who have been hurt" by them.

- "That we use every means ... to educate and lead our young people and church family to adopt a lifestyle that encourages physical, emotional, and spiritual wholeness" to avoid becoming infected by the AIDS virus.

- "Offer assistance in the preventing of abortion and offer assistance in providing alternatives through counsel ... and a message of redemption and forgiveness."

Lowery told a news conference his primary goal is to "see us as a state become more aggressive in winning people to Christ."

He declared he has no political ties although he said "I am labeled as a conservative. I am totally cooperative. We (Louisiana Baptists) are on the same team."

Alabama peaceful, tornadoes excepted

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)— A tornado roared through Huntsville, just a few hours after the final gavel had sounded on the Alabama Baptist State Convention annual meeting.

Striking the city during rush-hour traffic Nov. 15, the tornado killed 18 people, wounded hundreds others, and destroyed at least 259 homes, including the home of convention host pastor, Allen Walworth of First Church.

Otherwise, messengers conducted a businesslike convention, re-electing all its officers by acclamation and featuring a global evangelization service that honored Dellanna O'Brien, newly appointed executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The 1989 convention, held Nov. 14-15 at First Church, oldest Baptist church in continuous existence in Alabama, was the last convention for A. Earl Potts in his capacity as state executive secretary-treasurer.

Potts will retire Sept. 1, 1990. A search committee, chaired by Gerald Lord, pastor of First Church, Florence, has been named to recommend a successor.

Arkansas adopts \$13.5 million budget

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)— Arkansas Baptists set a new attendance record when they convened at First Church, Little Rock, for their 136th annual meeting Nov. 14-15.

Messengers adopted a \$13.5 million 1990 budget that allocates \$7.9 million for state programs. That budget will send 41.39 percent of undesignated receipts on to Southern Baptist worldwide causes, an increase of 0.25 percent over the 1989 budget.

Registration at the annual meeting reached 1602, the largest in Arkansas Baptist history.

The large registration was attributed to the heightened interest across the state in the election of new state convention president. A recent series of letters in the Arkansas Baptist, the convention's newsletter, had focused on a coalition of individuals who had organized support across the state for the candidacy of Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale. Two of those letters were written by individuals who purported to have been members of that coalition and had resigned in dismay at what they called "underhanded political activity."

The letters also referred to a cassette tape that was represented as a recording of one of that group's planning meetings and had been circulated

Charles T. Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church in Birmingham, was elected to a second term as convention president without opposition.

Alabama Baptists demonstrated their concern over upcoming abortion legislation by passing a position statement that recommended Alabama Baptists lobby their congressmen and legislators to adopt tougher anti-abortion laws.

A group of pastors also unveiled the formation of Alabama Baptists for Life, a group that will join a coalition of other right-to-life organizations to

march in Montgomery Jan. 23, as state lawmakers meet to consider abortion legislation.

The statement on abortion was one of several position statements adopted by messengers, including others on AIDS and on teen pregnancy.

Messengers also approved a 1989-90 budget goal of \$26,630,000, a 5.9 percent increase over the 1989 budget, and a special offerings goal of \$10,567,000, a 10 percent increase. The budget continues the 43-57 percent division between Southern Baptist Convention causes and state convention causes.

Texas Baptists elect Lineberger

LUBBOCK (BP)— Texas Baptists elected Phil Lineberger of Richardson as president, approved a \$68.75 million challenge budget, and adopted a five-year long-range state missions plan at their annual convention.

More than 5000 elected messengers attended the 104th annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Nov. 7-8 in Lubbock.

Lineberger, pastor of Richardson

Heights Church, was elected on a first ballot, defeating John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Church, Houston, and H. Bailey Stone, pastor of First Church, Odessa.

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, nominated Lineberger, citing his church's record on evangelism and missions. He noted the 4000-member Richardson congregation gave more than \$550,000 to missions causes last year.

Ed Rogers, pastor of First Church, Dumas, was elected first vice president. He defeated Gary Don Miller, pastor of First Church, Borger, and Dennis Hochgraber, pastor of Parkside Church, Denison.

William Ray Farmer Jr., pastor of First Church, Valley Mills, was elected second vice president.

Messengers approved a \$63.5 million basic Cooperative Program unified budget and a challenge goal of \$5.25 million for 1990. The basic budget recommendation was the same as in 1989, while the challenge portion represents an increase of \$250,000.

Worldwide Southern Baptist mission causes will receive \$23,270,210, or 36.65 percent, of the basic budget. The remainder will be used in Texas to support 23 Texas Baptist educational and benevolent institutions and a variety of state missions causes.

Convention messengers also adopted a long-range plan for 1990-1995, "Mission Texas: Reach, Grow, Serve," an emphasis on reaching people, developing believers, strengthening missions and ministering to people. Goals of the plan include increasing Sunday School enrollment to 1.75 million and average attendance to 750,000 in the next five years; starting 1500 new churches and missions by September 1995; and involving 2000 churches in new ministries to people with critical needs.

anonymously to an undetermined number of individuals around the state. A letter to the editor in the Nov. 9 Arkansas Baptist identified Floyd, Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Church, Springdale, and Joe Atchison, director of missions, Benton County Association, as participants in the meeting.

The activities of that coalition also had been the subject of articles in the Arkansas Gazette during July and again in October. The articles quoted organizers as saying that their activities were intended to prevent the Arkansas Baptist Convention from succumbing to the liberalism they believed they saw "invading" other states.

Part of that activity was the publication of a newsletter, called A Conservative Voice, which was edited by Brooks and published three times immediately prior to the convention.

Messengers elected as president Mike Huckabee, pastor of Beech Street First Church, Texarkana. Huckabee, who was described as a "conservative, mainstream pastor without a political agenda," defeated Floyd by a vote of 808 to 443. Also elected to office was Dan Grant, president emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, first vice president.

Officer elections dominate North Carolina agenda

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP)—Messengers to the 159th annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina elected officers by narrow margins, passed three resolutions, defeated a name-change for Wingate College and mourned the death of one of its laymen.

W. T. Harris, 81, collapsed on the platform after delivering an appeal to the messengers to support the name change for Wingate College. He was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead at 1:20 p.m., about two hours after his speech.

Gene L. Watterson, pastor of First Church, Shelby, and first vice president of the convention for the past two years, defeated two opponents by 21

votes to win the presidency on the first ballot.

Opposing Watterson were Eugene Ridley, pastor of Long Leaf Church, Wilmington, and president of the 1989 state Pastors' Conference, and Billy H. Cline, pastor of Merrimon Avenue Church, Asheville, and a trustee of Southeastern Seminary.

Watterson was endorsed by Friends of Missions, a group which describes itself as "mainstream Baptist." Cline was supported by Conservative Carolina Baptists, an organization formed in 1988 by M. O. Owens Jr., retired pastor in Gastonia. Ridley was supported by Robert Tenery, pastor of Burkemont Church, Morganton, and editor of the Southern Baptist Ad-

vocate newspaper, and his followers, who gather under the name of Baptists United.

For first vice president, W. Randall Lolley, pastor of First Church, Raleigh, and former president of Southeastern Seminary, defeated James Johnson, pastor of West Asheville Church, and George McCotter, a Lillington layman.

Messengers approved three of four resolutions:

A resolution requesting the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to reconsider the appointment of Katrina and Greg Pennington was defeated 1648 to 1227.

Steve Hardy, a Burlington pastor and FMB trustee, spoke against the resolution, insisting the rejection of the Penningtons was not because of her ordination or a protest lodged by an Oklahoma association where they serve. He cited other situations which were involved, and because they were of a "personal" nature, they could not be discussed in public without violating confidential information.

A resolution on race relations and cooperative ministries passed with minimal discussion but a resolution on divorced people as missionaries and one on academic freedom prompted debate and efforts to amend.

North Carolinian Collis Hill Charlton was abandoned and subsequently divorced by her husband. Both were missionaries to Brazil and the Foreign Mission Board refused to send her back even though the mission station requested her reappointment.

"I cannot understand why the

Foreign Mission Board says that since my husband abandoned me I am no longer worthy to serve God on the mission field," she told the messengers. She said many women are abandoned in Brazil.

An appeal was made to trust Foreign Mission Board trustees, but the resolution, which encouraged FMB and Home Mission Board trustees to re-evaluate their policies on divorced missionaries, was approved by voice vote.

The resolution on academic freedom, specifically aimed at Southeastern Seminary which has been in turmoil for more than two years, was approved after efforts to amend it failed. The resolution cited support for faculty, administrators and trustees who seek to preserve academic freedom and encourage resolution of accreditation problems.

Several efforts to amend the proposed 1990 budget of \$29.3 million failed.

The base budget is \$27,250,000 with \$1,050,000, as a preferred item for the Ministers Expanded Church Annuity Plan and an extra challenge budget of \$1 million.

A proposal by Conservative Eastern Carolina Baptists to restore appointive powers of the convention president was defeated 2198 to 2058. During the 1988 convention, messengers approved by four votes a change in the bylaws that makes the president and two vice presidents a nominating committee to submit names to the convention's General Board for its approval for the membership of the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Enrollment.

Indiana reports better finances

KOKOMO, Ind. (BP)—Messengers from Southern Baptist churches across Indiana met for their 31st annual meeting Nov. 14-16 at Indian Heights Church in Kokomo.

come from SCBI congregations. Most of the balance will come from the Southern Baptist Home Mission and Sunday School boards. The convention will forward 32 percent of its undesignated receipts for Southern Baptist Convention causes, the same percentage as this year.

A long-range plan designed to assist churches and associations in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission was passed with goals directed at evangelism, new work, and church growth.

Resolutions passed:

- Expressed confidence in the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's capacity to represent Southern Baptists in Washington.

- Affirmed the need for accountability of Southern Baptist seminaries.

- Urged restraint in partisan denominational political activity by Southern Baptist agency heads.

- Applauded SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

- Urged a ban on advertising and promotion of alcoholic beverages on Indiana colleges and university campuses.

- Opposed legalization of casino gambling.

- Supported the Christian Life Commission's boycott of Mennen Co. and Clorox Corp. in connection with obscenities and violence on television.

on highlights

Executive Board chairman Donald Moore, pastor of First Southern Church, Evansville, called the previous year a time of change and transition resulting in strengthened ministries.

Moore cited Controller Jo Lammey's report, which noted the SCBI is "now working with a budget that is both balanced and attainable" after a year of facing "major financial challenges."

In his report to the convention, SCBI Executive Director/Treasurer Mark Coppenger recalled "drastic reductions" which he proposed last year in order to "stay in the black in 1989."

"The cure for overspending was painful, but effective," he said.

Coppenger later called upon the Hoosiers to take up the challenge of trusting God for miraculous intervention in a state that is "spiritually drying out."

Messengers unanimously approved a \$2,366,324 budget for 1990, with \$1,540,000 in budget funds expected to

Georgians hold peaceful meeting

ALBANY, Ga. (BP)—Georgia Baptists met in Albany's Civic Center Nov. 13-15 to re-elect their president to a second term, adopt a record budget and hear inspirational messages by pastors and missionaries.

The 4247 messengers compared to the 7000-plus who registered at last year's meeting in Macon.

Dwight (Ike) Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, was elected without opposition.

Messengers unanimously supported a \$31.7 million budget, which again calls for a 50/50 division of receipts between Georgia Baptist and Southern Baptist mission causes. Georgia is the only state convention that continues to give a full 50 percent of Cooperative Program unified budget gifts to Southern Baptist Convention causes outside the state.

Messengers went on record opposing the closing of Mercer University's Cecil B. Day College in Atlanta and asked Mercer trustees to reconsider their decision. They also approved the Mercer study committee's report,

which calls for the creation of a board of visitors to serve as a Baptist advisory group to Mercer, supposedly helping to create a closer relationship between the Baptist school and convention. Both motions related to Mercer passed by wide margins with little discussion.

Abortion also was addressed, as messengers passed a motion that instructs the convention's executive director, executive committee, Christian Life Commission, and Georgia Council on Moral and Civic Affairs to make similar concerted efforts to support anti-abortion legislation in the 1990 Georgia legislature as have been made against lottery legislation. Messengers also passed a resolution opposing abortion.

Messengers passed a motion directing the Georgia Baptist Historical Commission to investigate the possibility of purchasing the historic church building in which Lottie Moon was called to missions. The building in Cartersville, now converted into apartments, is currently for sale.

Virginia reviews Memorial, responds

SALEM, Va. (BP)—Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia adopted a report which calls for "substantial dialogue about serious matters" concerning the relationship between the BGAV and the Southern Baptist Convention.

A record number of messengers heard an interim report from the committee appointed to monitor response to the 1988 BGAV Memorial to the SBC. Some 2700 messengers registered at the Nov. 14-15 meeting in Salem, breaking the 1988 attendance record of 2655.

The Committee on the Denominational Crisis, appointed last January by President Jean Woodward of Richmond, recommended in its report that the BGAV nominate two people to suggest to the SBC president for appointment to the SBC Committee on Committees.

The President's Committee on Denominational Crisis, forerunner of the current committee, recommended two people for appointment last year, but SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., however, did not appoint them to the committee.

Nominated for consideration by Vines for appointment to the 1990 Committee on Committees are Neal T. Jones, pastor of Columbia Church, Falls Church, and chairman of the crisis committee; and Woodward, 1988 BGAV president and ex officio crisis committee member.

Messengers adopted a proposal to amend the BGAV bylaws to make such nominations an annual assignment of the BGAV Committee on Boards and Committees.

Last year, Virginia Baptists adopted a "Memorial to the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention" which expressed concern about "the SBC's abandonment of consultation and consensus leadership" and calling for dialogue and a return to "principles of mutuality and consultation."

Jones presented the Memorial at the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC in Las Vegas. It was referred to a special subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee, the SBC Liaison Committee. The liaison committee organized in September, but will not meet with the Virginia representatives until Feb. 19.

In its report, the BGAV Crisis Committee says the committee "continues to seek reconciliation and renewed cooperation" and "awaits an unfolding process of dialogue" with the SBC committee.

The committee addressed a section to the churches of the BGAV, suggesting that Virginia Baptists "enter into a yearlong pilgrimage to reshape our cooperative missions giving plan."

The report also calls for continued support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The 1990 state mission budget adopted by messengers includes a line item of \$7500 for the BJC.

A later resolution, also adopted, expresses support for Baptist Press and opposes "any intimidation or threat" that endangers a free press for Baptists.

Messengers adopted a \$16.3 million 1990 budget which represents a one percent increase over the 1989 budget total, but is four percent more than anticipated 1989 receipts.

Guenther, Walker stress trustee accountability

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention and its oldest seminary need trustees who see themselves as stewards and servants rather than power brokers, two speakers told Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees.

Speaking at the trustees' fourth annual retreat, Nashville attorney James P. Guenther said: "Trusteeship is best seen as servanthood. The trustee who approaches his task from the perspective of power will make many a mistake. A trustee who approaches his

trusteeship with humility and with a keen desire to serve is in synch with Baptist polity, with our theology of ministry and with our democratic foundations."

Guenther, who is legal counsel to the SBC Executive Committee, joined Southern Baptist Education Commission Executive Director Arthur L. Walker Jr. in addresses on trustee responsibilities during the three-day retreat.

For the past two years, the retreat has been hosted by a seminary trustee

and his wife who own hotel properties in the Orlando, Fla., area. The seminary is located in Louisville, Ky.

Guenther advised trustees to do three things: assert themselves, restrain themselves and discern "when you ought to do which."

While the trustees he has met during 31 years of representing Baptist entities have been "a mixed lot," Guenther said, "the good ones" shared the qualities of "commitment, honesty, diligence, a willingness to think independently, a sweet spirit, a love for the institution they serve, a desire to not only do the right thing but to do the right thing the right way, humility, and a sense of wanting to be in service to God."

The "efficacy" of the Baptist trustee system begins with the selection process, Guenther said, noting: "There ought to be no place in the system for cronyism, for political considerations, for 'good old boy' arrangements. Selection of trustees on the basis of anything less than what is best for the institution demeans the ministry, trivializes the institution, and mocks

our piety.

"We need trustees who are first and foremost committed to the institution which they serve, who mean to protect it and to support it and to champion it."

Walker challenged trustees to "properly exercise the stewardship" given with their election. That stewardship, he said, involves responsibilities to God, to the convention, to accrediting organizations, to the institution's constituencies, and to its unique heritage.

Claiming that stewardship of heritage is "often overlooked" by trustees today, Walker warned: "If trustees of any Baptist entity become so negligent that they have in fact contributed to the failure or even the death of purpose of an institution, then those individuals know there is a sense in which they failed to protect that which had been entrusted to them."

"Unfortunately, within the structure of Baptist life there has not been developed a way for properly assigning accountability for failure to live up to the task which has been given."

South Carolinians elect Cuttino

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—South Carolina Baptists in their second-largest convention in history elected a moderate president, adopted a budget of \$24.1 million and passed eight resolutions ranging from opposition to abortion to support for a free press.

Robert E. Cuttino, pastor of The Church of Beaufort and a former member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee, won the presidency by 96 votes over conservative candidate Troy Gregg, pastor of First Church, Chesnee. The vote was

1124 to 1028.

The convention, which met in Columbia's Carolina Coliseum, attracted 3119 messengers, topping last year's registration by three messengers. The record was set in 1965, when 3148 messengers attended the convention in Greenville.

Elected first vice president was Jack Ellenburg, pastor of Riverland Hills Church, Columbia. Second vice president is Simpsonville businessman Greg Horton, who chaired a committee to update the convention's constitution.

The 1990 budget of \$24.1 million, up \$1 million from the current budget, designates 39.05 percent for the SBC causes while keeping 60.05 percent for South Carolina Baptist Convention causes. The budget reflects an increase of 0.05 percent for the SBC over the current budget.

In other business, three statements on abortion were refined into one resolution that declares, "There is a strong consensus in this convention that abortion on demand, abortion for convenience, and abortion as birth control are contrary to the Word of God, morality and nature."

The resolution says abortions should be permitted only when the life of the mother is in danger.

Middle Tennessee pastors to meet

The Middle Tennessee Ministers' Conference will meet Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

Business to be considered includes the election of officers for 1990 and selection of a permanent site for the monthly meeting.

Present officers are Emerson Wiles, pastor, First Church, Fayetteville, president; Jim Growden, pastor, Edgemont Church, Shelbyville, vice president; and Randy Sledge, pastor, Riverdale Mission, Murfreesboro, secretary-treasurer.

For additional information, contact Jim Growden at (615) 684-7676.

Baptists Committed tap Jimmy Allen

DALLAS (BP)—Jimmy Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, was elected chairman of Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention by the organization's 18-member executive committee on Nov. 16.

Allen succeeds Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, who became honorary chairman of Baptists Committed and will

continue to serve on the group's executive committee.

Assuming the reins of the self-proclaimed "mainstream centrist" organization at a press conference at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Allen expressed his desire to help bring Southern Baptists "back to the center of the road" in a renewed commitment to missions.

"The last ten years have been unhappy times for Southern Baptists," he said. "We need to come back to the central kind of commitments to missions, evangelism and ministry which have held us together. It is my hope we can see a great coming together of Southern Baptists around our historic positions."

Allen, 62, who now is president of Faith and Family Communications Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas, a religious television network and home shopping service, said he purposely kept a "low profile" during his time at the helm of the RTVC and the ACTS network.

Allen resigned in April 1989 after nine years as president of the agency.

Carols Baptists sing

Charles Wesley wrote "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" the year following his conversion in 1738.

This Christmas hymn reflects the joy he experienced at that time.

During his lifetime, he wrote at least 6500 hymns, but this hymn sung around the world at Christmastime may be the best known of all.

In his original version, Wesley did not mention the angels in the opening line, but chose the Old English word "welkin," which means the vault of heaven, or the sky — "Hark! how all the welkin rings."

There is no one like Charles Wesley when it comes to filling a short hymn with an extraordinary amount of Scriptural truth. He intended for all who sang these lines to understand more fully the redemptive and reconciling mission of Christ.

The dominant theme of the hymn is found in the fourth line of the first stanza: "God and sinners reconciled." The hymn is a masterpiece of theology stated in concise, terse lines.

In 1840, Felix Mendelssohn wrote a festive choral work for men's voices and brass instrument to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the invention of printing.

Fifteen years later, William H. Cummings, an English musician, was struck by the fact that the melody from Mendelssohn's work was a perfect fit for Wesley's text.

— William J. Reynolds, professor of church music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

Are strangers welcome in your church? A friend called us long distance recently to share her distress. She has visited a Baptist church for the last several Sundays. No one has spoken to her, except at the appointed time in the service to welcome visitors. Before the worship service began and after the service, she has been ignored.

Last Sunday she tried to sit down by a lady who was seated by herself only to be told, "I am sorry this seat is for my husband." The lady made no attempt to help her find a seat or to feel welcome.

She has filled out a visitor's card each Sunday and indicated that she would appreciate a visit from the church. So far, she has not even received a phone call.

She wanted to know if she should continue visiting the church. By the way, she is a Christian with gifts that could be a blessing to the church. She is a single adult that needs the church. She was beginning to wonder if anyone in this particular church really cared about her. What would you tell her?

I found it impossible to defend the failure of the church. Any stranger who wanders into a local church on any occasion should feel welcome. For

God's people to allow anyone to leave their midst feeling unloved is a sin. For a member of a church to deny a visitor a seat is inexcusable. The member ought to be willing to stand in a corner or sit on the floor so the visitor could have a good seat.

However I did encourage her to return to the church. She needs the church and they need her, even though they do not deserve her.

Could this have been your church? I am afraid that it could have been many Tennessee Baptist churches.

Thankfully it was not a Tennessee Baptist church, but you need to make sure it doesn't happen. You should search out visitors to make them feel welcomed and loved. You should join visitation efforts of your church to follow up on those who visit. Their visit with your church calls for a return visit from you.

This lady may visit your church this Sunday. Look for her.



LOWRIE

TenneScene

... From Peckerwood Point, the ride is smooth to Jockey and Ko Ko ...

Churches ...

As of Nov. 19, Ricky Franklin became the 1000th person to enroll in Sunday School at First Church, Lawrenceburg. Average Sunday School attendance has increased from 249 to 469 since the church relocated in 1984.

Bartlett Church, Bartlett, had its largest ever attendance in Sunday School Oct. 29 with 1411 people. The church celebrated Harvest Day Nov. 5 with the congregation surpassing a Hallelujah Goal of \$75,000 by giving \$95,020. During his recent trip to Memphis, President George Bush recognized Bartlett Church members Melba Allmendinger, Candy Kirkpatrick, James Thomas, and Fred Ward for their community volunteer work.

Kirby Parkway Church, Memphis, recently voted to sponsor East Memphis Church, Memphis. The new church called Bill Darnell as pastor, and meets at Ridgeway High School.

The congregation of North Woods Church, sponsored by South Woods Church, both in Memphis, held their first service Nov. 12. The new church meets in Sycamore View Mall. Joseph Capebianco is pastor.

Saulsbury Church, Saulsbury, will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the construction of its church building with a rededication Dec. 17. Robert Orr, pastor of the church in 1936, will lead the dedication.

The two-story structure was erected in 1889 after pastor C. C. McDaniel suggested that a new church house be built. A dedication sermon was delivered Dec. 15, 1889 by Will T. Lowrey of Blue Mountain, Miss., son of Confederate General M. P. Lowrey who organized the church in 1866.

Pastor Johnny Johnson invites former members and friends to attend the morning service, dinner, and the afternoon dedication.

Indian Ridge Church, Rutledge, baptized 12 people Nov. 5 and had two additions to the church by letter. Doyle Seal is pastor.

Members of Oak Hill Church, Crossville, recently celebrated the church's 50th anniversary.

Herschel Hobbs led a Fall Bible Conference Nov. 26-29 at First Church, Sevierville.

Oak Hill Church, Crossville, celebrated its 50th anniversary Oct. 29 with a day of activities that included a

message by its oldest living former pastor, Howard Jones, Columbia. Other former pastors, Homer Yates of Alabama, Russell Honeycutt of Crossville, and Don Colyer, Kingston, also attended. A luncheon, song service, and sharing time followed the morning worship service. Pastor Bill McCrary reported the church doubled its average attendance that day.

Leadership ...

Rogers Creek Church, Athens, called Dillard Hagan as interim pastor. Hagan retired last year after serving 45 years in active ministry.

New Providence Church, Loudon, recently honored Jean Shaver upon her retirement after 38 years as church secretary. She has served the church under seven pastors and her ancestors were among the organizers of the church in 1834.

Westgate Church, Murfreesboro, honored Grady H. Hill and his wife Nov. 19 with a reception for 20 years of service to the church.

D. L. Hammer was recently called as interim pastor to Gallaher Memorial Church, Knoxville, where he began his ministry 40 years ago.

Chewalla Church, Chewalla, called David Hatfield as minister of music/youth. He most recently served at West Corinth Church, Corinth, Miss.

Dennis Foust has been called as associate pastor: education/administration to First Church, Chattanooga.

First Church, Jasper, called Mike Dobbs as minister of music and youth.

Julie Shockey, former TBC WMU program associate, has accepted the position of associate preschool director at Prestonwood Church, Dallas, Texas.

Ordinations ...

Goodsprings Church, Etowah, ordained Wade Shultz as deacon Oct. 15.

Michael Ray Jeffers was ordained to the ministry Nov. 19 at Fairview Missionary Church, Huntsville.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE — Nancy Hughes, left, recently was honored at Ivy Memorial Church, Nashville, for 30 years of perfect Sunday School attendance. Shown with her are Katherine Newman, Sunday School secretary, and Bobby Russell, Sunday School director.

Henry Blankenship, Charles Edwards, Tommy Ervin, Jerry McCord, and Roy Oaks were ordained as deacons Nov. 26 at Creeviewood Church, Nashville.

John D. McCormick was ordained as deacon at Johnson Church, Monterey.

First Church, Englewood, ordained Bill Danner as deacon Oct. 1.

Sharon Church, Knoxville, recently ordained Gary Cate and Herman Love as deacons.

Revivals ...

Clyde Tilley led revival services Nov. 5-10 at Isoline Church, Crossville, where he was pastor 35 years ago.

Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton, held revival Nov. 5-10 with evangelist Toonie Cash.

Chuck King led a youth crusade Nov. 29-30 at West View Church, Rogersville.

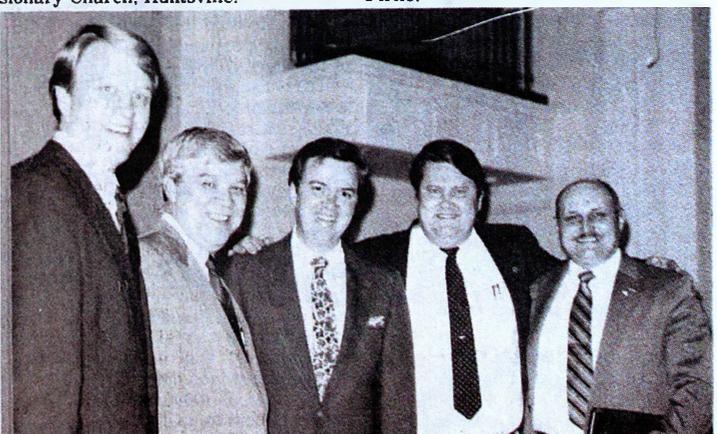
Dyer Association reports several revivals held recently at member churches. Churches and leaders follow: Finley Church, Finley, Danny O'Guinn; Hillcrest Church, Dyersburg, Barry Creamer; First Church, Newbern, Jack May; Roellen Church, Dyersburg, Steve Wilkes; Westside Church, Dyersburg, Ernest Mayo; and Second Church, Dyersburg, Tommy Pirtle.



IN CORNERSVILLE — Members of First Church, Cornersville, recently dedicated their new \$200,000 facility which includes a sanctuary, fellowship hall, and educational space. Pastor Tony Billions and members of the building committee participated in the dedication service. From left, Billions, Randall Cavnar, Paul Dalton Sr., Lawton Tarpley, Alfred Stacy Sr., and H. L. McMahon, chairman. Harold Smith, director of missions, New Duck River Association, delivered the dedication sermon. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey



TWO LADIES HELP — Joyce E. Bullington, left, and Patricia B. Davis, right, both members of Liberty Church, McEwen, led a county-wide food drive for Hurricane Hugo victims sponsored by the Waverly Junior High School Future Teachers of America, some of whom, pictured, loaded the truck sent by Two Rivers Church, Nashville, which delivered the food to South Carolina.



M NIGHT SUCCESS — Clinton Association recently experienced a successful M Night program with 137 people representing 15 churches in attendance. Churches recognized included Clear Branch Church, Lake City, M Night banners; South Clinton Church, attendance growth awards; and First Church, Andersonville, enrollment growth certificates. D. L. Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, delivered the evening message. From left, Don Adams, pastor, First Church, Andersonville; Lowrie; Ronnie Owens, pastor, South Clinton; Michael Pearson, director of missions; and Don Arwood, pastor, Clear Branch Church.

Paul's urgent call to freedom

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

A Nov. 10 headline in the Wall Street Journal proclaimed, "Fallen Symbol, Berlin Wall No Longer Will Hold Germans Behind Iron Curtain." For 28 years, this wall has stood as a symbol for enslavement of a people. The fact that it is crumbling stands as evidence that the human spirit can't be enslaved permanently. In this lesson Paul shares that freedom in Christ permanently frees us.



WATSON

Galatians (4:12-16, 19-20)
Paul pleads for continual openness to the Truth
 Paul was truly writing from his heart. He asked the Galatians for understanding. Verses 12, 13, and 14 indicate he asked for understanding from a human standpoint. Verse 12 specifically indicates the open attitude of Paul. In addition to his open attitude, he also asked them to forsake Jewish legalism, as he had done for them. The Galatians had treated him royally during his time with them. Then they were urged by the Judaizers to turn from the common ground belief in the Gospel of Jesus alone. Even though he had to censure them, he had no feeling of harshness toward them. He urged them to turn again to their common ground feeling of gratitude toward each other and toward Jesus.

Paul had preached to them as a result of his bodily ailment (vv. 13-14).

Apparently it was a repulsive condition, such as epilepsy, malaria, or eye difficulties. The Galatians had accepted Paul even with this infirmity.

The Galatians had felt fortunate to have a man of Paul's spiritual standing in their midst, and he was grateful for their concern for him.

Paul then asked what happened to their former good relationship and to the solid footing they had in the Gospel of Jesus (v. 15)?

Verse 16 indicates that because Paul told the truth he became their enemy. When the truth of the Gospel is presented, the two usual responses are acceptance or hostility. Paul pleaded with them to not be hostile towards him because of the Judaizers. They wanted to win the favor of the Galatians to discredit the Gospel. In the process, they could also brag that their emphasis on law was superior to the Gospel. The Judaizers used a gambit here to try to make the Galatians feel inferior and turn to them for a higher status with God. They were urged to give up the best, Jesus, for the law, which was the least.

Verses 19 and 20 show Paul's tender concern for the Galatians. These passages remind us of the First Epistle of John, (1 John 2:1, 18, 28; 3:18; 4:4; 5:21). Paul was in anguish for them. He wanted them to honor again the Gospel of Jesus. They had not lost their salvation, but they needed to develop the maturity of Jesus.

Paul was perplexed. The term "I stand in doubt" is meaningful. Doubt here means to be without a way,

without resources, embarrassed, or at a loss. In the final analysis Paul did not know what to think of the Galatians. As an argument from silence we might conclude that if they had not heeded Paul's admonitions the letter might never have been preserved.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES
December 10 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Galatians 4:12 to 5:1
 Focal Passages: Galatians 4:12-16, 19-26, 29-31; 5:1

The bondwoman and freewoman (4:21-25, 29-31; 5:1)

The writing method of allegory goes as far back in history as the sixth century B.C. The allegory is a method which represents a sense higher than the literal presentation of facts. Paul dropped his doctrinal discussion at verse 12, and picked it up again based on some portions of the experience of Abraham. Paul dealt with two fads. He still defended the Gospel of grace, and dealt with the question, who are the true sons of Abraham.

The background material for chapter 4:21-25 is found in Genesis 16:1 to 18:15; and 21:1-21. The experience recorded in the Genesis passages reflects a commentary on the law. The passages also reflect the emphasis of the Judaizers as contrasted with the Gospel of Jesus emphasized by Paul. In this Genesis experience, Paul saw an illustration of deep truth. Both women in the experience are symbols of a covenant. Hagar, represented the Mt. Sinai covenant of law, and Sarah,

Mount Calvary, the covenant of promise. The comparisons are usually classified as follows:

- Hagar, the slave woman
- Ishmael, a child of flesh
- The old covenant
- Begetting slaves
- The Jerusalem below
- The Judaizers or the Jewish legalists
- Sarah, the free woman
- Isaac, a child of promise
- The new covenant, a covenant of promise
- Begetting freemen
- The Jerusalem above
- The Christian community

The Galatian Christians belong with Sarah. They were born to be free. The Judaizers sought to get them to transfer with Hagar.

Paul speaks in verse 29 of an incident recorded in Genesis 21:9. The Genesis experience does not say that Ishmael persecuted Isaac, but Jewish belief was that he did so. Paul was saying the son born normally will persecute the Son of the miraculous birth. A person of the new birth in Jesus can expect persecution from those who have not been born again. The quotation in verse 30 is from Genesis 21:10. Paul took the opposite point of the Judaizers here and said God rejects Jewish legalism. No person is saved just because he is a physical heir of Abraham. Legalism, Hagar, must go, not grace, Sarah.

Galatians 5:1
 This verse is a summary of the allegory which has been presented. Christ liberated them and us from sin and legalism. Jesus has released us from the shackles of legalism. We are truly free!

Born of the Spirit

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

Most people do not find it hard to share the Gospel with those who have lived in sin. But people find it nearly impossible to explain the Gospel to a good person and tell them they need to be born again.

Let's see how Jesus witnessed to a good man. In verse one we find a man named Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews. The Pharisees were the best people in the whole country. They entered into a brotherhood by taking a pledge in front of three witnesses that they would spend all their lives observing every detail of the scribal law.



GIBBS

There is much discussion about why Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. The most amazing thing about his coming to Jesus is that he came at all. It was a miracle of grace that he came.

When Nicodemus came to Jesus, He did not give him instructions on how to live a Godly life. A man cannot live before he is born. The Lord told him he could not see the Kingdom of God unless he was born again. The way for a good man to be saved is to be born again by the Spirit of God. Jesus did not say, "Do the best you can and you will go to heaven." Jesus didn't say, "It might be nice if you were born again." Jesus said, "You must be born

again" John 3:7.

Nicodemus could not understand "being born again." People in our community and some in our churches today don't understand it either. All they know is they should try to live good lives and hope that is enough to get them to heaven.

The new birth is a supernatural experience. It is something God does for us when we yield to Him. Jesus explained the mystery of the new birth in verse 8. He used the illustration of the wind to help us understand the working of the Spirit of God. "The wind bloweth where it listeth" means that the wind is sovereign in its actions. It is beyond man's control. We do not control the Spirit of God; it controls us. The born again person knows he has a new life and enjoys the evidence of it, but how it happened is a mystery known only to God.

Nicodemus said, "How can these things be?" He was a master in Israel, and yet he was ignorant of the abc's of spiritual things. Jesus rebuked him for not knowing how to be born again into the Kingdom of God. The lost person can not understand spiritual truth.

Jesus used an illustration from the Old Testament to help understand the wonderful experience of being born again. It says in verses 14 and 15,

CLASSIFIED
 WANTED: Part-time music director to coordinate all music activities. Send resume to: Grassy Valley Baptist Church, 10637 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn. 37922

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

The Israelites murmured against God in the wilderness. God sent fiery serpents to bite the people. The Israelites said they had sinned and begged for mercy. The Lord told Moses, "Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole . . . everyone that is bitten, when he looketh upon it shall live."

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
December 10 Lesson
 Basic Passage: John 3:1-21
 Focal Passage: John 3:1-17

Look and live! Man became a lost sinner by a look — Eve saw that the tree was good for food. The Christian life begins by looking. The Bible says, "Look unto Me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." The Christian life continues by looking. Hebrews 12 "let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . ."

The complete Gospel is found in John 3:16. This verse tells us four things about the love of God. First, the source

of love is God. Second, the extent of that love is "the world." Third, the sacrifice of love is the "only begotten Son of God" and fourth, the results of love — "Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish."

Have you been born again? Why not have this wonderful experience of being born again right now.

You might want to use this prayer found in the tract entitled "Eternal" by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Dear Lord, I believe You are the Son of God, and that You died on the cross and were raised from the dead. I know I have sinned and need forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for saving me."

Welcome to the family of God.

A&O CHURCH FURNITURE
 4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
 JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282
 — SOLID OAK PEW —
 PEW UPHOLSTERY REFINISHING
 BAPTISTRIES STEEPLES
 EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE
 1-800-523-9058
 NC 1-800-222-7895

Why Pay More for Life Insurance
 Very low non-smoker monthly cost!

AGE	AMOUNT	MALE	FEMALE
35	\$100,000	\$10.30	\$ 9.30
45	\$100,000	\$13.30	\$13.80
55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 Knoxville Area 690-0776
 Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, Ky. Newlife graded premium life insurance form No. 76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 85 and then remain level.

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

Dealing with prejudice

By Mattie Carroll Mullins, layperson; Gray Church, Gray

All of us have prejudices. Everyone has said at one time or another that they are not prejudiced, but if we are truthful as Christians, we should admit we all have biased opinions. Let's face the fact that we struggle with this in our daily lives.

That's why we have the topic of this lesson — "Dealing with prejudice."

If we are going to accomplish our mission tasks, the first thing we must do is deal with our prejudices. In order to do this, we must first identify and recognize the things that prejudice us, then determine what changes need to be made to overcome these attitudes.

The word prejudice comes from two Latin words meaning "previous" and "judgment." I interpret that as mak-



MULLINS

ing a decision before one knows all the facts. It is really an attitude.

In this lesson, we have the story of Peter, a man who recognized and overcame his own prejudices. In Acts 10 and 11, we read an account of how God was able to teach Peter to think in a different way concerning prejudice.

Peter had been in Joppa and gone to Caesaria as a result of a vision from God. The Jerusalem Christians accused Peter of entering the house where uncircumcised people lived. He even ate with them. He saw the vision of the unclean animals three times. Each time he heard a voice that told him he must not consider unclean or unholy anything that God had cleansed.

Six men came to Peter and encouraged him to go with them to witness to the Roman soldier, a centurion named Cornelius. Peter's prejudice could have kept him from going, but he followed the Holy Spirit and went to Cornelius' house and began to speak and eat with all the people. The Holy Spirit fell upon those gathered in the house. God used Peter as an instrument when he gave up his prejudices.

It was evident Peter had not done this on his own. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit could he have had this renewed zeal to witness to people who were different from him.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

December 10 Lesson

Basic Passages: Acts 10:1 to 11:18
Focal Passages: Acts 11:2-9, 15-18

We too, can see the marvelous blessings God can work in our lives when we are able to give up our prejudices. Can you admit to some prejudices in your life? These prejudices could be either religious, social, economic, sexual, or racial. Do these prejudices affect your witness for the Lord? If we are serious about making it possible for everyone in the world to hear the Gospel by the year 2000, we must understand, admit, and through God's help, deal with our own prejudices.

As Peter understood God's love for others he was able to serve God and all people. If Peter had not dealt with his prejudices, he could not have had his experience with Cornelius.

I am reminded of the little boy who attended a church which had beautiful stained-glass windows. He saw that the windows contained pictures of St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John, St. Paul, and others.

One day he was asked, "What is a saint?" He replied, "A saint is a person the light shines through." Only when we are free of all prejudice can God's light shine through us.

A song-writer said it well:

*"In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Thro'-out the whole wide earth."*

*"In Him shall true hearts
ev-ry-where*

*Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close binding all mankind.*

*"Join hands, then, brothers of the
faith,*

*What-e'er your race may be:
Who serves my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.*

*"In Christ now meet both east and
west,*

*In Him meet south and north:
All Christly souls are one in Him
Thro'-out the whole wide earth."*

As we witness to the world, let us not see individuals as different races with different languages and customs, but as brothers and sisters who are children of God.

Union student cited

Dixie Rimmer of Trezevant recently received the Tennessee "Student Nurse of the Year" award in Chattanooga at the State Convention of the Tennessee Student Nurses Association. For the third year in a row a Union University student has been chosen for this honor.

To qualify for this award a student must have been an active member of the national, state, and local chapters of the Association of Student Nurses, have a GPA of 3.0 or above, and demonstrate skill and competence in the clinical setting.

PEW UPHOLSTERING 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.



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)

FOR CHURCHES ONLY
BUILDING MONEY
BELOW PRIME
call ANDY HARDY
1-800-231-0373

New videotape demonstrates how to determine church staff salaries

Churches can borrow this new Annuity Board presentation free. Facing the Facts: Staff Financial Support discusses:

- The biblical basis for supporting minister and staff
- Tax laws
- Ministry-related expenses
- Protection coverages

To schedule a time for your church to borrow the tape, contact your associational director of missions or the annuity representative, stewardship director or church-minister relations director in your state Baptist convention.

AB Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention
1-800-262-0511

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

WOLFE BROS. & CO.
PINEY FLATS, TENN.
Manufacturers of DISTINCTIVE
CHURCH FURNITURE
Since 1888. Write for free estimate.

REVELATION: An Exposition, by Carroll Gillis. Dr. Gillis' book is written for the layperson rather than the scholar. It is a sane and able treatment of this difficult Bible book. SUNBURST PRESS, PO Box 3129, Pacoima, CA 91331. Paperback, \$8.95; Hardback, \$16.95. Add \$1.50 for handling. Refund if not satisfied.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, steeple, chairs, tables, lighting, stained glass, folding doors, carpet

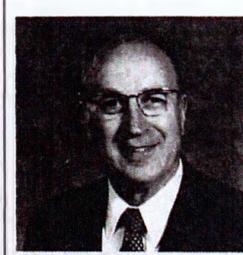
VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

CHURCH PEWS, INC.
makers of
Fine Quality, Solid Wood Furniture
In AL — 1-800-626-9376
Out-of-State — 1-800-522-5014

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Lighting Baptistries Signs
Manufacturers
1-800-446-7400
Free Call
Steeple
Box 2250, Danville, VA 24541
In VA (804) 822-2000

CHURCH FURNITURE
Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates
Plain or Padded BAPTISTRIES, STEEPLES, WINDOWS
"Refinishing, Upholstering, Cushioning Your Present Pews"
CISCO
Toll Free 1-800-365-2568
615/359-3075
P. O. Box 1068
Lewisburg, TN 37091



Dr. Bill Palmer
President
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy
Seymour, TN 37865
(615) 573-8321



Dr. John Wallace
President
Wallace Hardware
Morristown, TN 37815
(615) 586-5650

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE and GERMAN PASSION PLAY

(Oberammergau)
An Inspirational, Teaching Seminar and Tour.

July 9-22, 1990

A First Class Bryan Tour
(\$2895 per person from New York)
Call or write for descriptive brochure.

ZION CARPETS

DISCOUNTS TO CHURCHES SCHOOLS AND CHURCH MEMBERS Will Deliver and Install

Call Bill Morgan for FREE SAMPLES

1-800-866-1971

Bill Morgan, ZION CARPET MILLS
P. O. Box 789, Rossville, Ga. 30741

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

Maryland/Delaware Baptists turn down BF&M statement

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Messengers to the 1989 Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware annual meeting, for the third straight year declined to declare the Baptist Faith and Message statement their doctrinal guideline. A proposed resolution stating messengers' belief that "the Bible has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter," and affirming the statement of 17 consensus doctrines adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention May 9, 1963, failed to gain a majority show-of-hands vote, ruled Burnis Barrett, president of the two-state convention.

The resolution, and another adopted opposing abortion for reasons of birth control or sex selection, drew debate in an otherwise placid annual meeting held Nov. 13-15 at Heritage Church, Annapolis, Md. An attempt to strengthen the resolution on abortion to oppose the procedure in all circumstances failed. After a show-of-hands vote too close to call, messengers voted by ballot 103-69 against an amendment to delete the phrase that limits the convention's opposition to abortion to the two stated circumstances. Other resolutions expressed support of increased excise tax on alcoholic beverages and other measures aimed at reducing drunk driving and encouraged support for families as they face challenges of increasing divorce rates and a mobile society.

Messenger registration totaled 721 during the 154th annual session of the BCM/D. Messengers elected by acclamation a slate of officers, including their current president, Barrett, pastor of First Church, Frederick, Md., who was chosen last year to his first of two allowable one-year terms.

In other business, messengers approved a home missions partnership with Long Island Baptist Association in New York, beginning Jan. 1, 1990. They adopted a \$4.6 million budget, including expected operating budget receipts of \$2,847,712 from the churches, an increase of 3.2 percent over the current year. Undesignated receipts from about 350 churches comprising the two-state convention will be divided 59 percent-41 percent between BCM/D and Southern Baptist Convention causes, a 0.25 percent increase in the portion forwarded to the SBC.

California Southern Baptists approve \$12.4 million budget

REDDING, Calif. — California Southern Baptists met for their 49th annual meeting Nov. 14-15 and approved a \$12.4 million 1990 budget that includes a record \$6 million expected from California churches.

Messengers re-elected without opposition John Jackson, pastor, Crescent Southern Church, Anaheim, as president. Pastor Monroe Broadway of First Southern Church, Redding, was elected first vice president, and Larry Dotson, pastor of Panama Church, Bakersfield, was elected second vice president.

The absence of controversy and the far northern location of the meeting probably contributed to the smallest registration since 1963. The Redding meeting attracted 895 messengers and 220 visitors.

The 1990 budget actually is \$12,425,952, for the state convention, but that includes \$2.5 million from the SBC Home Mission Board. Other revenue sources include foreign, national and state missions offerings and smaller avenues of income. The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget will receive 28.75 percent, or an expected \$1,793,215, of the state convention's undesignated receipts, the same percentage as last year. California Baptist College will receive slightly more than 16 percent of the receipts.

Arizona Southern Baptists approve budget, re-elect Kimbler

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Messengers to the 61st annual meeting of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention adopted a \$5,237,931 budget for 1990 and re-elected Harvey Kimbler as president when they met at North Phoenix Church Nov. 14-15. The 353 churches and missions of the Arizona convention are expected to contribute \$2,565,000, or 49.0 percent, of the new budget.

The 1990 budget includes a new formula for distribution of receipts. A guaranteed \$480,000, 18.7 percent of the budget, will be sent to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and worldwide ministries, whether or not the total budget is reached. In addition, 100 percent of the funds received in excess of the expected \$2,565,000 will be sent to the SBC. The 1989 budget of \$2,840,000 allocated 28.5 percent for the SBC, after a \$170,100 "promotional allowance" was subtracted. The 1990 budget does not contain a separate promotional allowance.

The 1990 budget, which is a 6.8 percent decrease from the 1989 budget, was adopted as presented by a 197-27 vote. Income other than receipts from Arizona churches includes \$1,321,928 from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, \$46,270 from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and \$1,304,733 from other sources, including contributions from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the state missions offering.

In contrast with the last four annual meetings, when most convention officers were elected by acclamation, two of this year's officers faced opposition. Harvey Kimbler, pastor, Foothills Church, Yuma, defeated Gary Ramer, pastor of First Church, Bullhead City, for a second term as president. John Shillington, minister of music at North Phoenix Church, defeated Joe Place, pastor, Overgaard Church, as first vice president. Other officers are Terry Zook, pastor of First Southern Church, Willcox, second vice president, and Frankie Kuffel, member of North Phoenix Church, recording secretary.

Northwest targets \$1.6 million; re-elects Griffith president

TACOMA, Wash. — Nearly 600 messengers and guests representing 352 churches in Washington, Oregon, and upper Idaho gathered Nov. 14-16, adopting a budget of slightly more than \$3 million and electing Lawton Griffith, 25-year veteran Northwest pastor, for a second term as president.

Northwest Baptist Convention churches are expected to contribute \$1,597,119

to the budget, with \$1.28 million to come from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and the balance from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and other sources. The Northwest Convention has designated 30.5 percent of the undesignated receipts from its churches to support world-wide mission activities of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, an increase from 30 percent for 1989.

Griffith, pastor of Eastmont Church in East Wenatchee, Wash., was elected for a second term as convention president. W. A. Phillips, pastor, Kennewick Church in Kennewick, Wash., was elected first vice president, and Ron Bryant, an eastern Oregon attorney and member of Forest Avenue Church, Redmond, was elected second vice president.

Gerald Palmer, longtime vice president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was introduced as "the newest staff member of the Northwest Baptist Convention." Palmer will join the NWBC staff in early January, when his one-year, post-retirement term as special assistant to HMB President Larry Lewis is completed. Palmer will be a special consultant in the development of new churches.

Kansas-Nebraska Baptists welcome six new churches

OMAHA, Neb. — Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptists welcomed six new churches into their convention during their annual meeting Nov. 13-15. The 44th annual meeting of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists was held at Westside Church in Omaha, Neb. It drew 317 registered messengers, with total attendance of about 350.

Messengers elected Dave Sellars, pastor of Northern Heights Church, Norfolk, Neb., as president. They chose Ken Emerson, pastor of Sherm Church, Wichita, Kan., as vice president. Messengers also adopted a 1990 budget of \$3,255,672, a 0.3 percent decrease from the 1989 budget. The convention, which has about 300 congregations, is expected to raise \$1,735,934 for the budget, with the largest portion of the balance to come from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The new budget will send 32 percent of undesignated receipts from the churches to Southern Baptist Convention causes. That figure is up from 31 percent of current receipts going to the SBC. Kansas-Nebraska Executive Director R. Rex Lindsay said the new budget is people-oriented, noting 47.1 percent of the budget will go to field missionaries within the state.

Wyoming Southern Baptists pick Moon, extend partnership

CASPER, Wyo. — Messengers to the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting elected Bob Moon as president and approved an \$899,704 budget Nov. 15-16 at Boyd Avenue Church in Casper.

Moon is pastor of Lander Valley Church in Lander. Other officers are Fred Stroud, pastor, Mountain View Church, Casper, first vice president, and Wayne Fultz, pastor, Immanuel Church, Rock Springs, second vice president.

Wyoming Southern Baptists' 68 churches and 22 missions expect to contribute \$287,000 to their budget. The state convention will send 25 percent of undesignated receipts from the churches to Southern Baptist Convention causes, up from 24.5 percent currently.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will contribute most of the balance of the budget, an expected \$474,000. Other sources of income are to include the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, \$34,000, and the Alabama Baptist State Convention, \$12,000. Messengers voted to extend the partnership between Alabama Baptists and Wyoming Baptists, which was to expire in 1990, through 1992.

Baptists aid refugees in El Salvador fighting

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Most refugees housed in First Church of San Salvador and other temporary shelters are returning home, despite renewed fighting in El Salvador's capital city. "I think the majority are going back to their homes," said Southern Baptist missionary Bill Stennett Nov. 22. "What they'll find there, I just don't know."

Stennett and his wife, Libby, of Richmond, Va., and Washington, respectively, spent several days aiding refugees at First Church. The church sheltered about 200 people who fled fighting in their neighborhoods, but only about 50 people remained by the end of the day Nov. 21.

The Stennetts and missionaries John (Rusty) and Peggy Alums have begun distributing food aid from an emergency fund set up by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Stennett said they will do so as long as necessary. Salvadoran Baptists also have housed refugees in their churches, supported by \$10,000 from the Baptist World Alliance's Baptist World Aid fund. Request for aid was initiated by Carlos Sanchez, executive secretary of the Baptist Association of El Salvador, a member of the alliance.

Mississippians unite to battle gambling

JACKSON, Miss. — A group of about 130 Mississippians linked by oppositions to legalization of gambling have organized to promote their cause.

The Mississippi legislature is slated to consider in January a proposal to rescind the constitutional ban on gambling in order to help fund an educational reform package proposed by Gov. Ray Mabus. Part of the funding for the package would be from a state-sponsored lottery.

The anti-gambling group was called together by Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission in Jackson, and Donald Wildmon, executive director of the American Family Association in Tupelo. The meeting involved representatives from Southern Baptist churches, the Baptist Missionary Association, United Methodist churches, Assemblies of God, Presbyterian Churches in America, and Pentecostal churches. Other denominations sent messages of interest and intent to participate.

The group decided to call itself Citizens Advocating Responsible Economics, and agreed to utilize a post office box to avoid too close an identification with any one denomination. Each denominational group, according to a general agreement among participants, will suggest one or two people to serve on a steering committee. That committee was to meet in mid-November "to develop and clearly define the purpose of the organization."