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CONVENTION OFFICERS — Named by messengers to lead the TBC are, from left, Joel Snider, second vice president, pastor of Creevewood Church, Nashville; William Bates, president, retired Union University staff member, Jackson; and Perry Michel, vice president, pastor of Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.



EXECUTIVE BOARD — At the organizational meeting Wednesday board members chose these leaders, from left: Paul Durham, president, pastor of Radnor Church, Nashville; Anne Nolan, re-elected as secretary, member of Signal Mountain Church; and Howard Kolb, vice president, pastor of Audubon Park Church, Memphis.

Messengers elect Bates, approve 'no increase' budget

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

Almost all was calm, almost all was "bright" as Tennessee Baptists met Nov. 13-15 in their annual meeting in Nashville where they elected William "Bill" Bates of Jackson as president and approved a 1990-91 Cooperative Budget of \$26,797,860.

The 1740 messengers exceeded by two the previous Middle Tennessee mark.

Bates, who has served in Tennessee as pastor, university staff member, and TBC legislative lobbyist on moral issues, defeated A. Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington, and 1988 Pastors' Conference president. The sessions were held at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville.

The presidential ballot favored Bates by 620 to 492. He was nominated by Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Church, Nashville. Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, nominated Newcomb.

The budget was approved on Wednesday after its introduction and discussion a day earlier. Budget and Program Committee Chairman Jerry Oakley, pastor of Springfield Church, told messengers. "It's accounting time."

"It is time for our people to be able to depend on 100 percent budget funding," he said. "Each church, each person must do their part."

The budget, which is the same TBC financial plan for 1989-90, was passed after an effort to amend by Larry Dipboye, pastor of First Church, Oak Ridge. Dipboye sought to restore an allocation of \$28,000 designated for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, SBC.

In September, the TBC Executive

Board had recommended the allocation and it was included in the budget to be presented at the November annual meeting.

Action reversed

However, the board reversed that action when it decided on Nov. 12 to rescind the budgeted allocation. At that meeting, Oakley made the motion for his committee "in an attempt to promote harmony and peace for our convention."

During the Executive Board session, two board members spoke in favor of keeping the BJC allocation in the budget while no one spoke for rescinding.

Moncrief Jordan, pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, said he made the original motion for the allocation (in September) in a spirit of harmony. "It seems appropriate to me," he said, "that out of simple gratitude we help the BJC financially since their budget has been cut so drastically by the Southern Baptist Convention." He referred to a June SBC cut of \$350,000. George Coaker, pastor of Milton Church, Milton, agreed.

During the Tuesday discussion, Dipboye noted that the BJC had "rescued" the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Children's Homes when the IRS sought to tax the homes, and helped several churches in Jackson fight off legal attempts to strike their tax exempt status when they banded together to oppose liquor forces.

Rick Nelson, pastor of Trinity Church, Knoxville, spoke against Dipboye's motion to amend the budget. "I believe we ought to trust the decision of our Executive Board," he said.

The motion to amend failed by a

large majority, and the \$26.8 million budget was approved with about two dozen dissenting votes.

Oakley reminded messengers that the \$28,000 would again become part of the SBC 37.5 percent allocation. The budget goal remains the same as in 1989-90.

Other officers

Other officers elected by the convention are Perry "Red" Michel, vice president, pastor of Belmont Heights Church; Joel Snider, pastor of Creevewood Church, Nashville; and Wallace Anderson and Pat Porter, recording secretary and registration secretary. Michel defeated Jim Best, pastor of First Church, Greeneville. Snider was elected by acclamation as were Anderson and Porter, both TBC employees in Brentwood.

Messengers unanimously approved a recommendation from the Executive Board that a Partnership Mission be established with Chile, to begin in January 1992 — lasting for three years. A survey team of eight Tennessee Baptists recently returned from an exploratory trip, including two Executive Board members.

It was noted by D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director, that the current partnership with the Philippines will be carried through to its conclusion in March 1992.

Speakers challenge

The messengers heard five messages from main speakers — including Robert Norman, Convention President Murray Mathis, Jackie Kay, Ken Hemphill, and D. L. Lowrie.

Norman, pastor of Clearview Church, Franklin, had the convention sermon, and Mathis brought the president's message.

Norman preached on eternal security of the believer in Christ.

"We Baptists do not have a monopoly on this truth," he said. "It is there to claim for all who believe. I believe this truth because of what it cost God,

because it is a completed transaction, and because of the comfort it gives."

He said Christians ought to use the words of eternal security in daily conversation when "we talk about redemption, salvation, our relationship with the Lord."

When Charles H. Spurgeon was asked if he believed in the perseverance of the saints, said Norman, he replied, "No, but I do believe in the perseverance of the Savior."

Norman said these are great days in which to be alive, "to rise to the occasion, to be all that God has called us to be." He said, "Some people pray at night because they think the rates are cheaper than — but the rates are the same all 24 hours."

Building fellowship, unity

In his Tuesday evening message, President Mathis encouraged Tennessee Baptists to be like Caleb when he made the request of Joshua, to "Give me this mountain."

He talked about the break in fellowship among those who spied out the land in preparation for the Israelites to enter into "the promised land."

Because of that break when some of the "spies" did not believe God able to protect the tribes, "They were turned back into the wilderness for 40 years,"

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An inside look

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Editorials

When arguments fail, try peace — it works

At times convention messengers may return home shaking their heads, wondering what happened, worn and discouraged.

Last week, messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention may have done some headshaking — but it could have been in amazement relating to the peace and calm.

There were a few tense moments — and dissension about great issues. Even during the tense moments, most messengers appeared determined to "keep the peace." There was a strong sentiment to keep denominational politics out of Tennessee Baptist Convention life.

Action of the Executive Board to rescind a \$28,000 budget recommendation for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, before presenting the budget to messengers, apparently defused some convention turmoil. And a prayer meeting of some twenty pastors earlier may have helped.

There had been apprehension about the BJCPA proposal since September. Some supporters of the funding were in accord with the withdrawal of the recommendation. Apparently the price of peace was paramount.

Whether that Executive Board action ensured calm is debatable — but we did have calm. There were few motions or resolutions that caused debate.

Convention officers helped steer messengers clear of dissension with fairness and sensitive leadership. President Murray Mathis had little trouble keeping order, banging the gavel only once to remind messengers he would not allow applause in voting or matters of discussion.

The messages were clear, pointed, and Biblical. President Mathis challenged Tennessee Baptists to "give us that mountain." Striking a comparison with Caleb's claim for the mountain as the Israelites were settling the Promised Land, Mathis urged messengers to "wholly follow God and He will give us that mountain."

The convention's calm, some observers said, caused "a spirit sweeter than any observed in recent years."

Though some might question the "why" of the peaceful convention, even to the point of asking what "deals" were made, it is best to accept blessings as God's gifts. The primary reason could be that Baptists are tired and weary of continuous bickering.

Other state conventions reported the same kind of harmony — and some reported disorder. Whatever the reason, Tennesseans seem to be averting

the deep division so common in some Baptist gatherings — nationally and in states.

The Nashville convention was not as well attended as last year's in Knoxville. However, an attendance record was set for Middle Tennessee — with 1740, two more than the previous mark.

Pre-convention estimates had put attendance above the 2500 level. Those estimates took into consideration statewide interest in the BJCPA matter. When it became known that the Budget and Program Committee would recommend rescinding the allocation, some potential messengers stayed at home.

Some observations about the convention:

- It was unique — in that pre-convention actions by the Executive Board helped shape the attitude and outcome of the sessions.

- Election of Bill Bates was a choice between two good candidates. Bates is well-known statewide as a believer in a strong denomination built on churches at work. Ray Newcomb's record as a leader and lover of lost people is second to none.

- Though many messengers have strong supportive feelings for the BJCPA, some believed that

convention unity was paramount. The convention will benefit from that harmony — and we will be able to overcome many of the problems that hinder.

- If conflict is the only way to bring out great numbers — we would be better off with small conventions.

- We have begun a good year for convention growth — in relationships, evangelism, ministries. We indeed "can do all things through Christ" who strengthens us.

- There were no motions or statements relating to alternate plans for giving. Churches and individuals will have their own plans — and none tried to force convention consensus.

- In a related matter, it was proper that the Executive Board heard Oliver Thomas refute some of the charges made against the BJCPA — for the record.

- President Mathis' admission that the convention presidential election is subject to politics was a breath of fresh air. Now that it has been said publicly — we can recognize it and deal with it.

Tennessee Baptists can rejoice and be glad in the Lord that He blessed us with unity despite our diversity. — WFA

Living in praise and gratitude

Early in the days of settling along our eastern coast, pilgrims from Europe invoked the blessings of the Lord in a spirit of thanksgiving.

It is possible that the strenuous lifestyle and the extremes of daily existence enabled them to realize better their full dependency on God.

If they came to America thinking of ease and milk and honey, they were disappointed. Some returned to England or Germany or wherever they had come from — on the "next boat" available. Some did not live long enough to return.

But those who endured, stayed — are the ones we remember.

We trace the traditions of American thanksgiving to those early days. Just thinking about Thanksgiving Day stirs emotions of frontier days, of breaking new ground, of treading an unworn path.

There are the settlers, the Native Americans, ships in the harbor, festive tables laden with fresh fruits of labor, friendly conversations, songs of praise, bounty of fall harvest.

But all of that may not be factual. We remember what we see in paintings, in descriptive words,

in views exchanged.

Thanksgiving comes from the heart. The table does not have to be sagging with food. The sun does not have to be shining, nor do the colors of autumn leaves translate into thanksgiving as a lifestyle.

Count your blessings. Thanksgiving is Biblical. We should be thinking more of hungry people than overloaded tables. We should be praying and praising our Lord instead of complaining about eating turkey sandwiches the rest of the week.

In short, on Thanksgiving Day — as we thank God for all our blessings, let us not fail to remember those in situations of danger, those under bondage of drugs and abuse, those without a friend, those who suffer in lonely anguish.

A trip to the grocery store won't cure those ills. But prayer and an outreaching love will help. God is aware of what we can do — as well as who we are. It will help us to try to understand why He has put us where we are.

On Thanksgiving Day this Thursday, make a list of blessings. Promise to be aware of them. Ask for people whom you can help. Be a blessing to family, friends, strangers. — WFA

Foreign missions focus on Middle East is 'miracle,' says O'Brien

By Karen Benson
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The foreign missions focus on the Middle East this fall is no coincidence or happenstance, according to Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

In fact, she said, "It's nothing short of a miracle from God."

The focus right now on the Middle East region "can only be attributed to the Lord," O'Brien said. "He is the one who should get all of the credit."

The theme selections, areas of focus, curriculum direction, and other plans for the 1990 Foreign Mission Study, Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering were determined in the fall of 1986 through the spring of 1987 — years before the current crisis erupted in the Persian Gulf region.

Now, O'Brien said, it is evident that "the Lord knew what he was doing four years ago when he directed our planning and led our thinking in this direction."

The 1990 plans were developed using a standard, formal process that involves input from representatives from

the Foreign Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and WMU.

An important feature of the process, O'Brien said, is that the planning meetings are "bathed with prayer."

"We don't take lightly our responsibility for planning the churchwide emphases on home missions or foreign missions in the local churches," she said. "We are committed to preparing, with the Lord's guidance, the best plans possible for local churches during the seasons of emphasis on home and foreign missions."

The Foreign Mission Study this year focuses on "Baptist Ministries in the Arab World: Crossing Barriers with Love." Countries featured include Jordan, Cyprus, Yemen, Gaza, Egypt, and Lebanon.

The Dec. 2-9 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions focuses on the theme "Sent . . . To Serve All Nations" and features a different part of the world each day of the eight-day observance. The week culminates with a focus on Jordan on the final Sunday of the week.

In addition, 100 Southern Baptist churches have been invited to participate in a pilot project in which they

"adopt" Jordan, which has extensive borders with Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The churches will feature Jordanian customs, culture, and religions during their fall emphasis on foreign missions. They also are considering their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goals in light of actual financial needs in

Jordan.

A promotion team comprised of representatives from the Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood, and WMU is overseeing the pilot project effort.

Jordan was chosen late last spring as the country to ask the churches to "adopt," said Betty Merrell of WMU.

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Executive Board reviews report; elects Durham as president

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

The Executive Board met twice last week in conjunction with the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville, reviewing its report for the convention and to organize for 1990-91.

In the Monday meeting, action was taken to rescind the board's September budget recommendation of \$28,000 designated for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington.

On Wednesday in the organizational meeting, board members elected Paul Durham as Executive Board president. Durham, pastor of Radnor Church, Nashville, served this past year as board vice president. Howard Olive, pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, was not eligible for reelection to the office.

Durham was elected over John Holland, pastor of Salem Church, Knoxville. Howard Kolb, pastor of Audubon Park Church, Memphis, was named vice president. Anne Nolan, member of Signal Mountain Church near Chattanooga, was re-elected recording secretary.

The main agenda item at the Monday meeting was a discussion on the BJC proposal.

Jerry Oakley, chairman of the Budget and Program Committee, offered a motion from the committee to rescind the board's September action

on the BJC funding.

The allocation would have designated \$28,000 directly to the Baptist Joint Committee, watchdog on religious liberty issues in Washington for nine Baptist conventions and unions.

Moncrief Jordan, pastor of First Church, Jefferson City, defended his September motion which ultimately was approved. "My motion to amend the budget in order to help the Baptist Joint Committee was made in a spirit of harmony," he said.

Jordan said, "It seems appropriate that out of simple gratitude we make this allocation. The BJC has helped Baptists all over the nation. We have already approved the funding. We have heard from James Dunn (BJC executive director) that the document used by the Executive Committee (SBC) to defund the BJC was riddled with errors.

"It seems that when something this drastic has been done, we at least owe it to them to help."

George Coaker, pastor of Milton Church, Milton, agreed with Jordan. "This is one of the few ways we can cooperate with other Baptists," he said. "Like someone who faces liability in lawsuits, we need all the Baptists in religious liberty issues.

"If we play a role in dismantling the Baptist Joint Committee, we will be without that strong voice."

In a secret ballot, the motion to rescind the budget allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee passed 53-22. The \$28,000 would have been taken from the SBC portion of the budget — and would not have been an addition.

Before the ballot result was announced, the board allowed Oliver "Buzz" Thomas to speak. Thomas, a native of Maryville, is a counsel with the BJC.

Thomas said he wanted to present the Baptist Joint Committee's "side of the story" since the staff had not been allowed to make an adequate presentation before the Executive Committee (SBC) or SBC messengers in June when the BJC was stripped of some \$350,000. The SBC allocation for the BJC now is \$50,000. The SBC had funded a major portion of the BJC budget and had shared in leadership.

Thomas reminded the board of the BJC's successful efforts in helping the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and a group of Jackson churches maintain their tax-free status. "We went to the courts for you — and we were successful," he said.

"We just want to correct the factual errors," he said. "The document used by the Executive Committee (SBC) was full of errors. We were not allowed to appear and make our case before

they voted. We were not allowed to give committee members the facts, and that's my frustration."

Thomas said the BJC would be "hurt without the \$28,000." He said that contrary to what some believe, "cutting our budget does not mean we get a windfall from individuals and churches.

"It's not happening. We hope we will be there to help you when it's needed — but that's not for certain."

After Oakley's motion to rescind, only Jordan and Coaker spoke against it and no one spoke in favor.

After TBC messengers voted, Olive observed the vote does not reflect the feeling of all Tennessee Baptists to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"Many who favored the BJC felt it was not in the best interest for the amendment to be brought to the floor," Olive said.

He noted the vote was a budgetary matter and was "what's best for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and ultimately the Baptist Joint Committee.

"My feeling is as the truth filters out about what the BJC has done and is doing, it will be supported," he said.

Tennessee Baptist messengers approve six resolutions

By Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor

Tennessee Baptist messengers adopted six resolutions during the 116th annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 13-15 at Belmont Heights Church in Nashville.

The resolutions addressed abortion, freedom of the press, health messages in alcohol ads, voter apathy, a memorial to Ralph Norton, and gratitude.

Resolutions, while they reflect the opinions of messengers, are not binding.

The Resolutions Committee, chaired by Robert Orr of Dyersburg, studied eight resolutions and brought six to the floor of the convention.

On Wednesday (Nov. 14) messengers adopted three of the six resolutions.

The resolution on abortion noted the issue "will likely be a matter of legislative concern for the Tennessee General Assembly" and brings the "values of freedom and respect for life into conflict."

The resolution recognized the issue of abortion is being studied by a special Executive Board-approved committee and sought not to usurp that committee's work, which will be reported next year.

The resolution simply urged TBC churches to observe "Sanctity of Human Life Sunday" in January and called for Tennessee Baptists to express their convictions on abortion to elected officials who may vote on legislation affecting decisions on abortion.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, who presented the original resolution on abortion, noted he had been contacted by Orr who told him the committee was going to present an alternate resolution.

Sutton said he agreed with the committee's resolution except for an item which he thought the committee was going to add to the resolution, but did not.

He offered the following amendment: "Be it further resolved that Tennessee Baptists express for all concerned their convictions that life, including both the born and the unborn, is sacred and that life should be protected by law."

After some discussion, the amendment was approved by messengers and added to the resolution.

The resolution on freedom of the press, presented by Brian Courtney of First Church, Sneedville, noted "freedom of conscience is a cherished Baptist tenet painfully gained and defended throughout our heritage."

The resolution affirmed "the role of a free denominational press and encouraged responsible, informative Christian journalism."

Messengers also approved a resolution supporting legislation which would require health messages be included in both broadcast and print media advertisements.

On the final day of the convention, the committee brought forth two resolutions which were unanimously approved. Messengers adopted the traditional resolution of gratitude expressing thanks to Belmont Heights Church and its pastor Perry Michel; TBC President Murray Mathis and Third Church, Murfreesboro; Paul Peak and the Committee on Arrangements; and others.

The second resolution was a memorial to Ralph Norton, former TBC executive secretary who died Dec. 19, 1989. The resolution "celebrated" Norton's memory and thanked God for his service.

A resolution which drew considerable interest dealt with voter apathy. It noted believers are "admonished in the Bible to be good citizens" and encouraged all Tennessee Baptists "to register and vote to exercise their responsibility as Christian citizens."

J. D. Sartain, pastor of First Church,

Covington, who presented the resolution, was concerned that the committee had left out a paragraph which called for "the Baptist and Reflector to make unbiased reports on national and statewide candidates by fairly presenting the platforms and issues and in addition, previous voting records, if applicable." He presented the paragraph as an amendment.

Parliamentarian Frank Ingraham noted there could be legal ramifications if the Baptist and Reflector entered this field. He noted tax exempt organizations cannot do anything that could be construed as promotion of candidates. It would be a "ticklish" area to move into, Ingraham warned.

Bill Marr, pastor of Lincova Hills Church, Nashville, spoke against the amendment. "I'm not interested in the Baptist and Reflector informing me on political issues. I don't think the paper needs to do that," he said.

The amendment to the resolution failed and the resolution was approved as presented by the committee.

The Resolutions Committee chose not to present two resolutions dealing with a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board internal policy on medical insurance for retiring missionaries and the Persian Gulf crisis.

Marvin P. Nail new lesson writer

Marvin P. Nail, pastor of Whitsitt Chapel Church, Nashville, will write the remainder of the lessons for the Life and Work series through December.

Nail concludes the quarter which was begun by Richard Herrington, pastor of Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage, who died of a heart attack in October.

A native of Mississippi, Nail is a graduate of Mississippi State University, Starkville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The FMB matter was later reintroduced by Don Dixon, pastor of Highland Church, Tullahoma. It was then referred to the TBC's Executive Committee.

The resolution on the Persian Gulf crisis was brought back to the floor after the committee failed to submit the resolution.

Martin Klinghard, messenger from Manley Church, Morristown, and BSU director at Walter State Community College, felt the resolution should be considered. The resolution opposed offensive military action in Saudi Arabia for economic reasons.

Noting the Bible states that "blessed are the peacemakers," Klinghard observed churches "need to be the conscience for our nation. We must speak out against economic war," he said, adding that the situation in the Persian Gulf would not be a war over human rights.

Frank Kemper, pastor of First Church, Adamsville, disagreed with Klinghard, noting that the human rights of the people of Kuwait have been infringed upon. "It's more than an economic matter," Kemper said.

After further discussion, messengers voted down the resolution.

Nail has written Sunday School lessons for the Baptist and Reflector in the past.

Knoxville church calls Lasher as pastor

Lawrence C. Lasher Jr., was recently called as pastor to Fort Sanders Church, Knoxville.

He was previously an intern at Calvary Church, Knoxville, and the church ordained him Nov. 7.

Lasher is a native of Oak Ridge.

Interviewed at Belmont Heights

Tennessee Baptist messengers reflect on convention

**Marvin Cameron, pastor
First Church,
Oak Ridge**



"It has been a very good convention. I think we have elected proven leaders, who are mainstream Baptists, as officers."

**Tony Billions, pastor
First Church,
Cornersville**



"Overall, the convention has gone very well. The business has been handled well and I think Brother Mathis has done a good job of presiding."

**Joann Breedlove, member
Parkview Church,
Jackson**



"There has been more harmony here than in conventions during the last couple of years, however, the factions still seem to be present. The resolutions dealing with abortion, liquor laws, and freedom of the press are a plus for our convention."

**Bill Wolfe, pastor
First Church, Obion**



"I think there's been a sweet spirit of harmony and the preaching has been used in three ways — to stir our hearts for revival, to encourage the small church and the church led by a bivocational pastor, and to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. We didn't dwell on the problems of the convention. ... That stands out in my mind when comparing to the past two or three years. ... It's been crowded. It makes for close communion I guess."

**David George, pastor
Immanuel Church, Nashville**



"It seems a very positive and constructive convention. I guess the thing that peaked my interest most was the partnership with Chile. I haven't gotten to participate in the partnerships so far. ... Concerning the budget, I'm eager to support the Baptist Joint Committee and my church does but it's divisive in the state convention so I can understand why the Executive Board decided to withdraw the designated funding."

**Connie Powers, member
Trenton Street Church, Harriman**



"It has been a very peaceful convention. ... I think the president, Murray Mathis, has set the tone to make it very relaxed and peaceful. It's been very refreshing. I believe what the Executive Committee did by rescinding the action on the BJC before we got to the convention made for a more peaceful convention. ..."

**Doug Baker, pastor
Parrans Chapel Church, Bolivar**



"I have been well pleased in the way things have developed and the way the spirit of the convention has gone, especially in the handling of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs matter. The president has done a good job and has been fair in presiding. It has been a positive convention."

**Gary Jared, pastor
Stuart Heights Church, Chattanooga**



"The program has been fantastic. The Pastors' Conference is one of the best I've been to. I've been impressed with the unity in the business meetings."

**Ian Walker, pastor
First Church, Morristown**



"The convention has been real smooth. It seems like we have had good fellowship. I clapped at one time and the moderator stopped us clapping. I think that's a great idea. That eliminates the competitive spirit."

**Larry Gilmore, pastor
College Heights Church, Gallatin**



"... Cooperative spirit ... gracious leadership ... and optimistic vision."

**Mary Lou Powers, member
Lascassas Church, Murfreesboro**



"It went well. I've enjoyed the programs and I feel unity and contentment. I think Brother Murray did a great job as our president."

**Pat Wall, member
Central Grove Church, Tullahoma**



"Our messages have been great. Brother Murray did a good job. The programs and reports have been different this year. The overall quality has been okay."

**David Cooper, member
First Church, Bolivar**



"I think there's a desire for confession and reconciliation and unity within the convention. ... I'm very much impressed too with the reports of the different departments and also pleased with the desire

of the Committee on Boards and Committees on Committees to broaden the base and bring in laypeople and clergy from all ... areas of the convention. I also believe we have a good slate of officers. ... The resolutions express concerns of the majority of the messengers. It would be a very rare resolution that would express the conviction of every messenger."

**Keith Mee, member
Two Rivers Church, Nashville**



"Everything has gone real well. I liked the change on the abortion resolution. ... I liked Mr. Mathis' message last night. He bared his heart but he hit a need. I don't think anybody

could fault the man for telling the truth. My most negative impression has to do with the negative comments against the amendment to the abortion resolution. ... You don't deal with principle on the basis of personal experience. Nobody can speak for all Tennessee Baptists. ..."

**Dave Pyatte, pastor
Chinquapin Grove Church,
Chinquapin Grove**



"I think it was good because there was a message of love and fellowship. There seemed to be no diversity. Brother Mathis did an excellent job. His sermon just blessed my heart. I think overall we're headed in the right direction. Instead of pulling apart we're pulling together. The Pastors' Conference was just a spiritual high. ... I renewed my commitment as a servant of God."

**Larry Robertson, assoc. pastor
Hopewell Church, Savannah**



"I think there's been a great spirit of unity even in times of disagreement ... and a good spirit of purpose as to our desire to evangelize Tennessee. I feel positive about all the business actions. ..."

Bartlett pastor challenges TBC messengers

While speaking during the morning session Nov. 14 of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Jackie Kay, pastor of Bartlett Church, Bartlett, and the new president of the Pastors' Conference, challenged convention attendees to recognize their problems and repent so God can work in their lives.

Speaking from a text in John 2, Kay referred to Jesus' first recorded miracle of turning water to wine. He pointed out Jesus' miracles were "birthed from human crisis." The crisis in this instance was running out of wine at a wedding celebration.

God still uses human crisis to do miracles.

"The God who is the God of now is the kind of God who always addresses himself to human deficiency," Kay said.

He added that many people will leave the convention meetings with needs unmet.

When about 1500-2000 people get together you're not going to have agreement on everything but they had a sweet spirit even in times of disagreement."

**Ron Davidson, pastor
Calvary Church, Brownsville**



"The convention has been a good convention. Unity has been shown. The vote on the budget — to affirm the action of the Executive Board to withdraw designation for the Baptist Joint Committee — was a good vote."

**Gail Perkins, member
Immanuel Church, Elizabethton**



"Generally I feel there has been a sweet spirit and hopefully all of the divisions are healing. I feel we are getting our eyes on the more important issues of concern — reaching out to others and winning the lost and really preparing our hearts for the coming of the Lord. I've been really pleased with the actions taken."

**Jack Bishop, pastor
Signal Mountain Church,
Signal Mountain**



"I think everything has been going pretty well. ... Concerning the resolution on abortion ... I feel, as an adoptive father, we should take strong action to illustrate our love and desire to protect all life. ... As Baptists we have the power to do that through our Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Though I'm in favor of the resolution it still did not address all the complicated issues involved, such as rape and incest. I do trust the special committee assigned to study this complicated issue. ... What I look forward to is all the friends I get to see."

"Until we realize we have a problem — a crisis — a miracle can't be done," Kay explained.

"God wants to do a fresh work in the hearts of Tennessee Baptists," he said.

However, Jesus did not come to earth just to do miracles and solve problems. He came so people could "see His face, confirm He is Lord, and conform to His plan," Kay said.

"Jesus is not an emergency chest whom we come to when we're hurting and forget in the good times," he added.

God not only addresses Himself to human deficiency, Kay said, He also affirms human design.

Kay explained that people must understand what they accomplish personally is not important to God, but how they feel in their hearts is important. "Nothing about you impresses the Lord," he said. — *Connie J. Umstead*

Messengers elect Bates, approve 'no increase' budget . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Mathis said.

He said something happened to Southern Baptists 14 years ago just after Bold Mission Thrust was approved. "There has been a break in our fellowship," he said. "Disunity has brought near calamity and threatens our worldwide missions program."

He told messengers that Baptists can have unity and fellowship despite diversity. He urged them to help make Tennessee an example of love for the rest of the SBC. It isn't too late, he said. "We must go to God and rely on Him."

Referring to politics in the denomination, Mathis said that even in the Tennessee Baptist Convention, "You don't get to be president unless you are political." He refuted that process — and said labeling and name-calling must cease if "we are going to see again the fires of love leaping across continents and oceans, and here in Tennessee."

The messages of Norman and Mathis were published in the Nov. 14 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

Other TBC actions

In other convention action:

- Reports were made by all TBC institutions, colleges, agencies, Executive Board departments, and other

entities.

The expanded annuity program for Tennessee Baptist ministers and staff is continued as a preferred item. Cooperative Program receipts are to be distributed 62.5 percent through the TBC and 37.5 percent through the Southern Baptist Convention.

- A motion by Jim Stroud, pastor of Third Creek Church, Knoxville, concerning the relationship of TBC colleges and other entities was referred to the Executive Board for study and report in November 1991. He questioned whether Union University, Belmont College, and Carson-Newman College were likely to "pull out" of the convention as Baylor University did.

- Reports of the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees were accepted by messengers with only one change. Matt Tomlin, pastor of Wards Grove Church, Jackson, was named to replace Wesley Pitts as a trustee of Union University since Pitts had moved to another association as director of missions.

- A motion by Donald Dixon, pastor of Highland Church, Tullahoma, was referred to the Executive Committee. The motion would have the Foreign Mission Board to review and reconsider its medical insurance policy for retired missionaries.

- Messengers affirmed a change for Baptist Hospital Sunday observance from January to the third Sunday in October, beginning in 1992.

- TBC employees soon to retire (or just retired) were honored: Vern Powers, Gerry Mayes, and Lyn Brasfield. Recognized retiring directors of mission Bill Powell, Watauga; Charles Livengood, Alpha; and Ed Alexander, Shiloh.

- Three TBC bylaws changes were approved on second reading; elimination of the committee on the journal, changing Article III of the "purpose" of the convention for clarity, made minor changes in credentials committee statement and historical committee statement. Because of procedural oversight, they will be voted again next year though they are enow in force.

- A motion to establish convention awards for a bivocational pastor and a small church (less than 100 in Sunday School) pastor was passed.

- Devotional messages were given by Don Whitt, Maynard Tribble, Don Adams, Franklin Hawkins, Carol Martin, Roger Oldham, and Bobby Johnson.

- Outstanding music presentations by several church choirs and other groups were prominent.

- Business was done with the three-

day theme of IMPACTennessee — Touching Lives — through evangelism, Cooperative Program giving, making disciples, ministry, prayer, church, and invitation to challenge.

- Messengers approved the elimination of the Telecommunications Program (in line with its elimination by the Sunday School Board).

- Resolutions were approved on freedom of the denominational press, health messages in alcoholic beverage ads, abortion, in memory of Ralph E. Norton (former TBC pastor and executive director), voter apathy, and gratitude to those who "worked to make the convention successful."

The convention unanimously passed a resolution affirming freedom of the press, and "the role of a free denominational press." The resolution also encouraged "responsible, informative Christian journalism."

The resolutions committee in its final report was asked to explain why a resolution on the Persian Gulf crisis was not reported.

Martin Klinghard, BSU director at Walter State Community College in Morristown and messenger from Manley Church, made the resolution which opposed use of force for economic reasons in the Persian Gulf.

Parliamentarian Frank Ingraham explained that the issue should not be addressed by a resolution. He said individuals had the right to act, but that the convention should not act as a body.

Sacrificial lives

In Lowrie's Thursday closing message, he challenged Tennessee Baptists to "offer God something that costs you, something that costs sacrifice."

He said, "We dare not go to God with something that costs us nothing."

Next year's annual meeting will be held at Broadmoor Church, Memphis, on Nov. 19-21. Edward North, pastor of First Church, Humboldt, will preach the convention sermon. Joey Rosas, pastor, Union Avenue Church, Memphis, is the alternate speaker.

Florida Baptists loosen rein on Stetson

TAMPA (BP) — Florida Baptists loosened their century-old bond with Stetson University last week but held firm to their rejection of alternatives to the Cooperative Program.

Meeting Nov. 12-14 in Tampa, messengers to the 129th annual session of the Florida Baptist State Convention overwhelmingly approved a plan — offered jointly by Stetson and convention officials — that gradually eliminates Florida Baptist Convention funding of the DeLand school by the year 2000 in exchange for granting Stetson more autonomy in the election of its trustees.

The proposal was billed as both a way to take the "abrasion" out of the relationship between the convention and the 2000-student school and a way to free up more money for missions in the state. Stetson currently receives \$921,000 a year — or 2.5 percent of its budget — from the state convention.

But while the Stetson proposal was

approved with little rancor during the convention's first business session, an unexpected dispute over cooperative mission funding dominated the remainder of the meeting.

Messengers refused to let an advocate of an alternative funding plan serve as a trustee of Florida Baptist Theological College in Graceville, a convention-owned, undergraduate school that receives almost \$1 million annually from the state Cooperative Program.

Although the state committee on nominations had recommended Patrick Anderson of Lakeland be re-elected to a second term as an FBTC trustee, messengers intervened. They first rejected the committee's entire report, then reconsidered, approving the other 75 nominees and asking the committee to submit another nomination for Anderson.

The committee later nominated Brandon pastor Robert Reccord for the

post. Although Anderson's name was offered as a substitute from the floor, Reccord was elected 296-211 in the ballot vote.

Despite debate over Anderson's nomination, the 2076 convention messengers did not address directly the issue of cooperative mission funding. Instead they approved without debate a \$24 million Cooperative Program budget, which represents a four percent increase over last year's budget. The budget designates 50.75 percent of receipts for Florida Baptist causes; 46 percent for the SBC Cooperative Program; and 3.25 percent for ministers' annuities.

S. C. Baptists escrow money for Furman

COLUMBIA (BP) — South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting Nov. 13-14 in Columbia, voted to escrow 1991 money budgeted for Furman University, approved a name change of Baptist College at Charleston to Charleston Southern University, and affirmed the general board's plans to sell the Baptist Building in downtown Columbia to build a new facility two miles away.

The convention also approved a task force recommendation to keep the division of Cooperative Program unified budget mission funds for South Carolina and Southern Baptist Convention causes at the current 60-40 percentage level until churches increase their Cooperative Program support.

The messengers voted for a three-year special mission partnership between South Carolina and New England Baptists beginning in 1991.

The 170th annual convention in

Carolina Coliseum set a new attendance record with 5084 registered messengers.

W. Gregory Horton, a layman from Simpsonville, was elected president. He is only the fifth layman in 50 years to hold the office.

Horton defeated E. C. Watson of Elgin, retired executive assistant on the convention's general board staff.

Following his election, Horton said that although he generally had been perceived as the "conservative" candidate, he wants to be president of all South Carolina Baptists.

Reminded that one of the president's greatest powers is in his appointments, he said he will use his office to involve more laymen in the denominational process. "I plan to appoint people who have never before been asked to do anything (in the denomination)."

TeamTalk

By D. L. Lowrie

My heart is especially full of gratitude this Thanksgiving Day. What I felt in my heart at our convention last week is near the top of the list.

In my heart I felt like Tennessee Baptists renewed a commitment last week. Since the beginning in 1874 we have had commitment to respect each other and to work together cooperatively. This commitment is now



LOWRIE

tested almost every week. We hear so many rumors and questions that we have to wonder. There have always been reasons not to cooperate, but there is a compelling reason to cooperate. You cannot get any higher than the will of God. He surely wills that His people work together for the evangelization of the world and the glory of God.

I am grateful to the Lord for Murray Mathis, Guy Milam, and Jack Prince.

These three men gave us prayerful and balanced leadership during our meeting.

I am grateful for the gifted ministers God has given us in Tennessee. They blessed with their speaking and singing during the convention.

I am grateful for a capable and supportive staff. You would never believe the details that have to be taken care of during a convention. God has given us a staff that knows how to do this. Pat Mulloy leads the way!

I am grateful for chairman Paul Peak and a wonderful arrangements committee. Ken Hemphill speaks to conventions all across the country, and he remarked to me, "Tennessee does it better than most."

I am grateful for a place of service with Tennessee Baptists. I do believe that God has an important work for us to do together. I am just glad that He is letting me be a part of it.

And you are on my thanksgiving list — all of you. May God bless you richly during this blessed sermon. My heart is full of praises and gratitude to Him.

Tennessee WMU challenged to rely on God's power

By Connie J. Umstead, news assistant
Attendees at the 102nd annual Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union meeting were challenged Nov. 12 by guest missionary speakers to rely on God's power to equip, enable, and empower.

More than 800 people registered for the all-day meeting held at Woodmont Church, Nashville, with a theme of "His Power — Empowering."

The program included "missionary moments," testimonies by state accetness panelists, special music, and business.

Keynote speakers included Margrette Stevenson of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta; Dana Nottingham Bullington, a former missionary to Burkina Faso; and Zeb Moss of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond.

Speaking on His power ... enabling, Bullington, currently residing in Azle, Texas, related the story of her service in Africa and the death 13 months ago of her husband, Barry Nottingham, from hepatitis.

When she was 16 and knew she was going to be a foreign missionary, Bullington asked God to direct her dating life and choose a man who would share her calling.

Nottingham "showed up" at her church and announced his call to foreign missions. Bullington said she felt God had chosen Nottingham for her.

"I asked God, 'Is he the one?'" Bullington said. Three years later the couple married and went to seminary. In 1982, Nottingham accepted a pastorate in Texas.

They began doing research about countries where they might serve. Bullington said she was frightened when she began learning about Burkina Faso. It is one of the ten poorest countries and one out of four infants die at birth, according to Bullington.

By this time the Nottinghams had two children of their own.

"I asked God not to send us to Burkina Faso. Barry asked me what the problem was," Bullington said, and he advised her to "count the cost."

"I told him the worst thing that could happen was for one of us to lose our life over there," she said. "Barry said, 'Would that be so bad? To die serving God?'"

In 1987, they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to serve in Burkina Faso and went to Paris,

'Open door' available, says Moss

Tennessee Baptists have a strong tradition of foreign missions support, and "the wall is down," allowing the Gospel in all but one Eastern European country, said Zeb Moss of the Foreign Mission Board, but Baptists are still not doing enough.

As Moss addressed the Tuesday afternoon session of the convention, he commended the state convention for its support of partnerships with Burkina Faso, Venezuela, the Philippines, its plans to work with Chile, and its involvement in world missions.

But despite adversities, needs abound, noted the associate area director of Eastern and Southern Africa. Both funding and personnel are needed, he stated.

Funding is needed because 62 percent of the board's budget goes to sup-

France, for language study. While in France, they had another child.

The Nottinghams arrived in Burkina Faso in October of 1988 to work with the Bissa people.

About a year after they arrived in Africa, Nottingham died from hepatitis he contracted after sipping "welcome water" offered to him by 20 Bissa chiefs.

When Bullington had expressed concern about her husband drinking the water, which was a peace offering, Nottingham had said, "How can I hurt them and try to minister to them?"

After her husband died and she returned to the United States, Bullington said, "I questioned God.

"I kept asking God for a plan. He was silent, but present. I told Him I didn't want to just survive. I wanted to go fast, to grieve fast," she continued.

She said God worked a miracle and showed her even though she had lost everything — her husband, her culture, her home, her friends, and even her possessions — she still had God and He would make the change in her life.

"Are you willing to count the cost?" she asked the congregation. "I promise you it will cost you. God is not a cheap God, but it is worth all that I have to be able to love my God."

Less than a month ago, Bullington married Bryan Bullington, son of Bill Bullington, the FMB area director of West Africa. After her husband finishes seminary, they intend to return to West Africa, where he grew up.

"I am strong. God has taken me so far in one year," she said.

Continuing with the theme of God's power — empowering, Zeb Moss, FMB associate area director of Eastern and South Africa, challenged the congregation to pray for the missionaries, be serious about giving financially to missions, and accept the call of missions.

He cited statistics that 91 percent of Christian workers are serving in the "Christian world," which makes up 33 percent of the world's population. Only eight percent serve in the part of the "world being reached," where missionary work exists, which includes 43 percent of the population; and one percent serve the "abandoned world" where there is no organized mission work, which holds 23 percent of the population.

Sixty-two percent of the world's wealth is concentrated in the "Christian world," but people in this world only give two percent of their income

port missionaries. It must depend on additional giving for funding mission work, said Moss.

The need for workers is clear. Thirty-three percent of the world's population claim 91 percent of Christian workers. The rest of the world, 66 percent of the population, receives help from only nine percent of the Christian workers, Moss reported.

Currently the board has 474 requests for missionaries and despite rumors that the board no longer appoints women, 47 of those positions are for single women, he added.

"I challenge you to let God say to you, 'Here is an open door.' Yes there are adversities, but it is God who overcomes those, who goes with us," concluded Moss. — *Connie Davis*



OFFICERS ELECTED — New officers were elected Nov. 12 at the 102nd Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting. Seated from left are Carol Pharris, president, and Faye Cox, recording secretary. Vice presidents standing from left are Dottie Kelly, Bobby Turner, and Carol Gilmer.

to mission work.

Other missionaries who appeared on the program were Stephen and Claudia Hall (Brazil), Dottie Babcock (Sierra Leone), and Laurie Graham, who came thanking people for their support of her and her family while her husband, Maurice, is being held in Kuwait.

New officers were elected during business session. Carol Pharris, Fairview Church, Lebanon, was re-elected to her fourth term as president. Faye Cox, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, was re-elected as recording secretary.

In a reorganization move, three vice presidents were elected, along with eight promotion directors. Previously, there were eight regional vice presidents.

The three regional vice presidents are: West — Dottie Kelly, Big Sandy Church, Big Sandy; Middle — Carol Gilmer, Fairfield Church, Centerville; and East — Bobby Turner, West Hills

Church, Knoxville.

The promotion directors are: Northeastern — Ruth McNabb, Grace Church, Johnson City; Eastern — Phyllis Hazlewood, Harrogate; Southeastern — Inez Franks, Westwood Church, Cleveland; North Central — Norma Hancock, First Church, Smithville; Central — Marguerite Babb, First Church, Hendersonville; South Central — Joan Hester, First Church, Flintville; Northwestern — Bettye Summers, First Church, Camden; and Southwestern — Freddie Lou Bolton, Highland Heights Church, Memphis.

Katharine Bryan, WMU executive director-treasurer, reported that receipts for the 1989-90 Golden State Missions Offering campaign totaled \$960,813.25. She added that totals for the first two months of the 1990-91 year have exceeded what was given during the same time period last year by \$41,000.

Final message

Lowrie urges current generation of Tennessee Baptists to give their best

Today's generation of Tennessee Baptists must not be content to rest on the achievements of their predecessors, said D. L. Lowrie.

Lowrie, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention since 1988, delivered the final message of the 116th annual session of the TBC.

Basing his sermon on 2 Samuel 24:24, Lowrie observed David would not give an offering to the Lord that cost him nothing.

"David enunciated a truth then that must be the truth for every generation," Lowrie said.

But he observed that if any generation of Tennessee Baptists would be tempted to do less, it is today's generation.

We use churches, institutions, and other services that we didn't build or develop, Lowrie noted.

"We can be guilty of offering to God that which costs us nothing," he declared.

Lowrie referred to IMPACT Tennessee, the state convention's five-year mission thrust plan for the state.

"If we're going to impact Tennessee we have got to offer some-

thing to God that shows sacrifice and cost," he said.

He observed Tennessee Baptists have a priority to give God their best because of who God is and what He has done.

"David had a fresh awareness of the richness and mercy of God. He knew he couldn't give anything to God that cost him nothing."

Lowrie noted that the truth David set forth involves the principle of sacrifice. "We must ask ourselves the question, 'How much does it cost?'" Lowrie said.

"If it costs us nothing, before God, it is worth nothing," Lowrie observed.

He emphasized that "we cannot make a difference in this state without warm, wholehearted love and devotion to Jesus. Lukewarmness doesn't do it."

He called for Tennessee Baptists to bring offerings of life, service, and devotion to God that "cost us something."

"Out of gratitude, let's offer to God the best this generation of Tennessee Baptists can bring," Lowrie concluded. — *Lonnie Wilkey*

Pastors encouraged, chastized at conference

By Connie Davis, assistant editor
NASHVILLE — A crowd that grew to about 1000 Tennessee pastors was roused to applause and several standing ovations by speakers and musicians leading the Pastors' Conference.

Those attending the annual pre-convention conference held at Belmont Heights Church could hear 12 speakers in the jam-packed one-day program. About 30 pastors responded to the theme, "The Pastor ... Leading His Church in Revival," by gathering at the altar in response to Richard Jackson's call during the final message.

Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, joined the other speakers in calling for revival and chastized pastors for seeking success, even in denominational terms.

"Denominational leaders do not have power. We've proved that. We've wreaked so much havoc among denominational leaders that many times we've rendered them useless," said Jackson, a former candidate for the SBC presidency.

"Wherever I go in the kingdom I see people looking for platforms of recognition. I see people looking for flaws to criticize their brothers and sisters on ...," said Jackson. Even though "the Bible says something about degrees of reward in heaven," he continued, preachers should get off pedestals and remember they already have a place in heaven.

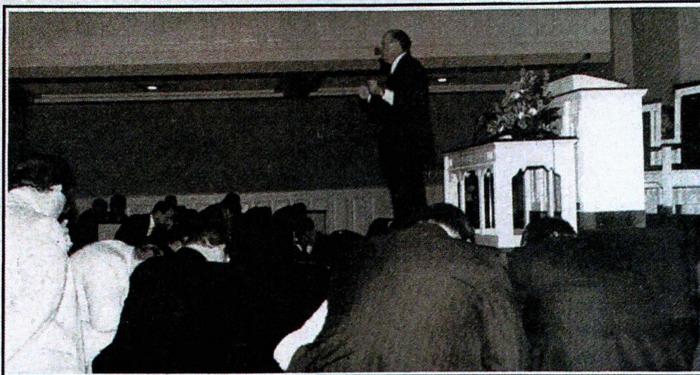
Manuel Noriega, the deposed president of Panama who has recently become a Christian while awaiting trial in the United States, had as much to offer Christ as anyone, proclaimed Jackson.

Suggesting a difference between a relationship with God and religion, Jackson reported on leading a Bible study of Genesis in his church. He said a study of Genesis need not be theologically divisive if dealing with the Scripture rather than theories.

Other evening addresses

Larry Gilmore, conference president, also addressed the issue of success.

"Brothers, do we have a desire for a



AT SEAT OR ALTAR — Richard Jackson asks the pastors to commit themselves to revival, whether they remain at their seat or kneel at the altar. — Photo by Connie Davis

position or do we have a passion for service

"At denominational meetings do we look at this one and that one and that one. We see him talk to this one and that one. We say, 'Oh, he's one of those,'" said Gilmore, calling for unity which will lead to revival.

God withholds revival because of rebellion against Him, said Gilmore, the pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin, referring to Psalm 85.

He warned the pastors against being programmed, hiding sin, twisting truth to remove God's demands on their lives, and neglecting service and private worship. They should hear and teach God's Words, he continued.

"We know we preach and live out of an overflow. We give what is taken in from fellowship with God," proclaimed Gilmore. "Do we think our soul winning can be at the altar?"

David Ring, evangelist from Orlando, Fla., also spoke to the about 1000 people gathered and received a standing ovation after his message.

"I don't mean to burst your bubbles, preachers, but we're playing games," said Ring. "We're hurting today. We're down in the dumps. ... God's people should never be down in the dumps. No wonder people don't get saved anymore," continued Ring, from his unique perspective as a victim of cerebral palsy.

School is fellowship; however, "fellowship is a by-product of evangelism."

The second priority of the church should be to baptize, Hemphill said.

"Baptism is more than just dunking people," he observed. "It's assimilating people into the life of the church, breaking old habits."

He stressed that people must immediately feel a part of a church to become an effective part of the church body.

"If they do not find seven new friends in seven weeks, they are lost to your church. How do they do that? In Sunday School," Hemphill said.

The third priority of the church is to teach, and again, this is best done through Sunday School, according to Hemphill. He said in his church, Sunday School members are removed from the roll only if they move their membership or die.

"As long as they're alive, they'll be on our Sunday School roll. Some day they'll need the ministry of our Sunday School and we'll be there," he said. —

Connie J. Umstead

He evaluated people's response to problems, warning Christians against questioning God's authority, which forms bitterness against God. Instead they should ask what God wants them to do, explained Ring.

"God never says, 'Oops,'" exclaimed Ring, who referred to his life as a testimony. Though his hand shakes when he tries to write, he walks with a limp, and he can't speak as clearly as everyone, he has been a full-time evangelist for 18 years, he testified.

Other out-of-town speakers

Darryl Gilyard, pastor, Victory Church, Richardson, Texas, suggested the event recorded in Matthew 14 of Jesus walking on the water teaches Christians not to be afraid of the ghosts of life.

Gilyard, 28 years old, told of God's protection when he was a homeless teen. His circumstances were bleak, but God had protected him from the hostile environment of New York City, where his family lived, he recently learned.

About two years ago he felt God wanted him to start an interracial church. The 800-member congregation of Victory Church is 57 percent white and 43 percent black. "I'm scared now they're going to call a white preacher," he exclaimed.

"God is not busy building bridges over our troubled water. That's the easy way out. ... Step out of the ship of possibilities, take a life jacket of faith, and begin walking on the water," said Gilyard.

Junior Hill, evangelist from Hartsville, Ala., tried to encourage the pastors during his address by identifying reasons churches do not grow or reject pastors.

"We have filled our churches with

unconverted pagans in our haste to be ministerially successful," said Hill.

The measure of a minister's success is whether he is a minister of well-doing rather than a minister doing well. "The charlatans of religion," who often can be identified by large budgets and growing churches, are just doing well, said Hill.

"Discouraged preacher, browbeaten preacher's wife, criticized missions director, don't quit," he concluded.

Additional messages and election Rick White, conference president in 1987, preached on the topic, "Come Before Winter," reminding the pastors that opportunities for the church, denomination, and people are passing.

Concerning the denomination, White applauded the theological correction made by conservatives during the 11 year controversy, but added it is "way past the hour for our unholy civil war to come to an end in Southern Baptist life. If we do not take steps now, brothers and sisters, do we have any other course to follow besides self destruction," said White, calling an end to criticism.

Also denominational workers should desist from categorizing preachers or churches by statistical growth or stewardship and from "the callous caretaking of institutions in Baptist life," he added.

White, pastor, First Church, Franklin, also noted pastors must place their personal life before their church among their life's priorities.

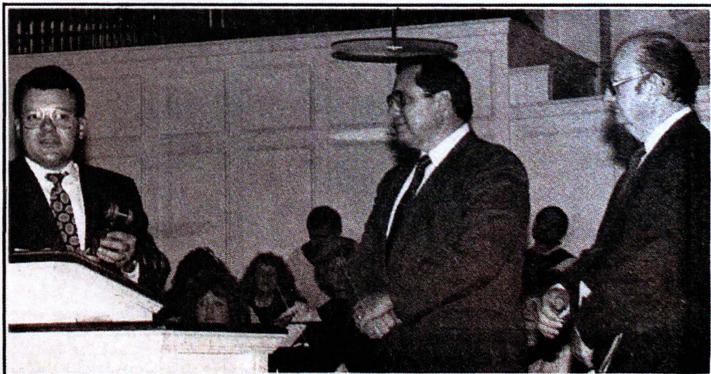
Jackie Kay, pastor, Bartlett Church, Bartlett, was elected president of the conference during the afternoon session. He spoke during the morning gathering on Elijah's preparation for revival as recorded in 1 Kings 17.

Kay was nominated by Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville. He defeated Wayne Markham, interim pastor, Lantana Road Church, Crossville, who was nominated by his son, Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville. Vice President A. J. Lambert, pastor, First Church, Tiptonville, and secretary/treasurer Obie Campbell, pastor, New Providence Church, Lenoir City, were both elected without opposition.

Frank Samuels, pastor, Southland Church, Memphis, spoke confessionally about the failure of his church to grow and his response.

Fear, which caused him to become physically ill, is from Satan, said Samuels. God helped him when he recalled past help and identified the expectations of church members as too high.

Other speakers were Frank Crumpler, pastor, Brainerd Church, Chattanooga, and Steve Gaines, pastor, West Jackson Church, Jackson.



PASSING THE GAVEL — President Larry Gilmore, left, passes gavel to newly elected president Jackie Kay, middle, while A. J. Lambert, new vice president, looks on.

Virginian Hemphill addresses convention

In an address to Tennessee Baptist Convention attendees, Ken Hemphill, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., stressed that for churches to grow, members must fulfill the Great Commission.

Referring to Scripture in Matthew 16 and 28, Hemphill noted that Jesus said He would begin the church from the disciples, and He then commissioned them to reach out to others to build the church.

"There is one command the church must fulfill — make disciples," Hemphill said. "It means to go, to baptize, and to equip others to teach."

Hemphill said church growth depends on evangelism. The first step in making disciples is God; the first task is evangelism; and the best avenue is Sunday School.

"I believe the Sunday School is the finest tool we have to fulfill the Great Commission, but only if its focus is evangelism," Hemphill said. "Without evangelism, Sunday School becomes an organization, not an organism for growth."

He explained that many people believe the highest priority of Sunday



ENJOYING A SNACK — Ann White, right, of the Discipleship Training staff, shares the cheese and crackers available at the DT exhibit with Louise and James Pulliam of First Church, Bolivar.



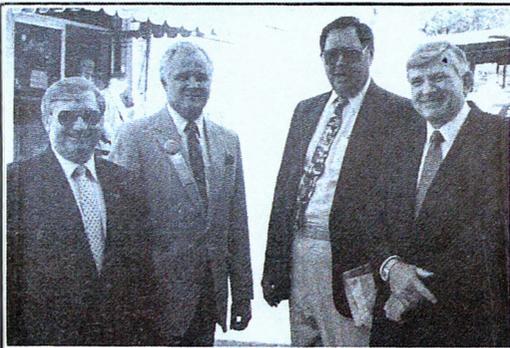
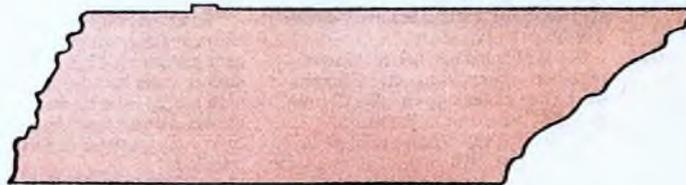
RETIREES HONORED — Howard Olive, second from left, and D. L. Lowrie, at the pulpit, honor retirees Vern Powers, Gerry Mayes, and Lyn Brasfield. From left, Powers, Olive, Mrs. Powers, Mrs. Lowrie, Lowrie, Gerry Mayes, Bob Mayes, Brasfield.



FORMER PRESIDENTS — Former presidents chat during a break. From left, Wood, Memphis; Ken Star, Carroll Owen, Franklin.



AT PASTORS' CONFERENCE — President Larry Gilmore preaches during pre-convention conference.



BETWEEN SESSIONS — Four West Tennesseans share a moment between meetings. From left, Doug Baker, pastor of Parran's Chapel Church, Bolivar; Charles Pratt, DOM for Haywood Association; Ron Davidson, Calvary Church, Brownsville; and Deryl Watson, DOM for Hardeman County Association.



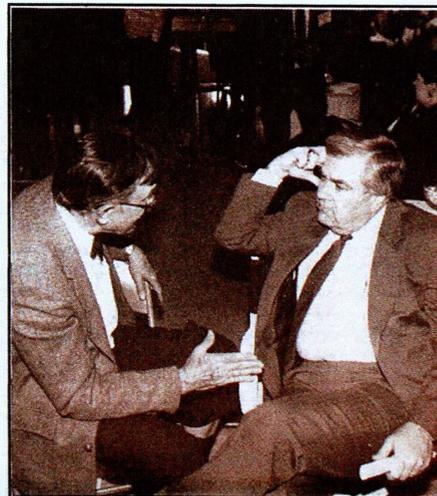
IN APPRECIATION — Robert Wilson, left, Michigan Baptists' executive director, presents D. L. Lowrie, TBC executive director, with a plaque commemorating ten years for the Tennessee/Michigan partnership.



A JEWISH SONG — Joey Fore, left, and Paul Alpren, Messianic Jewish congregation of Woodbury, Nashville, sing during the convention.



KNOXVILLIANS — Messengers of Inskip Church, Knoxville, from left, Bill Wisner, Mike Segers, minister of youth, education, and activities; and Nora Wisner relax in the exhibit area.



RELAXING — Union University President Hyran Barefoot, left, visits with James Porch, pastor, First Church, Tullahoma.



HONORING PASTOR — A department, recognizing the service of a former pastor of the year.

Tem

Tennesseans attend 1990 convention



CATCHING UP ON THE NEWS — Burl McMillan, left, TBCH southeastern regional director, and Jerry Blasingame, middle regional director, read the *Baptist and Reflector*.



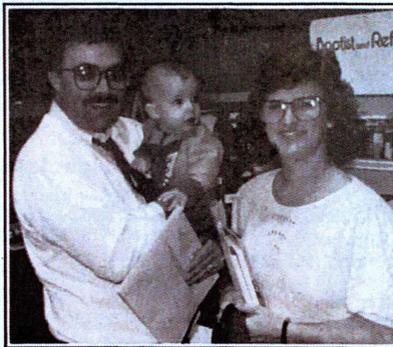
FROM LAFAYETTE — Attending the convention from First Church, Lafayette, were, from left, Anna Weddle, Allison Price, Angela Weddle, Pastor Roger Weddle, and Garland Crowder.



VIEWING EXHIBITS — Visiting in the exhibit area at Belmont Heights were, from left, Fred Davis, pastor, First Church, Doyle; Ray Maynard, director of missions, Union Association; and Bill George, director of missions, Beulah Association.



CONVENTION SPEAKER — Robert Norman, pastor of Clearview Church, Franklin, gestures during his message on eternal security.



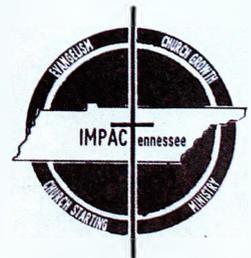
FIRST CONVENTION — Tennessee's 116th annual session was the first for Joe and Teresa Sorah since he began serving Mountain Terrace Church, Memphis, as pastor recently. He holds baby son Joshua.



TAKING A BREAK — Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Church, Cordova, visits with Bill Bargiol, director of missions, Big Emory Association.



RETIRING DOMS — Recognized on their retirement are, from left, Director of Missions Bill Powell, Watauga Association; Charles Livengood, Alpha Association; and, on right, Edwin Alexander, Shiloh Association. President Murray Mathis and TBC Executive Director D. L. Lowrie thank them.



...e former TBC
... From left, Fred
... Cantown; and



... Kenneth B.
... t Church,



... Murray Mathis, right, TBC Missions
... de Hayes, pastor, Scenic
... who was named bivoca-

Association gatherings . . .

Copper Basin Association

The association made some structural changes. It changed the name of its missions committee to missions development committee, the evangelism committee to evangelism department, and elected a prayer coordinator. The meeting was held Oct. 25 at Mine City Church, Ducktown, and Bethlehem Church, Isabella.

Elected as officers were C. David Brown, pastor, Mine City Church, moderator; G. W. Mathis, pastor, Coleton Church, Copperhill, assistant moderator; Glen Hughes, member, Zion Hill Church, Turtletown, treasurer; and Steve Adams, member, New Zion Church, Farner, clerk.

Cumberland Plateau Association

During its meeting at Pomona Church, Crossville, and Ozone Church, Ozone, on Oct. 22-23, the association elected Charlie Ivey, pastor, Bethlehem Church, Crossville, as moderator; Bill McCrary, pastor, Oak Hill Church, Crossville, assistant moderator; Roy Lanz, member, Lantana Road Church, Crossville, treasurer; and Henrietta Baldwin, member, Clear Creek Church, Crossville, clerk.

Duck River Association of Missionary Baptists

Officers were re-elected and include Don Dixon, pastor, Highland Church, Tullahoma, moderator; John Blevins, pastor, Broadview Church, Winchester, assistant moderator; Joe Blanton, member, First Church, Tullahoma, treasurer; and Janet B. Patterson, member, First Church, Tullahoma, clerk.

The association met Oct. 22-23 in Manchester at Westwood Church and First Church.

Holston Association

Messengers accepted Liberty Church, Bristol, where Bradley Booher is pastor, and Campbell's Chapel, Bristol, of which Richard Campbell is pastor, into the association. It gathered Oct. 23 at First Church, Blountville.

Officers are layman Lee Ray Robertson, member, Central Church, Johnson City, moderator; Tom Savage, pastor, Pinecrest Church, Johnson City, assistant moderator; E. W. Barnes, member, Gray Church, Gray, treasurer; and Tenna Eades, member, Central

Church, clerk.

Knox County Association

Cedar Ford Church was added to the association at its Oct. 14-15 meeting in Knoxville at Wallace Memorial Church and Gillespie Avenue Church.

Officers are Calvin Metcalf, pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, moderator; Alan Smith, pastor, Mars Hill Church, Knoxville, assistant moderator; Richard Perkey, member, Central Church, Fountain City, treasurer; and Eugene Fleming, member, Cumberland Church, Knoxville, clerk.

Sevier County Association

Former Director of Missions Bill Atchley of Sevierville was honored as the association voted to dedicate the annual to him during its Oct. 15-16 meeting at Paw Paw Hollow Church, Strawberry Plains; Oak City Church, Seymour; and Millican Grove Church, Sevierville.

Messengers elected as officers Leon Mayo, pastor, Dupont Church, Seymour, moderator; Melvin Carr, member, Shiloh Church, Seymour, vice moderator; Charles E. McCarter, member, Boyd's Creek Church, Sevierville, treasurer; and Nancy Carpenter, member, First Church, Seymour, clerk.

Shiloh Association

Director of Missions Edwin Alexander was honored by Union University, Jackson, as Outstanding DOM 1990 at its Oct. 15-16 meeting at First Church, Selmer, and Sharon Church, Savannah.

It elected as officers Randy Isbell, pastor, Hopewell Church, Savannah, moderator; Steve Bain, pastor, Lakeview Church, Selmer, assistant moderator; Lauren Locke, pastor, Olive Hill Church, Olive Hill, treasurer; and Wanda Godwin, associational secretary, assistant treasurer/clerk.

Stewart County Association

Emphases of the meeting were revivals scheduled for spring 1991 and a World Mission Conference in fall of that year. Also the annual was dedicated to the memory of John Spears at the meeting, which was Oct. 18-19 at Lakeview Church, Tennessee Ridge, and Maranatha Church, Dover.

Officers are John McBride, pastor, Big Rock Church, Big Rock, moder-

ator; James P. Quinn, pastor, Carlisle Church, Dover, vice moderator; Mitzi Whitford, member, Bear Spring Church, Dover, treasurer; and Marcia Robertson, member, Pleasant Grove Church, Indian Mound, clerk.

Truett Association

The association met Oct. 4-5 at Liberty Church, White Bluff, and Vanleer Church, Vanleer. It elected Harold Phillips, pastor, Sylvia Church, Sylvia, as moderator; David Deavers, pastor, Immanuel Church, McEwen, assistant moderator; Eddie Mullinax, member, Cedar Grove Church, Hurricane Mills, treasurer; and Mrs. Thomas Drake, member, First Church, McEwen, clerk.

Union Association

Messengers unanimously passed a resolution opposing the action of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board to designate money for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which the board later rescinded. The convention supported withdrawal of the designated funds.

Grace Church was added to the association. Boyd Roberts is its pastor.

Also during its Oct. 11 gathering at Boiling Springs Church, Baxter, messengers elected the following as officers: Lofton Graves, pastor, First Church, Spencer, moderator; Greg Long, pastor, Gum Spring Church, Sparta, vice moderator; Greg Boston, member, First Church, Sparta, treasurer; David Carr, member, Greenwood Church, Doyle, assistant treasurer; Betty B. Geer, member, Bear Cove Church, Sparta, clerk; and Doug Benningfield, pastor, Hickory Valley Church, Hickory Valley, assistant clerk.

Watauga Association

Bob Polk was welcomed as director of missions during the Oct. 25 gathering held at First Church, Hunter, Elizabethton.

It's new officers are Clarence Phillips, pastor, Shady Valley Church, Shady Valley, moderator; Grady Miller, pastor, Cedar Grove Church, Johnson City, assistant moderator; Will Andrews, member, Oak Street Church, Elizabethton, treasurer; and Sue Anderson, member, Siam Church, Elizabethton, clerk.

Weakley County Association

A note burning ceremony was held to acknowledge the retirement of the

association's \$84,000 debt on its Mission Center, which was built in 1989. Messengers heard a report noting the largest number of baptisms in ten years. They also adopted a program to start churches in Michigan and other pioneer areas.

The meeting was held Oct. 22-23 at Palmersville Church, Palmersville, and Oak Grove Church, Dresden.

Officers are Roy Auvenshine, pastor, Bethlehem Church, Greenfield, moderator; James Frazier, pastor, Mack's Grove Church, Dresden, vice moderator; Bonnie Bullock, member, Jolley Springs Church, Dresden, treasurer; and Gertie Sheffield, member, First Church, Dresden, clerk.

Western District Association

The association voted to add Faxon Church, Big Sandy, of which Vernon Turner is pastor, to the fellowship at the Oct. 18-19 meeting at Maplewood Church, Paris, and First Church, Dover.

Those elected as officers were Otis Hinton, pastor, Temple Church, Paris, moderator; Kenny Smith, pastor, Springhill Church, Springhill, vice moderator; Charles Conger, member, First Church, Paris, treasurer; and Mrs. Pat Nanney, member, Shady Grove Church, Paris, clerk.

William Carey Association

The association adopted a prayer emphasis for peace in the Southern Baptist Convention and the nation and voted to celebrate its centennial next year.

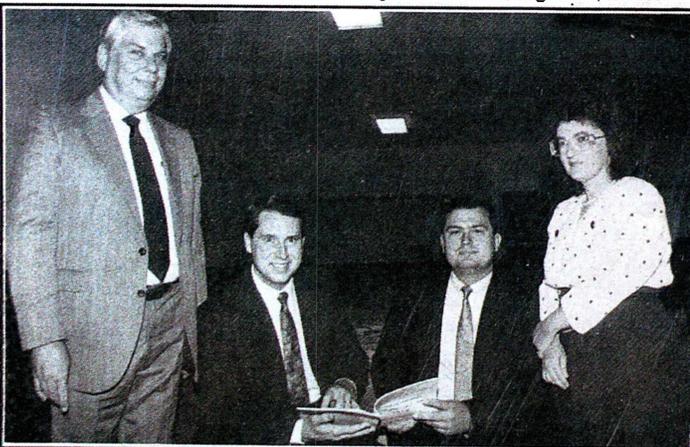
It met Oct. 22-23 at Kirkland Church, Taft, and Donaldson Grove Church, Huntland.

Those elected as officers were James Harney, pastor, Hickory Grove Church, Huntland, moderator; Charles Medley, pastor, Parks City Church, Fayetteville, vice moderator; Frances Alexander, member, First Church, Fayetteville, treasurer/clerk; and Evelyn Knois, member, First Church, Petersburg, assistant treasurer/clerk.

Wilson County Association

Messengers passed a resolution asking citizens of Lebanon and Watertown to vote against packaged liquor sales. The Nov. 6 vote allowed such sales in Lebanon but banned them in Watertown. The association met in Lebanon at LaGuarda Church and Fairview Church on Oct. 18-19.

Officers were re-elected and include Albert Jewell, pastor, Saulsbury Church, Watertown, moderator; Russ Stephens, pastor, Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet, vice moderator; Jean Jennings, member, First Church, Watertown, treasurer; and Kenneth Griffin, pastor, Barton's Creek Church, Lebanon, clerk.



DYER LEADERS — Along with Director of Missions Joe Naylor, left, and Vickie Shelton, associational secretary, right, Dyer Association messengers selected during its fall meeting Stan Anderson, middle left, Halls, Westside Church, as moderator; and Rodney Alexander, First Church, Halls, as vice-moderator. — Photo by Connie Davis



CHILHOWEE PARTICIPANTS — Participating in Chilhowee Association's Oct. 25 meeting at Madison Avenue Church, Maryville, were, from left, W. T. Hall, First Church, Seymour, outgoing moderator; Director of Missions John Churchman; Clifton Herron, Mt. Carmel Church, moderator; and Glenn Grubbs, Madison Avenue Church, host pastor.

TenneScene

... East to west, from Riceville to Dancyville, through Enville ...

Missions ...

The disaster relief team from First Church, Bemis, used its mass care mobile feeding unit to prepare and serve hot food to people involved with an earthquake drill. First Church is one of two churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention that has a mobile feeding unit.

First Church, Franklin, is sponsoring the Khadzi family who are refugees from the Soviet Union in their move to Williamson County.

Stan and Laura Kirk, Memphis, have been chosen by the Foreign Mission Board to work overseas in the International Service Corps program. The Kirks have been assigned as English language workers in Asia for two years. He is a native of Selmer, and she is from Union City. Both are members of Bellevue Church, Memphis.

Pastor Tim Hodges and members of New Home Church, Martin, are spearheading a drive to collect 36,000 cookies to be sent to the inmates of the

James Bond accepts Leoma Church pastorate

James Bond recently joined the staff of Leoma Church, Leoma, as pastor.

Bond most recently served as pastor of First Church, Kennesaw, Ga. Before going to Georgia, he was pastor of several Tennessee churches, specifically Mount Carmel Church, Signal Mountain; Meadowview Church, Lawrenceburg; Mount View Church, Antioch; Gladeville Church, Gladeville; Mount Zion Church, Liberty; and Welchland Church, McMinnville.

He was ordained in 1961 at Shells Ford Church, McMinnville.

Bond and his wife, Helen, have three married children.



BOND

Chillicothe Correctional Center in Chillicothe, Ohio, for Christmas. The cookies will be delivered to Ohio by Dec. 20. If you or your church would like to participate in the Great Cookie Crusade, call Hodges collect at (901) 587-2955.

Ordinations ...

Kelley's Chapel Church, Waynesboro, ordained Ricky Kelley as deacon.

Roger Pease was ordained as a deacon Oct. 21 at Halls Westside Church, Halls.

First Church, Savannah, ordained Reggie Jones to the deacon ministry Oct. 14.

Jay Noe was ordained as a deacon Oct. 14 at First Church, Counce.

Lonnie and Tyler Hyder, father and son, were ordained as deacons Oct. 14 at Calvary Church, Elizabethton.

Larry James was recently ordained as a deacon at Brunswick Church, Brunswick.

Rutledge Church, Rutledge, ordained Margaret Cruze, Stacy Killian, and Douglas Smith as deacons Oct. 28.

James Disney was ordained to the Gospel ministry Nov. 4 at Riverside Church, Harriman. He has been called as pastor of Piney Church, Oakdale. Riverside Church also recently ordained Bill Brown, Tom McNew, Steve Bolden, and Henson Stafford as deacons.

Brent Fielder and Kent Martin were recently ordained as deacons at First Church, Obion.

Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, recently ordained Larry Rooks, Wade Rowan, Max Thompson, and Harry Heatherly as deacons.

Highland Church, Pulaski, ordained Charles Solomon and Charles Kerley as deacons Oct. 14.

John T. Martin was ordained as

deacon Oct. 7 at New Zion Church, Athens.

Bob Stubbs Jr., and Gary Hamman were recently ordained as deacons at Ardmore Church, Memphis.

First Church, Lenoir City, ordained Roger Hale and Steve Harrelson as deacons Nov. 11.

Vonore Church, Vonore, ordained Roger Franklin, Darrell Watson, and Freddie McKeehan as deacons Oct. 14.

Trinity Church, Bolivar, recently ordained Steve Trainum as deacon.

Ron Gardiner and Roger Tibbs were ordained as deacons at First Church, Dresden.

Central Church, Martin, ordained Ronnie Breeden as deacon.

Terry Mitchell and Jerry Thedford were ordained as deacons Oct. 28 at First Church, Bradford.

First Church, Dyer, ordained Ronnie Davidson, Sam Guthrie, Bobby Hopper, and Tony Jones as deacons Oct. 28.

Alan Abbott was ordained as a deacon Oct. 21 at Calvary Church, Rutherford.

Antioch Church, Humboldt, ordained Ken Luckey as deacon Oct. 14.

David Glisson, Larry James, and Tim Wright were ordained as deacons recently at Idlewild Church, Idlewild.

Lamontville Church, Calhoun, will ordain Gary Smith and Joe Manning as deacons Dec. 2.

Patrick Carrington and Collins Pratt were recently ordained as deacons at Calvary Church, Parsons.

Celina church calls Plumlee as pastor

Doug Plumlee has been called as pastor of First Church, Celina.

Plumlee most recently served as pastor of Elmburg Church, Pleasureville, Ky. He was ordained in 1984 by Ridgedale Church, Chattanooga.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



STAFF MEMBER HONORED — Inglewood Church, Nashville, recently honored Willa McCoy in observation of her 25th anniversary on the staff of the church. She came to the church in 1965 as minister of youth where she served until becoming minister of education in 1980. James Carter, chairman of the personnel committee, presented a check representing total gifts shared by the congregation, at a reception given in McCoy's honor.

Churches ...

The congregation of Mt. Tirzah Church, Newbern, celebrated the church's 150th anniversary Nov. 4.

People ...

Norma Hedin, a native of Elizabethton, was recently elected instructor in foundations of education for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Hymn Playing Kit, a collection of Southern Baptist hymns arranged by Louis Ball, music professor at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has been translated into Korean. The kit was translated into Chinese in 1979.

Korean mission calls Yang C. Kim as pastor

Yang C. Kim was recently installed as the first full-time pastor of the Korean Mission of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville.

Kim previously served Korean congregations in California, Texas, and Arizona.

Kim began his education in Korea and continued it at Golden Gate Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Kim and his wife have two children.



KIM



MISSION GRANT — First Church, Murfreesboro, received a \$25,000 grant Nov. 4 from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Department on behalf of Northside Mission. The grant will be used to help purchase 22 prime acres of land in one of the fastest growing areas of the city. Two weeks later the mission was constituted as Northside Church. Bill Wilson of the TBC Convention Ministries Division led the service. Northside began as a home Bible study in 1988 and now has 83 members. Ken Palk is pastor. From left, Jere Phillips, Missions Department; Palk, Eugene Cotey, pastor, First Church, Murfreesboro, the sponsoring church; and Larry Kirk, Missions Department.



DEBT FREE — Emmanuel Church, Crossville, held a special day of celebration recently for the burning of the note on their 15-year bond program, which paid for the present auditorium. From left are Robert Hallatt, Ray Smith, Curtis Honeycutt, R. L. Kirkland, and Pastor Russell Honeycutt.

Texas messengers consider Baylor; adopt 1991 budget

By Ken Camp

HOUSTON (BP) — A record 7450 messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas re-elected officers, considered motions related to the election of Baylor University trustees and escrowing of funds to the school, and adopted a \$63.5 million basic Cooperative Program unified budget during the 105th annual Texas state convention, Nov. 13-14 in Houston.

Messengers re-elected by acclamation: president, Phil Lineberger, pastor of Richardson Heights Church, Richardson; first vice president, Ed Rogers, pastor of First Church, Dumas; and second vice president, Billy Ray Farmer, pastor of First Church, Valley Mills.

The convention approved a motion, presented by Robert Naylor of Fort Worth, Texas, chairman of the 26-member Committee on BGCT-Baylor Relationship, stating that any trustees elected by BGCT "shall be elected according to the convention's constitution to constitute the governing board of directors of Baylor University."

The committee motion further stated, "These persons shall not assume the office of 'trustee' as defined under the amended Baylor charter unless and until they are

directed to do so by formal action of the Baptist General Convention of Texas or by its executive board after the final report of the BGCT-Baylor relationship committee."

On Sept. 21, the Baylor board of trustees revised the university charter to establish a board of regents "with sole responsibility for governance" of Baylor. The committee was created by the BGCT executive board on Oct. 17 to examine the legal, financial, and relational issues arising from the Baylor trustees' action.

Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, harshly criticized the action of the Baylor trustees who "unilaterally severed" the "covenant" of trust between the BGCT and Baylor. The action was "surprisingly private if not secretive," he charged, and was a violation of the trust that existed among Texas Baptists.

Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University, said the convention's approval of the committee motion went as the university's administration had "expected and wanted." However, he criticized the manner in which Naylor presented his report to the BGCT, saying Naylor used the opportunity "to editorialize in an unbelievable fashion."

Expressing the desire to "set the

record straight," Winfred Moore affirmed the trustees of Baylor University as loyal members of the Texas Baptist family. Moore, immediate past chairman of the Baylor trustees, was given time on the program to respond to Naylor's report.

"The trustees of Baylor University are honorable men and women who took action on Sept. 21 to change the charter of Baylor. They had no intention of moving Baylor one millimeter from Texas Baptists and the Baptist General Convention of Texas," said Moore. He added the trustees' action was done to "save Baylor for the family of Texas Baptists."

In a news conference following his remarks, Moore told the reporters he felt Naylor had "blindsided the trustees by accusing them of violating the trust of Texas Baptists." He said Naylor's comments "positioned" him and were inappropriate for the chairman of a committee on reconciliation.

In an interview later, Naylor said Moore was "entitled to his opinion" and that he (Naylor) felt his own report had "reflected the sentiments of our committee."

The approved 1991 Cooperative Program unified budget of \$63.5 million — and an additional \$5.3 million challenge portion — includes support for more than 7500 missionaries world-

wide, for 23 Texas Baptist benevolent and educational institutions and for other missions causes. The basic budget total is identical to the 1990 budget amount. Of that budget, 36.65 percent will go to the Cooperative Program.

Funds earmarked for Baylor are being held in an interest-bearing escrow account until completion of the study by the Committee on BGCT-Baylor Relationship.

Messengers also approved 2432 to 1487 a motion by David Becker of University Heights Church, Huntsville, encouraging the BGCT administrative committee and executive board to "explore ways to provide financial support" for the Associated Baptist Press alternative new service.

Messengers approved resolutions affirming belief in the priesthood of the believer; freedom of the press and religious liberty; expressing opposition to lotteries and other forms of gambling; and supporting legislation requiring warning labels on alcoholic beverage containers.

BGCT messengers approved a recommendation to change the meeting times and schedule of future conventions, condensing the convention from five to four sessions. The 1991 BGCT will be Nov. 11-12 in Waco.

N.C. Baptists re-elect officers; defeat budget by 122 votes

By R.G. Puckett

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP) — Messengers to Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting elected officers without opposition, adopted a resolution expressing concern for the Middle East situation and the military families involved, and rejected a proposed budget recommended by the state convention's general board by 122 votes.

About 6500 messengers registered for the 160th annual session, held Nov. 12-14, making it the largest in the state convention's history.

The resolution adopted on the Middle East situation expressed concern for the military families, many of them stationed in the state, and called upon

Virginia Baptists hold record meeting

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Virginia Baptists registered in record numbers for the 167th annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia held in Richmond Nov. 13-14. The latest official count of 4738 messengers represents the largest registration in history, almost 2000 in excess of the previous high.

Michael J. Oblinger, a 39-year old gastroenterologist from Charlottesville was elected president. He is a member of Broadus Memorial Church and has been a member of the Virginia Baptist General Board for the past four years. Elected first vice president was Ronald W. Crawford, pastor of Lakeside Church, Richmond. John E. Houghton, pastor of Kilmarnock Church, Kilmarnock, was elected second vice president.

Messengers adopted the 1991 Virginia Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget totaling \$16,300,000, the same budget goal as last year. However, the 1991 budget represents a change in percentage allocations to cooperative missions in Virginia and to world mission causes in the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

messengers to pray for them, the nation, for peace and for the persons involved in leadership in the crisis.

Another resolution expressed appreciation for lay persons in the church. It came after a proposed constitutional amendment which would mandate a lay president for the convention two out of every four years was defeated.

Every officer of the state convention was re-elected without opposition. It was the first time incumbents have not been challenged since 1984.

Gene L. Watterson, pastor of First Church, Shelby, will serve a second year as president.

W. Randall Lolley, pastor of First Church, Greensboro and former presi-

The distribution will be 64.5 percent for Virginia cooperative missions and 34.5 percent for world mission causes. The principal change, in addition to the percentage allocation, will be reflected in the manner in which the 34.5 percent is to be distributed. One-half of the 34.5 percent, \$2,776,100, will be distributed according to the formula adopted by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans last June.

The additional \$2,776,100 will be allocated by designation as follows: Foreign Mission Board: \$1,611,950; Home Mission Board: \$620,000; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs: \$75,000; Annuity Board: \$25,000; Baptist World Alliance: \$100,000; Associated Baptist Press: \$60,000; Partnership Missions: \$134,150; and theological support for Virginia Baptist students attending a Southern Baptist seminary: \$150,000.

This latter amount represents an amended change from the floor to the original budget, namely, that a recommended contingency figure of \$50,000 be combined with the theological education figure of \$100,000.

dent of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was re-elected first vice president.

Bruce E. Whitaker, retired president of Chowan College, was re-elected second vice president.

Messengers to the 1990 convention approved a motion by C. Mark Cortis, pastor of Winston-Salem's Calvary Church, by a margin of 122 votes out of 6004 cast which changed the form but not the figures or items included in the proposed budget for 1991.

The convention's general board recommended a budget which would have maintained the same division between the state the national conventions — 64.83 percent for North Carolina Baptist causes and 35.17 percent for the Southern Baptist Convention.

It would have made as the norm for the Cooperative Program, a division of the amount going outside the state of 20.3 percent undesignated to the SBC offices in Nashville and 14.87 percent designated to Baptist causes named in

the budget.

The proposed budget provided for churches to choose as an option that all of the 35.17 percent going outside the state would be sent undesignated to the Southern Baptist Convention for distribution according to the budget approved by it.

The Cortis motion reversed that formula. If churches make no choices on the use of their gifts through the Cooperative Program beyond the state, all of the funds will be sent undesignated to the SBC.

Churches may choose to have their funds divided between undesignated and designated causes at the national and international levels.

There was general agreement that the budget, either in its proposed form by the general board, or the revised version approved by the messengers, does provide greater flexibility.

The budget was approved for \$28.5 million, including a preferred item of \$1.6 million for the Ministers Expanded Annuity.



AT BUFFALO GROVE — Elected as officers for Jefferson County Association Oct. 26 at Buffalo Grove Church, Jefferson City, were, from left, Director of Missions Jerry DeZearn; Dale Gentry, Emmanuel Church, treasurer; Sonny Strange, Emmanuel Church, moderator; Norman Turley, First Church, Strawberry Plains, assistant moderator; Kathleen Lockhart, Flat Gap Church, clerk; and Ken Richey, First Church, White Pine, outgoing moderator.

Dec. 2-9 is week of prayer

Today's missions needs as crucial as in Lottie Moon's day, Parks says

By Jim Burton

RICHMOND — More than 100 years ago, a young Virginian woman made a critical decision which affected her entire life. In fact, the decision eventually cost her her life.

Lottie Moon accepted the call to foreign mission service and spent most of her adult life in China. But during her years of work there, China faced a famine, and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board faced a financial crisis. Lottie Moon gave what money she had to buy food for the Chinese, neglecting her own well-being. Eventually, she died of starvation.

Her commitment to missions captured the hearts of Southern Baptist women. In 1918, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union named its annual foreign missions offering after Lottie Moon. To date, Southern Baptists have given more than \$1 billion to foreign missions through that annual Christmas offering.

Just as Lottie Moon made critical decisions regarding missions, each Southern Baptist must make decisions during this Christmas season, missions leaders say. Southern Baptists must decide in dollar amounts to what degree they will support the work of foreign missions through the 1990 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The theme for the 1990-91 emphases is "Sent . . . to serve all nations." Southern Baptists will observe Dec. 2-9 as a week of prayer for foreign missions.

The goal for this year's offering is \$86,000,000. Tennessee Baptists have set a goal of \$6,500,000, said Katharine Bryan, Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive director.

The Lottie Moon offering is "extremely critical," said Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president. "It is our single largest source of income."

Troops can receive Christian literature

ATLANTA (BP) — Christian literature may now be sent to troops in Saudi Arabia, despite earlier restrictions on Christian material entering the Muslim-dominated country.

Law Burnett, director of military chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said the change is due to negotiations between Saudi Arabia officials and the U.S. Postal Service. Burnett said one Bible and small amounts of Christian literature may be mailed directly to specific individuals in Saudi Arabia.

Packages weighing up to 70 pounds may be sent through first class mail.

Army, Air Force, and Marine personnel on ground units may be addressed at Operation Desert Shield, APO New York 09848-0060. Navy and Marine personnel on ships can be addressed at Operation Desert Shield, FPO New York 09866-0006.

Addresses of specific units are: 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, APO New York 09656; 24th Mechanized Infantry Division, APO New York 09315; 197th Infantry Brigade, APO New York 09315; 82nd Airborne Division, APO New York 09656; Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, APO New York 09209; and 101st Airborne Division, APO New York 09309.



SOURCE: FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFF HATCHER

Since 1961, the Foreign Mission Board has received more each year from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering than from the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving.

"To the degree that we have become dependent on the Lottie Moon offering, it becomes more crucial to our whole budgeting process," Parks said.

Equally crucial is Southern Baptists' ability to respond to open doors throughout the world, Parks said. In Eastern Europe alone, Southern Baptists will soon begin entering eight countries with 88 missionaries.

"Any time you enter a new country, it puts heavy demands on a budget," Parks said. "The opportunities are beyond our imagining, but we have to find resources."

Just this year, hundreds of Southern Baptist pastors and lay people have participated in a volunteer evangelism project in Kenya. An estimated 56,000 professions of faith have been made and 84 churches have been started.

"We rejoice, and we are excited, but we have to have funds or much of that harvest is going to be neglected," Parks said.

Since 1986, the total Lottie Moon offering receipts have fallen nearly \$17 million short of annual goals. That shortfall has been absorbed each year by the Foreign Mission Board, said Carl Johnson, FMB vice president for finance and treasurer. But it creates hardships.

"We budget the whole goal," Johnson said. "We do it for two specific reasons. Number one, we need it all."

It costs a nickel a minute to support one missionary for one year. Southern Baptists have more than 3700 career missionaries serving throughout the world.

Number two, Johnson said the FMB staff would never want to convey a lack of confidence in Southern Baptists' ability to reach the goal. Therefore, the entire offering is budgeted for either operating or capital needs.

How the Lottie Moon offering is spent overseas is determined in a multi-step budgeting process beginning with a revenue forecast, Johnson said.

"We can't print money, so we make

a forecast of how much money we think is going to come in," Johnson said. Based on that forecast, allocations are made to missions directors representing all areas of the world in which Southern Baptists have missions work. The area director then works with each mission to decide how much money goes to each particular mission.

Once the area director determines the allocation for a particular mission, those missionaries have an annual meeting and hold a business session. Each missionary gets a vote, and they corporately approve their mission's budget.

Johnson calls it the "bottom-up approach."

"It is the missionaries working hand-in-hand with the national Baptists in each country who know specifically the best opportunities to express the Gospel in that particular country," he said, "rather than staff in Richmond."

Despite the previous years' shortfalls, there have been some bright spots in the Lottie Moon offering. Southern Baptists in two pioneer states

posted dramatic increases in their 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings. Michigan Southern Baptists increased their giving 112 percent in 1989 while Wyoming Southern Baptists were up 104 percent.

The actual dollar increase between the two states was \$151,616. Though that amount is small compared to the 1989 goal of \$81 million, Johnson does not discount its significance.

"You hear the stories that newer Southern Baptists may not be as missions conscious as people who have been Southern Baptist for a long time," Johnson said. "I think it is extraordinarily encouraging that in the newer state conventions, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is very strong, and those state conventions have a very strong missions commitment."

While in traditional areas of Southern Baptist work there were no dramatic percentage increases, there were still signs of a growing missions commitment. In 1989, Alabama increased its offering 8.4 percent.

"The total increase for the entire Southern Baptist convention was \$1,410,144.52," Johnson said. "Alabama accounted for \$483,000 of that."

With each Southern Baptist increasing his or her Lottie Moon offering by ten percent, the 1990 goal of \$86 million is well within reach, Parks said. And he encourages churchwide participation.

"Where the offering has become churchwide and where men have become involved, the increase has been dramatic," Parks said. "My hope is that the increased involvement in overseas projects . . . will be an eye-and heart-opening experience, and men will see the tremendous opportunities and become real promoters of the offering."

Big or small, new-work or main-line state, to reach the 1990 goal of \$86 million, Southern Baptists must once again give evidence of a growing commitment to missions. Missions leaders say it's a commitment that is more crucial than ever.

Rwanda missionaries return despite new attacks

KIGALI, Rwanda (BP) — Five Southern Baptist missionaries who left Rwanda in October because of a rebel invasion planned to return Nov. 12, despite new rebel attacks near the east African nation's border with Uganda.

The five decided to rejoin ten other Southern Baptist missionaries in Rwanda after the government declared victory over the estimated 4000 rebels Nov. 1. But new fighting broke out Nov. 3 in two districts 60 miles north of the Rwandan capital, Kigali, as more rebels crossed the border from Uganda.

The new invading force is smaller and most observers expect government troops to defeat them also, said missionary Vernon Sivage of Midland, Texas.

The returning missionaries are David and Janet Hooten of Tifton Ga.; John and Sharon Pond of Chesapeake, Va.; and Katrina Knox of Columbia. They have been living in Kenya since mid-October. They hope to resume their work in different areas in northern Rwanda, Sivage said.

The five missionaries left northern Rwanda soon after fighting began Oct.

1 near the border town of Kagitumba. The rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front advanced to within a few miles of Kigali before Rwandan government troops halted the offensive, pushed the rebels back into Uganda, and recaptured Kagitumba, about 110 miles northeast of Kigali. Kagitumba is located on one of three major trading routes between Rwanda and Uganda.

Although fighting continues in northern Rwanda, life in Kigali is returning to normal. "It's almost business as usual here," Sivage said in a phone interview. "Food is available in most of the country and gasoline is available. But the government is working off its national reserve."

No one is certain how long the unrest will last, he said. The Belgian government has told its citizens it is safe to return to Rwanda. French and Belgian paratroopers, sent by their governments to protect their citizens in Rwanda, have returned to their countries. However, a dusk-to-dawn curfew remains, public transportation is still shut down, and the U. S. Embassy has not lifted its advisory warning Americans not to travel to the country.

Jesus' power to meet needs

By Dennis P. Lunsford, pastor; Antioch Church, Humboldt

Jesus made clear His purpose for coming to the world. John records the words of Jesus like this, "My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34). Jesus expounded upon this purpose when He said, "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)."

Understanding the impact of the words of our Lord, He really was saying the Kingdom of God would be "inclusive" not "exclusive." No one would be excluded from His kingdom predicated upon the fact that a salvation experience existed. Those who are unreceptive to spiritual truth exclude themselves



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from the knowledge of God's kingdom.

This chapter finds Jesus doing two things: laying a foundation by teaching His disciples that faith comes by receiving the Word of God into an understanding heart, and putting the disciples through a series of tests to see how much they had learned.

Each person lives by faith in something or someone. The difference between the Christian believer and the unsaved person is not that one has faith and the other does not. They both have faith. The difference is in the "object of their faith." The Christian believer has put his faith in Jesus Christ. The believer bases that faith on the Word of God.

Consider His Word

Several lessons were taught by Jesus. He shared about the truth of God's Word. He stilled the storm. He taught about His true family. The im-

portance of these lessons dealt with teaching spiritual lessons. It is not enough to "hear" the Word of God; we must also "keep it" (Luke 8:15).

We are called to take heed what we hear and how we hear. Listening to the wrong things, or listening to the right things with the wrong attitude, will rob us of truth and blessing.

BIBLE BOOK
November 25 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Luke 8:1-56

The lesson taught (Luke 8:26-39) Faith must be tested before it can be trusted. It is one thing to learn a new spiritual truth, but something else to practice that truth in everyday life.

It is not a mere accident that Jesus healed the demoniac. Again, bear in mind His purpose, "to seek and save the lost." He came to minister to persons. Demons have faith, but not saving faith. They believe Jesus is the Son of God with authority to command

them. The demoniac was transformed! The demoniac kept pleading with Jesus to be allowed to travel with Him. This man found fulfillment in Christ. He wanted to worship Him forever, for worship is that to which we declare our worth. By his example, the demoniac was declaring Jesus worthy to be worshipped!

The request denied

The demoniac's request was denied, but not because he was unworthy. Jesus simply wanted the man to find joy in serving however he was commanded. In this case, the man's fulfillment would be accomplished by serving Christ at home. Jesus brought the demoniac from a life of torment to that of fulfillment.

When a lost sinner is raised from the dead (Ephesians 2:1), you can tell it by his speech, his walk, his appetite and his "change of clothes" (Colossians 3:1ff). You cannot hide life!

Ezekiel and Israel's 'shepherds'

By Carlos R. Peterson, pastor; First Church, Athens

One day Confucius was asked by one of his disciples about the ingredients of good government. His answer, "Sufficient food, sufficient weapons, and the confidence of the common people."

"But," asked the disciple, "suppose you had no choice but to dispense with one of those three, which would you forego?"

"Weapons," said Confucius. His disciple persisted: "Suppose you were then forced to dispense with one of the two that are left, which would you forego?"

Confucius replied, "Food. For from of old, hunger has been the lot of all men, but a people that no longer trusts in rulers is lost indeed."

Leadership carries with it responsibility and accountability. The responsibility is to treat those who are under



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their authority with justice and mercy. But leaders must realize they too are accountable. In essence, these two leadership characteristics are separate sides of the same coin.

In this week's lesson, we see what happens when officials abuse these two qualities of leadership and rule selfishly without regard for people or God.

God's accusation against the "shepherds" (34:1-6)

The word shepherd is used to describe the rulers of Israel who had responsibility for the care and protection of God's people. As leaders, they should have demonstrated the qualities of their Shepherd. Instead, these officials lived in luxury while neglecting the needs of the people and blatantly ignoring their pleas for help. Beyond these atrocities, the leaders ruled harshly the afflicted and helpless who needed their compassion and strength the most.

Ezekiel pronounced God's judgment

on these insensitive officers and condemned them, not because they failed to lead, but because they abused their responsibilities as servant-leaders.

CONVENTION UNIFORM
November 25 Lesson
 Basic Passage: Ezekiel 34:1-16

God's action against the "shepherds" (34:7-10)

Through a harsh pronouncement, God revealed to these self-serving rulers that they were accountable to Him: "I am against the shepherds." Their abuses were, in essence, sin against God. Now, God would remove the people from the hands of these leaders and would become their protector and care-giver Himself. These shepherds would be removed from their positions of authority and suffer the judgment of a holy and righteous God.

Leaders are extensions of God's protective power and mercy. To abuse

that responsibility is to invite God's judgment and wrath.

God's resumption as "the Shepherd" (34:11-16)

The prophet announced that God would seek out and gather His sheep once again since they had been previously scattered by the neglect of unjust rulers. God would restore His people to a place of security and provision. The Great Shepherd would care for His sheep, unlike the false shepherds who had been overcome by greed, corruption, and self-satisfaction. Once again the people of God would experience peace, safety, and provision.

Conclusion

True leaders always rise to the top especially in times of difficulty or crisis. They are like beans in a jar of peas. When you shake them up, the peas always settle to the bottom while the beans always come to the top. So it is with godly leaders. If they are responsible and accountable, they will always rise to the top.

Believing in the Son

By Marvin P. Nail, pastor; Whitsitt Chapel Church, Nashville

When a new pastor begins his ministry in a church, some awkward moments can arise when a few members seem to feel a continuing loyalty to the former pastor.

When I came to my current pastorate, I understood that the previous pastor had retired and continued to live in the community near the church. For some months after my arrival it was not uncommon for some people to ask him to perform weddings and funerals.

Finally, when he was asked to do another funeral, he insisted that I be included. At that funeral service he said to the congregation, "I was pleased to serve you as pastor for many years, but that responsibility has passed to another." At his word the people began to look to me as pastor.



NAIL

John's disciples respond to Jesus

John the Baptist was never what one would call a popular prophet, though it seemed that everyone was going out to the countryside to hear him preach and many to be baptized. He was an oddity to most of the people of the day. Like most prophets, he was really heard by very few people. But those who followed him were fiercely loyal to him and sometimes to his teachings as well.

These men saw Jesus as a rival to their leader. They saw John losing the vast crowds as people began to be attracted to Jesus. It appears some jealousy was involved in their attitude to Jesus. They saw the beginning of the eclipse of their teacher by this new rabbi who had once come to John for baptism.

We can admire the loyalty of these disciples. John was the one true prophet Judah had had in hundreds of years. They felt he was bringing the people back to God. In their eyes, Jesus had climbed onto the bandwagon and was

taking the glory that should rightfully have gone to John.

John clarifies his own role

A wise sage once said, "It takes more grace than tongue can tell to play the second fiddle well." John had told his disciples from the beginning that he was not the Christ, but merely a herald of the coming Christ. But his disciples had lost sight of that.

LIFE AND WORK
November 25 Lesson
 Basic Passage: John 3:22-36

Pastors and other Christian leaders are subject to going astray at this point. It is not unusual for Christians who have not greatly matured in the faith to put too much importance on the person who preaches or gives other kinds of Christian leadership. The wise leader will always refuse the spotlight, but will insist that Christ alone be praised and lifted up.

John describes the ministry of Jesus. Much of our testimony to Jesus is always what we think of Christ. Without a proper understanding of who Christ is, we become little more than "do-gooders" at best.

John testified that Jesus of Nazareth, his cousin, was really the Son of God who had been sent from heaven to the earth to reveal the Father in word and deed.

What John said is similar to what Simon Peter said later at Caesarea Philippi: "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God."

Importance of a right response to Christ

But knowing the right words is never enough. What we say about Christ is not as important as what we believe in our hearts about Him.

Believing or not believing literally carries life and death consequences. We do not see real life until we find that life in Jesus Christ through faith in Him.

Bethel Springs calls Green

David Green recently joined the staff of Mount Gilead Church, Bethel Springs, as pastor.

He served as pastor of Cairo Church, Alamo, for more than five years.

The Bemis native was ordained in 1985 at First Church in his hometown. He and his wife, Paula, have three daughters.

(BP) BRIEFLY

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

West Virginia Convention celebrates 20th anniversary

PARKERSBURG, W. Va. — The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists celebrated its twentieth anniversary during the annual meeting at Grace Church, Parkersburg, Nov. 2-3.

Three previous executive director-treasurers, including John I. Snedden, retired; Thomas E. Halsell, retired; and Thomas H. Kinchen, president of Florida Baptist Theological College, were featured speakers during the celebration.

The convention adopted a budget of \$1,508,309, of which 27 percent of undesignated gifts will be forwarded through the Cooperative Program unified budget for world mission causes. This represents a 0.5 percent increase over the 1990 budget allocation.

The convention passed resolutions on abortion, prayer for denominational unity, and prayer for the Middle East situation. There was little or no discussion on any of the resolutions and all were passed by a large majority.

Eddie Gandy, pastor of Westmoreland Church, Huntington, was re-elected without opposition to a second term as president.

Arkansas Baptists re-elect state convention officers

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas Baptists took their convention theme "Building God's Family" seriously as they met at Immanuel Church in Little Rock Oct. 30-31 for their 137th session. President Mike Huckabee, pastor of Beech Street Church, Texarkana, was re-elected by acclamation. Vice presidents Daniel Grant and H. E. Williams, presidents emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College, respectively, also were re-elected.

Huckabee was the catalyst behind two of the binding elements of the convention. He requested that every person who came to the platform deliver his or her conversion testimony, and those testimonies became the hallmark of the harmony demonstrated by the 1273 messengers in attendance. The other acknowledged high point was Huckabee's address, entitled "The Ten Commandments."

Another feature of the convention was an emphasis on prayer, highlighted by Esther Burroughs, assistant director of field staff for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Other speakers included William Tolar, provost of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board; Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; and Paul Sanders, pastor of Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock.

Thirteen resolutions were passed by the messengers. Among them was a resolution on the Sanctity of Human Life, which spoke not only to the rights of a pre-born baby, but against technologies to make abortion easier. The only debate came in a resolution against school-based clinics, with messenger contesting the factual accuracy of some paragraphs which he contended were "politically worded." The measure passed, but with mixed voting.

Messengers adopted a \$14,061,000 budget, a four percent increase over last year. The percentage of gifts going to Southern Baptist causes will be 41.5 percent, up .25 percent from last year.

Minnesota-Wisconsin convention elects Larry Creamer president

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Messengers to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention elected a new president, adopted a \$1,557,608 budget, and approved several resolutions during the seventh annual meeting.

The new budget, up 1.5 percent over the current budget, calls for 26 percent of all Cooperative Program unified budget receipts from the churches going to national and world mission causes, the same percentage as last year.

Minnesota-Wisconsin's convention churches are expected to contribute \$291,601 through the Cooperative Program, with other income coming from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Larry Creamer, pastor of Milton Church, Milton, Wis., and Fellowship Church, Ft. Atkinson, Wis., was elected president. Bob Phillips, a layman from Highland Crest Church, Green Bay, Wis., was elected first vice president, and Bob Edwards, pastor of New Hope Chapel, Minneapolis, was elected second vice president.

After debate, messengers adopted a resolution encouraging a one-year boycott of Minneapolis-based Dayton Hudson stores due to their financial contributions to Planned Parenthood. The resolution further encouraged Southern Baptists "to become involved in the long-term war on abortion."

Porter calls for God's love in believers

WAKE FOREST, N. C. — "The Bible says if you say you love God and you hate your brother, you are a liar," said Nathan Porter to a Missionary Day audience at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Christianity "stands by the side of those who are hurt to share their despair, fear, embarrassment, shame, blame, and hopelessness; just as Jesus did for us," said Porter, assistant director of church and community ministries department at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

America bears the burden of more than 62 million people hovering near the poverty line, struggling to provide life's essentials for themselves and their families, Porter said.

"One out of five children that reach the age of 18 is a functional illiterate who is unable to fill out a job application, read the want ads, read John 3:16, or read those witnessing tracts we believe so many people are helped by reading," Porter said.

Sociologist predicts shift away from local congregations

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Christians increasingly will look beyond their local congregations to fulfill their spiritual yearnings, predicted a sociologist of American religion.

Robert Wuthnow, professor of sociology at Princeton (N.J.) University, told a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary conference that "a variety of

options" will confront Christians in the 21st Century.

Wuthnow addressed a conference on "The Church as Community: Being the People of God." The conference was sponsored by the seminary's Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church and funded with a grant from Pew Charitable Trust in Philadelphia.

"Religious knowledge can be sought

in the college classroom, or if not there, in the pages of any of the hundreds of religious magazines and books available through the mail or a local religious book store," he said. "Emotional support can be sought at the counseling center and through twelve-step groups. For inspiration, put some religious music on the CD-player. For an angry prophetic voice, turn on religious television."

While the church may remain the primary place of community for "a core of active laity," others will treat the church as only a "referral service," said Wuthnow.

Intimate fellowship is more likely to be found in smaller groups such as singles and young married ministries, choirs and other special interest groups, he said.

"The church as a whole has been strengthened by these groups, and, thus far, managed fairly well to serve as a kind of a clearinghouse for them," said Wuthnow. He added, however, that the groups may not always benefit congregations: "Increasingly, people start house churches that have no official denominational connection, seek spiritual direction at centers operated separately from local churches, and pray the Lord's Prayer at twelve-step groups to their 'higher power.'"

The training of children, he said, will be "the greatest gap" left by these alternative forms of religious community: "It is little wonder, therefore, that those concerned most about the survival of the church have turned much of their attention toward the family and toward other agencies of socialization such as schools and

television. Should the congregation be replaced by the shopping mall and the soap opera, we might well fear for the survival of both the church and our culture itself."

Another speaker, theologian Langdon Gilkey, stressed the church must be devoted to the Biblical Gospel, its ethical mission and personal piety.

Churches must make the Biblical message relevant to the modern world, said Gilkey. Shailer Matthews professor of theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School. The church, he said, should engage in a "reflective effort to understand our Biblical truth and its past interpretations in relation to the major viewpoints and 'truths' by which we in modern, scientific, psychological, and political culture live out our lives."

"Any church that ignores this task does not save its Biblical message, for it has no way of bringing that message into the world which we actually inhabit," he observed.

Gilkey commended churches involved in the struggle for social justice. Yet, sin affects both social structures and the personal lives of people within them, he said, adding that sin takes on such forms as "sexual abuse and irresponsibility, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence — leading to broken homes, lost individuals, and deserted and maimed children."

In response to these problems, the church should function as a "refuge from the deadly storm, a community that recognizes, accepts, and takes these crises into itself," he said.

Baptist Beliefs

By Herschel Hobbs

Election

"He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world." — Ephesians 1:4

An old preacher explained the doctrine of election thus. "God and the devil held an election to see whether you went to heaven or hell. God voted for you to go to heaven. The devil voted for you to go to hell. It is a tie vote. You must cast the deciding vote." Not bad!

"Hath chosen" translates *exelextato* whence comes "election." Note that we are elected "in Him" or Christ. Some see this to mean that God has elected certain people to be saved, to the neglect of all others. This is contrary to God's nature. His purpose is to save as many, not as few, as He can. Furthermore, if this view of election be



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true, then the many invitations to believe in Jesus are without meaning.

Ephesians is Paul's great treatment of election. He says that God has elected a plan of salvation (ch. 1-2) and a people to propagate the plan (ch. 3-6). But He left each person free to choose both the plan and being a part of the people to propagate the plan.

Those who reject the plan will spend eternity in hell.

Those who accept the plan but refuse to propagate the plan will be "saved, yet so as by fire" (1 Corinthians 3:15). This depicts a person barely escaping a burning building, but his possessions are destroyed by the fire. The Christian's possessions are his works. Degrees of reward and glory in heaven will be determined by his works which endure.

Are your works "wood, hay, stubble" or "gold, silver, precious stones?" (1 Corinthians 3:12). Only the latter can stand the test of fire.