

■ **this week's news**

national —

- Louisiana convention votes to exclude churches sympathetic to homosexuality. — See page 10
- Georgia Baptists have peaceful convention. — See page 8
- Kentucky messengers elect bivocational pastor as president. — See page 9.

state —

- In president's address in Gatlinburg, Ron Phillips calls for unity. — See page 3
- Knoxville Jack Prince preaches convention sermon. — See page 6
- Photo highlights from Gatlinburg. — See page 7

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

900-00410-0127
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Historical Commission, 900
Commerce Street, Nashville, Tennessee

Committees process to be studied

Record attendance marks orderly convention

By Wm. Fletcher Allen

GATLINBURG — Tennessee Baptists' worst fears of leaving this eastern mountain resort city with convention affairs in disarray did not come true.

The 118th annual session held here Nov. 17-18 ended with a record enrollment of 22,799, successfully voted a challenged 1992-93 budget of \$27.1 million, and overwhelmingly passed resolutions against state-sponsored lotteries, abortion, and homosexuality.

During the two-day meeting messengers also approved a motion to initiate a committee to study the election processes for the Executive Committee, the committees on committees and boards, and other elections.

Martha Grove, director of accounting for the Tennessee Baptist Convention was honored for her upcoming Dec. 31 retirement after 42 years as a TBC employee. She will stay for an interim period.

James Porch, who took office Nov. 1 as executive director, reported to his first convention.

In a three-way presidential election, Hendersonville pastor Leonard Markham won over two other pastors, Jerry Sutton, Nashville; and Larry Gilmore, Gallatin. Markham defeated Sutton in a runoff. Other officers elected include John Holland, Knoxville, vice president; and Marvin Cameron, Gatlinburg, second vice

president.

Markham is pastor of Bluegrass Church, Sutton is at Two Rivers, and Gilmore at College Heights.

In many ways, the Gatlinburg meeting was a watershed convention for Tennessee Baptists. A potential brouhaha was avoided however by the presiding decorum of President Ron Phillips and cooperative messengers.

Even a successful challenge to an Executive Board nominee was handled adroitly and without rancor, as messengers upheld by a slender margin (19 votes) the floor nomination of Kevin Goza, Woodbury, named to replace Paul Durham, Nashville, who had been off the board a year.

The record attendance surpassed the previous high of 20,288, also in East Tennessee, at Central Church, Bearden, Knoxville, in 1989.

There were at least two other reasons for good attendance: a budget recommendation which reduced Harrison-Chilhowee Academy's allocation by 35 percent, a rumored move to give appointive powers to the convention presidency, and the potentially volatile issue of the election process for most TBC committees and boards.

William (Bill) Palmer, president of the 94-student Baptist high school in Seymour, made a motion in the opening session, to amend the proposed TBC budget.



ELECTED AS CONVENTION officers in Gatlinburg were, from left, Marvin Cameron, pastor, First Church, Gatlinburg, second vice president; John Holland, pastor, Salem Church, Knoxville, first vice president; and Leonard Markham, Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, president. — Photo by Wm. Fletcher Allen

His motion would have reduced the HCBA budget by the equivalent six percent cut for Belmont and Union universities and Carson-Newman College.

Bill Wilson, director of the TBC Convention Ministries Division, and David George, chairman of the Education Committee, Executive Board, explained the reduction rationale. They pointed to the small number of students and urged school officials to increase tuition and more endowment.

Palmer and several others spoke of the worldwide impact HCBA graduates have since many are from foreign nations. He also emphasized the Christian education the students gain.

Guy Milam, HCBA graduate who is now a pastor, reminded messengers that there was a \$2.5 million shortfall in the 1992 budget. He said it "would be dishonest to approve a budget that is unreal."

Messengers voted by ballot on Palmer's amendment, which failed by 873 to 621. The school will receive \$326,048. President Palmer said a committee is studying the financial situation.

The resolutions committee brought a three-pronged statement concerning President-elect Bill Clinton's views on homosexuality and abortion, a commendation for the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission,

and a caution to Tennessee Baptists to pray for the new administration's decisions and leadership on the issues, and to "pay careful attention" to those decisions.

There was no visible opposition to the resolution. The convention president was instruct-

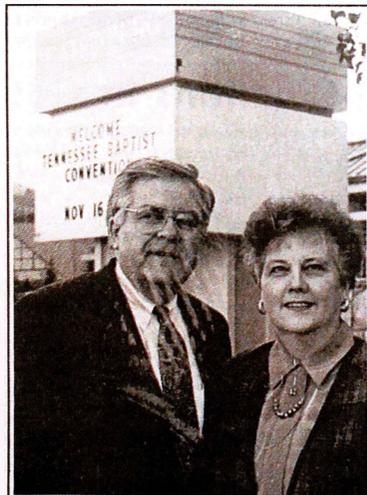
Elections

Run-off for president	
Leonard Markham	55.26%
Jerry Sutton	44.74%
Run-off for first vice president	
John Holland	50.99%
Tim Floyd	49.01%
Run-off for second vice president	
Marvin Cameron	71.77%
Bill Bargiolo	28.23%

ed to verbalize the concerns by letter to Clinton.

Another major resolution passed without opposition stated Tennessee Baptists' stance against state-sponsored lotteries. Introduced by Bill Bates of Jackson, immediate past TBC president, the resolution asks Tennessee Baptists "to urge state government leaders to work for responsible financial policies" which would make lotteries less enticing.

Some Tennesseans already — See Record, page 2



JAMES PORCH and his wife, Lynn, stand outside the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The Nov. 17-18 meeting marked Porch's first convention as executive director. He succeeded D. L. Lowrie on Nov. 1. Porch was formerly pastor of First Church, Tullahoma.

■ Wm. Fletcher Allen - editor.

■ **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 51 copies. Family or individual subscription - \$7.50, clubs of ten or more subscriptions - \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) - \$7.50. Send check/money order to address listed below.

■ **To contribute a news item**, call or write Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.

■ **To advertise** - Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor.

■ **For billing and subscription list questions** - Betty Williams, bookkeeper.

■ **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition - Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary.

■ **For information about local church edition** - Connie Umstead, news assistant/church pages coordinator.

■ **For production answers** - Mary Nimmo, production assistant.

PUBLISHER - Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. Board of directors - Gary Anderson, vice chairman; Mickey Basham, Wendell Boertje, David George, Gary Gerhardt, Don Givens, M. B. Howard, John Langlois, Joe Littlefield, Leonard Markham, Earl McCosh, Paul Moody, Clint Oakley, Howard Olive, Ron Phillips, Frank Samuels, Bobby Turner, and Emerson Wiles Jr.

OFFICE - Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027. Mailing address - P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. Phone - (615) 371-2003. FAX - (615) 371-2014.

MEMBERSHIPS - Southern Baptist Press Association
POSTMASTER -

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

■ Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780). □

Printed on recycled paper

Record attendance marks orderly convention

- Continued from page 1

show active interest in neighboring Kentucky's state lottery and other gambling action.

Lloyd Bardowell, pastor of First Church Rivergate, Hendersonville, made the motion for the new study committee.

His motion asked the president to appoint a nine-member committee to study methods for electing the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards. The motion also called for balance for associations, and that recommendations be published at least a month prior to the 1993 state convention when a vote would be taken.

Bardowell said the committee should report at that meeting even if the report was not completed.

Raymond Boston, pastor of First Church, Dyersburg, opposed the motion, saying it now takes 602 persons to fill all boards and committees. "Currently there are 28 persons with less than two years on the Executive Board," he said.

"The main problem we have," Boston added, "is finding people with a servant heart who will complete the terms."

With little debate, the motion passed by a substantial margin.

President Phillips said he would be fair in naming the committee, and would "sit down with the executive director."

He added later as more suggestions about the process came

in a miscellaneous business session, that these could be studied also.

On Wednesday afternoon, Phillips reported the committee makeup, selecting three men from each state division:

West: Jackie Kay, Bartlett Church, Memphis; Wayne Allen, Briarwood, Memphis; Raymond Boston, First, Dyersburg.

Middle: Ken Altom, First Cookeville; Ralph McIntyre, retired, Nashville; Lloyd Bardowell.

East: James McCluskey, Wallace Memorial, Knoxville; Fred Steelman, Red Bank, Chattanooga; Tommy Futrell, Southside, Johnson City.

Phillips named Steelman as chairman, and added to the committee James Porch, TBC executive director; Leonard Markham, new TBC president; and himself.

Porch remarked to the body that the committee selection process was a good method for the most part, but that it had been a divisive issue for years.

"It is time for healing and decision," he said, adding that Phillips' spirit of openness had helped greatly.

Encouraging Tennessee Baptists to pray for the study, he said, "It's time for Tennessee Baptists to be a model for America and get to God's work."

Messenger Diane Jordan from Talbot and member of the

Executive Board, reminded Phillips that the entire committee was comprised of pastors and that women were also excluded. She urged the committee to be fair toward the laity in the study.

Other officers elected included John Holland, Knoxville, over Tim Floyd, Columbia, first vice president; Marvin Cameron, Gatlinburg, second vice president, over four others; Wallace Anderson, Brentwood, re-elected recording and statistical secretary; and Dan Ferrell, Brentwood, named registration secretary after serving on an interim basis. Porch was re-elected treasurer.

In his message on unity, the convention president reminded messengers of the lesson from Scotland's past.

The clans never got together in the fight for freedom, he said. "They still brag about their clans and tartans, but they are still vassals.

"God wants to see demons crying out when the church in unity does his work," he said.

"Unity always precedes anointing. God always opens the windows of heaven when that happens. We must not brag about our little groups, making little plans."

The two-day convention was a mixture of concerned interest, desire for change, and determined commitment. While the meeting hall was spacious, there was some difficulty in

lighting and sound.

Other events of the session: ■ Superb music by instrumentalists, choirs, and leaders, including specialists.

■ Outstanding reports from TBC ministries of the Baptist Center, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Carson-Newman (also representing Belmont University and Union University), Harrison-Chilhowee Academy, the Executive Board, Committee on Boards, Committee on Committees, and the convention sermon by Jack Prince, Knoxville.

Reports on these and other events are elsewhere in this edition.

The convention meets next year Nov. 16-18 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville. Joel Snider, pastor of Crievewood Church, Nashville is speaker, with Two Rivers' pastor Jerry Sutton as alternate.

The 1992-93 TBC budget of \$27,159,322, was passed without discussion except for the failed amendment on Harrison-Chilhowee. The budget is four percent less than the 1991-92 budget of \$28.2 (which was increased by messengers in an effort to equalize funding for the colleges).

Cooperative Program receipts will be distributed 62.5 through the TBC and 37.5 through the SBC. □

Next meeting Dec. 10

Samuels elected Executive Board president

GATLINBURG - The Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, met twice here during the annual session of the convention Nov. 17-18 to elect officers for the coming year, to welcome newly elected board members, and to act on several related matters.

In the Wednesday meeting which convened after the convention's afternoon business, Frank Samuels was elected Executive Board president. Samuels, pastor of Southland Church, Memphis, is in the middle of a second three-year term. He was the leading vote-getter in the first vote, topping two other Memphis pastors, Joe Littlefield, White Station, and Howard Kolb, veteran Tennessee Baptist pastor who is now retired.

Samuels defeated Littlefield in a runoff since no one had a majority in the first vote.

David Crocker, pastor of Central Church, Johnson City, was elected vice president over Tim Floyd, pastor of First Church, Columbia. Laurann Whetham, business woman

from Luttrell, was unanimously elected secretary of the board. Crocker was nominated by Wendell Boertje and Jerry Sutton nominated Floyd.

In the presidential election, Littlefield was nominated by Bobby Turner, Knoxville; Samuels by Guy Milam, Maryville; and Kolb by Gary Watkins, Collierville.

In nominating Samuels, Milam quoted from a letter mailed to all board members by member James McCluskey,

deploring organized pre-meeting efforts for particular candidates. In the letter he had proposed a non-aligned and then undetermined candidate who could be supported by everyone. He said McCluskey had agreed with the Samuels nomination.

In other business Wednesday, the board welcomed new members and announced December orientation. Officers will name a nominations committee to organize the board

prior to the Dec. 10-11 meeting in Brentwood. Executive Director James Porch told board members he is planning a prayer retreat for the first day.

Board members' assignments to committees will be announced in December.

At the pre-convention meeting Nov. 16, Porch reported on Tennessee Baptist volunteers' work in Florida and the close-out of the 1992 TBC budget. □

Other TBC actions in Gatlinburg

■ Committees are due appreciation. Credentials led by Kenny Cooper, Bellevue Church, Nashville, dealt effectively with eight ballots. And convention arrangements, led by Archie King, retired Brotherhood director, managed time adjustments efficiently when necessary.

■ In a move to give more reporting time to the colleges, Carson-Newman College was responsible at this convention. President Cordell Maddox reported and several CNC stu-

dents gave brief but dramatic testimonies. Belmont University will report next year in Nashville, and Union University in 1994 in Memphis. Harrison-Chilhowee students reported on the school's influence in their lives.

■ Church Programs Division used its program time to recognize "choice people" for accomplishments in service at the local level. Twelve finalists were nominated from among many nominees. Convention Ministries

Division also gave effective reports, utilizing video and personal representations.

■ Executive Director James Porch used his first report time to share his personal pilgrimage with messengers. He took office Nov. 1.

■ Messengers approved several minor TBC bylaw changes involving officers of standing committees. Several constitutional changes were approved at first reading. □



PASTORS' CONFERENCE president Don Long claps after giving the gavel to new president Carl Scarlett, Miracle Church, Lavergne, while vice president Glen Denton, Hillcrest Church, Lebanon, watches.

SBC PRESIDENT Ed Young told about 500 pastors attending the Pastors' Conference to re-evaluate methods of church work. — Photo by Connie Davis



Change methods, declares Ed Young

SBC President Ed Young questioned the way Southern Baptists are "doing church today" in his address to the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 16.

After an introduction by former three-term SBC President and Tennessean Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova, Young proposed one measure of church effectiveness is growth.

"Our message is immutable and must not change, but our method must change," he stated.

One defeating method is the committee-led church, said Young, who is pastor of Second Church, Houston.

"I've never known of a church any where, any time

Committee-led churches don't grow — Young

that was committee-led that grew." Rather than a democracy or monarchy, the church is a theocracy, he suggested.

Another inhibiting method is negative preaching, counseled Young. Rather than "blister them," pastors should present the "whole counsel of God," including grace, love, and reconciliation, he detailed.

Fear of debt also stymies church growth, said Young. Churches which wait for financial liquidity have discovered the "momentum swept by them," he said.

Church staffs must use time wisely to foster growth, Young

offered. That time can't be spent nurturing a small number of needy people who populate most churches, he described.

The staff also should be accountable to the entire church — populated by God's chosen members — rather than a church committee made up of only a few of those members.

Solutions are risk-taking and innovation, he proposed. A Super Bowl service and support group for AIDS victims are examples he cited.

Finally, tested theology must be presented at church, he said. Kierkegaard, the Danish theologian of the mid-1800's, described a leap of faith which Young questioned. "We get instructions from Him (God) in exactly how we're to exercise the faith."

Young said he also disagrees with those who believe a person can receive salvation at any time.

He warned the pastors to guard their persona, which criticism erodes.

Pastors should examine themselves while considering the fact that two personality types form three professions — lawyers, teachers and preachers. The personality types are philosophers and prophets.

"More and more as the years take their toll we play it safe and become philosophers. How do we keep from losing heart in the local church?" The answer is found, he concluded in "the simple fact that we know that he's (God's) with us." — Connie Davis □

Phillips discusses disunity

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

Tennessee Baptists are in agreement on the issues that matter, Ron Phillips told messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Thus, they can be unified if they choose to be, the convention president directed the record-breaking crowd Tuesday evening.

"Tennessee Baptists must get together if we are going to have the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit," proclaimed Phillips, pastor, Central Church, Hixson.

Evidences of lack of unity abound, said Phillips. But first he cited commonalities.

Most members of the convention, including those of the moderate and conservative camp, "do stand against the same things and stand for the same things."

He enumerated stances against abortion, liquor, substance abuse, and gambling as those which unify Baptists.

"We get together on the right moral issues," Phillips noted.

In the theological arena most Baptists also agree, he suggested.

Most embrace the *Baptist Faith and Message* as their confession and its authoritative view of the Scripture, said Phillips.

But Tennessee Baptists, just like the nation of Israel when

David was king, aren't unified, Phillips continued.

The process of unifying the nation of Israel was protracted, he described, because members of the tribes had substantial differences. Yet, the people grasped a national defense and offense for the common good.

David directed the Israelites to their high priest, said Phillips, noting parallels between the duties and symbolism of dress of Israel's high priest and Jesus, the high priest of this age.

Then he issued an ultimatum. If Tennessee Baptists are "satisfied with jockeying for position in the halls of this convention" they will not impact the state as God has planned.

"Unless we repent of our ill-will toward one another (which is) without any cause, don't expect God's power to fall on us."

Those who are found "bragging about our little groups, our little agendas," he said, will be judged by God.

He testified of God's power by referring to a legal suit against his church resulting from the conviction of a former

member of his staff for sexual misconduct last year.

He saw "God's anointing fall" on his church and believes it can happen to any church, he affirmed.

Messengers should be ashamed if they "count business more important than meeting with God," he accused.

The result of our worship — ministry — is the reason Baptists got together "in the first place."

God's work doesn't depend on "who gets to be this or who gets to be that, but on what we're willing to do" said Phillips.

"I want to tell you the truth tonight. We ain't never going to agree on everything."

Phillips said God warned him three years ago. "You can stand for what's right, but if you can't do it and keep your heart right, I'm going to take the power from you."

"It's time and past time we were empowered."

"It's time for the walls to fall and for us to join hands and go about the business" of reaching others — "red, yellow, or black or white. ... It's time for us together to get the job done." □

President's message

Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Church, Hixson



'Unless we repent of our ill-will toward one another (which is) without cause, don't expect God's power to fall on us.'

Markham, Holland, Cameron elected to 1992-93 offices of convention

Leonard Markham was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention by a 55.26 percent margin in a run-off election against Jerry Sutton.

Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville, was nominated by Ken Hubbard, pastor, First Church, Smyrna. Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova, pre-

Markham is 'quiet, steady voice' representing 'historic Baptist' traditions — Hubbard

sented Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

The two pastors faced a third pastor, Larry Gilmore, pastor, Colledge Heights Church, Gallatin, 1991 president of the Pastors' Conference.

A closer run-off for first vice

president was decided by 50.98 percent cast for John Holland, pastor, Salem Church, Knoxville. Also elected were Tim Floyd, pastor, First Church, Columbia, who faced Holland in the run-off, and Terry Baker, minister of education, First Church, Sweetwater.

Holland was nominated by Hershel Chevallier, pastor, Cumberland Church, Knoxville. Floyd was presented by Ken Polk, pastor, Northside Church, Murfreesboro.

Elected second vice president was Marvin Cameron, pastor, First Church, Gatlinburg, host city of the convention. He ran against Bill Bargioli, director of missions, Big Emory Association, in a run-off. Others nominated for the office were layman Willard Chandler, McMoresville Church, McMoresville; and pastors Ken Clayton, Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, and Mike Winters, Walnut Hill Church, Harriman.

Categories of qualifications

for president cited by the nominators were similar.

According to Hubbard, Markham was a "quiet, steady voice" he contrasted with more "spectacular" possible nominees. He represents the "historic Baptist" traditions, he noted. Hubbard added Markham is a native of the state who has led his church to give 11 percent to the Cooperative Program and adopt a \$2 million building program recently.

Rogers, in nominating Sutton, detailed his character, cooperation, conviction, and competency as qualifications. Sutton is "conservative but not mean about it," Rogers added. Two Rivers gives 10 percent to the CP and is subsidizing a \$11 million building program, he said. Sutton is a member of the Sunday School Board and the TBC Executive Board, he added.

A total of 1622 ballots were cast in the first election for president and 1607 in the run-off. — Connie Davis □

■ about letters to the editor

- Make it concise, no more than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length.
- Name may be withheld for sufficient reason. Include address and phone number
- Avoid personal attacks on the character or integrity of anyone.
- Send original copy. Form letters and "open" letters will not be published.
- Only one letter in a three-months period per writer will be published
- If letter does not conform, it will be returned.
- Opinions and ideas expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the **Baptist and Reflector** and its staff. □

Three letters in this week's issue are devoted to Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated this week, and these writers expressed gratitude. —Editor

Gift from God

Our daughter has been a most precious gift to us. She came in the years of our youth during the depression. We lived with my mother when she was born and my mother had a great part in saving our daughter's life.

When Pat came into the world the doctor said she breathed about five or six times then her heart stopped. The cord had tightened around her neck cutting off circulation. In a few minutes she would have been still-born.

Her doctor had studied the new drug adrenalin. He called the druggist to rush adrenalin as quickly as possible. Dr. Moody gave her heart a shot of the new drug restoring her circulation and heart beat. My mother and the nurse packed her in cotton saturated with warm oil. Her doctor said she could live an hour, a week, or a life time. A few weeks later a doctor in a large city was featured in a special newspaper article for saving the life of another baby as the doctor had saved our daughter.

We thank God every day for our daughter he gave us in

our youth to help us during our elderly years of failing health. She is a joy.

She now is a retired teacher having served 32 years as an elementary teacher. She is God's special gift for service.

Ray and Doris Sorrell
Kingsport 37663

Thanks for influence

I came in contact with Miss Mary as a teenager on my first trip away from home. I was at a "GA Houseparty" in Murfreesboro at the Tennessee Baptist College for Women. Afterwards, I was supposed to catch a train and visit my cousins in Tullahoma. As a scared and insecure young lady, I wondered how I would find my way to the station and train.

All of a sudden, Miss Mary picked up my suitcase and said, "Come on, I'll see that you get on the right train."

That "GA Houseparty" brings back beautiful memories.

Missions was so very real and exciting that I just knew someday I would be in Africa telling about Jesus.

Life went on and I grew up. I married and had my family, taught Sunday School, went to WMU, and worked giving book reviews and being a homemaker.

Later Miss Mary came back to Clarksville as retired executive secretary of the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union. She had completed 30 years of service.

Clarksville women were so excited and we persuaded her to be associational director of Cumberland Baptist WMU. This former GA girl was by now an associational GA leader.

The time came after 11 years for this dear lady to give up the reins and she felt that I was the one who should be next in line. I believed

with all my heart that I just couldn't do this job. It was too big for me - I was scared and she said, "Pray, pray about it. Pray earnestly and hard." I prayed - I felt God leading me to accept but I couldn't surrender. Fear of the job was holding me back but I finally agreed.

How can I really describe this great woman who put God first in her life always! I give thanks for her life which was a wonderful blessing for Tennessee Baptist women.

Miss Mary Northington holds a loving place in my heart and all Baptist women she worked among - a beautiful example of love. We miss her but it is heaven's gain. She is still part of my life and the memories are precious.

Evelyn Bryant Terrell
Clarksville 37043

Blessings

November days are here once more with golden grain and nuts in store. Rainy days and cloudy nights. But still the autumn days are bright.

Thanksgiving days will soon be here without a doubt for us to fear. Just close your eyes without a sigh; be thankful friends that God reigns on high.

Be thankful friends that you are strong, so you can help the weary on. Be thankful for the deeds you've done. The food you eat and the hearts you have won.

Please be thankful on Thanksgiving Day that's what its for. You can hear all say, "No day to be sad just a day to be glad."

Thanksgiving Day comes but once a year and there are only a few days so dear.

If you do what's right, then thankful be, that you exist in a free country.

Lura Mae Robinson
Woodbury 37190

Commends stance

We want to commend James

Dobson for his stand against the Madonna book. It certainly is outrageous. We feel that Christians should rally behind organizations such as Morality in Media. Our nation is drowning in a tide of sex and violence. Christians should protest. Hopefully, Southern Baptists will sever all ties with R. R. Donnelley Publishing as soon as possible.

Mrs. Sam McLemore
Eads 38028

Lauds CLC

I wish to express my support of Richard Land, director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, and his statements that appeared in the *Nashville Banner* on Nov. 12. I was encouraged as a pastor to read the statements that Dr. Land made concerning President-elect Clinton and the critical moral issues we face.

In my opinion, Dr. Land has and is doing an outstanding job in representing Southern Baptists and not hesitating to

speak out especially on issues concerning abortion and homosexuality.

May God bless Richard Land and enable him to "keep on keeping on" in this vital ministry.

Terry Wilkerson, pastor
Rayon City Church
Old Hickory 37138

Who's at fault?

How long will we as God's people blame the government for our failures?

Good morals cannot be legislated. They must come from God. Until we reach out and truly pray for people that offend us how can we expect them to change?

Any disobedience is sin in the sight of God.

God loves all people and so must we. Pray, Christians, pray! The fields are white and ready to harvest.

Mildred Bramlett
Old Fort 37362



FIRST CHURCH, JAMESTOWN, recently celebrated Lucille Hatfield Day in honor of Hatfield who has served as church clerk for more than 30 years. She also has been active in Woman's Missionary Union at the state and association levels. Sharing in the celebration are, from left, Herbert Gabhart, Belmont University; Hatfield, Pastor Barry Ellis, and Gerald Huddleston, Sunday School director.

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



November -

- 26 - It's Thanksgiving today in the hearts of our missionaries who are in Chile - many of them far away from their families. Ask the Lord to abundantly bless them today, and remove any feelings of loneliness or sense of separation. Pause today to express your thankfulness to our Father for our missionaries and the tasks He leads them to accomplish.
- 27 - Today is the birthday of missionary Carol Hawkins, home evangelist. Pray joy and peace for her today as she is beginning her missionary service.
- 28 - Pray that as MKs (missionary kids) live on foreign fields and grow older, and become more aware of drugs and other temptations, the Lord will allow them to have good friends who will help them to be strong in the Lord as they face so much peer pressure.
- 29 - Today is graduation day at the Theological Institute in Temuco. Missionary Mike Racey is director. Pray for the graduating students - that this time of preparation will pay valuable dividends throughout their future as they serve the Lord.
- 30 - Pray for Travis Racey, MK in Temuco, who suffers with severe asthma.



LEADING SALEM ASSOCIATION during their annual meeting were, from left, first row, Ric Lee, outgoing moderator; Charles Olson, assistant clerk; Don Mathis, moderator; second row, Bill Robertson and Tom Bastin, trustees; and Kevin Goza, clerk.

If winter comes, can spring be far behind?

Last week's Tennessee Baptist Convention in Gatlinburg was a watershed meeting in many ways.

Thanksgiving came a week early, or at least all Tennessee Baptists can express deep gratitude for answered prayer. There were many possibilities for a chaotic meeting. Dire predictions set the stage for unpleasant results.

Not so. The essence of the two-day session can be expressed in simple words. Tennessee Baptists found ways to avoid divisive conduct, and the result was agreement and cooperation. Spring may be on the way.

We still have problems. All is not sweetness and light. There is yet some skillful skating to be done, and hard decisions to be made. But big steps have been taken.

There is an old saying, "Where there's a will there is a way." But this convention was more than that. Whatever the reason, Tennessee Baptists decided it was time to work together rather than continue going several different ways.

Watershed meeting? Yes, we believe that is true. We must exploit the positive steps with a definitive will to succeed.

Some may ask the question, "Did anything important happen in Gatlinburg last week?" King George III, perhaps in a time

of boredom, wrote in his diary for July 4, 1776, that "nothing important happened today." He underestimated events in Philadelphia that day. Something important did happen. What about Gatlinburg?

Airing concerns in the paper may have helped make the watershed convention.

Registration of 2279 messengers eclipsed the 1989 mark of 2028, and barely fell short of 2300 predicted by this paper.

The appointment of a study group to analyze the committees and boards election process temporarily defused constant bickering about disparity and repetition. Discussion of the motion demonstrated desire for a solution and willingness to work for it. The committee, headed by Fred Steelman, Red Bank First pastor, who long has been a TBC leader, will be under close scrutiny.

The parity represented by fairness will determine whether cooperation and peace continue. It is very possible, and prayer for this important study is vital.

Ron Phillips, in announcing the committee, asked for prayer and cooperation. The twelve-member group should have included lay representation, including women, but Phillips said laity would be considered in ongoing deliberations.

There were mixed feelings about the

budget cut of 35 percent for Harrison-Chilhowee Academy. Emotions had been boiling since September when the Executive Board announced the recommendation. Phillips skillfully guided messengers through an intense but helpful discussion. With study and innovation, trustees and administrators can lead the school in advance rather than retreat. The \$27.1 million TBC budget was approved. Last year's increase of \$2 million voted by amendment at the annual meeting proved to be a burden rather than a blessing.

The convention sermon by Jack Prince and Phillips' presidential message of reconciliation were high points.

Why do these and other actions add up to make this a watershed convention?

We see a new spirit of cooperation among Tennessee Baptists, a desire for reconciliation, and a commitment to service.

There seemed to be less than usual maneuvering at the meeting place. Change is coming, with a new executive director, a new group of Executive Board leaders and members, and new convention officers. The breath of change can be refreshing. This study committee can help provide healing with equity.

There is work ahead for Tennessee Baptists. Now is the time to forge ahead in the Savior's Name. □

■ one
word more
By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Power in the folder

For more than three decades I have watched the modernization of mechanics involved in my "trade."

More than that, I have been a part of that amazing growth. Entering the world of printing and journalism before it became my chosen profession, I learned that plateaus mean stagnation.

The linotype machines with the Rube Goldberg look, the type trays, the stone for make-up, the Addressograph plates — they were all part of it too.

Now we are really in a modern age. I am putting together these thoughts and words — straight from the mind and heart onto a page template. No typewriter, no cutting and pasting, I am composing on a Macintosh Powerbook 140.

While my typewriter is still one of my best friends, my new pal can accompany me on any trip — and it can store the input until I reach the office and the trusty laser printer. Our staff can produce entire pages, with headlines and photos ready, to take to the printing press.

I don't understand it. A better example of this manmade convenience can be found in the Bible. God-breathed, those words I'm thinking about tell how God has our names in his Great Book. Turning away from him can cause my name to be erased.

Furthermore, there is hope for each of us because God is a god of the second chance. His offer of salvation still stands.

My Mac has "folders" in which I can place items to be used at a later time. I have many choices of tools.

My folder in God's Book also has tools and choices. I am told that no temptation, no matter how great, is without a way to escape.

The folder is accessible to me. I can choose to pull out that method of escape when I'm tempted. I can follow the directions, and escape.

There are other things in God's folder bearing my name.

There is grace, mercy, love, peace, justice, salvation.

My account is current, and it bears the word "justified." □



ALLEN

By Wm.
Fletcher
Allen,
editor

■ just for today

By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Start with a smile —

A small boy ran into a drug store. "My father's slipped from the ladder and is hanging by his pants from the roof." The clerk asked, "What can I do about it?" The boy replied, "You can put a new roll of film in my camera."

Take this truth with you —

Certain things in life are priorities. They should receive first place in our scale of values. Do you have all of your priorities in proper perspective? Why not take two or three minutes before you start today and list what the most important things are for you to do? You might be surprised! It might change your whole day and start a new way of life for you!

Memorize this Scripture —

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Pray this Prayer —

Lord, help me today to be wise in deciding what things I should do and should not do. Give me wisdom and guide me that I may do the most important things first. □

WMU hears Parks, elects new president

GATLINBURG — Tennessee's Woman's Missionary Union last week in convention honored outgoing president Carol Pharris, held a prayer retreat, elected new officers, and heard retired Foreign Mission Board president Keith Parks.

The Baptist women's group elected Ruth McNabb of Elizabethton as president and Faye Cox recording secretary.

Three vice presidents were named: Martha Haynes, Ripley; Thelma Grace, Greenbrier; and Shelby Lord, Lenoir City.

Parks, who retired last month, spoke during a dinner meeting of missions emphasis. The extravaganza presented 30 Baptists, most from Tennessee, telling their missions involvement during the meal.

"Have you wondered why you were not born in Somalia, Afghanistan, or Indonesia?," Parks asked.

"Why are we living in this time and this place? We are living at the greatest time to share the Gospel," he said.

"People will read 50 years from now about the cataclysmic changes of our time," he added. "And all of it happened because of God's power and timing."

"Walls fell, governments changed because of his power.

"God does not want any to perish," he said. "Only 34 per-

cent of our people list their name as Christian. And that includes all the Catholics and Southern Baptists. We may have 15 million born again Southern Baptists — but if we do, break out the smelling salts," he said, "that's generous."

The 34 percent includes much of the world's wealth, Parks said. Forty percent of the world population has access to the Gospel while 26 percent do not have a chance to hear it at all.

Unless something drastic happens, he added, they never will. If it is God's will that none should perish, why hasn't God done something?, he asked. God has done some-

thing, Parks said, "He has sent us, after he sent Jesus."

From Romans 15 Parks drew three destinations to which God sends: to places where the Gospel has never been preached, from where we are, to help others go, and to our own prayer "closets."

First Church, Gatlinburg, was filled for the afternoon prayer emphasis. The other sessions were held at the Convention Center.

The new WMU president is a member of Unaka Church, Watauga Association. She is active in the church and association. As state WMU president, McNabb will serve as an ex-member of the TBC Executive Board. □



KEITH PARKS, retired Foreign Mission Board president, was guest speaker for the Missions Extravaganza to conclude the Woman's Missionary Union meeting Nov. 16 in Gatlinburg. Mills Auditorium was packed with more than 600 for the missions emphasis. Katharine Bryan, left, and Carol Pharris, WMU leaders, stand with Parks.

Keep hearts and minds on Christ, Prince tells messengers

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

Tennessee Baptists must answer a critical question "that continually haunts the minds of people who are seeking to serve Christ and his church," said Jack Prince.

Prince, pastor emeritus of West Hills Church, Knoxville, in the convention sermon delivered at the 118th annual session of the TBC, asked, "If all the Bible is true, why is our religion not accomplishing more?"

Breaking the question down even further, Prince asked, "Why are Tennessee Baptists not so alive and so active that the people of our state know that our faith is a driving force in our lives?"

In his message, "Tennessee Baptists: People of the Way," Prince attempted to answer those questions.

He observed the Bible is "packed full of promises, sealed by God's own hand — promises that can transform us, yet we often cannot translate these promises into practical power for today's living."

There are no lack of reasons for why Christianity is not accomplishing more, Prince said, observing many people attempt to provide the answers.

The answer, however, is

very basic, he said.

"We must do what every wise generation of followers since the first century has done. We must rediscover that Christianity is a vital and personal relationship with Jesus Christ," he said.

Prince noted that Christianity is not a process of memorizing facts or adhering to specific rules of conduct or moral standards.

"Christianity is allowing Jesus Christ to be the center of one's being and allowing him to direct every area of life," Prince said.

For this to happen Christians must make three basic commitments, Prince said.

First, each Christian must regularly commit himself or herself to Jesus Christ, Prince said.

Christians must also make a personal commitment to Christ's church, he continued.

He noted that Christianity spread in the first century through the local church. "Jesus called people to himself and bound them together by bonds of trust, love, and com-

mitment," he said.

Prince observed Jesus "did not organize a church; he created it. . . .

"Christianity will mean little to you and you will have little lasting impact on the world

around you, unless you become a part of a group that is seeking to put into practice the teaching and spirit of Jesus Christ."

Prince asked what would happen if every Tennessee Baptist went home to his or her church committed to the family area of God and seeking his will for the church.

"I believe this would begin a revolution of service, giving, witnessing, and growth among Tennessee Baptists," he said.

The final commitment Christians must make is a commitment to Christ's world, Prince said.

True Christianity makes it an imperative to carry Christ's redemptive message beyond the individual and the local church, he said.

Early Christians were devoted to the Lord, to each other,

Convention sermon

Jack Prince,
pastor
emeritus,
West Hills
Church,
Knoxville



'Christianity is allowing
Jesus Christ to be the center
of one's being . . .'

Convention sends message to new administration

Tennessee Baptists went on record Nov. 18 urging President-elect Bill Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore of Tennessee to "prayerfully reconsider their positions" on abortion and homosexual rights.

The action was one of seven resolutions adopted by messengers with little or no discussion during the 118th session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Gatlinburg.

The resolution noted Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists in past conventions "have spoken frequently and forcefully" favoring the sanctity of life and opposing abortion on demand.

The resolution described abortion as "unquestionably contrary to Biblical teachings regarding the sanctity of life" and "a national tragedy of unspeakable proportions."

Homosexuality also was addressed in the resolution.

It called the issue of homosexuality "another critical moral issue of the national political agenda and is a practice and lifestyle that is glorified and justified in the secular media."

Scripture references from Isaiah, I Corinthians, and

Matthew were cited to show the Bible "is very clear in its teaching that homosexuality is a manifestation of a depraved nature." The resolution spoke against giving "preferential civil rights status" to homosexuals.

The resolution noted "stated positions of President-elect Clinton and Vice President-elect Gore are contrary to Scripture and moral principles in the areas of abortion and homosexual rights."

It resolved that messengers urge the two men "to prayerfully reconsider their positions to bring them in line with Biblical teachings on these vital issues."

The resolution also called for Tennessee Baptists to do three things:

- Pray diligently for the decisions and leadership of Clinton and Gore;

- Write a personal letter to the two men expressing their beliefs on the issues, and also other concerns; and

- Pay careful attention to the decisions of the Clinton-Gore administration in these areas of moral concern.

The resolution ended by praising the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission for leadership in areas of moral

concern.

Messenger Dillard Mynatt of Gatlinburg observed the resolution said nothing about redemption. President Ron Phillips asked the Resolutions Committee if they minded adding the phrase "although Scripture and the grace of God provide the possibility of redemption and the forgiveness of any sin" at the appropriate place. The committee agreed.

The resolution was approved with little opposition. David Myers of Chattanooga, acting chairman of the Resolutions Committee, asked President Phillips to write a letter and send it with the resolution to President-elect Clinton and Vice President-elect Gore.

Messengers also adopted a strongly worded resolution opposing state-sponsored lotteries. It noted open discussion had been held in Tennessee about establishing a state lottery in hopes it would cure the state's financial woes.

The resolution expressed strong opposition to a state lottery and called upon Tennessee Baptists "to urge state government leaders to work for responsible financial policies which provide for the general welfare rather than exploiting

and to the world, Prince said, noting they made a difference in their day because of the way they lived.

"The call comes today for Tennessee Baptists to be people of the way — to so focus our hearts and minds on Jesus Christ and on being his people that we become the salt and light he calls us to be."

Tennessee Baptists can relate to the world through indifference, judgment, or apathy love, Prince suggested.

"We can say, 'Let someone else minister to the people,' or we can condemn and criticize all who do not live up to our standards," Prince said.

"Or, we can seek the best for every human being in our world and treat each person with kindness and love — just as Christ relates to us," he said.

Final message

SSB's Piland challenges messengers

Harry Piland reminded TBC messengers of the task of every New Testament church during the final session of the convention in Gatlinburg.

The mission of God's people is to evangelize the earth, leaving no one out, said Piland, director of the church growth and Sunday School division of the Baptist Sunday School

Board.

Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost, Piland observed.

"That is clear. It is out of the heart of the Word of God. It is for this day, this hour, and it is for Tennessee Baptists to see and to do," Piland said.

He noted that "if a church is not making disciples and maturing them, it is not doing what it is supposed to do."

He said that message must be said often until "it burns in the hearts of your people."

The command to reach all peoples of the earth with the Gospel of Christ is imperative, Piland said.

"That is not an option, suggestion, request, or choice. It is a clear, irrevocable, direct command," he said.

Piland called on members of Tennessee Baptist churches to commit themselves to doing Christ's mission.

He urged them to see the mission and to make a renewed commitment to do that mission. A half-hearted commitment won't get it done, Piland said.

The Sunday School leader commended Tennessee Baptists for their past records, but reminded them much is still to be done.

He reminded Tennessee Baptists they are living in a world that is secular, anti-Christian, and even pagan.

"God's power is sufficient for the task, he said, noting Baptists are once again leaning on prayer. Continue to lift up your eyes, he urged.

There is an eternity to celebrate, but just a few hours before the sun sets to win the lost to Jesus, Piland said. □



THE YOUNG MUSICIANS Choir of First Church, Sevierville, help present the annual report of the TBC Church Programs Division.



FLORIDA'S BROTHERHOOD Director, Cecil Seagle, left, thanks James Porch, TBC executive director, and Tennessee Baptists for help after Hurricane Andrew.



ASSOCIATIONAL WORKERS HONORED on their retirement are, from left, B. F. McIlwain, Fayette; Ted Davis, McMinn-Meigs; Charles McMinn, Nashville; Emery Farmer, New Salem; Elmer Crosby, Maury; and Charles Conley, Tennessee Valley.



MARTHA AND PERCY GROVE are greeted by Roger Johnson, Valley View Church, Nashville, during a reception in honor of Martha Grove, who is retiring after 42 years of service. She is director of the Accounting Department.



GARY WATKINS, left, pastor, First Church, Collierville, receives a "Key Church" recognition for commitment to missions outreach from Larry Kirk, TBC Missions Department.



DORIS AND TIM WEST, Hornsby Church, talk with Gary Gerhardt, Church Hill.



GEORGE AINSLIE, left, First Church, Kingsport, and **CHIP BISHOP**, Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain.



CINDY BLACK, resort missionary, Gatlinburg, thanks convention and Home Mission Board for herself and husband, Bill, left, for Ken Prickett Award for Innovative, Creative, and Experimental Ministries.



RETIRED MISSIONARIES to Chile, Bill and Kate Carter and Jarvis Hearn, TBC Partnership Missions coordinator, right.

N.C. Baptists approve changes on trustee nominations

By R. G. Puckett
For Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — North Carolina Baptists overwhelmingly approved recommendations from a special study committee, including two on trustee nominations, during the state convention's 162nd annual session Nov. 9-11.

In addition to action on recommendations from the Institutions Relationship Study Committee, messengers debated the structure of the convention's 1993 budget, affirmed action by the general board declaring two churches "not cooperating" congregations over their stands on homosexuality, and re-elected all incumbent officers without opposition.

Registration for the three-day session in Winston-Salem's Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum reached 4718 messengers, with about 400 more laypersons than ordained clergy. Church staff members numbered about 300.

The IRS Committee, created in May 1991, proposed seven recommendations, including two on trustee nominations:

- To enable institutions and agencies affiliated with the con-

vention to have out-of-state trustees (directors) providing the people are "... members of churches cooperating with a Baptist state convention which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist convention."

- To permit the institutions/agencies to nominate trustees to be approved by the convention but at a reduction of funds received through the Cooperative Program. No institution may nominate more than 50 percent of its trustees with a corresponding percentage reduction in CP funds. These trustees must be members of churches affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and/or a state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Two amendments failed. One would have reduced the maximum to 49 percent rather than the 50 recommended; another would have excluded the agencies from the process.

Six of the seven recommendations passed by at least 90 percent, while the one permitting institutions/agencies to nominate their own trustees with a corresponding reduction in Cooperative Program funds passed by an estimated 85 percent.

The proposed budget for 1993 was debated at length Nov. 11, not because of the numbers involved but the structure which places the allocation for funding the Ministers Expanded Annuity program within the 38 percent of the budget allocated to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Messengers rejected a motion by C. Mark Corts, pastor of

Calvary church in Winston-Salem and a former president of the N.C. convention, for the annuity plan allocation to be a preferred item before the division of funds between the state and national conventions.

The approved budget calls for \$28.8 million as a Cooperative Program goal with 38 percent allocated for the SBC and 62 per-

cent to state convention causes.

The decision by the convention's general board at its May 19, 1992, session to exclude Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh and Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill because of the churches' actions regarding homosexuality was overwhelmingly sustained by the messengers. □

Georgia has peaceful convention

For Baptist Press

MACON, Ga. — Change was a prominent theme as Georgia Baptists elected both a new president and a new executive director-treasurer during their annual meeting at the Macon Coliseum Nov. 9-11.

Larry Wynn, 39, pastor of Hebron Church, Dacula, was elected president of the convention with 3305 votes (54.4 percent). O. Eugene Tyre, 52, pastor of Newnan's First Church, received 2772 votes (45.6 percent).

The day before, the GBC executive committee had unanimously elected J. Robert White, pastor of First Church, Paducah, Ky., as GBC executive director-treasurer — a show of unity few had predicted.

The unanimous vote for White apparently set the tone for the convention that followed, with sessions marked by inspirational messages and relative harmony rather than extensive floor battles and debate.

Attendance was the second-highest in GBC history, with 6447 registered messengers — just 615 short of the record 7062 registered when the convention last met in Macon in 1988.

All resolutions adopted by the convention were adopted without debate as recommended by the resolutions committee. In those resolutions, the convention:

- Expressed appreciation to retiring executive director James N. Griffith and his wife, Mimi, for their 12 years of service, "along with our prayers for continued blessings in the years of retirement."

- Urged prayer for government leaders in the wake of recent elections. The resolution urges the president and president-elect to "be true to their Biblical heritage" and "to consider carefully the commitment to moral and family values" as affirmed in past GBC and SBC resolutions.

- Stood against condoning of homosexual behavior, "safe sex" and denigration of "traditional family values and morals" while reaffirming the right of parents to educate children according to religious principles and the home as the best place for sex education. □

Love In Action



Everything Positive In My Life Has Come From The Children's Home.

-Jim Baird...
*Children's Home Resident
From Age 2 to Age 16*

"I should not be where I am today.

But as I've learned, God doesn't care who you are or what your station in life is. He gives His blessings to anyone and everyone. And the blessing that he gave to me was the Baptist Children's Home.

Every positive trait I have can be traced back to my background with the Children's Home. There I developed mental discipline and physical abilities, while my creative skills were encouraged. And I also received a positive work ethic.

But most importantly I received Jesus Christ as my savior and Lord.

If I described the events that have happened in my life because of my education at the Baptist Children's Home, you might think I had attended an exclusive training academy. And I guess in a sense, I did.

Because the Children's Home cared about me, I'm now a responsible citizen, and I'm able to help others as I've been helped.

But I'll never be able to repay the Children's Home for all they have done for me."



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

TBCH Central Office
5001 Maryland Way • Brentwood, TN 37027
615-371-2000

Dr. Gerald L. Stow, Executive Director/Treasurer
1-800-624-8591

Residential Care

CLASSIFIED

Sharon Church, Knoxville, is seeking a full-time minister of music/education. Send resumes to: Harold Stiner, Sharon Church, 7916 Pedigo Road, Knoxville, Tenn., 37938

Pews For Sale

41 pews, average length 15 feet, seats approximately 400 people; reconditioned 5 years ago with upholstered cushions and backs; white with walnut trim, upholstered in light blue; available Nov. 15; also, four pulpit chairs, pulpit, and Lord's Supper Table, call Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, at (615) 893-8192.

BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679
FIRELESS BAPTISTRY CO.
4211 WINDSON FINE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37425

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

— SOLID OAK PEWS —
PEW UPHOLSTERY • REFINISHING
BAPTISTRIES • CHURCHES
EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE

LEWISVILLE, NC
1 (800) 523-9058
NC 1 (800) 222-7895

Kentucky Baptists elect Stewart as new president

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox
For Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky Baptists elected a bivocational pastor president of their state convention Nov. 10-11.

The 1726 messengers to the 155th annual Kentucky Baptist Convention also failed to rescind steps taken last year to provide funds for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. But they did vote to keep Cooperative Program giving as a test for representation at the state convention.

Charles Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Church in Ashland, was elected KBC president. He defeated a pastor and a layman for the post. He is the brother of Clarence Stewart, longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor and retired director of the TBC's Partnership Missions De-

partment.

Stewart, who worked for the Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Co. 31 years until retiring in 1985, is president of the Southern Baptist National Council on Bivocational Ministries. He has led the Ashland church 28 years.

Other nominees were Herbert Booth, a retired physician from Florence, and Greg Earwood, pastor of First Church of Murray. Stewart won a run-off with Earwood, 646-560.

The Baptist Joint Committee issue arose when Terry Sammons of Louisville presented a motion to rescind the vote of last year's convention to "find a way to provide funds" for the religious-liberty agency defended by the SBC.

That motion, which passed 331-195 last year, charged the KBC executive board with devising the means of funding the BJC.

The day before this year's convention began, the executive board approved a \$200,000 special fund to provide about \$17,000 annually to the BJC. That amount roughly equals what the BJC previously received from Kentucky churches through the state convention's Cooperative Program.

"Conservatives" fought unsuccessfully to derail the funding plan in the executive board meeting.

Sammons told KBC messengers he opposed the funding plan because convention funds are tight and because "this action is in direct opposition to action taken by our Southern Baptist Convention."

The motion to rescind drew a 409-402 vote, failing to get the two-thirds vote needed to reverse a

previous action without advance notice.

Another proposal rejected 718-705 by messengers would have allowed churches to bypass national CP giving and still qualify for up to ten KBC messengers.

Currently, each church that is "in friendly cooperation with" and "a bona fide contributor to" the KBC's work gets two messengers to the annual meeting. One additional messenger, up to a total of ten, is added for each 250 members over the first 100 or for each \$250 contributed annually to the CP.

The change, proposed by a special CP study committee, would have allowed one additional messenger, up to ten, for each \$250

contributed "to the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention" and/or the CP. It would not have changed the membership-based formula.

Practically, the change would have allowed churches unhappy with the SBC's "conservative" leadership to remain fully represented in the KBC without funding the national CP.

Messengers also adopted an operating budget goal of \$17.34 million for the coming year, with 37.304 percent of undesignated receipts going to Southern Baptist causes and 62.969 percent going to Kentucky Baptist causes. That total and percentage split are the same as the current 1992-93 budget. □

Arkansas Baptists disagree with Clinton

By Trennis Henderson
For Baptist Press

PINE BLUFF, Ark. — Arkansas Baptists re-elected their president by acclamation, approved a \$15.2 million budget, and adopted a resolution distancing themselves from positions held by President-elect Bill Clinton.

A total of 1048 messengers participated in the Nov. 10-11 meeting at the Pine Bluff Convention Center, electing Little Rock attorney William H. "Buddy" Sutton, a member of Immanuel Church, to a second one-year term as Arkansas Baptist State Convention president.

The 1993 budget of \$15.2 million is a four percent increase over 1992. The new budget includes 41.75 percent, the same percentage as last year, to be channeled through the national Cooperative Program.

The resolution addressing President-elect Clinton took issue with his stands on abortion, homosexual rights, and distribution of contraceptives in public schools. It said those views "contradict the moral and spiritual position of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention as expressed in previous resolutions."

The resolution called on Arkansas Baptists to urge Clinton to "endorse the Biblical principles of the sanctity of human life, the

Biblical plea for sexual purity, and the Biblical precepts of sacred morality."

Keith Brickell, pastor of Second Church in Monticello, offered an amendment noting "even though Bill Clinton is a member of a Southern Baptist church and a church that is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention that he does not represent our views on these important issues."

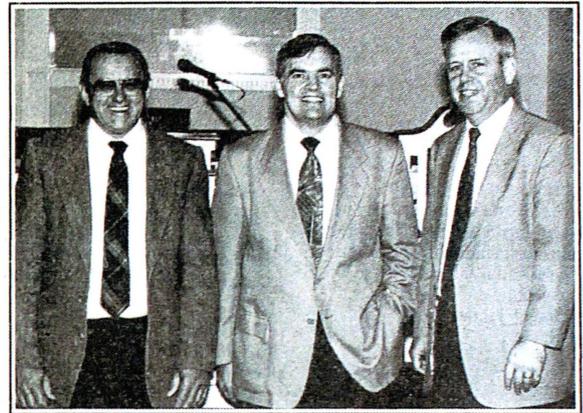
Brickell said Arkansas Baptists "need to make a statement on this for the sake of our own integrity." He charged Clinton "has made an attack against Arkansas Baptists and Southern Baptists" through his public stands.

Clinton's pastor, Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Lit-

tle Rock, responded, "If resolutions could change the world, Southern Baptists would have changed the world long ago. We have spent the past two days talking about praying, forgiving, and working together. We need to give ourselves to intercession rather than resolution."

Following additional debate, messengers approved both the amendment and the resolution on a divided voice vote.

A related resolution, which pledged prayer for Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore, passed without debate. □



G. W. MATHIS, center, pastor of Coletown Church, was re-elected moderator during the annual meeting of Copper Basin Association. With him are Director of Missions Al Patterson, left, and David Brown, pastor of Mine City Church, vice moderator.



DALLAS PASSONS, center, has discovered it's never too late to accept Christ. The 94-year-old man was recently baptized at Shellsford Church, McMinnville, by Pastor David Daugherty, left, who was assisted by deacon M. L. Crawford.



PASTOR LAVAUGHN MOODY and the deacons of First Church, Decaturville, recently burned the note on its building. The congregation began the new church-year debt-free.

Income for Life Guaranteed (And earn up to 12% interest*)

Now you can invest in the lives of young people and earn high-return, guaranteed income for life through the Belmont University "Charitable Gift Annuity."

Here's how it works: Make your gift of cash, stock, securities or, in some cases, property to Belmont University and in return earn a guaranteed income for life at higher-than-usual rates (*depending on your age, as much as 12%).

Take advantage of impressive tax savings, too—such as a tax deduction on the charitable portion of your gift...tax-free return on the principal portion of your income...partial avoidance of capital gains taxes...and elimination of probate costs and federal estate taxes.

Start building high earnings and income security for yourself for the years ahead...while at the same time building the lives of young people for years to come.

Gift Annuity Rates*		
Age	Annual Annuity %	Effective Rate of Return
65	7.3%	8.7%
70	7.8%	9.4%
75	8.5%	10.9%
80	9.6%	11.8%
90+	12.0%	17.6%

*Single Life
Also rates for two lives

For more information, call or write:
Fred Kendall, Certified Financial Planner
Office of Planned Giving
Belmont University
1900 Belmont Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 385-6435



-----Clip and Mail today-----

Please send me information on Charitable Gift Annuities:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Louisiana messengers exclude homosexuals

By C. Lacy Thompson
For Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — In historic fashion, Louisiana Baptist Convention messengers voted to exclude churches sympathetic to homosexuality from participation in key areas of denominational life.

Messengers to the 145th session of the Louisiana Convention approved a change in the state constitution to set up homosexuality as a test for convention participation.

The approved constitutional amendment states: "Any church which has taken action affirming, approving, or endorsing the practice of homosexuality shall not be considered as cooperating with the Convention. Such actions include but are not limited to the licensure or ordination of homosexuals, marriage, or blessing of homosexual relationships and endorsing homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle."

Messengers also approved a record state convention budget goal, re-elected the convention president, and approved several resolutions of concern.

The homosexual action represents a historic move, apparently the first time in history Louisiana Baptists have set up a particular issue as a test of fellowship. Traditionally, Baptists have based denominational participation on whether a church is in "cooperation" with the state convention and its purposes, determined by whether the church contributes financially to the convention.

With their constitutional vote, however, Louisiana Baptists became the only Baptist state convention to address the homosexual issue in such a permanent way. The Southern Baptist Convention also is in the midst of a two-year process making a similar change in its constitution.

The constitutional amendment and business and financial plan change was approved by a vote of

581-199. The resolution on the issue was approved on a voice vote with little opposition. The study committee proposal was defeated on a vote of 144-352.

In other matters, convention messengers also approved a 1993 state budget goal of \$17.25 million, an increase of 4.15 percent over the current year.

On another front, messengers continued the practice of granting presidents a second, one-year term without opposition, re-electing Roger Freeman by acclamation. Freeman is pastor of First Church, New Orleans.

Overall, messengers approved eight resolutions, including one expressing distress about the American Christian Television System's shared channel agreement with the VISN network. The resolution notes the agreement involves ACTS with various faiths, including religious groups "who openly embrace the principles of secular humanism and other differing ideologies."

Another resolution calls on the state Moral and Social Concerns Committee to draft a letter on Louisiana Baptist views on sanctity of human life and family issues and seek to deliver it personally to President-elect Bill Clinton. The resolution urges Clinton to "prayerfully reconsider" his views on these issues. It also voices a prayer that Washington leaders will be guided by wisdom and "will not violate God's Word by enacting legislation that is detrimental to the values we hold as Louisiana Baptists." □

ASSOCIATE PASTOR-MUSIC

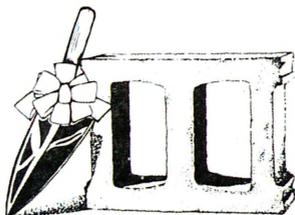
We are an exceptionally warm and loving church, averaging 450 in attendance, meeting on 25 beautifully wooded acres just north of Nashville.

We are seeking a special servant who would fill a new position, managing our overall music program, and assisting with visitation, counseling and preaching.

We invite you to send your resume, salary requirements to:

MINISTERIAL PLACEMENT
42 Music Square West, Suite 400
Nashville, TN 37203-3234

This Christmas, help build up the body.



David Groseclose is declaring the hope of Christ in the land where Jesus himself walked. He's active in The Haifa Baptist Center, which he says is "perhaps the fastest-growing Baptist church in the country right now."

David is awaiting the day his church can find a lot on which to build, with funds already set aside from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Pray that David's church members will find land to build a church. Pray, too, that Baptist churches in Israel will continue to declare hope for others as they grow spiritually and numerically. And pray that more churches will be started in Western Galilee.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$84 million

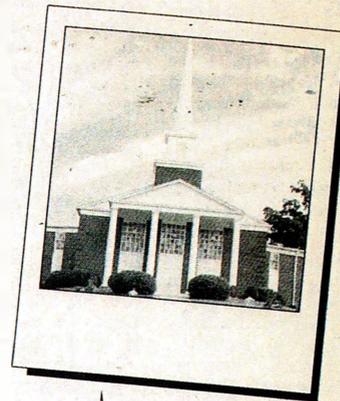
It's not just another building. It's your church.

A church has different requirements than most other buildings an insurance company covers. It represents the shared commitment and sacrifice of many people... it's an invaluable emotional investment.

Church Mutual has specialized in insuring churches for nearly 100 years. Today we are the nation's largest insurer of churches, protecting over 5,800 Southern Baptist churches alone.

We know you can never forget the enduring importance of your church in the lives of your congregation. We take the critical step of getting to know your church firsthand to learn your unique needs and concerns.

To learn about the difference that our personalized, specialized expertise and competitive insurance coverage can mean to you and your congregation, write or call us at 1-800-542-3465.



The Specialist

Church Mutual
3000 Schuster Lane
P.O. Box 357-S
Merrill, WI 54452

GIVE YOUR PASTOR 250 SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS FOR JUST \$15



"In Other Words... is a valuable and practical service to busy pastors and Bible teachers. I would commend this to you as a practical and available source of contemporary illustrative material."

Dr. Joel Gregory

"In Other Words... is a distinct research service to pastors that will be helpful. May God bless this effort to His glory and to the good of preachers everywhere."

Dr. Richard Jackson



For Just \$15 You Can Give Your Pastor 250 Fresh and Humorous Illustrations This Year. That's Only 6 Cents For Each Of These Captivating Illustrations. Every Bimonthly Issue Comes With Over 40 Exciting Illustrations That Will Help Your Pastor With His Preparation To Preach The Truth Of God's Word. You Will Enjoy Listening To Your Pastor Use These Great Illustrations, and He Will Appreciate The Helpful Research Your Gift Provides!

IN OTHER WORDS... is Also A Great Gift For Sunday School Teachers, Department Directors, Bible Study Teachers, or Anybody Who Loves Interesting Stories That Have A Spiritual Message.

SUBSCRIBE BEFORE DECEMBER 10TH AND IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE 300 ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS FOR JUST \$5.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PERSON GIVING THE SUBSCRIPTION: _____

(A Note Will Accompany The Subscription To Tell Of Your Gift)

Please Make Your \$15 Check Payable To: In Other Words
1402 Mabry Mill Road, Houston, Texas 77062

□ God's plan for Israel — Bible Book Series for November 29

By Mike Kemper, pastor, Green River Church, Waynesboro

The nation of Israel as a whole had rejected God's gift of salvation. The question in the chapter is whether this rejection meant God cast His people aside, or if they had a future.

Paul insisted that despite the Israelites' rejection, God had a plan for them. As proof, Paul said, "I am an Israelite," (v. 1). Paul's conversion proved God had a plan for Israel (v. 2). He saw himself as part of a remnant who became believers (v. 5). In verses 2-10, Paul gave a history lesson to remind his readers that God always has a faithful remnant, even in times of greatest unbelief.

We need to be reminded of this today. In the midst of so much confusion and unbelief in America and the world, God's remnant remains faithful. In verse 11, did Israel's failure

mean utter ruin from which there was no hope? No! Because of the Israelites' rejection, God was able to keep a remnant among Israel and turn the light of the Gospel toward the Gentiles. If the Jews heeded their privilege, they could have blessed the world with the truth. Since they did not, the light was turned to Gentiles.

Many early Christian witnesses were converted Jews and the Gospel went to all the world. Paul contended that if the failure of the Jews brought such blessing to the world (v. 12), what would it be like when Israel receives? (v. 15). Paul evidently believed their "casting away" was temporary. Eventually, Israel as a nation would relent. If God used their rejection to benefit the rest of the world, imagine what glory it will

be when chosen Israel becomes believers, like resurrection from the dead (v. 15).

Paul had claimed a remnant existed, as it always had. "The first fruits" of verse 16 might refer to the patriarchs who were faithful. God had promised Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc., on the basis of their faith. God keeps His promises. That small portion of the "dough" would eventually affect the whole "lump" and make it holy.

Paul also used another figure of speech about the "root" and "branches" to make the same point. If the root is holy, then so will the branches be. Remember, it was Paul's "heart desire" that Israel might be saved. The "root" was faithful believers; the "branches" were Israel.

Paul compared the Jews to the Gentiles in God's plan in

terms of two olive trees (vv. 17-24). One tree was a planted tree (Israel) and the other was wild (Gentiles). The planted tree failed to bear fruit. God broke off some branches from the wild tree and grafted them onto the planted tree. This was done (v. 24) contrary to nature. The natural thing is to graft a "good"

Basic Passage Romans 11:1-36

branch onto the poorer stock. But God grafted the weaker stock onto the good stock of privileged Israel.

The Gentiles, who believed, were sharing the blessings promised the patriarchs and their seed. God is severe to those who rebel and generous to those who believe. But the Gentiles dared not boast be-

cause their privilege was a gift.

Whoever will, may come. If unbelieving Jews turn to God by faith, they will be saved, just as it is with all others.

Paul said the "mystery" (v. 25), of Israel's blindness was a danger to others. A mystery, being truth hidden, is now revealed. The blindness did hinder the majority, but a remnant did respond. Also, the blindness was temporary. When the number of the Gentiles have been saved, in the church age, Israel's blindness will be lifted.

This lesson encourages all who have rejected the Gospel. God didn't give up on Israel, nor does He give up on you or me. The lesson also reminds us that we should never take salvation for granted or become prideful. We have what we have by the grace of God. □

□ Jeremiah: Persistent prophet — Convention Uniform Series for November 29

By Wes Ellis, retired pastor, Forest Hill Church, Germantown

Because the book of Jeremiah is one of the longest writings in the Old Testament, attention is centered only on the character of the prophet. He was of a family of priests of Anathoth, apparently a group that was banished by Solomon (I Kings 2:26). Jeremiah was an unpopular prophet with an unpopular message during the last years of Judah and the time of the destruction of Jerusalem. His ministry extended from his call, about 627 BC, until his death, probably in Egypt, in about 585 BC.

Jeremiah was remembered with admiration in New Testament times, as Jesus Christ was compared with him (Matthew 16:14). He did have his low points, but was persistent in the work and call the Lord gave him, despite the opposition of contemporaries and even his

own family, who attempted to kill him (Jeremiah 11:21-23).

Called by the Lord, ch. 1:1-10
Jeremiah was fully confident that his life was preordained and planned by the Lord, and that he was to be a "prophet to the nations," (v. 5). His reluctance was answered by the strong reassurances of God. (Note the use of "I" in verses 5-10.) Indications of difficulties and opposition were not minimized, but they should not be feared. "For I am with you, declares the Lord!"

Aspects of his work were outlined in verse 10. His ministry would have both negative and positive effects.

Grief of the man of God ch. 8:22 — 9:3

Jeremiah's work was unpleasant and heart-breaking, as is much of the work of God's servants today. He suffered

from exhaustion of mind and body coming from a lack of response of the people to his message and leadership. Sometimes he used a poetic style to convey his powerful message. The "balm in Gilead" (ch. 8:22) with healing qualities was available to the people, but instead they sought remedies other than repentance and turning to the Lord. Jeremiah weiled (ch. 9:1) in sorrow as he thought of the calamities approaching. In chapter 9:2, he expressed a desire to escape from his God-given responsibilities.

Persistence through hardship

The opening verses of chapter 20 relate how Jeremiah was beaten and put in the stocks overnight because of his unpopular preaching. Upon his release, however, he again an-

nounced the coming judgment, including a personal judgment upon Pashur, the chief officer of the temple (vv. 1-6). Then he complained that God had "deceived" him in his call, for his lot was much worse than he had been led to believe. However, he could not escape his call, for "in my heart it becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones," (v. 9c). It was more painful for him to remain silent than to face the insults and rejection by his opponents. He was surrounded by treacherous "trusted friends" (v. 10) who were waiting for him to fall. However, Jeremiah the man of God remained faithful under all pressure and found strength and solace in the Lord, enabling him to break forth into a psalm of praise (v. 13).

What is the standard by which a minister's work is measured? In the midst of a people

who expect positive, constructive, bland, and brief messages, few churches would accept him as pastor today. In addition to everything else, he was unmarried! His burdened and broken heart would be rejected by those who expect joy and success to be projected from the life of His servants. His life ended in total failure, as his "church" was

Basic Passage Jeremiah 1:1-10; 8:22-9:3; 20:7-13

obliterated, and he died in exile.

Weekly, almost daily, ministers are subjected to unbelievable pressures because they are faithful, even when it leads to personal grief. Some have been forced out, but they are not failures, because the Lord called them — not the churches — and it is His message — not theirs.

□ Teach the truth — Life and Work Series for November 29

By James Hutson, pastor, First Church, Rockwood

We studied Timothy for eight weeks under the theme of Breakthrough. The goals of Bold Mission Thrust are worthy — 24 million members, 50,000 churches, everyone on earth hearing the Gospel by the year 2000. We have made progress, but there is more to be done. If we are to reach this goal or come close, there must be a Breakthrough. The next two lessons teach us how to become involved in Breakthrough. One way is teaching the truth.

We know little about Titus. He is not mentioned in Acts. What we do know comes from Paul (Titus 1:4; Galatians 2:1-3; II Corinthians. 7:5-7, 8:6, 12:18). Titus, like Timothy, was Paul's son in the ministry (Titus 1:4).

Paul's greeting, vv. 1-3
This salutation (greeting) is much longer and more formal

than either greeting to Timothy. Paul's identity is here (vv. 1, 3a). He is God's servant. No where else in his writings does Paul describe himself this way. He is an apostle of Jesus Christ. All through Paul's writings are his testimonies of his apostleship. He is a preacher. Paul saw himself as the recipient of a sacred trust. The term "God's elect" does not refer to a chosen few, but to all who have decided to believe in Jesus Christ. The trustworthiness of the Gospel is affirmed because it comes from God in whom all truth resides.

Paul's charge to Titus, v. 5

Paul gave Titus two duties. Straightened out what was left unfinished was the first. Evidently the church at Crete was disorganized. The believers in Crete needed to be united in a fellowship to share their faith

and encourage one another.

The second charge was to appoint elders. Baptists have a difficult time with the word "appoint." A. T. Robertson said, "The word does not preclude the choice by the churches," (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*, vol. 4, p. 598). Including the church's choice in the appointment process is in keeping with Acts 6:3. The word "appoint" may refer to the unstable situation in Crete. The qualifications of the elders in verses 6-9 are in keeping with I Timothy 3.

False teachers in Crete, vv. 9-16

Hold forth, exhort, and convince describe teaching and some system of doctrine (v. 9). Creating doubts is not the task of a teacher. This does not mean the teacher or preacher is to be a parrot of other people's ideas. To hold forth implies a body of

doctrine to be held to.

Verse 10 describes the "gainsayers" of verse 9 — those who contradict or talk back. Paul described them as "rebellious, mere talkers, and deceivers." Some "gainsayers" are of the circumcision — Jewish teachers. Paul described strong medicine for such teachers. They are to be

Basic Passage: Titus 1

silenced. It is like putting a muzzle on an animal that prevents it from making noise, biting, and even eating. The reason for such strong medicine is the damage that can be done by false teaching.

Paul referred to a proverb about Cretans (v. 12). Again there is strong medicine for false teachers. They are to be rebuked

sharply. This false teaching has two roads. There are those who teach Jewish fables and those who reject the truth. False teaching and false practice go together (vv. 15-16). Real defilement is always inward (Luke 11:41). Paul used three words to describe these false teachers. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit (reprobate) of doing anything good (v. 16).

Be careful in using these descriptions of false teachers as an excuse for a witch hunt. Disagreeing with a teacher or preacher does not mean they are wrong. Too much damage has been done by labels. The best policy is that of the believers in Thessalonica. "They received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so," (Acts 17:11). □

■ the churches

■ **The Cherokee Church, Memphis**, will present the 11th annual Puppet Living Christmas Tree Dec. 11-13.

■ **Black Oak Heights Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival Nov. 29-Dec. 2, led by evangelist Bill Sturm. Donna Allen will be guest soloist.

■ The congregation of **Union Church, Knoxville**, will begin a year-long celebration of the church's 150th anniversary Dec. 6. Bill Wilson, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will speak during morning worship, and a sesquicentennial birthday party will be held in the evening. The celebration will continue with special events held each month, culminating July 4, 1993.

■ **First Church, Goodlettsville**, will be decorated for the Christmas season Nov. 29 under the direction of Ken Allman, minister of music, and Stephen Smith, former minister

of music at the church. The combined adult and youth choirs will perform. In addition, on Dec. 6, Buck and Barbara Donelson, former missionaries to Africa who now live in Dandridge, will speak about their work as missionaries. Donelson ministered in hospital administration and evangelism, and his wife served as a physician.

■ Plans are underway for a youth revival Dec. 2-4 at **Parkway Church, Athens**. Lynn King, pastor of New Bethany Church, Sweetwater, will be evangelist.

■ **Members of Barfield Church, Murfreesboro**, dedicated a new fellowship hall Nov. 1.

■ **New Vision Church, Murfreesboro**, in Concord Association was constituted Nov. 15.

■ **James Porch, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director**, will lead morning worship Nov. 29 at **Brook Hollow**

Church, Nashville.

■ the work

■ A team from **Good Hope Church, Adamsville**, recently completed a mission trip in Detroit, Mich., where they led Backyard Bible Clubs and Vacation Bible School clinics. The team also did construction work. Adult team members were Steve Killingsworth, Rhonda Horton, and Jim Keen; and youth were Danny Stewart, Tracy Dixon, Brad Surratt, Jason Leonard, Chris Harbin, Bradley Wilburn, and Andy Watkins. The church also sent mission teams to East Tennessee, Louisiana, and Florida.

■ **Carey and Lynne Bates** missionaries to Portugal, are in the states and may be addressed at 2477 Tarbet, Memphis, TN, 38119. Both consider Memphis their hometown. She is the former Lynne Pepin.

■ **Missionary to Ivory Coast Elizabeth Orman** has completed language study in France and may be addressed at B.P. 1424, Daloa, Ivory Coast. She is a native of Memphis.

■ the people

■ **First Church, Crossville**, ordained **Boyd Wyatt** to the deacon ministry.

■ **Mark Miller and Greg Haggard** were ordained as deacons at **First Church, Seymour**.

■ **New Market Church, New Market**, ordained **John K. Fox** as deacon Nov. 8.

■ **Middle Valley Church, Hixson**, recently welcomed **Bruce Gentry** as a newly ordained deacon.

■ **Joseph C. Baker** was recently ordained to the deacon ministry of **South Knoxville Church, Knoxville**.

■ **Buffalo Church, Rutledge**, ordained **Sammy Heatherly** and **Jim Griffin** as deacons Nov. 15.

■ **Ted Collins, James Horner, and Rick Watson** were recently ordained to the deacon ministry of **Sunrise Church, Rutledge**.

■ the leaders

■ **Mount Verd Church, Athens**, called **Ed Casteel** as pastor. He began his ministry Oct. 18.

■ **Dave Qualls, Chesapeake, Va.**, is the new minister of single adults/college/family life at **First Church, Franklin**. He will begin Dec. 6.

■ **First Church, Clifton**, called **David B. Miller** as interim pastor.

■ **Paul Durham** was recently honored for 20 years of service as pastor of **Radnor Church, Nashville**.

■ The membership of **Oak Grove Church, Mount Carmel**, recently welcomed new Interim Pastor **Ronald Hicks, Kingsport**.

■ **Charles Humphries** began service as the new children's and youth minister at **Bluff City Church, Bluff City**, Nov. 8.



RECENTLY RETIRED director of missions **Emery Farmer** and his wife **Margaret** were recently recognized for their service and presented with a money tree from the churches in **New Salem Association**. Farmer, who served **New Salem Association** since 1989, was also presented with a plaque.

■ **Jim Muston**, formerly pastor of **First Church, Eudora, Miss.**, is the new pastor of **Cordova Church, Cordova**. He preached his first sermon as pastor Oct. 11.

■ **Audubon Park Church, Memphis**, recently called **Bill Sorrell** as minister of youth and activities. He formerly served as education and youth minister at **First Church, Washington, N.C.** He is a graduate of **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth**. His father is **H. K. Sorrell**, retired pastor of **Brownsville Church, Brownsville**.

■ **Oak Hill Church, Crossville**, called **Randall Jackson** as music director.



RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION elected new officers at its October annual meeting. From left are **Barry Ellis**, clerk; **Naomi Albright**, treasurer; **Wayne Godsey**, assistant moderator; **Ken McMillen**, director of missions; and **Donald Cobb**, moderator.

Tennessee Sampler ■ views, insights

Characteristics of growing churches

Charles D. Earl
director of missions
HolstonValley Assoc.

For 40 years now I have been trying to observe churches for the purpose of determining why some churches grow while others die or become plateaued. I think I have been able to pinpoint some definite characteristics about growing churches that are conspicuously absent from churches that do not grow.

First, a growing church is always on the search for a better way to "do church." They don't change the message, but they are always willing to try to present the "old" message in a new and interesting way. Some wag has said that the epitaph of many dead churches would be "We Have Never Done It that Way Before."

Second, growing churches enlist and train their workers. I notice that those churches that have a goodly number of folks at our **Holston Valley Baptist Association's** and **Tennessee Baptist Convention's** clinics and training meetings are the same churches that seem to be growing! I don't think that is accidental! A growing church is one that trains and equips its leaders. The pastor who recognizes the need for this training will make every effort to get his people to these times of training and instruction.

Third, growing churches are churches that reach beyond themselves. That is just another way of saying that a growing church is a mission-minded and mission-supporting church. I have been noticing that our **HVBA** churches that are growing are those that are involved in mission projects, all kinds of mission projects (associational, state, home, and foreign). They are always having a mission

study or some mission project or mission emphasis. They are also the ones who support associational and Cooperative Program missions!

Well, there are other characteristics of a growing church (warm-hearted preaching and singing, good fellowship, and perhaps I will discuss these at a later date), but if we will take a look at these three I have mentioned, I believe it will help! □

Prepares for Thanksgiving

Joe Chandler
assoc. director of missions
Knox County Association

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. We should be "counting our blessings" and naming them "one by one." Sometimes we get so caught up in the negative, that which we didn't get and the blessings

that we desired and did not receive, that we forget the positive and good that has happened to us.

Instead of thinking about ourselves we ought to place ourselves in God's hands to be "a blessing to someone today." We could take time to put into practice the love of God as it could flow through us.

We could express our love by doing a kind and thoughtful deed for someone. This could be done by making sure that the house and yard of an older person is ready for the winter. We could show love by inviting someone to share in our Thanksgiving meal who will be unable to be with family during this holiday season.

We could express our love by writing a letter of appreciation to a friend and/or fellow worker. Letters of encouragement, reconciliation, apology, concern, or Christian love could be a real blessing to the receiver as well as the sender. We could

make telephone calls. We could make those that we have put off just to say "Thank you," "I love you," "You mean a lot to me," "I'm sorry," or whatever it is that we feel like saying to someone.

Most of all we need to assure one another that prayers are being voiced and lifted for each. This could be the greatest Thanksgiving ever if we put love in action and be a blessing to others. □



Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
Nov. 29-Dec. 6, 1992
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

National Goal: \$84 million

Tennessee Goal: \$7 million