

Baptist and Reflector

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STATEWIDE EDITION

■ *this week's news*

national —

- Baptist state conventions in neighboring states hold meetings. — Page 10

state —

- More news from TBC associational meetings. — Page 9

convention —

- Drama has impact on 120th Annual Session. — Page 3
- Ray Newcomb, Calvin Harvell deliver major convention addresses. — Page 4
- Missions fair highlights missions prior to annual meeting. — Page 6
- Messengers adopt budget, Executive Board recommendations. — Page 8

Tennesseans accept 'Macedonian call'

Messengers approve new partnerships; elect officers

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — The 120th Annual Session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting here Nov. 15-16 was different from previous sessions, and it was dramatic in several ways.

Tennessee Baptists approved new missions partnerships, elected new officers, okayed a 1994-95 budget of \$26,184,634, and closed the two-day meeting with probably their most exciting and well-attended missions/evangelism program ever.

The budget keeps the current TBC distribution at 62.5 percent, with 37.5 percent to the Southern Baptist Convention. The new budget is slightly lower than last year's \$26,206,772.

Messengers also approved a study report on the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes as requested at last year's meeting, and accepted a preliminary report from the Long Range Study Committee which was appointed last year by then president Leonard Markham. Gary Coltharp, pastor of First Church, Jackson, is chairman of the ongoing study.

Despite low messenger registration of 1,359 and a cool and rainy last day, the entire meeting was upbeat with debate on just a few major agenda items. Registration was short of last year's 1,458, which itself was the lowest since 1980. Highest messenger registration was 2,280 in Gatlinburg in 1992.

Assisted by the drama department of



KONSTANTY WIAZOWSKI, center, president of the Baptist Union of Poland, signs the agreement linking his country with Tennessee Baptists for the next three years. Joining in the signing were, from left, Terry Sharp, director of TBC Partnership Missions Department; FMB President Jerry Rankin, Ryszard Gutkowski, general secretary, Baptist Union of Poland, TBC Executive Director James Porch; and Gerry Taillon, director of evangelism for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists. Taillon also signed an agreement placing his convention in a three-year partnership with the TBC.

host Bellevue Church, the TBC Executive Board staff presented a six-part mini-series that opened each session. Under the theme of "Cooperative Program Dollars Making a Difference", the series traced the life of a typical-but-fictional Tennessee Baptist pastor and his family.

The mini-series emphasized the many aspects of programs and ministries of the

Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Written by Bob Oldenburg, staff assistant at Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., each of the six chapters explained how those programs and ministries benefit Tennessee Baptist families.

On Wednesday afternoon, messengers — See Tennesseans, page 2

Messengers elect pastor, layman, DOM as officers

For *Baptist and Reflector*

CORDOVA — Tennessee Baptist messengers demonstrated a like for diversity,

choosing a pastor, a layman, and a director of missions, each from a different region of the state, as their officers for the coming year.



NEW OFFICERS of the Tennessee Baptist Convention are, from left, Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association, second vice president; M.B. Howard, layman, Oak Grove Church, Covington, first vice president; and Frank Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Kingsport, president.

Frank Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Kingsport, was elected president by 103 votes over Don Long, pastor of Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga.

Layman M.B. Howard of Oak Grove Church, Covington, was elected first vice president by a wide margin over Reed Wright, pastor of Maple Street Church, Cleveland.

Director of Missions Wesley Pitts of Cumberland Association was elected second vice president, outdistancing Memphis pastor Chuck Fowler of Shelby Forest Church, Memphis, by more than 200 votes.

Only 815 voters out of more than 1,300 registered messengers at the time of the election Wednesday morning cast ballots.

Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Kingsport, for the past 14 years was nominated by a former TBC president,

Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Church, Hendersonville.

Citing Hawkins' past experience as a foreign missionary to Brazil, Markham noted Hawkins' church has given more than \$3 million to the Cooperative Program over the past 14 years, in addition to \$468,000 to the Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Golden State mission offerings.

"He knows the way, goes the way, and will show the way," Markham said.

Evangelist Billy Edmonds, a messenger from Central Church, Oak Ridge, nominated Long.

He said Long's church gives 10 percent to the Cooperative Program and has baptized 410 people in the seven years he has been at the church. "He's a soul winner in every way and will serve us well," Edmonds said. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

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Tennesseans accept 'Macedonian call'...

— Continued from page 1

elected Frank Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Kingsport, as president. With 815 messengers voting, Hawkins won by 103 votes over Don Long, pastor of Chamberlain Memorial Church, Chattanooga.

Covington layman M.B. Howard was chosen first vice president, and Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association, was chosen second vice president. (Please see related story on page 1.) Also elected as convention officers were TBC staffers Wallace Anderson, recording secretary, and Dan Ferrell, registration secretary.

In other convention business, messengers unanimously approved an Executive Board recommendation for two new partnerships and renewal of a third.

Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president and speaker for the closing session's missions emphasis, joined James Porch, TBC executive director and foreign representatives in signing partnership missions agreements.

The three-year partnerships beginning Jan. 1 are with Poland and the four Western Provinces of Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

An extension of the 15-year partnership with Michigan also was affirmed. The partnership with Chile which began in 1992 concludes Dec. 31.

Rankin presented Porch with a plaque of appreciation for the work done by Tennessee volunteers alongside Chilean Baptists. Marcus Driggers, missionary to Chile, earlier in the meeting had read a letter from Victor Olivares, executive director of the Chile Baptist Convention, and presented a plaque from the Chile Mission to Paul Moody, president of the TBC Executive Board.

In his message Wednesday night, Rankin challenged Tennessee Baptist messengers and almost 4,000 visitors to remain faithful in the partnership missions efforts. He stressed praying, giving, and volunteering as expressions in evangelizing the world for Christ.

In a TBC bylaws change, messengers voted overwhelmingly in favor of allowing three additional trustees for their three colleges and academy.

This means that Belmont University, Union University, Carson-Newman College, and Harrison-Chilhowee Academy can each nominate three additional trustees from outside Tennessee, who are alumni of the schools and are active members in Southern Baptist churches.

There was a move to defeat the proposal in the discussion, but an amendment failed and the bylaw change was approved by a solid majority.

Discussing the bylaws change, Doug Sager, pastor of First Church Concord, Knoxville, said the trustees of the institutions are elected to hold in trust their related entities for the convention.

Drew Hayes, First Church, Shelbyville, asked about the origin of the idea for change. He inquired as to the reasoning for such a proposal.

John Langlois, a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, said there had been a study from the education com-



ROBERT WILSON, executive director of the Michigan Baptist Convention, signs an agreement extending the partnership between Michigan and Tennessee to the year 2000 as Terry Sharp and James Porch of the Tennessee Baptist Convention observe.

mittee of the Executive Board sent to the board.

It was felt that this would help the schools in carrying out their roles, he said.

Hayes responded that he considered this a danger signal. "Trustees from other states would feel less responsible for our schools," he said. He made a motion to amend the proposal to delete the portion relating to additional trustees from outside Tennessee. He added that it was a bad precedent, not wisely thought out, and needed further consideration.

Charles Parker, pastor of First Church, Oliver Springs, spoke out against the amendment. He said, "We are asking the colleges and academy to raise more of their funding. They need to be able to reach outside. This would help them to do that."

Cordell Maddox, Carson-Newman president, said the proposal did not come from the institutions' presidents.

"It came from a committee study in 1990," he said. "It was recommended by that group that the education committee study it."

Reed Dixon, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, said the schools should be able to draw on resources from outside the state.

"We have no indication that any of our schools want 'out' of the convention," he said. "There is no need to fear them, we need to help them. This will do that."

The amendment was defeated by a standing vote of about 60-40, and the proposal along with three others, was approved later.

One was a constitutional amendment that the term of each director be three years, and could not be re-elected after serving two successive terms until "such director shall have been out of office for three conven-

tion years." Present reading states one year instead of three. It must be approved again next convention to effect a change.

The Church Staff Compensation Study Committee was disbanded and its assignment given to the Church Annuity Programs department.

Other bylaws changes say that "an individual completing a term on any committee must be off for one year before serving on any committee or board." This includes standing committees as well as boards and institutions.

A bylaws change in the business and financial plan of the convention relates to the presentation, discussion, any changes proposed, and final voting on the annual budget.

The change, which was approved, affirms messengers' right to propose amendments, and states that such proposals would be "referred to the Budget and Program Committee ... for review and referral back to the convention."

Amendments would go to the committee for study and then back to the messengers for voting.

Messengers also approved two resolutions — on prayer support to government officials and the traditional resolution of gratitude to those who played a role in the 120th annual session of the convention.

The resolution on prayer support targeted recently elected Tennessee government leaders. The resolution makes "known our promise to pray for our governor-elect, U.S. senators, members of the U.S. House of Representatives from Tennessee, as well as our representatives in both the state house and state Senate, and the speakers of these bodies."

Six men were honored as "Small Church" and "Bivocational" Pastors of the Year: Paul Broyles, Limestone; James Growden, Nashville; Marlon Stephens, Trenton; Mark Roberts, Tazewell; Forrest Creekmore, Portland; and Tony Crossnoe, Paris. (Please see story in next week's issue.)

Next year's annual session will be held Nov. 14-15 in Chattanooga. Doug Sager of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, will deliver the convention sermon.

Other convention items are reported elsewhere in this issue. More news is scheduled next week. □



FMB PRESIDENT Jerry Rankin delivers the closing message of the 120th annual meeting.

More than 4,000 attend final session

Missions emphasis ends convention on positive note

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — An estimated 4,500 people, more than triple the number of registered messengers, witnessed a spectacular end to the 120th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 16 at Bellevue Church, Cordova.

Many Shelby County churches dismissed services so their members could attend the final session which highlighted the Cooperative Program and missions.

Those in attendance witnessed the final scene of the drama "Dollars Making a Difference ... Through the Cooperative Program."

Following the drama, messengers were able to make their own commitment to the Cooperative Program, using a stone each was given as they entered the sanctuary.

The evening session was enhanced by music presentations from the Bellevue choir and orchestra and an associational youth choir. There were more than 400 singers in the two choirs combined.

During the closing session Tennessee Baptists witnessed the official signing of partnership agreements with the Baptists conventions of Canada and Poland.

Representatives of both countries, along with Robert Wilson, executive director of the Michigan Baptist Con-

vention, Tennessee's home missions partner, were on hand for the event.

Ryszard Gutkowski, general secretary, Baptist Union of Poland, said that the vision of Poland Baptists is "to share the Gospel with each person in Poland in this generation.

"We are counting on you (Tennessee Baptists) because we know it is a big effort. Together we can do more," he said.

The Polish leader asked Tennessee Baptists to pray for Poland and encouraged them to come to the country as volunteers.

Canada's Gerry Taillon, the convention's evangelism director, noted that of nearly 29 million Canadians less than 3 percent are Baptist.

"Our priority is to reach people for Christ," he said, noting Canadian leaders understand well that "Tennessee Baptists can't do it for us. That's our responsibility."

Wilson thanked Tennessee Baptists for their partnership efforts during the past 15 years. "You have made it possible for many of our people to hear the Gospel and come to know Jesus as Savior," he said.

Wilson said Michigan Baptists are excited about continuing the partnership for another five years into a new century. "Pray for us, come



FMB PRESIDENT Jerry Rankin presents a plaque to TBC Executive Director James Porch and the Tennessee Baptist Convention in recognition of their partnership missions efforts.

help us," he urged.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin put the finishing touches on an evening focused on the missions efforts of Tennessee and Southern Baptists around the world.

Basing his message on Matthew 21:28, Rankin observed "God is opening unprecedented fields of opportunities and he's inviting us to go."

God calls his people to "work in the fields" not just in Tennessee, Canada, and America, "but to the uttermost parts of the earth," Rankin said.

Rankin said Southern Baptists are now sending missionaries to places "where we

once thought we would never have missionaries," he said.

The FMB leader cited numerous examples of missionaries willing to pay the price to follow God's call to foreign lands.

He emphasized that in order to follow God's call there must be a commitment and a price to be paid.

"God does not have to use Tennessee Baptists, Southern Baptists, or the Foreign Mission Board," Rankin said.

"God will raise up those willing to go and work those fields. But he's giving us that opportunity," Rankin said.

During a commitment time following his message, several people made public and private commitments to God. □



KONSTANTY WIAZOWSKI, right, talks about the upcoming partnership with Poland. With him, from left, are Terry Sharp, TBC; Ryszard Gutkowski, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Poland, and Bennie Creel, director of missions, Sweetwater Association.

Drama featuring family's pilgrimage stirs messengers

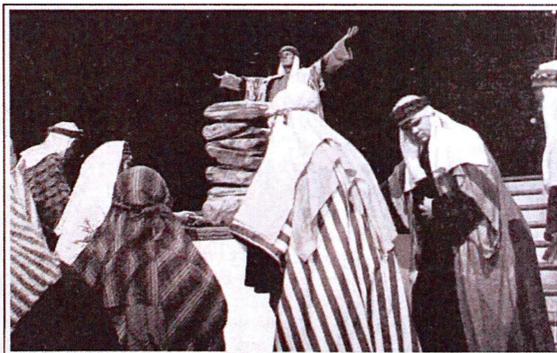
By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — Convention messengers responded with applause following the six installments of "Dollars Making a Difference ... Through the Cooperative Program," a drama held throughout convention sessions.

The messengers viewed the protagonist, a retired Baptist pastor, trying to prepare to move after the death of his wife.

He is rummaging through collected memorabilia in a basement. The memories and relating those memories to his grandchildren bring sorrow and joy. They also bring to mind influences of Tennessee Baptists and their programs.

The pastor met his wife at a Baptist youth camp, attended Baptist schools, and was influenced by a Baptist chaplain during war.



REPRESENTING JOSHUA and the Israelites building a memorial of stones are actors of the drama.

Author Bob Oldenburg, Roswell Church, Atlanta, met the goal of the drama, according to Don Mauldin, one of the 10 TBC staff members who planned the event. Oldenburg also is author/composer of *Good News*, one of the first youth musicals published during the 1960s. He was on the

staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board at that time. In addition to writing the drama, Oldenburg composed the song, "Remembrance," which introduced each part of the drama along with a slide show of Tennessee Baptist ministries.

Actors and actresses were members of the drama troupe



ACTORS FROM BELLEVUE CHURCH, from left, Christyn Parker, Cal Robertson, and Stephen Sims portray grandchildren and their grandfather during the drama.

of Bellevue Church, Cordova.

In addition to events in the pastor's life, a symbolic portion of the drama included the Old Testament character Joshua, who led the Israelites to prepare memorials to God made of stones.

Characters representing

ministries placed stones at a memorial representing God's work in lives and, in the final session, all messengers and visitors received small polished stones as a remembrance of any commitment made to the Cooperative Program. □

President Newcomb issues 'wake-up call' to Tennesseans

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — Ray Newcomb prefaced the president's address on Tuesday evening with thanks to the messengers for the past year as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The pastor of First Church, Millington, said he had feared the impact of the additional responsibilities on his church, but God blessed and 123 more people were baptized by the church than the year before.

He reported the encouragement he received from missions trips to Chile to support the 1991-94 partnership with Baptists there, to Michigan for the ongoing partnership, and to Canada to investigate opportunities for a partnership. (The convention approved partnerships with Canada and Poland in a later session.)

He thanked, with some emotion, all Tennessee Baptists, especially members of convention committees, officers, and James Porch, executive director-treasurer.

As he began his message, Newcomb reported Tennessee Baptists should examine themselves. He quoted statistics from the past 40 years of Tennessee Baptist work. In summary, church membership has increased 64 percent and Cooperative Program giving has risen 1,112 percent, but baptisms have dropped 25.7 percent.

Newcomb noted just as Moses was reminded by God in Exodus 19, Tennessee Baptists can remember times when, as God said, "I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you out."

Tennessee Baptists also must be cognizant of the present — 64 percent of Tennesseans are lost, he said.

Tennessee Baptists "have gotten so comfortable sitting in buildings and in meetings," we've ignored the world which is going to hell, said Newcomb.

We must obey God's principles, he said, which include the following — believe God is sovereign, be grounded in God's Word, serve

Jesus, guide sinners to Jesus, practice stewardship, and avoid grieving the Spirit.

Newcomb warned against placing a higher priority on programs, people, or places than on God. Tennessee Baptists also must study and believe the Bible, he said. "He (God) didn't tell me to be an editor. He told me to be a preacher. He told me to preach it." He observed many Baptists with years of experience in their faith can be confused by a Jehovah's Witness "about their doctrine in 20 minutes."



DURING HIS PRESIDENT'S address, Ray Newcomb emphasizes a point.

The principle of service means following God's call rather than men's, said Newcomb. Although he has received many calls to other churches during his 18 year tenure at First Church, Millington, he has remained because of God's direction, he explained.

Giving to the Cooperative Program is one way to serve God, said Newcomb. While he served in Chile, Newcomb met one result of Cooperation Program giving — missionaries, he reported. They received their first raise in four years because of CP giving, he added.

The giving plan is successful, Newcomb said, adding, "If it's not broke don't fix it." He encouraged all Tennessee Baptist churches to participate, noting only 81 percent do.

The priority of Christians must be the Word of God, outreach, and fellowship, as Homer Lindsey Jr., co-pastor, First Church, Jacksonville, has written, said Newcomb.

Newcomb also referred listeners to the book, *Total Church Life* by Darrell Robinson. Instead of exalting the Savior, many preachers rely on man-made programs or anecdotes, observed Newcomb. Everything you need to preach is in the Bible, he said.

Response to the Scripture is evangelism, explained Newcomb.

If talking, meeting, and planning could reach the world, Tennessee Baptists already would have done it, said Newcomb. "But I wonder how many have been led to Jesus the past two days" even though the "cream of the crop of Tennessee Baptists" are present? he asked.

"Wake up," he concluded. □

Calvin Harvell preaches convention sermon on crisis in churches

CORDOVA — Preaching one of the three sermons heard during the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting, Calvin Harvell presented the convention sermon during the Wednesday morning session on the crisis in churches.

The pastor of Eudora Church, Memphis, said, "It's easy to blame the Republicans and Democrats for the mess we're in. If America's in trouble, some of the blame can be laid at the doors of our churches."

He noted a recent issue of *Church Administration* magazine reported 116 Southern Baptist church staff members are fired every month.

The church is supposed to be a house of prayer and love, Harvell stated. If not "it's not a house of God."

One result of the discord in churches is less evangelism and ministry, he cited.

He referred to Psalm 55:1-23, where the author describes his discouragement at overwhelming problems.

After 35 years in the ministry, Harvell said he could relate to the writer, adding trials come when you feel everything's going great."

"Sometimes church and denominational leaders create problems, he acknowledged. In those situations, God can teach through that trial, he added.

In other cases factions in churches are the source of problems. Factions are "hurting the denomination, hurting our witness, and hurting our testimonies for Jesus Christ. We must solve this problem before we're going to move and solve the other problems of our world," said Harvell, "because the image of the church is at stake."

"Folks, if we can't get along in

our churches, it's best we go to another — where we can stand together and pray together and sing together. Isn't that what church is all about?

"The pulpit is not a safe place to be in modern society. It can be hazardous to your health ... and that's why we need to solve this problem," said Harvell.

How should church leaders respond to problem situations in churches, asked Harvell.

He cited three responses among church leaders — doubting God, self-pity, and flight.

Church leaders must examine themselves, he noted, such as acknowledging that self-pity is rooted in pride.

The answer isn't flight, he continued. Southern Baptist pastors have an average tenure of about two years, he reported. Before leaving pastors should consider the fact that problems "have a way of following you. We can't solve our problems by running," he said.

Harvell proposed the following solutions — understanding the true meaning of burdens and casting those upon the Lord.

The definition of the Hebrew word, burden, in Psalm 55:16-17 is gift from God, he stated. "Preachers, you can be a sermon as well as preach one," Harvell said.

"Sometimes we learn more out of trouble than we do good. We learn more out of hurt than out of helping."

Pastors and laypeople should prepare for a struggle, he warned.

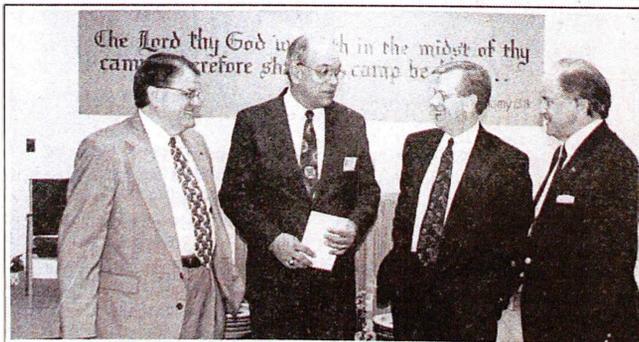
"This is not a time to retreat. I used to believe the devil was out in the night ... in the darkness. But today the devil is knocking on the door of the church," declared Harvell.

"The storms of life are raging, but Jesus Christ can still all storms. God help us in our churches to stop the storms so that our churches can win the world for Jesus Christ." □ — Connie Davis



HARVELL

More convention views



TBC DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS held a fellowship banquet at Camp Cordova. Officers Bennie Creel, left, president, and Roy Fowler, left center, secretary-treasurer, welcome FMB President Jerry Rankin, right center, along with host director of missions John McBride, Shelby County Association.

Bold ministries mark 120th convention

There were definitive high points in the 120th Annual Session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, wrapped in an atmosphere of calm and boldness.

This is not to say that there was absolute agreement in business discussions and recommendations. Some items did have opposition, but not much discord surfaced in debating issues.

No use in belaboring the lack of attendance. For whatever reason, Tennessee Baptists are not inclined to attend state conventions in large numbers. It takes a controversial agenda to whet appetites sufficiently. It is a matter of concern that hundreds of churches, by choice, did not send messengers.

Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tennessee Baptists' largest, provided the meeting place and met the challenge with aplomb. Messengers were made to feel at home, comfortable, at ease, and blessed with thoughtful service.

Another high mark was the adopting of new partnerships. Always a volunteer state with bold purpose and people to match the challenge, Tennessee offers to the world an unmatched willingness to serve.

On Wednesday night, messengers and friends witnessed the culmination of what they already had prayed for and approved by vote.

Making it real in memorable fashion, the partnership pacts were signed by James Porch and Jerry Rankin with Konstanty Wiazowski and Ryszard

Gutkowski for Poland; with Gerry Tailon for west Canada; and Bob Wilson for Michigan.

Gutkowski, Wiazowski, Tailon, and Wilson, provide reminders for us that the missions challenge is bold, and Tennessee must match that challenge with all available spiritual and physical resources. Perhaps this is a time for courageous, wise, and spirit-led responses. It is a time ripe for renewed vision and deeper commitment. This is not a time for delays and lack of concern.

The Poland and Canada partnerships begin January 1, the Michigan partnership is renewed, even as Tennessee this year closes out a superb three-year partnership with Chile.

The signing ceremony was in the middle of a colossal evening of celebrating missions and evangelism with music and flags waving.

Notes on the Annual Session:

■ Presiding President Ray Newcomb was gracious but firm in his treatment of reports, messenger comments, recommendations, and facilitating convention actions. Newcomb was a steady performer all year, a down-to-earth, but wise president.

■ Messengers elected a strong mix of incoming leaders: Frank Hawkins, a volunteer missions-minded pastor from Kingsport in the extreme northeast; M. B. Howard, a feisty and durable layman who is Mr. Volunteer, from the west; and Wesley Pitts, director of missions with a heart for evangelism, from Middle Ten-

nessee. The three will compliment each other and lead well the ministries of Tennessee Baptists.

■ The newly adopted budget of \$26.1 million is within reach of Tennessee Baptist churches. It is a strong budget, yet realistic within reason. *Every church should get involved!* It will be a great victory for the ministries of Christ if the budget can be achieved!

■ Post convention comments reveal that not all messengers were satisfied. However, the presiding officers gave ample opportunity for discussion. That was the time and place for debate.

■ Bellevue Church, staff and members, were good hosts. Messengers had little cause to complain about the ordinary points of discomfort. Applause is due to all the musicians, including choirs and individuals. Extraordinary but tasteful performances were standard.

■ Hats off to the TBC Executive Board staff members for excellent work with the new design for the display area, and to those who helped with the ministries planning and programming. These were first class innovations, and deserve long runs.

■ The ongoing theme of commitment, including the drama, the partnerships, the positive reports, and the stones of remembering will be constant reminders of the good things about the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Let us commit to positive ministry in being and doing, our best for the Living Lord. □

■ one word more

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
editor

Found faithful

They dropped anchor on the shores of a land with promise, new and unknown, on November 21, 1620.

They had crossed the wild and broad Atlantic, still uncharted in places. They had crossed under the stars and bright sun, sailing through dismal and foul weather at times, catching the full wind in billowing sails, and sweeping them ever westward.

They numbered a hundred and two, an insignificant band of hardy offshoots of a group of Protestants known as Puritans.



ALLEN

They were bold enough to believe they could purify the Church of England from within. When tyranny and the status quo balked at every suggestion of change and blocked with violent reaction each attempt at renewal, these Puritans separated themselves and set up their own congregations.

They were separatists. Under the leadership of William Brewster, they fled persecution in England — thence to Holland — and in 1620 to form the beginnings of a Christian colony on the beaches of America. They were going to a strange, unexplored, virgin land of tall tales and great expectations.

Perhaps Brewster or William Bradford or another leaned against the prow on a bleak night and cried aloud to God for guidance.

There were forty-nine free men aboard who gathered to forge an agreement of government. Men with names like Winslow, Allenton, Fuller, Martin, Warren, Fletcher, Rogers, Standish. Oh yes, John Alden, the cooper was also there.

There was something to be done before they put to shore. They talked about good government, these sea-weary pilgrims. The women prayed for good houses. They talked about stable leadership, civil and religious liberty.

They signed their guarantee, the Mayflower Compact. God granted their prayers and more. Less than a year later, the pilgrim Puritans honored God with a day of thanks. □

By Wm. Fletcher Allen,
editor

■ just for today
By Fred Wood
pastor emeritus
Eudora Church, Memphis

Celebrating Thanksgiving

As our nation enters this special time of year, Thanksgiving Day, when we

■ families matter
By Paul Barkley, counselor and professor

Start with a smile

Wife of a television sports addict: "Honey, do you love me more than football?"

Husband: "Well, I love you more than I love hockey!"

Take this truth

A light yellow garment may look white until seen beside a truly white garment. Jesus said we must love him more than anything. A historian wrote of a man, "He loved his country in a mild sort of way." This love never practices great loyalty. Jesus' cross reveals a love "so amazing, so divine," it "demands my soul, my life, all!"

Memorize this scripture:

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and mind" (Matthew 22:38).

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to realize Christ must be Lord of all my life or he will not actually be Lord in any part of it." □

turn aside to remember those things for which we are thankful, I would like to remind us that the Apostle Paul said that we should be thankful in all things. I am especially thankful for Christian families. I use this little acrostic to explain my feelings.

Togetherness is a priceless gift that costs little. I cherish the memory of times together with family.

Hope is the legacy and legend of the Christian family. The thought of the Christian family is an island of hope in the present and the light of hope in the future.

Adventure abounds in the Christian family. One never knows what will happen next, but in the Christian family it can lead to a sense of adventure with the security of his presence and protection.

Nurture is certainly the foundation of the Christian family. It is within the safety of the Christian family that the child is nurtured into the

nurturing adult.

Kinfolks are always glad to see you. That acceptance is an island in the turbulent sea of life in the closing days of the twentieth century.

Stability is a calm assurance of the family for the stressful and stormy days of change brought about by the fast paced technical change of today's world.

Guarantee of acceptance offers a sense of belonging and oneness that every human being needs.

God created man with a need for each other that was acknowledged when God "saw that it was not good for man to be alone."

Identity is an integral part of human nature. The Christian family is a central force in helping adolescents especially answer the question, "Who am I?"

Variety is one of the unique blessings of the Chris-

tian family. We learn in the family that we do not have to be just like everyone else in order to be accepted.

Incredible love is the hallmark of the Christian family. So much of the world operates on a performance based concept of love, the family is often the only sanctuary of unconditional love.

Normalcy seems to have vanished from the face of the earth, yet in the Christian family I find what has always been held up as the standard of normal.

Generosity is another standard of the Christian family for which I am thankful. Family members are generous with each other and generous with others.

These attributes brought to mind by the letters of the word **THANKSGIVING** remind me of only a few of the things that Christian families have to be thankful for not only at this time of year, but all year long. We should all express thanks to God as we bless our family members. □



BARKLEY

Tennessee WMU holds fair, hosts missionaries, families

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — In a move away from tradition this year, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union eschewed an annual meeting for events to bring Tennessee missionaries and their families together during the Nov. 14 pre-convention meeting. Tennessee Baptists were welcomed to meet them at a missions fair and to hear three speak in very short messages during a dinner.

The Missions Extravaganza held at Second Church, Memphis, drew about 350 to the events, which featured about 80 home and foreign missions family members with ties to Tennessee. They included missionaries — current, furloughing, retired, and former — and their parents and children.

At the dinner, participants heard three missionaries thank Tennessee Baptists.

Pat Stooksbury of Bolivia thanked Tennessee Baptists for their prayers, adding facetiously, "I never know what some of you are praying for God to do with me." On a serious note, she asked, "Who am I to merit such trust?"

She especially thanked those who pray for her specific needs. "We need a little bit more than 'God bless the missionaries.'"

During her furlough based in Knoxville which began in February, Stooksbury reported she has spoken about 150 times. She noted she has visited different churches, some which were "so hollow spiritually that very little praying was going on."

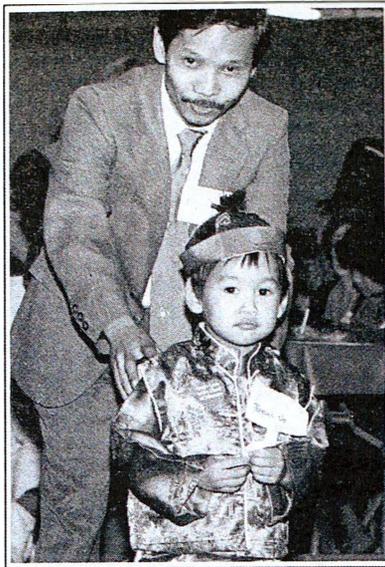
However, she said she also has met church members whom she believed when they said they would be praying for her.

"Ooo, how humbling. Thank you," she concluded.

Della Jo Hamrick, a retired missionary who served in New Mexico and now lives in Knoxville, thanked Southern Baptists for their support which allowed her and her family to work without raising funds like so many other missionaries.

She thanked the crowd for the Tennessee WMU scholarship which allowed her to attend New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hamrick recalled getting settled in her place of service in New Mexico. Her house was 32 miles from a paved road and without telephone service. So the weekly issues of the *Baptist and Reflector*



BEING ENCOURAGED TO POSE for a picture by his father, Paul Vo, is James Vo. The family, who is from Vietnam, attends Second Church, Memphis, and participated in the missions fair.



EXAMINING AN ITEM FROM COLOMBIA during the missions fair is Ryszard Gutkowski, left, general secretary, Baptist Union of Poland, with the help of Crea Ridenour, retired missionary to Colombia, who now lives in Knoxville. Gutkowski attended convention activities which included a proposed partnership between Polish and Tennessee Baptists. The partnership was approved by the convention.

the family received were very important.

And it meant so much, she said, when Tennessee WMU sent the family a gift each Christmas. Those gifts included magazine subscriptions and money. Hamrick said she remembered using the money for gifts for their children and for a special meal.

In addition, the Christmas gifts sent to all MKs (missionary kids) in college have meant a lot to the family, she added. The couple's children began attending college in 1973 and except for two years, they have attended colleges or universities since.

Myrtice Owens who is retired from service in Namibia and now lives in Paris, recalled her first journey to the foreign mission field which was in 1957 by ship. When she and her husband,

Carlos, found their cabin, there was a telegram from Tennessee WMU, she reported, which moved the couple to tears. That began a long relationship between the couple and Tennessee Baptists, said Owens.

Many Tennessee Baptists served as proxy parents for their children when they returned to the states, she reported. Others wrote them notes, gave them gifts and "held them up," said Owens.

Tennessee Baptists helped her on the field, she said. When she would be discouraged, she would return home to find a pile of letters from fellow Baptists, she reported. "Oh, I tell you, that shows us you care so much."

When they retired and returned home, "Carlos just fell apart," she said, referring to health problems. Tennessee WMU told everybody and Tennessee Baptists encouraged them each day with calls and letters, she reported.

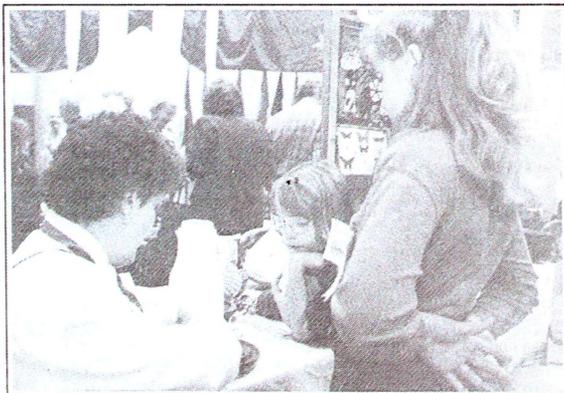
"We're with you today because you prayed for us."

During retirement Tennessee Baptists continue to make their lives more fulfilling, she reported, by giving them work to do. And because they "still feel like strangers in your land," the encouragement received also has been appreciated.

"Nobody has cared for us more," she concluded. □



SISTERS, from left, Rebekah Lambert of Lewisburg, retired missionary to Korea after 33 years; Ann Lambert of Nashville, retired teacher at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy after 30 years; and Mary Bond of Nashville, a member of Judson Church, visit during the missions fair.



FORMER MISSIONARY to Brazil, Kathy Sharp, left, shows a game from that country to Lauren Bray, center, of Germantown Church, Germantown, and Jamie Bryson, Ellendale Church, Bartlett, at the missions fair.

WMU elects staff member

During the Missions Extravaganza the state WMU Executive Board elected Amanda Day as a staff associate.

Day, who is completing a degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, is a graduate of the University of Arizona. She has taught elementary school for four years.

Day has been Acteens director and missions Vacation Bible School director for a Baptist association. During college, she participated in missions work in Mexico, Arizona, and Brazil. She is presently a part of Women on Mission at Southwestern seminary.

She will begin her work at the Baptist Center in Brentwood, Jan. 2.



DAY

Pastors address 'Living for Jesus' theme

By Wm. Fletcher Allen and Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — The Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference met here Nov. 14 at Bellevue Church prior to the TBC Annual Session under the theme "Living for Jesus."

Eleven pastors and evangelists, plus a bevy of musicians addressed sub-themes of "Living for Jesus by our dedication, in our proclamation, and in expectation." Ronnie Wilburn, president, led the meeting along with two other officers, Wade Taylor and Damon Corley.

The group elected Ron Herrod, pastor of Central Church, Oak Ridge, as new president. Also elected were David Daugherty, Shellsford Church, McMinnville, vice president; and Greg Bowers, Portland, secretary.

Pastors from across state speak

Herrod, one of the first speakers, told of a tragedy in his family which taught him some lessons.

When his daughter was 15 she was raped by an intruder to their home and became pregnant.

"I experienced some emotions I don't like to admit," said Herrod concerning the whole experience. In regard to the pregnancy he said, "Even though it was rape, abortion was never an option. It's not a choice, it's a child."

Later in his message, Herrod said Christians can rejoice in the recent elections

but "the problem is not in the White House; it's in God's house."

Today his daughter is a student at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va., and the Herrods are friends with the family who adopted the child she bore, he reported. Herrod met the accused man — as a pastor rather than father of the victim because of legal ramifications — and told him he forgave him. Herrod and his wife, Emily, have helped start two pregnancy crisis centers and one rape crisis center and published a book about the experience.

Going through such a trial "will release you from the things that bind you," said Herrod. He cited the restrictions by the Catholic church upon Martin Luther and the Church of England upon John Wesley as examples.

God's grace will enable a person to forgive, he said.

Richard White, pastor of First Church, Franklin, spoke on proclamation of the Gospel from II Timothy 4.

In this Scripture the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to preach the Word using sound doctrine, truth, and faith, said White.

"We are to preach the Word of God.

We have no liberty to invent our own message," he said.

White emphasized the need for such preaching by referring to statistics which reveal 93 percent of Americans say they decide moral issues based on experiences.

Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, addressed the problem of churches remaining relevant.

Among Protestant churches in the U.S. 83 percent are plateaued or declining and of Southern Baptist churches 70 percent are such churches, cited Sutton.

"Many of today's churches with the attitude we've arrived are either dead or dying," he noted.

To be relevant, churches must have an anointed ministry made up of men, not plans or programs, Sutton stated. They also must develop ministries which are discerning, relevant, intentional, visionary, sacrificial, involved, accountable, and passionate.

Sutton compared many churches to a football event — a team is doing all the work although they don't need the exercise and spectators are watching although they desperately need exercise.

Jerry Tidwell, pastor, West Jackson Church, Jackson, shared lessons to be learned from the experience of Daniel who was put into a lions' den.

"If you are backed into a corner because you wouldn't compromise, you're not alone, you're even in good company," he said.

The most faithful are those who come under attack, noted Tidwell, even though we've been conditioned by our society to think "if things go wrong then God must be mad at us."

A correct perspective on persecution takes into account that God has "never, never lost," he added, and Satan is powerless at the hands of God.

Christians also should learn from this Scriptural reference that God works best when there's no other way out.

Drew Hayes, pastor of First Church, Shelbyville, speaking from Matthew 9 and John 4, talked about Jesus' only prayer request when he admonished his disciples to "ask the Lord of the harvest to send out harvesters into the harvest fields."

"Jesus would not have asked us to make this prayer if he didn't intend to answer," he said. Soul winning is the best term for witnessing, he said. He asked the pastors to pray for harvesters, but reminded them that praying never substitutes for harvesting.

A Mississippi pastor, Steve Bennett, Colonial Hills, Southaven, also talked

about proclamation, explained the seriousness of listening and obeying God. "I usually call on God's names when he tells me to call on his name," he said.

"If there is a famine of anything in our Baptist churches today," he said, "it is a famine of the presence of God." He added that a prophet is one who spends enough of his time in the presence of God, that God shares his secrets with him. The average Southern Baptist church is dead, he surmised. "Ninety-five percent of Southern Baptists believe in the Bible entirely," he said. "We have the Word and preach the Word, but the power and the presence of God is missing." He admonished the group to "be expendable in the godly things."

O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Dallas, Texas, thanked host pastor Adrian Rogers for "all he's done" during the past 15 years. "Adrian," he said, "We need you now more than ever before. Stay in the saddle."

Hawkins made four points from Acts 13, on leadership, speaking on the setting apart of Paul (Saul) and Barnabas at Antioch, and then referring to David's servant spirit as a leader. He said David served God in his own generation, and was an "under-rower," meaning he was a slave for God.

And, he added, David was a submissive servant. More than that, he was a contemporary submissive servant. And David became a contemporary submissive servant with an eternal purpose.

Wilburn, pastor, Meridian Church, Jackson, spoke about the realities of heaven. He described heaven as portrayed in Revelation. "Christ will be glorified and exalted in the new Jerusalem," he said.

He talked about constant worship in heaven, and Jesus as the Lamb providing the lighting system. "What on earth are we doing for heaven's sake," he asked, "when we should be showing people the way to heaven and Christ?"

Local pastors speak

Tommy Vinson, pastor of Leewood Church, Memphis, said pastors should be able to relate to Isaiah as he recognized his own depravity in Isaiah, chapter 6. "You wouldn't be so shocked at your own sin if you didn't think so highly of yourself," said Vinson.

Isaiah went before God with bowed head, broken heart, bent knee, and open hands, noted Vinson.

Preachers should emphasize the supremacy of God, Vinson stated. "If we can get people into the presence of God they will get their needs met — not by some frothy, popular psychology, but by the holy God of heaven."

God is not a "utilitarian genie" who responds when we rub our "theological lamps," he said. But he responds when we come to him asking, as Isaiah, how long trials will last.

In response, God gave Isaiah forgiveness of sin, the voice of God, and a new sense of mission, he said.

Bob Pittman, pastor, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, discussed the truth written by John in II John 1.

This truth, like other truths in the mathematical or scientific worlds, is an

absolute truth in the spiritual realm. All spiritual truths are absolute, said Pittman, because "God is an absolute God," he said.

John wrote about a truth which is Jesus, said Pittman, who is the only source of grace, mercy, and peace, and the only Lord.

Grace and mercy are different in that grace adds to a person and mercy takes away what people really deserve — hell, explained Pittman.

Instead of biting fingernails, fretting, going on a diet of Maalox, taking a bottle of Valium, or using a psychiatrist's couch, go to God for peace, he said.

As Lord, God "doesn't even have to have a conference with the trinity; he's Lord," he said.

If Christians know God, they won't be afraid of demons, reported Pittman. "The key to demonology is knowing Jesus."

Closing message

Host pastor Adrian Rogers preached the closing message, from Hebrews 10.

Prior to his message the Bellevue choir and banner group led in worship.

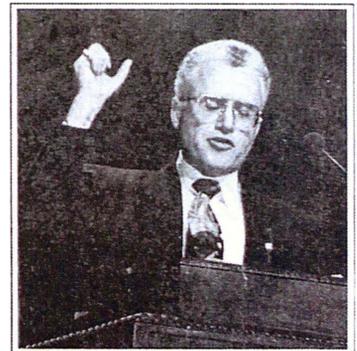
Rogers spoke from the verses beginning with "Let us..." Let us draw near to God, let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, let us not give up meeting together.

"The curse and problem of the 20th century," he said, "is that many have left the house of God. Some go to church three times — when they are hatched, matched, and dispatched."

He added that church attendance as



PASTOR OF FIRST CHURCH, Dallas, Texas, O.S. Hawkins, speaks.



PRESIDENT RONNIE WILBURN preaches Monday evening.

explained in the New Testament is more than a privilege — "it was a solemn duty. If you didn't attend, you were assumed lost."

The theme of the Hebrews verses, he said, are: let us worship together, let us witness together, let us work together. "We can always come boldly by the blood of Jesus as we worship together."

"We don't have to keep telling God how great he is," Rogers said. "Is he insecure? No, we worship him for what that worship does for us." And, he said that our presence in worship is a witness that we still believe.

"If you have little desire to be with the saints down here (in worship, work, and witness), there is little hope for you to be with the saints up there (heaven)," he said. □

Messengers adopt budget; approve board's recommendations

For Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — During annual session Tennessee Baptist messengers adopted a 1994-95 Cooperative Program budget of \$26,184,634.

The recommendation, presented by the TBC Executive Board, also called for any overage to be shared according to the existing budget allocations and that the CP receipts be distributed 62.5 percent through the TBC and 37.5 percent through the SBC.

Last year's budget was \$27,580,533. TBC Executive Director James Porch told messengers the convention received \$26,206,772 or 95.02 percent of the budget.

Informing messengers the TBC Executive Board operations have no debt, Porch said, "We believe we are on an upward trend in our Cooperative Program." He noted that during the last three months of the past budget year, gifts each month exceeded monthly needs.

Paul Moody, pastor of Erin Church, Erin, and president of the Executive Board, told messengers, "We believe we have a good budget. We have gone

through the processes you have approved."

Messengers also approved four recommendations from the Executive Board, including a proposal to enter into foreign mission partnerships with Canada and Poland. See story on page three.

Changes also were approved for the Program of Camp Services and the Church Annuity Plan.

The changes in the Church Annuity Plan become effective Jan. 1. They are (1) All eligible non-ministerial participants will receive the protection section of the Church Annuity Plan; (2) All ministerial participants must now earn the matching contribution that is presently automatically contributed to their retirement account; (3) A loan provision was added to the plan; and (4) All participants with "Plan A" contributions are eligible to receive early retirement benefits.

The final recommendation adopted was a report from a special study committee appointed after last year's annual meeting in Nashville. The committee, chaired by David George, pastor of Immanuel Church, Nashville, was in-

structed to do a study on Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

The request for the study came after an amendment to the budget last November to add \$30,000 to TBAH's budget after their request had been denied through the budgetary process. The amendment passed, causing last minute adjustments to the budget.

George noted that from the beginning Tennessee Baptists have allocated CP funds for work with the developmentally disabled.

The committee's report covered almost six pages in the TBC Book of Reports. George did not read the entire report, but went over the conclusions:

(1) "We affirm the fact that Tennessee Baptists have made a commitment to minister to the developmentally disabled. The need for this ministry is clear and compelling. ..."

(2) "We call for greater cooperation and communication in conducting all the ministries of Tennessee Baptists. The work we are called to do is large and complex. It can only be done effectively if we work as a team. ..."

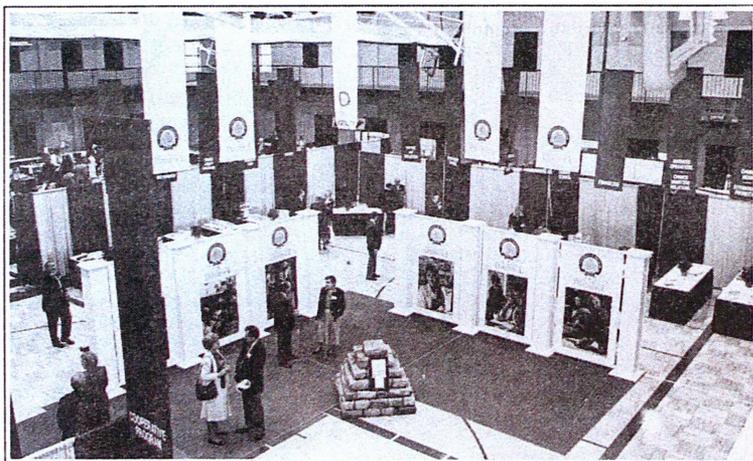
(3) "We recognize the need for observing limits. We have a limited

amount of money available to fund our programs and ministries at any given time. ... We, therefore, recommend that a limit be agreed upon concerning the extent of our involvement in homes for the developmentally disabled. The 1988 study and convention action envisioned a total of three homes, one in each of the three divisions in the state. It must be understood that if additional facilities are added, there must be specific plans for funding these facilities. ..."

(4) "We further find that there is a need to define the nature of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes' support for this ministry. ... We recommend that in the future the TBC and TBAH role be limited to providing administrative and counseling services by the TBAH staff and not extended to operations or capital needs unless it can be done out of the TBAH budget and not funded out of additional Cooperative Program funds."

George noted that adopting the report "doe not bind us to substantive change." The report was approved with a few opposing votes. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

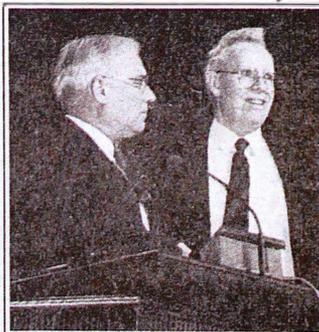
TBC messengers enjoy annual meeting at Bellevue



IN PHOTO TO LEFT, the exhibit area, focusing on the theme 'Cooperative Program Dollars Making a Difference,' provided time for messengers to visit TBC exhibits and to fellowship with each other. AT RIGHT, host pastor Adrian Rogers of Bellevue welcomes Doug Baker, right, pastor of Parran's Chapel Church, Bolivar, and second vice president of the convention, and Baker's son, Michael.



RUSS DUNHAM, right center, of First Church, LaFollette, enjoys the convention with Knoxvilleans, from left, Hershel Chevallier, Cumberland Church; Bobby Turner, West Hills Church; and John Holland, Salem Church.



TBC PRESIDENT Ray Newcomb, left, introduces Wallace Anderson after he was elected for the 37th time as TBC Recording Secretary. Anderson is director of the TBC Program Services Department.



FIRST CHURCH, KNOXVILLE, Pastor David Hull, left, visits with First Church, Nashville, Pastor Dan Francis, right, and Russ Roach, minister of missions, at the Nashville church.

Associations hold fall meetings across state

Business

Shelby County Association added three churches to its fellowship — International Church, Memphis; New Beginning, Memphis; and Faith of Bartlett Church, Bartlett. It also elected members of 12 committees, 21 program councils, two support groups, and the foundation board of directors.

For the first time, **Granger Association** held a two-session annual meeting. Messengers increased the budget to fund a World Mission Conference.

Western District Association set up a new missions project fund to finance at least one missions project each year. The first Sunday in June will be the emphasis day for this fund. In 1995 the association is planning to work in Kenya.

McMinn-Meigs Association unanimously adopted a long range planning report, which was developed through meetings with church members. Messengers also amended its constitution and bylaws to allow more flexibility in setting meetings.

Beulah Association voted to support a new black congregation, which also will be sponsored by Sunswep Church, Union City. Messengers also acted to build a ministries building for the association if funds are available and to study the feasibility of establishing a home for unwed mothers.

Knox County Association voted to add First Church, Pellissippi, Knoxville, to the association.

Holston Association elected Ben Profitt as director of smaller church develop-



DIRECTED TO SERVE MCMINN-MEIGS Association for the next year during the fall meeting were, from left, Carlos R. Peterson, pastor, First Church, Athens, moderator; Wayne Bryant, pastor, East Niota Church, Niota, vice moderator; and Roy A. Fowler, director of missions.



NAMED OFFICERS during the fall meeting of Beulah Association were, from left, Richard Ams, Calvary Church, Union City, treasurer; Roger S. Oldham, First Church, Martin, vice-moderator; Jerry Leggett, Lake Road Church, Union City, moderator; Bill George, director of missions; and Linda George, secretary and clerk.

ment. Profitt, who will serve as a bivocational employee of the association, is director of the Family Preservation Program, First Tennessee



PROFIT

Human Resources Agency, Johnson City, which provides in-home crisis counseling and parenting skills training. He also has been minister of education, Mountain View Church, Johnson City, and served a church in Georgia. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Aiken, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Work

Messengers of **Shelby County Association** spent one hour during sessions praying for staff, officers, and members of councils and committees of the association. They also viewed a new video, "God at Work in Shelby County."

Carroll-Benton Association gave a gift of \$365 to Union University, Jackson, to assist a student from Carroll-Benton or to help the university. Messengers also heard the report that every reporting category showed improvement except three.

Recognitions

Dr. and Mrs. E. Lowell Adams were honored by **Shelby County Association** by the dedication of the annual to them. E. Lowell Adams served 12 years as clerk/treasurer of the association.

Bea Gardner was honored by **McMinn-**

Meigs Association for 23 years of service as secretary of the association. She will retire in December.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Landrum were honored by the dedication of the annual of **Big Hatchie Association** to them. Pat Landrum has retired as pastor of Brighton Church, Brighton, after 37 years.

Western District Association honored John Everett Roberts, 92, by dedicating its minutes to him. Roberts has been active in the association for the past 70 years and has been a strong supporter of its missions causes.

Ed Boulay was recognized by **Holston Association** as volunteer of the year for helping start the association's truck stop ministry at Holston Truckers' Chapel.

Three staff members of **Knox County Association** were recognized for tenure — Lois Parker, education secretary, for 15 years; Betsy Ingle, associate Baptist Student Union director at University of Tennessee — Knoxville, for five years; and Walter Taylor, director of missions, for five years.

Resolutions

Big Hatchie Association



RECOGNIZED AS VOLUNTEER of the year of Holston Association is Ed Boulay. Beverly Smothers of the association makes the presentation.

messengers passed two resolutions — one against all forms of gambling, noting people are currently trying to introduce it in Tennessee, and against an Oct. 23 article in *The Commercial Appeal*, the Memphis daily newspaper, which was an account of a lesbian couple.

Beulah Association resolved the following — affirmed the Cooperative Program; defined the Bible "as being the Word of God, breathed and inspired by the Holy Spirit and to be free from all errors;" committed to protect Baptist educational institutions against "liberal leadership and instructors who would compromise the



RETIRING SECRETARY of McMinn-Meigs Association, Bea Gardner receives a silver coffee service along with her husband, Charles, left, from Roy Fowler, director of missions.

truth of biblical inerrancy and divine inspiration;" against abortion, lotteries, and gambling; against homosexuality and pornography "which is supported by the United States surgeon general Joycelyn Elders and the high court;" promoting sexual abstinence among youth; and against prisons which "are actually vacation resorts." □

Pastors in Middle Tennessee set Dec. 1 meeting

The Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference will meet Thursday, Dec. 1, at Belmont University, Nashville.

Robert L. Hamblin, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead a study on the book of Galatians, the Winter Bible Study topic. Hamblin, a former vice president with the Home Mission Board, has written several books, including *Studies in Galatians*.

The meeting will be from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided by Belmont University. □

Daily prayer requests for Chile/Tennessee Partnership



November—

- 24 — Today, Grundy Janes Jr., serving the Lord through education, celebrates his birthday.
- 25 — Pray for the Bible teaching ministry among the children of the fishermen in Coloso, a fishing village near Antofagasta.
- 26 — Carol Hawkins, a home evangelist, is celebrating her birthday today.
- 27 — Members of First Church, Quilpie, are teaching English, baking, and crafts in the Community Center as an outreach opportunity.
- 28 — Pray for the spiritual development of the Chile Mission Family, as well as, for the missionaries separated from their loved ones during the holiday season.
- 29 — Continue to lift Manuel Sanchez to the Lord for salvation.
- 30 — Alicia de Nelis, pastor's wife at El Sembrador in Talca, has very serious medical problems.

N.C. messengers approve three giving plans; alter theological education funding

Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Messengers to the 164th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved a 1995 budget totaling \$29.4 million in three different giving plans available to churches. Messengers also passed a motion instructing the convention's general board to adopt a plan that would fund Baptist students attending North Carolina Baptist colleges and institutions equal to the amount sent to the Southern Baptist Convention for theological education.

All incumbent officers were elected during the experimental Nov. 11-12 weekend convention here. It was offered for the convenience of laypersons who might not be able to attend the traditional Monday through Wednesday sessions.

The budget, adopted by at least a 70-30 percent margin according to those on the platform, offers three choices to churches:

(1) Plan A is the traditional

approach, with 68 percent of the undesignated gifts retained by the Baptist State Convention for its missions and ministries with 32 percent allocated to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and international causes.

(2) Plan B retains the 68 percent for the state but provides that the remaining 32 percent be divided 10 percent to the SBC, 8.4 percent for theological education in North Carolina Baptist universities, and 13.6 percent for special foreign, home, and other missions.

(3) Plan C retains the 68 percent for the state but provides 10 percent to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship rather than the SBC with the other provisions as Plan B.

A challenge goal of \$500,000 is not included in any of the above allocations. All funds received at the Baptist Building for either of the three plans will be regarded as Cooperative Missions Giving which includes the traditional Cooperative Program system.

James Langford, a Tabor City pastor, voted to amend the budget to eliminate Plan C, but the amendment failed after discussion.

A motion that would have eliminated both Plans B and C by Ted Stone, a Durham layman and unsuccessful candidate for the convention's presidency, failed to get to the floor in the flow of discussion and parliamentary procedure.

The motion on theological education expressed concern that SBC seminaries can offer baccalaureate level education in which the seminary study is subsidized through Cooperative Program funds at approximately \$6,000 per student, while students at the six N.C. colleges are subsidized at a rate of about \$350 per student.

The motion, which passed with little opposition, directs the general board to meet at its earliest opportunity and adopt a plan that will fund N.C. Baptist college students in an amount no less than that sent as SBC CP gifts for theological education. □

Virginia Baptists approve change in representation

Baptist Press

SALEM, Va. — Virginia Baptists voted Nov. 16 to base representation from their churches on gifts to state causes alone, instead of contributions to state, national, and international ministries.

The action — taken during the annual meeting of the 600,000-member Baptist General Association of Virginia Nov. 15-16 — is the first by a state Baptist convention to make contributions to state ministries the sole basis for church representation. Unlike many other state conventions, BGAV congregations qualify for representation only through financial contributions, not through a combination of money and church members.

Meeting in Salem, messengers adopted a \$15 million budget for 1995 — \$500,000 less than the current one — and elected Margaret Wayland of Danville president.

The change in representation, proposed by the Virginia Baptist general board, garnered 73 percent of the vote, above the two-thirds majority necessary for approval. Similar proposals had received majorities in each of the past two years but fell short of the required two-thirds.

Proponents said the change was needed because the previous plan permitted churches to contribute money only to national ministries such as the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Opponents said the proposal was aimed at diminishing representation from conservative churches, many having reduced or eliminated gifts to the BGAV to protest what they claim is a weakening of ties between the moderate-controlled state association and the more conservative Southern Baptist Convention. □

Kentucky Baptists stay 'in the middle'

Baptist Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky Baptists charted a middle-of-the-road course at their annual meeting Nov. 15-16, electing a centrist candidate as president and rallying around a massive partnership missions project with Russian Baptists.

The 2,235 messengers to the KBC applauded appeals for Christian unity but soundly defeated a proposal to form a special committee to increase harmony among people of diverse theological and political views.

Centrist candidate Billy Compton of First Church, Mount Washington, was elected president in a runoff with conservative Bill Hancock, a Louisville pastor and former chairman of the Foreign Mission Board trustees. Earlier balloting eliminated moderate candidate Bob DeFoor, a Harrodsburg pastor.

In other actions, messengers approved an \$18.75 million budget, up 5 percent and admitted a record number of 15 new congregations into the convention. □

Alabama Baptists ask Samford to reconsider charter change

Associated Baptist Press

MOBILE, Ala. — Alabama Baptists asked Samford University to reconsider the recent decision taking away the right of the Alabama Baptist State Convention to elect the Birmingham school's trustees but chose — at least for now — not to take legal action.

Meeting Nov. 15-16 in Mobile, a record 3,135 messengers delivered a mild rebuke to Samford trustees, who changed their charter in September to allow them to elect members to the university's governing board. Historically, the state convention has elected trustees to oversee Sam-

ford, Alabama Baptists' flagship institution.

Messengers approved four recommendations of a Samford study committee appointed last month by convention president Dewey Corder, brushing aside efforts to take Samford to court or to withhold the \$4 million in state convention funding for the university.

The recommendation included a "request" that Samford trustees reconsider their Sept. 13 action. It also asked the convention to act on a slate of nominees to Samford's board, "affirming the legal right of the convention to do so."

Citing historical precedent, the commit-

tee then asked the convention to continue funding Samford until "final disposition" of the dispute by vote of the convention. Finally, the recommendation stipulated no further action be taken on the matter for the remainder of the convention.

The fourth recommendation superseded an earlier motion to take legal action against Samford's trustees and that money earmarked for the school be escrowed to cover legal costs.

In other business, messengers elected Athens pastor Fred Lackey convention president over Earl Potts, former convention executive director by a 53-47 percent margin. □

Alabama Baptist editor dies following convention

Baptist Press

POINT CLEAR, Ala. — Hudson D. Baggett, editor of *The Alabama Baptist* since 1966, died of a massive heart attack Nov. 17.

Baggett, 71, and his wife, June, were visiting in Point Clear for a day's vacation following the Nov. 15-16 annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention in near-by Mobile.

According to family sources, Baggett had taken a walk before breakfast and returned to his hotel room. Shortly afterward, he suffered a massive heart attack and died.

Before coming to the paper Baggett was a professor in the department of religion and philosophy at Samford University in Birmingham.

The Alabama native also

served as pastor of churches in his home state and Kentucky. He was a graduate of Howard College (now Samford) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He is survived by his wife and three sons. □

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**Life and Work Series
for Nov. 27
Focal Passage:
Hosea 14**

Love that triumphs

By Elizabeth Howard

As I thought of the idea of triumphant love, the story of Rizpah came to me.

King David allowed the Gibeonites to hang some of Saul's descendants, including Rizpah's sons (Rizpah was Saul's concubine), in order to remove a famine from the land (II Samuel 21:1-14). Rizpah camped out on the mountain to protect the unburied bodies from the vultures and wild animals. She stayed there from the beginning of the harvest (late spring) until the rains came (late autumn). When David heard about her and her perseverance, he had the bodies taken down and buried. He also had the bodies of Saul and Jonathan, whose bodies had been stolen, buried in the tomb of Saul's father, Kish.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson was so impressed by the story that he entitled a poem "Rizpah," though it was about a different woman — the mother of a train robber who stole her son's bones and buried them in the churchyard, a deed forbidden for her as it had been for Rizpah.

In these stories, the mothers loved without question, the mother of the train robber loving her son no less than Rizpah loved the innocent sons of a king.

Genuine repentance — vv. 1-3

God loves his people even more than these mothers loved their sons. Because he loves us, he wants us to repent when we stray, to turn away from sin.

The book of Hosea was written for that purpose — to call the Israelites to repentance, to turn from their worship of idols. Hosea gave them the words to say when they repented — words of forgiveness, sacrifice, and praise. They involved the three steps in healing a broken relationship: repentance, confession, and commitment.

The Israelites could no longer depend on alliances with countries like Assyria, their own military strength (war-horses), nor the worship of idols (the work of their hands).

God's response — vv. 4-8

Once the people had repented, God's response would be overwhelming. He would heal their waywardness and turn from his anger. Like the dew, he would be there daily as nourishment for them. They would blossom like the lily, with roots as sturdy as the roots of a cedar. They would be as splendid as an olive tree, as fragrant as a cedar, a shade of protection for others. After their repentance and restoration, they would see that blessings come from God, not from wooden idols.

Wise choice — v. 9

The book of Hosea ends with an appeal to wisdom and discernment. The righteous know and understand God's ways and walk in them. Anyone who chooses to do otherwise will stumble and fall.

Like Rizpah, God patiently waits, not on King David, but on each of us. Until we repent, he cannot, will not, restore us. □ — Elizabeth Howard is a member of Cumberland Homestead Church, Crossville.

Rejoicing in difficult times

By Ray Fullilove

It has become the song of the saint of God, the chorus of every Christian, the radiant praise of every redeemed, blood-bought child of God in Christ Jesus. We say it often, but seldom believe it. We quote it, but question it. We point to it as our power, but we, personally, realize that we are poor in spirit lacking joy. It is underlined in the words, "The joy of the Lord is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

It surfaces with faith and feeling in the life and the letter of the Apostle Paul. We find it in his epistle to the Philippians which will be our study for the next few weeks. Is there a song we can sing in our discouragement? Is there a light which shines for us in our darkness? Can we really rejoice in difficult times?

The Apostle Paul thought it to be true and proved to us it could become our greatest way to witness for Jesus Christ. It tells us that, indeed, his grace is sufficient — even in suffering. Paul relates to us that we can rejoice in difficult times. His main word in this epistle is joy. He is saying that Jesus is his joy and that, indeed, "the joy of the Lord is our strength."

As we contemplate these words, we seem to be caught up in the cadence of celebration in Paul's heart. The emphasis is joy, not sadness; encouragement, not dismay; praise to a living Christ and not pitiful pleas to a dead god! Paul gives us these notes of happiness while he was in prison. For us, these words can become a song for our sorrow, triumphant faith in tribulation, and Christ becoming precious in our conflict. We can rejoice in our difficulties. Paul underlines some steps which help us "to give — beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that we might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified" (Isaiah 61:3).

Change attitude with prayer — vv. 1-5

We learn to rejoice in difficult times when we change our attitude by prayer. We must remember when Paul penned these words, he was in prison, and not in a palace. How would we respond with such a precarious future as this? A great saint of God seems to pick up the song for us to sing in difficult times when she wrote, "Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior

**Bible Book Series
for Nov. 27
Focal Passage
Philippians 1:3-6, 12-26**

am happy and blest; watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long." We can rise above our circumstances by changing our attitude by prayer. One, we become aware of the power of God, not the problems which may prevail (v. 1). Two, we become conscious of the grace of God which sustains, and the God of glory who is alive with us (v. 2). Three, we begin to count our blessings and not our burdens (vv. 3-5). Attitudes are changed by prayer.

Change atmosphere with faith — vv. 6-19

Confined in a small area and surrounded with strict guards could cause anyone to become despondent. Facing all of these fears in our situation, what would we do? Paul decided to change the atmosphere by faith. First, he trusted God for the overflow (vv. 6-11). This revived his confidence (v. 6), his contentment (v. 7-9), and his commitment (vv. 10-11). Two, he trusted God for the outcome (vv. 12-19). Our uplook changes our outlook. Thus, we can do the same, and begin to sing, "Trusting as the moments fly; trusting as the days go by, trusting him whate'er befall; Trusting Jesus, that is all."

Change apprehension with praise — vv. 20-26

When Paul continued to pray, he was filled with renewed faith, and he rose with a new spirit of praise. In prison, Paul still praised God for a future filled with expectation (vv. 20-21), with exoneration (vv. 22-24), and with anticipation (vv. 25-26). When Paul filled his mind and heart with Jesus, he began to sing. Even in our prison, we can say, "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37). We can rejoice in difficulties — when we take the hand of Jesus. "I know better than to not trust God. But sometimes I forget that." Let's not forget — and rejoice in difficult times! □ — Ray Fullilove is pastor of Poplar Avenue Church, Memphis.

Solomon turns from God

By Samuel Dean

The city of Whangarei in New Zealand has a lovely motto: "Non Nobis Solum," meaning "Not for ourselves alone." Self-grandism and greed can destroy any sense of community. Over-indulgence of one's self is a denial of the common bond of oneness.

Solomon was known for his wisdom. Yet knowing proverbs did not keep him from playing the role of a fool. All of his wisdom did not brittle his tendency toward excesses. Parts of his life were out of control.

In order to maintain his luxurious lifestyle, King Solomon had to tax heavily and resorted to forced labor. As always, someone had to pay the bill for the indulgence in affluence.

Perhaps the most notable excess of Solomon was his way with women. Why in the world would one man need 700 wives and princesses and 300 concubines? A harem of 1,000 may have spoken of his wealth, but it gave the appearance of "wife addiction."

Is it not interesting that both Solomon and his father, David, had

**Convention Uniform Series
for Nov. 27
Focal Passage
I Kings 11:1-13**

problems with women? The sexual aspect of their existence was not easily controlled.

Some of the women in Solomon's harem came from outside Israel. A common practice was to take a wife of another nation to solidify relationships in political and economic diplomacy. Marriages were made for practical considerations.

With wives coming from diverse backgrounds, all kinds of pagan influences infiltrated the palace. As one would expect, the wives brought their religious practices with them. The Canaanite fertility deities made were objects of worship by some of the women.

The mighty king was easily swayed by their request to have shrines where they could worship their gods. Solomon built for his wives their pagan worship centers. Of course, the taxpayers footed the bill.

What Solomon did was a violation of the Covenant. God was not pleased with Solomon's disobedience. His sin was not from lack of understanding. On two occasions God had told him not to do it (vv. 9-10). Nevertheless, Solomon, who was used to having his own way, did not listen to God.

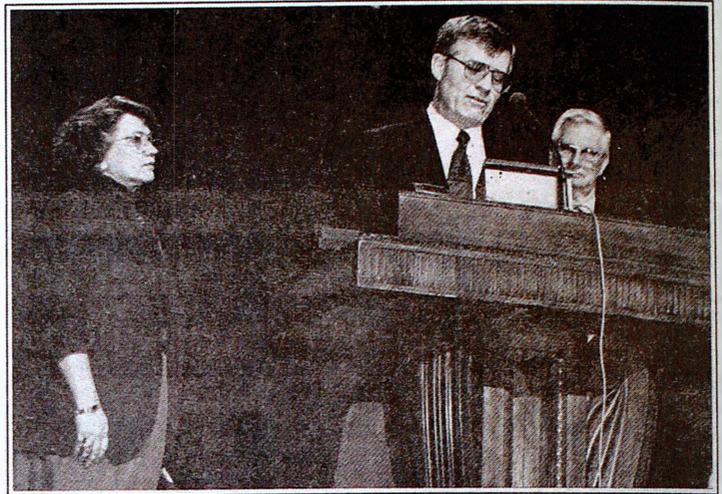
Deliberate violations of God's explicit will was not taken lightly by God. The United Kingdom would suffer serious consequences. After Solomon's reign the kingdom was divided. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king of Judah, the Southern Kingdom. Jeroboam became king of the Northern Kingdom. The glory day of the kingdom faded.

"All that glitters is not gold." Fool's gold can be found whenever one invests inappropriate worth in wrong behavior. In sinning, wrong values are attached to things. Excesses in life are indications of a life out of balance; God is not in the center. Without God in the center, life will wobble. □ — Samuel Dean is pastor of First Church, Clinton.

1,359 messengers attend 120th annual TBC meeting at Bellevue Church, Cordova



MESSENGERS, from left, Robert Tyson, First Church, Middleton; John Parrott, East Rogersville Church; and Gary Gerhardt, First Church, Church Hill, enjoy a visit.



MARCUS AND RUTH ANN DRIGGERS, missionaries to Chile, thanked Tennessee Baptists for their efforts during a three-year partnership concluding Dec. 31. Looking on is Jarvis Hearn, TBC Partnership Missions director for Chile and Michigan.



A **STRING ENSEMBLE** of girls and young women from Bellevue Church performed during the Pastors Conference.



AT LEFT, PAUL MOODY, president of the TBC Executive Board, recognizes convention retirees, from left, Martha Couch and her husband Bob; Libby Shepard and her husband David; and Jarvis Hearn. They later were honored at a reception.



CHARLES PARKER of First Church, Oliver City, makes a point during a discussion.



MEMBERS OF Bellevue Church's drama team depict a scene during a musical presentation.

Convention photos by Wm. Fletcher Allen, Connie Davis, and Lonnie Wilkey



AT LEFT, MEETING AT THE convention were the following from McMinn-Meigs Association, from left, Oran Creasman, Carlos Peterson, Roy Fowler, and Kathy and Martin Bowlin. **AT RIGHT, ENJOYING A TIME** of fellowship were, from left, Gary Anderson, Bolivar; John Laida, Clarksville; Paul Durham, Nashville; and TBC retirees Orvind Dangeau and Vern Powers.

