

## this week's news

- ▶ Higdon elected TBC president in three-way race. — Page 2
- ▶ Proposed amendment to give TBC president appointive powers fails. — Page 3
- ▶ Tom Madden to chair endowment drive for colleges. — Page 3
- ▶ Messengers hear addresses from Ken Hubbard, Don Dixon. — Page 7
- ▶ Henry Blackaby challenges messengers with six devotionals. — Page 9
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist Convention recognizes top small church and bivocational pastors across the state. — Page 10
- ▶ Nine Tennessee Baptist ministers speak at annual pre-convention conference. — Page 11

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

## Messengers drawn to spiritual awakening Blackaby messages, amendment proposal, colleges take spotlight

By Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor  
*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Messengers to the 122nd annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 12-13 worshiped, celebrated, and acted on business matters.

Some of the highlights from the two-day meeting at Two Rivers Church here:

■ Messengers were motivated by six Bible studies given by Henry Blackaby.

■ Messengers were inspired by two evening sessions featuring their three colleges and TBC involvement in missions.

■ They elected Herbert Higdon, Jackson, as president.

■ Approved a Cooperative Program 1996-97 budget of \$28,192,138, without dissent.

■ Defeated a motion that would give nominating powers to the convention president.

■ Signed a three-year Partnership Mission agreement with Costa Rican Baptists to officially begin Jan. 1.

■ Registration of 1,774 messengers was the top enrollment since 1992's best-ever 2,238. Almost 500 "first timer" packets were issued, according to Dan Ferrell, TBC registration secretary.

The six messages by Black-

aby concentrated on the "Tennessee Baptists Awake" theme and pointed messengers toward a fresh spiritual awakening in the churches. He spoke at each of the program segments.

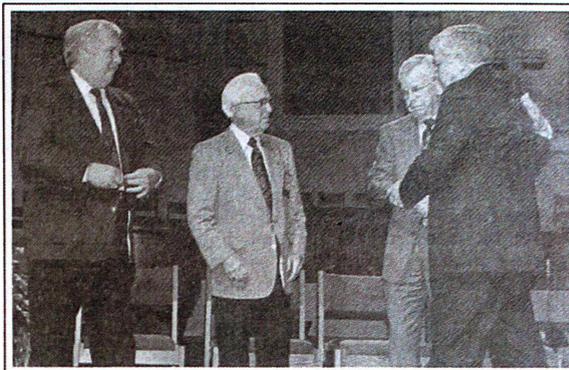
Meeting at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, messengers to the two-day meeting also voted down an attempt to amend the TBC constitution.

The pivotal motion would have given limited appointive powers to the TBC president to nominate a third of the Committee on Committees.

The measure, sponsored by a group from Chilhowee Association, lost by a hundred votes, 668-568. The 568 votes left the proposal far short of the necessary 824, or two-thirds majority.

The proposed amendment, since it affected the TBC constitution, would have to be approved by two consecutive conventions. It failed to gain a simple majority. Those who favored continuing the current process of committee nominations, garnered over 50 percent. (See separate story on page 3).

Herbert Higdon, pastor of Cross Roads Church, near Jackson, a retired director of missions and outgoing president of the Executive Board,



**NEW TBC PRESIDENT** Herbert Higdon, right center, of Jackson, is congratulated by TBC Executive Director James Porch as the other officers look on — Lynn King, left, a Paris pastor, second vice president; and Vern Powers, former TBC staff member, first vice president.

was elected convention president. He was nominated by Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Association.

Higdon defeated Ronnie Wilburn, pastor of Meridian Church, Jackson, in a runoff, 528-481, by a scant 47 votes. Wilburn was nominated by Doug Sager, pastor of First Church Concord, Knoxville.

A third candidate, M. B. Howard of Covington, was eliminated in the first ballot. He was nominated by Jim Burton, layman of Memphis.

Vern Powers, Baptist Hospital, Nashville, liaison with Tennessee Baptists, was chosen vice president by acclamation. He was nominated by

Marvin Cameron, West Hills Church, Knoxville.

Powers is retired TBC Annuity Board representative and a well known pastor.

Lynn King, pastor of Maplewood Church, Paris, was elected second vice president over Laurann Whetham, Luttrell.

Planned as the official kickoff for the three colleges' scholarship fund-raising campaign, the Tuesday night session featuring higher education was outstanding.

The segment featured students, alumni, and faculty, and a combined choir from the three Tennessee Baptist colleges: Belmont University, Nashville; Carson-Newman — See Messengers, page 10



**SIGNING THE COVENANT** forming the Tennessee/Costa Rica Baptist Partnership is James Porch, convention executive director, as leaders of the parties watch. Those leaders include, from left, Tom Warrington of the Foreign Mission Board; Peggy Compton of the board; Jorge Arias of the National Union of Baptist Churches of Costa Rica; Luis Chavarria, president of the union in Costa Rica; and Sue Smith, missionary to Costa Rica. — Photo by Connie Davis

## Awakening emphasis draws Baptist interest

NASHVILLE — For several months Tennessee Baptists have waited for spiritual awakening at last week's TBC annual session.

The convention arrangements committee chose awakening as the 1996 theme — and engaged Henry Blackaby.

The six 20-minute sessions were well-attended, with increased interest among messengers.

It's also likely that the emphasis attracted messengers to the convention. Attendance jumped to almost 1,800. **BER**

REGUL  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 400  
NASHVILLE TN 37203



- Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor
- **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 50 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$7.50, clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25, church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50. Send check/money order to address below.
- **To contribute a news item**, call or write Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen; Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor; or Connie Davis, assistant editor.
- **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey, associate editor or editor.
- **For billing and subscription list questions** — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
- **For information about trial subscription plan** for church or association edition — Editor Allen, Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
- **For information about local church edition** — The Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
- **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- **Board of directors:** Frank Hawkins, chairman; Russ Dunham vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Christine Bess, Hinton Climer, Eugene Coley, Herbert Higdon, Ken Hubbard, Diane Jordan, Lynn King, Pat Landrum, Paul Medley, Bill Northcott, Charles Parker, Richard Patton, Mike Thrower, Conyer Walker, Gary Watkins, and Ambers Wilson
- **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) 371-2080
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- **Address changes** — *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024
- **Postmaster** — Second class postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780)
- **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas and Fourth of July.



Printed on recycled paper

# Messengers elect Higdon as president in runoff

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Herbert Higdon of Jackson, retired director of missions, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, was elected TBC president Nov. 12 by messengers gathered for the TBC annual meeting at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Higdon was elected by a narrow margin in a runoff with Ronnie Wilburn, pastor, Meridian Church, Jackson. Higdon received 528 votes and Wilburn received 481. Also nominated was M.B. Howard of Covington, Mission Service Corps volunteer assigned to the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, where he is construction fellowship coordinator, and member of Oak Grove Church, Covington.

Elected as first vice presi-

dent of the convention by acclamation was Vern Powers, a retired staff member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention who is an employee of Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

Lynn King, pastor of Maplewood Church, Paris, was elected second vice president. He won over Laurann Whetham, a member of Corryton Church, Corryton.

Elected by acclamation were Dan Ferrell, registration secretary, and Joyce Rickman, recording secretary.

Higdon was nominated by Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Association. In his nomination, Taylor reported that Higdon had served in some ministerial role for almost 50 years. Higdon was director of missions for the two associations for 12 years and he currently is pastor of Cross Roads Church, Bells, he said. The church gives 10 percent of its gifts to the Coopera-

tive Program, he added.

Taylor noted that Higdon's leadership roles included serving as president of the directors of missions association, as first vice president of the convention in 1989, as a trustee of Union University, and currently as president of the TBC Executive Board.

Additionally, Higdon has done missions work in South Korea, England, Scotland, France, and Michigan, Taylor said.

Higdon is "theologically conservative," said Taylor, "a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching pastor who will serve" the convention.

Doug Sager, pastor, First Church, Concord, nominated Wilburn. He noted that Wilburn had served Meridian Church for 12 years and during that period had led its Sunday School attendance to triple and the congregation to build two buildings which are debt-free.

Wilburn also led the church to begin giving to the Cooperative Program. Now it is giving 13 percent of gifts, Sager said.

Wilburn understands pastors, continued Sager, since he had served a church with only five members.

Wilburn is serving as a member of the Executive Board and vice chairman of its budget and program committee, and has been president of the TBC Pastor's Conference.

Wilburn is a conservative who is committed to the Cooperative Program and missions, said Sager.

Howard was nominated by Jim Burton, a member of Germantown Church, Germantown, and a staff member of the Brotherhood Commission.

Charles Parker, pastor, First Church, Jacksboro, presented Whetham and Hoyt Wilson, pastor, First Church, Lexington, nominated King. *B&R*

## TBC leader challenges messengers

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Baptists are standing on the edge of spiritual awakening and need to be ready for it, said James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"We are challenged to anticipate, long for, or eagerly expect the gift of the Father. The gift that is absolutely essential for spiritual awakening is the gift of the expectation of the Holy Spirit," Porch said.

He noted there are two conditions that must be examined "before we understand how we can become expectant for spiritual awakening."

The first condition is the challenge of change, Porch said. "How do we share the message of Christ with a radically changing world?" he asked.

He emphasized the message has not changed; society has changed.

The second condition, Porch said, is the power of distraction.

"My fear is not a lack of new church starts ... or a boycott of partnership missions."

"I do not fear having an unequipped staff for the task ... or any failure by institutions to fulfill their assigned ministry.

"I fear distraction," Porch said.

He noted that the convention is hearing exciting reports about what is taking place in Tennessee Baptist life.

"Much of what has taken place in Tennessee Baptist life the past year has been greatly attributed to the commitment of elected leadership that has been given to the Executive Board and to the institutions through our convention structure, our method of electing

trustees of committees.

"My appeal is not directed to any one aspect of this convention. I rather challenge all Tennessee Baptists 'to stay the course.'"

Porch observed that Tennessee Baptists' method of electing leadership has been in place a long time. "We are the only state convention today that has absolutely no power invested in any elected individual ...

"This has proven to be a point of strength in our state convention. I pray that we will not become distracted."

Porch was referring to an amendment to the bylaws made earlier in the day that would give appointive powers to the TBC president. See story on page 3.

The TBC leader cited three ways Tennessee Baptists can be ready for spiritual awakening.

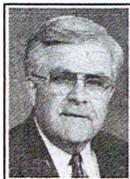
- Release the past. "We have the responsibility to release the past in view of what is about to happen. We do not forget what God has done for us, but we allow him room to bring about his new actions in our lives," he said.

- Envision the possibility of new beginnings. He observed that "it seems part of the absent doctrine today is the doctrine of wonder, awe, and amazement. God is up to something brand new. ... I believe it's spiritual awakening."

- Honor God's challenge of perspective. Porch shared he recently ended a morning devotional thought with the simple question, "Father, will you be with me today?" A new thought entered his mind — a question from God, "Are you with me?"

That's the question God is asking of Tennessee Baptists, Porch said.

"An affirming answer to the question from God, 'Are you with me?' just might enable us to stand on the edge and expect spiritual renewal," the TBC executive director concluded. *B&R*



PORCH

## Resolutions address Hall, homosexuality, gambling legalization

*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Four resolutions were passed by messengers attending the Nov. 12-13 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. All were passed without discussion after presentation by the TBC Resolutions Committee.

A resolution on gambling addressed the action of the Tennessee Legislature this year in passing Senate Bill 927 which allows each county in the state to have a referendum allowing off-track or simulcast gambling in restaurants and sports bars. It encouraged the repeal of the bill in the upcoming legislative session.

The resolution also noted the legislature is one step from allowing a referendum on a state lottery and recorded its opposition to that.

It encouraged churches to post the resolution and Tennessee Baptists to pray during November, December, and January "for God to protect us from any legal expansion of gambling." Finally, it requested that copies of the resolution be sent to all state legislators, the governor, and media across the state.

The resolution on homosexuality encouraged Tennessee Baptists "to pray for and minister to and seek ways to offer hope through Jesus Christ to the spiritually needy population in our region." It also noted that some people referred to in the Bible were described as homosexual at one time, confirming the fact that people can escape the practice.

The final two resolutions were in appreciation to Johnnie Hall for 37 years of service to the TBC and to those who made the annual meeting possible. *B&R*

— Connie Davis

# Messengers approve current committee process

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Baptist messengers voted 668-568 against giving appointive powers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention president.

The Wednesday morning vote came in response to an amendment offered by Charles Bailey, pastor of Laurel Bank Church, Friendsville.

Bailey's amendment would have enabled the president to appoint one-third of the members to the Committee on Committees. The president's appointments, under the amendment, would have still required convention approval.

Under the current process, the Committee on Boards nominates the Committee on Committees and the report is voted on by messengers to the annual meeting.

During the vote, 1,236 votes were cast, meaning that 824 affirmative votes were needed in order for the amendment to pass.

Bailey presented the motion during miscellaneous business on Tuesday morning and it

was referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

That committee, chaired by Mike Womack of Erwin, determined Bailey's amendment affected not only the bylaws, but the constitution as well because it dealt with the duties of the president.

If adopted by messengers, a two-step process would be needed to put it into effect, Womack said. The bylaw change would have to be approved once during this convention; then the constitution change would need approval from this convention and next year's convention, he noted.

Both votes would require a two-thirds majority, he added.

During discussion on Wednesday, Bailey said he disagreed with the committee but he accepted their findings in order to get the motion on the floor.

Bailey said the amendment "will relieve the frustration that now exists."

He pointed out the president would not have too much power because he would only appoint one-third of the committee members.

Noting that nine state conventions around Tennessee give appointive powers to the president, Bailey said "those who oppose it are those in power."

Several other messengers spoke for and against the amendment change.

Neal Chatham, pastor of Fowlkes Church, Fowlkes, and a member of the Committee on Committees, said he had heard of "conspiracies" before he was named to the committee.

Noting he was from a small church, Chatham said he "saw no conspiracies. We worked hard to include people from all West Tennessee...."

"The problem is not with the system, but with our attitude of service. Everyone wants to be on the committee that is powerful," Chatham said.

Speaking for the motion, Roger Oldham, pastor of First Church, Martin, cited several facts he had compiled.

Since 1984, 100 churches in the TBC have provided 1,093 persons to serve on our boards, agencies, and committees while another 554 churches in the state provided 1,158 persons, Oldham said.

During that same period of

time, 2,400 churches in the TBC provided 0 persons for service, he added.

Referring to this year's Committee on Boards report, of the 65 nominees, 32, or 49 percent, came from those same 100 churches, Oldham said. "The pattern continues."

He noted the Committee on Committees did a better job. Only nine of their 39 nominees came from those 100 churches.

"But the inequity continues. I see this bylaw proposal to be an attempt to broaden representation," he said.

Ken Story, a former convention president and pastor of Germantown Church, Germantown, said he used to wonder if there was a conspiracy to keep him from service. At the time his church was one of the largest in the state both numerically and in giving to the Cooperative Program.

"When I was finally asked to serve I discovered the committees and boards operate diligently and there was no plot against Ken Story or Germantown Church."

The system now "is a better system," Story continued. "The



effort is made to be fair. One person can't know as many people as a group does."

The motion if approved would "work to politicize our convention," Story added.

Two others spoke before someone "called for the question."

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, observed the current system is "not fair and needs to be changed."

"We see an in-bred system that needs to be opened up."

Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Church, Nashville, acknowledged there is no perfect system, but discouraged giving power to one person. That would make it "revolve around personality and power," he said.

"Let's leave the current system intact and correct its inequities," he concluded. ■

# Retired TBC exec tapped to chair endowment effort for Baptist colleges

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — During the Tuesday evening emphasis on higher education, retired TBC Executive Director Tom Madden was introduced as chairman of a statewide effort to raise \$30 million in endowment funds for scholarships for Tennessee Baptists' three colleges.

Madden can relate to the need for scholarship funds. He began his college career with \$13 in his pocket and a letter from his pastor promising to pay his first semester's tuition.

That assistance provided by his church was a catalyst for Madden, who later finished his degree at Oklahoma Baptist University and began a long tenure of service as a pastor and denominational leader.

Madden's experience of 40 years ago is real to today's Tennessee Baptist students. During a message delivered during the TBC annual meeting, Madden related the story of one pastor who noted that a bright young member of his own congregation was forced to drop out of college because she had run out of money for tuition. "We are leaving young people behind because we don't know how to help them," the pastor told Madden, now serving as interim pastor of First Church, Tullahoma.

That pastor, like others, has realized the importance of meeting the needs of college-age students. "Financial obstacles should never be a reason that one of our young people cannot attend Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, or Union University," he said.

In an effort to repay his sense of in-

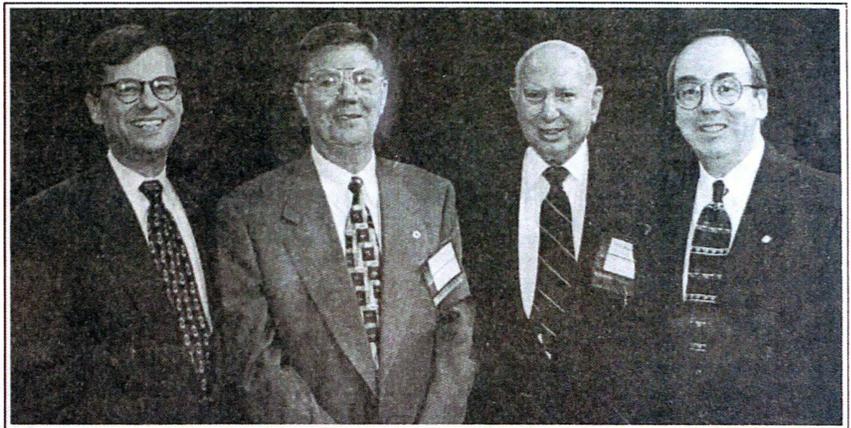
debtedness to the church and people that helped him attend college, Madden agreed to head the Tennessee campaign.

The campaign kickoff at the convention was a unified presentation of 250 students, alumni, and the three presidents who demonstrated a cooperative spirit between Tennessee Baptist institutions in telling their story.

The need for more endowment funds became increasingly evident last year when the presidents were notified that for the foreseeable future increases from Cooperative Program funds would not keep pace with the growing needs of the schools. The members of the convention's Budget and Program Committee proposed that the schools collectively launch a three-year campaign (1997-99) in order to more fully meet funding needs.

For the future of Tennessee Baptist students, the convention authorized last year that the colleges work with the churches to build an endowment for student scholarships. The convention charged each institution with raising \$10 million from its regional churches.

"The dividends on that \$30 million investment are the gifts these young people bring back to your churches and



STATE BAPTIST COLLEGE presidents welcome Tom Madden as the chairman of their endowment drive. From left are, Bill Troutt, Belmont University; Cordell Maddox, Carson-Newman College; Madden; and David Dockery, Union University. The colleges will begin a three-year, \$30 million endowment campaign, beginning Jan. 1, 1997 and going through 1999.

communities as the future families of our Tennessee Baptist Convention," Madden said.

"Many will never have the opportunity unless we help them. Not only will they lose, but all the rest of us will lose. The Kingdom of God will lose."

The endowment funds are to be held permanently to produce annual income for scholarships, using only the interest while the corpus is left intact for use of future generations, Madden said.

"These dollars will allow the children in your preschools, church choirs, Sunday Schools, RAs, and GAs to attend a Tennessee Baptist school," the

former TBC leader continued.

"You will hear from representatives of this campaign in the near future who will assist your church in building a Tennessee Baptist Scholarship Endowment Fund for the students from your church. Please make them feel welcome."

"Like Jacob's well, this campaign will become the perpetual spring to quench the thirst of the mind, body, and spirit of future generations," Madden concluded. ■ — Compiled by Tracey King, Union; Evans Whitaker and Ian Campbell, Belmont; and Diahn Oakley and Odette Brewer, Carson-Newman



## opinion

### 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.



### Partnership Prayer Requests

#### November

- 20 — Pray for Joan Larson, a member of FBC, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, who is recuperating from recent malignancy surgery.
- 21 — Pray for Bible studies that have begun in Bragg Creek and Redwood Meadows, Canada.
- 22 — Pray for Orion Oaks Church in Michigan which was constituted Oct. 13.
- 23 — Pray for Ken and Mildred Kimbley, laypeople from Ontario, Canada, who are helping Ridgecrest Southern Church in Hamilton, Ontario.
- 24 — Pray for Mark Donnell as he begins to serve as church growth ministry leader in Michigan.
- 25 — Pray for Columbia Avenue Church in Pontiac, Mich., as they seek a pastor. Also pray for the pastor search committee and that the church will be able to attract younger adults to their membership.
- 29 — Praise God for the new Native Indian work started in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. It is a Bible study fellowship led by Jack Conner.

### All together now

For several years I have been disturbed by the tone of some of the letters to the editor. It is important for us not to forget that we are all on the same side, that is, bringing the good news to a lost world.

A distinguishing mark of our spiritual forerunners was that they loved one another. Many of these letters have been harsh. The tone has been that unless a fellow Christian is in precise agreement on certain points of doctrine or church polity they are anathema. This flies in the face of the great Baptist understanding expressed in the doctrine of the priesthood of the believers.

Theology is not an exact science. Each of us is responsible under God for working out these questions in accordance with the biblical record and the guidance of God's Spirit. Each of us is unique, so there will be differences in our understanding. But there is no basis for saying harsh things. Love must characterize any debate because any one of us may not have it exactly right. I suspect that is true of all of us.

T. Maxfield Bahner  
Chattanooga 37402

### A big 'thanks'

Tennessee Baptists, we recently received your gift in the amount of \$10,000 and we are deeply grateful and appreciative of your support that has been given to the rebuilding of Inner City Church.

We are thankful to God for the overwhelming support and kindness that is being extended to our church from across the nation.

Please remember us in your prayers as we continue to strive to break down the walls of racial disharmony and to see our country united in brotherly love.

Faye Metts  
Administrative Assistant  
Inner City Church  
Knoxville 37914

### Not yet humble

In response to the sermon preached at the SBC convention in June, the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention called upon all Southern Baptists to engage in prayer and fasting for a spiritual revival. Genuine revival is certainly needed among God's people. We all long for it.

The Scriptures reveal that prerequisites for revival include humility and repentance. It does not appear to me that we have yet humbled ourselves before the living God and repented of our bitterness, anger, divisive spirit, and, yes, even hatred engendered over

the past 20 years. Will God bless a people whose lips call upon him and whose hearts defy him? The Bible says no.

Will Tennessee Baptists believe and practice II Chronicles 7:14; Ephesians 4:2, 25, 31-32; Colossians 3:9-10; Romans 12:10; I Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22-26; and John 15:12? I pray so. It will honor our Lord.

James E. Robertson, pastor  
Sharon Church  
Knoxville 37938

### Appreciates Hall

I feel compelled to write a few lines concerning a wonderful man in our Southern Baptist Convention work. Johnnie Hall has always been an inspiration, help, and friend to this East Tennessee country preacher. I want the world to know that we love and thank God for him.

Many times this bivocational, ignorant, unlearned pastor feels left out. There are many big shots that don't have time for "little shots." Thank God I always felt Johnnie cared for me, my family, and my church.

Johnnie has the warmth and loving concern of F.M. Dowell, one of the best friends I ever had in my 32 years of preaching. These two men have always been my heroes.

I thank Johnnie for helping me push Discipleship Training. I've always believed and preached that if a church member doesn't have enough commitment to the Lord and his church to be in D.T., to learn to be a better soldier for Jesus, then he or she needs a good ole time, heaven sent, Holy Ghost revival.

God bless the Hall family.  
Boyd M. Roberts, pastor  
Grace Church  
Doyle 38559

### No to lottery

In regard to the proposed lottery: "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished, but he that gathereth by labor shall increase." — Proverbs 13:11

"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity." — Ecclesiastes 5:10

Kay Harris  
Tennessee Ridge 37178

### Some differences

Being one of 16 million cooperating Christians in the SBC, I would like to express my heartfelt concern. In the article relating to Mr. Falwell and Thomas Road Church joining the SBC, there were indications he (and them) are independent Baptists. I have no vendetta with independent Baptists; however, I prefer be-

ing a cooperating Southern Baptist, agreeing with the Baptist Faith and Message.

Being a Christian and Southern Baptist for 48 years, and knowing the loving and caring spirit of Southern Baptists, I am appalled at the non-Christian, legalistic attitude that has engulfed the denomination. Accepting Mr. Falwell and the Thomas Road congregation into the SBC, magnifies the present pharisaic attitude and deletes our ability to share the loving, caring, good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am heartbroken with 13 years of obsessed leadership.

Eddie Dean  
Kingsport 37664

A later story indicated Jerry Falwell did not intend to join the Southern Baptist Convention. The fact Thomas Road Church gives money to the Virginia convention (Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia) qualifies it for membership. — Editor

### Here's his vote

This is in response to the question asked by our editor in the Oct. 30 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, "How long will it be before Jerry Falwell will be elected president of our Southern Baptist Convention?"

I want to say as lovingly and Christ-like as I can of another brother in Christ, "never by my vote will he be elected!"

I respect Jerry Falwell and the four Southern Baptist pastors and leaders who serve on Liberty University's board of trustees, but I do not believe a Southern Baptist has any place on an independent board of trust.

Just because Jerry Falwell and his church supposedly are going to make a nominal contribution to our Cooperative Program, does not make he/them cooperative Baptists in my opinion.

I am a Southern Baptist by conviction and I have been pastor for Southern Baptist churches for 33 years; therefore, I intend to remain a Southern Baptist until I die or Jesus returns.

I have no intentions of having any other allegiances to any other convention or fellowships.

Carl Scarlett, pastor  
Miracle Church  
LaVergne 37086

### Impertinent?

Your sarcastic remarks about Jerry Falwell in the Oct. 30 issue were unnecessary and inappropriate — truly impertinent. Apparently, you were taking a position of advocacy for the "cooperating fellowship" members whose leadership

contends there are myths (calling them allegories) in the Bible.

I am not a booster of Falwell but I admire his "guts" in supporting Scripture as the word of God.

Fifty years ago, Baptists held that the Bible was our only source of doctrine. Since then, men have tried to improve this "doctrine" with "covenants, oaths, pledges" and other "super" ideas to purify, legalize, etc., to displace Scripture.

Of course, "higher critical study" was not as pervasive in seminaries 50 years ago as it is today. It is seldom mentioned that "higher critical" study was (and is) based on the pseudo science of 100 years ago. The claims of biblical error are based on pseudo science and a posture that presumes error.

I could attack "allegorical" professors and clerics at length. They are modernists who want to be called moderate. Many are parrots who teach what they were taught. Why do you say men have "paid their dues" who say the Bible is not true and, at the same time, claim their position is one of Bible interpretation? I have no confidence in people with such a mental set.

I was pleased when the "Billy Graham" meeting of worldwide evangelists gave their first "Amen" to the place of Scripture. I was further pleased by his later endorsement of conservatives at the SBC.

Bill L. Pope  
Chattanooga 37443

The writer draws the wrong conclusion. No reference was made to any specific persons — only to many longtime, loyal Southern Baptists. — Editor

### Big A Clubs

Woman's Missionary Union appreciated the article about Big A Clubs of Sept. 4 ("Association's Big A Clubs reach children"). We believe Big A materials are effective in reaching unchurched children, and we are grateful for positive response from their use by Joe Ledford and other leaders from Elizabethton.

We would like to clarify the issue of availability of the materials. We still offer four units of Big A Club materials, with the exception of the Resource Kit for Unit 1. These will be available through September 1997. Then we plan a study of Big A materials with possible revision of some.

For more information, contact the Baptist Book Stores or WMU at (800) 968-7301.

Cindy McClain, WMU  
Products Editorial Director  
Birmingham, Ala. 35283

# Back to land of beginning again



very one of us, at some time in our lives, probably has dreamed of embarking on a new beginning.

Retracing our tracks, taking the less-traveled road, being willing to risk something important, instead of playing it safe.

Someone has coined the term, "going back to the land of beginning again."

Much of the activity generated at the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting last week had elements of the past — and something of the future.

The programs on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, devoted to higher Christian education and missions partnerships, glorified God our Father. Put those two outstanding events together with Henry Blackaby's six sessions on our encounters with God and the signing of a new partnership mission with Costa Rican Baptists, and you have an extraordinary celebration of Tennessee Baptists.

Of course there were other high moments, and some ordinary times.

The increase in messenger attendance, election of officers, and smooth passage of a strong budget, paved the way for an invigorating state convention. As usual, business sessions were interesting and productive, but somewhat testy.

Messenger interest in the convention's agenda was probably higher than usual, since registration was the best since the record-setting 2,238 in 1992 at Gatlinburg.

That's good, because messengers had the opportu-

nity to participate in one of the best annual meetings in recent years.

Though we were on the edge of acrimonious exchanges a couple of times, the convention program was smooth and exciting, with a bounty of high inspiration.

Seldom have Tennessee Baptists, at an annual meeting, experienced a remarkable program such as the Tuesday night session provided.

Placing proper emphasis on Christian education at the three Tennessee Baptist colleges, we caught a fresh glimpse of their role in the growth of the convention.

**By Wm. Fletcher Allen, Editor**

And ample proof was provided to strengthen relationships and to renew the understanding of a covenant. Representatives of the students, faculties, and alumni certainly reminded Tennessee Baptists of the need to buttress a solid foundation of support.

Individual and corporate testimonies joined with a tremendous combined choir to stir the hearts of messengers. The evening was a high moment of worship.

Whether or not it was intended, the Wednesday night emphasis on missions was an excellent portrayal of missions involvement. If we provide properly for our college students, there will always be a cadre of volunteer missionaries, ready to be trained and sent — to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to every place in the world where Christ's message must yet go.

Both evening programs were packed with the message of salvation and demonstrations of how that can

happen in the hearts of individuals. There was a sense of confident urgency. There was a feeling of courage with daring.

Henry Blackaby's messages on spiritual awakening may have been a good reason for the increase in messenger interest. And he did not disappoint those who came — and heard.

Blackaby is intentionally intense when he speaks. Prophet? Committed servant? Humble preacher? Prayer warrior? Sincere messenger who continues to warn Christians of the severity of ignoring God's Word?

Henry Blackaby is all of these, and totally sincere. Whatever the reason, it's good to see that messenger involvement is improving.

Of course there were some business matters which were anything but mundane. There was little discussion on the budget, but it is a good budget — and, if the giving pattern of the past two years continue, Tennessee Baptists can be thankful.

A potential problem failed to surface when a one-year agreement with Baptist Hospital, Nashville, was approved without question.

Defeat of a motion to give committee nominating power to the convention president means the current process continues. But the effort to change may not go away.

Overall, the meeting was positive, and should be kindling for the fire of spiritual renewal. **B&R**



## Just for today

By Fred Wood  
pastor emeritus  
Eudora Church, Memphis

### Start with a smile

Eight-year-old girl to mother in church: "Mama, what's the preacher doing?"

Mother: "Shhh, he's talking to God."

Little girl to mother: "Mama, if he lived closer to God, maybe he wouldn't have to yell so loud."

### Take this truth

When I was much younger, a popular religious music solo was, "Are you living where God answers prayer?" A close relation exists between how we conduct ourselves and the way God hears us when we pray.

Someone said, "God can't afford to answer some of our prayers." What did that person mean by that remark.

### Memorize this Scripture

Whatever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight (1 John 3:22).

### Pray this prayer

Lord, teach us that, "We ask in Jesus name and for his sake" is a guideline to prayer and not a magic formula. ■



WOOD

## Reminders of the simplicity of the obedience to serve

Before last week, the last time I had seen Luis Chavarria and Jorge Arias, we were seated together at a small table in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The group of six Tennessee Baptists had been in Costa Rica for about a week, "checking out" the possibilities of a missions partnership.

Much of the time had been spent wheeling about the country, looking at churches, talking with pastors and other leaders, and their people.

We experienced the beauty of that Central American country, and we were refreshed again and again with the warmth and sincerity of the people of the National Union of Baptist Churches.

Yes, we had been privileged to meet and associate with missionaries such as Greg and Sue Smith, Mark and Pam Grumbles, Clive Buttemere, Rick and Laura Lane, Ben and Susie Argil, and several others.

We had been in their homes, met their children, ate at their tables, learned to

### one word more

— by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor

survive the driving skills of Clive, Sue, and Greg. Yes, we learned much about Costa Rica.

But it was not until we sat down with Luis, Jorge, and the several other leaders that we caught a glimpse of what God is doing on the equator in that blessed land.

Yes, there are many impoverished people. There are roads and bridges that cry aloud for repair. There are people who need homes and food and clothing.

And there are the Baptists.

Exempt from any or all of the above afflictions? No, not exempt. But the Baptists are hearing God, and they are realizing something similar to a truth discovered not far from there. After visiting a small group of Christians in

Central America, Henri Nouwen wrote, "We concentrate today not on spiritual heroes, but on people who are saints by loving one another, forgiving one another, caring for one another in their normal, everyday lives."

"We celebrate the saints among us who do not have haloes, but how formed and inspired by the Gospel, can make the interest of others more important than their own."

Tennessee Baptists last week at the convention signed a partnership with Costa Rican Baptists. Luis and Jorge were there.

When I saw them here for the first time, I remembered the saints without haloes, reminders of the simplicity of the blessing of obedience to God's call to go.

When we visited Costa Rica, these two saints told us they were ready for revival — and their people were ready to obey. It will be a great adventure. **B&R**



ALLEN

## Love makes the family function better

### families matter

— by Paul Barkley, counselor, professor

Love is a commodity that everyone needs, and few can even know what they are looking for; therefore they don't recognize it when they find it. Most developmental psychologists identify the need to love and be loved as a major developmental task of adulthood.

For many people, even in psychology, it becomes a quest of the blind leading the blind. Some would say, "Let me tell you my experience and we will have a standard." Experience is real and theory and philosophy are theoretical.

Others would quote popular authors, whose names are household words, but whose life experiences do not validate their claimed expertise.

There is no more important commodity

in the economy of the family than love. The Bible teaches that "God is love." As the great lover of our souls, he becomes the expert who can show us the source for the supply of this essential commodity of family life.

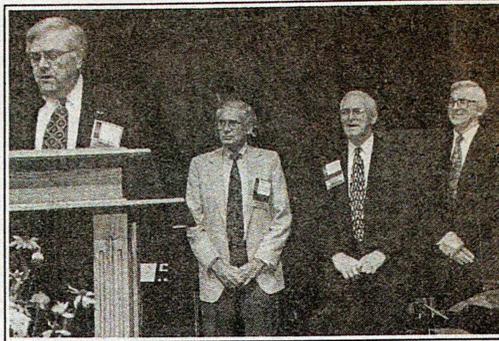
Paul the Apostle sought to delineate the parameters of this composite of human relationship in I Corinthians 13. Agape (Godly love) is not an emotion, it is an intentional act of the will which makes promises. Study this paraphrase of some of those promises:

- I will be patient with you.
- I will be kind to you.
- I will not envy you.
- I will not boast or proudly elevate myself above you.
- I will not be rude to you.
- I will not exploit you for my own selfish ends.
- I will not be easily angered with you.
- I will not keep a record of wrongs.
- I will not delight myself when you are harmed, or I hear evil concerning you.
- I will rejoice with truth about you.
- I will always protect you.
- I will always trust you.
- I will always hope in you.
- I will persevere with you.
- I will never fail you. ■

# Messengers conduct business, renew friendships



**DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS** Buddy Strickland, left, Sequatchie Valley Association, and Roy Davis, Cumberland Plateau Association, discuss missions in Michigan as Belmont University's basketball team awaits an opportunity to talk about their missions experience in Poland.

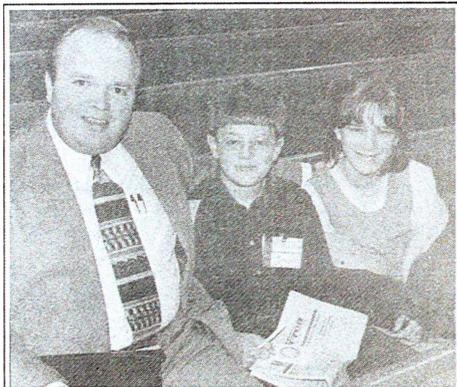


**RECOGNIZING** directors of missions on their retirements is TBC Executive Director James Porch. DOMS, from left, are Joe Mayberry, William Carey Association; Frank Proffitt, Sevier County Association; and J.C. Carpenter, Lawrence County Association.

**ENJOYING SOME FELLOWSHIP**, from left, are Jorge Arias, volunteer coordinator, Costa Rica Baptist convention; Michael Pearson, director of missions, Clinton Association; Larry Gilmore, pastor, College Heights Church, Galatin; and Richard Holden, pastor, First Church, Alcoa.



**JOHN COMPTON**, left, pastor of First Church, Dickson, visits with John Parrott, left center, director of missions, Holston Valley Association; Larry Parrott, right center, pastor, Pleasant View Church, Talbott; and Gary Gerhardt, pastor, First Church, Church Hill.



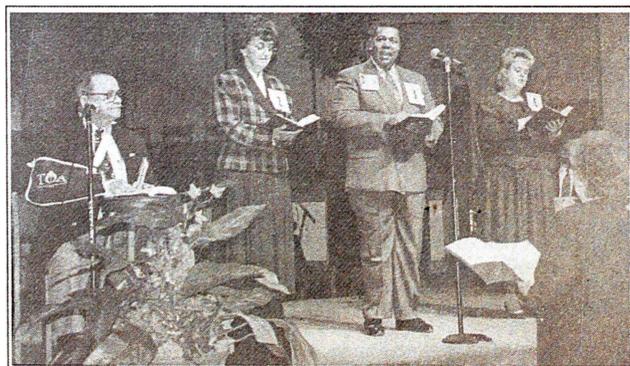
**SCOTT THOMAS**, pastor of Mount Harmony Church, Knoxville, enjoys the convention with his children, Scott II, and Nicole.



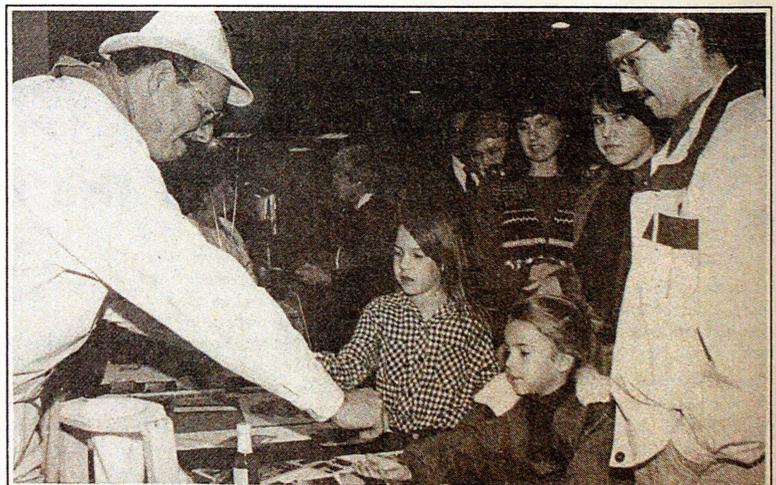
**PASTOR WESLEY SHOTWELL**, left, of Hickory Hollow Church, Nashville, chats with Pastor Bill Roberts of Memorial Church, Crossville. Roberts also served on the convention's Credentials Committee.



**JERRY HYDER**, left, associate pastor of First Church, Sevierville, talks with Watauga Association pastors Brent Seals, center, First Church, Elizabethton; and Ron Owens, Grace Church, Elizabethton.



**GIVING A PORTION** of Executive Board ministries report are, from left, Johnnie Hall, Garnette Hogan, Ken Weathersby, Denise Nelson, and Mary Allen (back to photo).



**AT THE COSTA RICA** display at the Missions Fair, Luis Chavarria, left, president of the Costa Rica Baptist convention, present a Costa Rican coin as a prayer reminder to Bethany Campbell, second from right, who is flanked by Laura Campbell and Kelly Campbell, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Martin. The family also includes, from left, behind the girls, Karen and Erin Campbell.

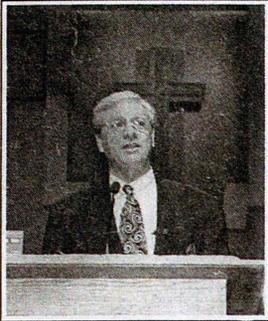
## In President's Message

# Hubbard calls messengers to love

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Ken Hubbard, convention president, called messengers to love God and love their neighbors during his president's message Nov. 12.

Hubbard, speaking during the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting held at Two Rivers Church, Nashville, recalled visiting Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.



HUBBARD

At one point during the visit he was on a plateau gazing up at the peak. The former missionary to Kenya said he viewed Tennessee Baptists' progress in their spiritual work as stalled on a meta; horical plateau.

"We've settled down on our spiritual plateau. A spiritual sameness afflicts us," said the pastor of First Church, Smyrna.

The commandments, to love God completely, and to love neighbors as oneself (Matthew 22:37-39), help people discover their greatest sin, said Hubbard, and the need to repent.

In addition to repentance, these verses call people to commitment, contemplation, celebration, and credibility, he said.

Baptists will listen to rumors, gossip, and "Godless rock lyrics," and will ignore people who need God. These facts reveal that Baptists don't love God with

all of their soul, said Hubbard.

The greatest commandment also calls people to love God with all their mind, he pointed out, which can be accomplished through contemplation.

"What we think becomes a rudder that will steer us through life," he said. Many people have been waylaid by sin because their thoughts were directed wrongly, he added.

He commended instructors in the three college-level Tennessee Baptist institutions and the Baptist student directors on campuses across the state. They are helping students who are "facing the battle of the mind," he said, which was followed by applause.

Finally, Hubbard noted that the greatest commandment directs people to love God with their whole heart. This can be done through celebration, he said.

People should find a medium stance between those who view life very emotionally to those who view it with cold intellectualism. This approach can be used by congregations trying to determine worship styles.

Historically, Baptists "were shouting, praising, and clapping three hundred years before pentecostalism was ever born." And people, said Hubbard, who allow the truth "to filter down into the altar of our soul, the heart," will experience celebration.

The second commandment in this Scripture, to love one's neighbor, is second "only because it is a consequence of the first," he reported. Or paraphras-

ing the famous comedy routine of Abbott and Costello, "He who's on first is on second, and if you're on second you're on first," said Hubbard.

"Our Lord is telling us that if we are to be real, we are to love those who are in need. God calls you and me through human needs. That's what it's all about."

Often Baptists don't have credibility with this world. That's not a very good commentary on our spiritual states, he analyzed.

Through partnership efforts in Costa Rica, Poland, Canada, and Michigan, Tennessee Baptists can become more credible with the world, he added.

The way the convention operates also is a credibility factor because its appointive processes are "democratic" and "shaped to be representative of all geographical regions," he said.

Hubbard referred to a proposed bylaw or constitutional change, which would have moved part of the nomination work of the TBC Committee on Committees to the president.

"Folks, if it's not broken, let's not fix it," said Hubbard.

"Tennessee Baptists are committed to a democratic, not an

ecclesiastical way of doing work. We do it like I saw this year ... democratically all across this state," he concluded. *B&R*

## In Convention Sermon

# Dixon discusses Tennessee Baptists' identity in address

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Relationships change "because of the passage of time and changing circumstances," said Don Dixon Nov. 13 during his convention sermon at the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville.

Dixon, pastor, Highland Church, Tullahoma, said from time to time everyone needs to examine their relationships and identity. This is true for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, he added.

The convention's identity also is important because it will determine the "walk of the believers" and "the struggles of being a follower of Christ in the world."

The Bible in Philippians 2:5-11 gives direction in the convention's search for an identity. It tells Christians to be servants, said Dixon, following the example of Jesus Christ.

That Scripture also points out that people will be servants or slaves. "If we are not servants of Jesus Christ, we are servants of someone or something else. However, only in Christ Jesus are we truly servants who are free to be-

come what God intended us to be," he said.

Dixon referred to author Tom Sine, who in his book, *Cease Fire*, suggested that both conservative and progressive Christians have been "taken in by the secular politics and culture of our times." Sine says the differences among "conservative evangelical Christians and progressive mainline Christians" are rooted "in the secular culture." Sine said "mainline Protestants have often allowed the political left to define their agenda, as evangelical Christians have often allowed the political right to define theirs," he continued.

If Sine is correct, "the witness of Christ in our nation by the majority of Christians is not determined by being the servants of Christ," but "by secular, cultural, and political considerations."

"Neither the call of social adjustments and transformation that comes from the left nor a call from conservatives for a return to family values are radical enough to make a difference in our world," declared Dixon. Only a conversion experience "which calls for a radical commitment of faith

will make a difference."

That commitment should include "a healthy dissatisfaction with the status quo in which poverty and racism and sexism prevail. Why has this not happened in our nation?" he asked. The answer is that Christians have not demonstrated our identity.

More direction on Christian identity is provided by the Scripture in Philippians 2:5-11, noted Dixon. Jesus modeled "self-emptying" of himself. "Training for service is not a training to become right, but to become voluntarily poor, not to conquer God, but to surrender to this saving power," he said.

"All of this is very hard to accept in our contemporary world, which tells us about the importance of power and influence."

A lack of the desire to control is characteristic of a servant, said Dixon. The Greek word for servant used by the Apostle Paul to describe himself and Timothy "was one which any self-respecting Greek would never use to describe himself." The same reaction to servanthood is experienced today, he added.

"It is strange that our form of Christianity is one where

strong personalities control all things in the name of a Christ who gave up all control and became a servant," he declared.

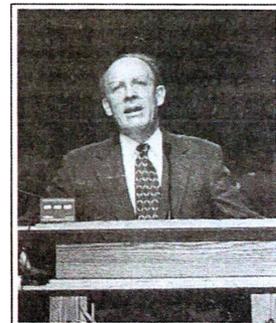
One final factor should be considered by Tennessee Baptists examining their identity, said Dixon. It concerns how we relate to each other.

He referred to John 21 in which Jesus told Peter he will die as a martyr. When Peter asked how the beloved disciple would die, Jesus replied, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me," said Dixon.

"The two disciples are not to be compared and measured against each other," he suggested. "Peter's ministry is marked by his death; the beloved disciple's is marked by the Gospel of John."

Each Christian has a unique pilgrimage and faithfulness to that "is better than talk of trips we have never taken," Dixon said, quoting a biblical commentator.

"My friends, not all Baptists have taken the same trips. There are trips some of us have never taken. When some of you speak of Mid-America Seminary, you speak of a trip that I have never taken. When



DIXON

I speak of the CBF [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship], I know that I speak of a trip which most of you as Tennessee Baptists have never taken or the Lord has not asked you to take.

"The important thing is that whatever trips we be about, they be done at the command of the Lord Jesus Christ. It also means that I cannot judge your trip, nor can you judge my trip." This acceptance of others' callings was taught by Peter, John, and our Baptist forefathers as the priesthood of believers, he added.

The convention should welcome all, "with all our diversity," he said. *B&R*





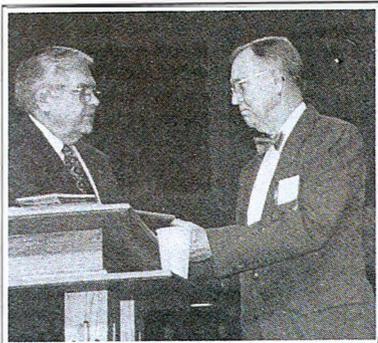
## TBC annual meeting provides time for business, fellowship



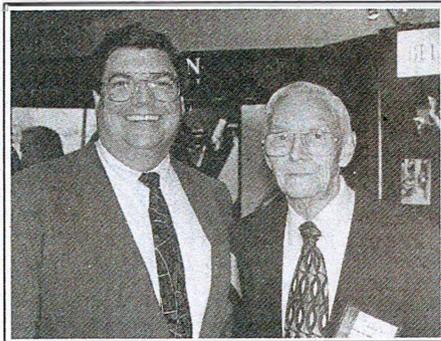
**ENJOYING THE CONVENTION** were, from left, Ken Richey, First Church, White Pine; Gerald Perry, Second Church, Lenoir City; Ronny Jones, Kingston Pike Church, Lenoir City; and A.R. Nelms, Riverview Church, Loudon.



**LUIS CHAVARRIA**, president of the Costa Rica Baptist Convention, speaks to the convention as, from left, Herbert Higdon, and Sue Smith, missionary to Costa Rica, and Terry Sharp of the TBC staff watch. The presentation was made during the TBC Executive Board report.



**TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch**, left, presents a plaque of appreciation to retired Union University President Hyran Barefoot.



**PASTOR MIKE HOLLOWAY** of Ward's Grove Church, Milton, attended the convention with his dad, Raymond Holloway, a retired pastor.



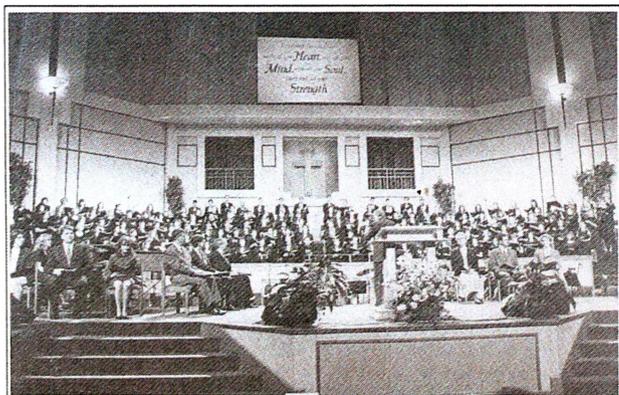
**VISITING IN THE** exhibit area are Bob Brown, left, pastor of Broadway Church, Maryville, and Ray and Judy Luck of Lenoir City. Luck is director of missions in Loudon County Association.



**NASHVILLE PHYSICIAN Dewey Dunn**, right, of Woodmont Church visits with missionary Sue Smith of Costa Rica.



**JEFF MCGINNIS**, left, a member of Belmont University's basketball team who worked in Poland this year, visits with Carl Price, pastor of LaGuardo Church, Lebanon, during the Missions Fair on Wednesday afternoon.



**COMBINED CHOIRS** of the three college-level Tennessee Baptist institutions perform during an educational emphasis of the convention on Tuesday evening.



**PASTORS VISITING**, from left, include Robert Tyson, First Church, Middleton; Kim Allen, Little West Fork, Clarksville; Thom Tapp, Oral Church, Lenoir City; and Bill Daniel, Ball Camp Church, Knoxville.

# Tennessee Baptists Awake! Cry for renewal

By Wm. Fletcher Allen  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — "We read about the Lord's miracle of feeding the thousands with just a few loaves and fish — and then cancel it out with our lack of application in daily life."

That was Henry Blackaby, speaking passionately to Tennessee Baptists as the annual session wound down last Wednesday.

And then, just for good measure, Blackaby reminded us of the Lord's admonition about the difference between a house's foundation of sand or stone.

"The house built on sand will utterly collapse," he reminded us.

"We hear the voice of the Almighty One who calls us to his work. If these messages have had hearing in your heart, the difference will be your life when you go home from this place."

Pointing to the startling message of Isaiah 52 2:1-6, Blackaby related strongly, "This is a profound moment when Almighty God speaks to his people. Tennessee Baptists, Awake! What an incredible invitation, *God is speaking!*"

And then he added, "Put on your strength. God is our strength! Put on, like a garment, the very nature of Christ. It is critical that I do what he says."

"What the community sees is not me or the church, but Christ himself!"

"Even as John the Baptist said that he must decrease and Christ must increase, so it is with us."

"The very moment Christ is present, he must increase and we must decrease!"

In one of six messages on spiritual awakening, Henry Blackaby emphasized that sin prevents the moving of the Almighty God in our land — and "there are no exceptions," he concluded.

The co-author of *Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God* delivered a devotional message at each of the six sessions of the Nov. 12-13 Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He used the theme of the annual meeting, "Tennessee Baptists Awake," in developing the biblical concept of spiritual awakening.

The Canadian native began Tuesday morning with a message on the need to awake to the fear of God.

He followed with messages on prayer, fear of sin, holiness, and the Holy Spirit.

Developing the opening

message, Blackaby told his audience that if the convention theme were to be taken seriously, "this meeting can become a highway to revival."

He added, "This is not just a time for observation, but for implementation."

"In the Old Testament," he said, "we can see God's spiritual watchman in the night, calling out a serious alarm."

He said the people refused to hear the watchman, and killed the prophets who warned them. "Even if the warning forecast total destruction, they still ignored the warning," he said, "and they killed the messenger."

When that happens, Blackaby said, in Old or New Testament times, or even today, destruction is then certain.

Such activity and such ignoring of God's word is seen throughout biblical history, and into the present.

He said that Jesus said the people of his day could see the times in which they lived, but still they did not seek the activity of God.

He asked, "Have we lost the sense of alarm? There is a deep need to return to the fear of God. We have lost the fear of God, the terror of the Lord."

"We must all appear before the Lord's judgment" but we want to see him only as a merciful and loving God.

"Losing the fear of God means losing the fear of sin."

"Listen to God's wake-up call to one of his servants in Romans 13," he said, "beginning with verse 11, Paul reminds us that it is high time for us to awaken out of sleep, the night is far spent, day is at hand. Paul begins to think that it is fatal not to obey God."

"We need to confess our sins, because we are in bondage to sin. And Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5

that have to make a choice of the heart, to be pleasing to Almighty God."

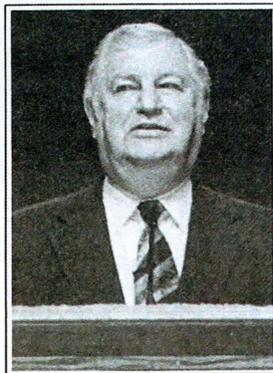
He concluded the first devotional by saying, "We are a generation that is immersed in everything but purity. *We must stand guard diligently before our hearts.*"

He concluded, "Wake up, examine yourselves, become the mighty force of God to help redeem the people."

In his second message on Tuesday afternoon, Blackaby emphasized the power of prayer. As an example of Christ's prayer time, Blackaby

said that when "Christ comes out of prayer, he is always moving in the Father's direction, into the midst of the Father's activity."

Referring to Moses on Mount Sinai, Blackaby said



**HENRY BLACKABY** delivers one of six devotionals during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Two Rivers Church.

that experience "scares me about my own prayer life. In the presence of God in prayer, he always knows something that I don't know."

"The same God that met with Moses, meets with me."

He asked, "Can we sense this in our own prayer life — you and I may pray, and the destiny of your family, or America itself, may be in the balance."

"We pray and ask God to bless us, and he may say, 'I can't, I know something that you do not know.'"

Such a thing should make us tremble, Blackaby said, adding that revival breaks forth when God's people wake

pray with tears."

In Tuesday evening's devotional, Henry Blackaby cited the actions of Ezekiel in the Old Testament and some verses from Hebrews 10.

"If God's people return to him with an incredible sense of fear and awe of God, and pray with power and tears, revival will come — and it will come when we awaken to God's expectation of us as we pray. *He has something on his agenda, enough to turn the course of history!*"

He underscored this, pointing to Ezekiel as a man who chose to look toward God, and God measured him as one who would stand in the gap.

Sin, however, and God's anger with sin is not limited to Old Testament times, he said.

What about Ananias and Sapphira? They had no fear of God or sense of sin.

The young church in Jerusalem was the center of all activity unto the ends of the earth. God could not let it be polluted with the awfulness of sin. So they died, said Blackaby.

Many times, he said, like Ananias and Sapphira, we do not fear sin, or treat sin as if it were of any consequence.

"To disobey the awesome God is a terrible thing, and there are terrible consequences, enormous."

"And what about Tennessee Baptists in 1996," he said. "When we sin, we walk all over Jesus Christ, we insult the Holy Spirit, we nullify the blood of the covenant."

"Sin is everything God says it is. It has horrendous and terrible eternal consequences. Hear now the crescendo of confessions and repentance,

that leads to a waking across the land."

On Wednesday morning and afternoon, the devotional dealt with holiness in our lives, and the Holy Spirit.

God has his prerequisites to awakening, he said. There is no alternate way to stand in the Presence.

We must walk in holiness, practice a life sanctified and set apart. "God's Spirit alerts us instantly to a lost or hurt person around us, and then can use us to be the highway to the heart."

He said John the Baptist was not an accident. He was on earth at the precise moment God wanted him here. "We need to implant John's words



into our lives," Blackaby said. "Make his paths straight." God's way is the only straight way, so we have to straighten out the crookedness of our personal lives, the narrow way is the only possible way that leads to life."

It is tragic, Blackaby said, that we are content to live without the manifold presence of God, without any evidence of the Holy Spirit.

When the church is the straight way, he said, God will move on it, and the whole community will know it. We don't establish it, or live without it.

John also said we have to bring down some mountains, hills of sin and gaps that separate brother from brother.

When we do these things, he said, "All mankind will see God's salvation."

We should pay attention to what God might say, Blackaby said. "What might God say, what may he interrupt us with, one burning bush, one moment on the road to Emmaus, one moment on the mountain."

Are we living with the manifest working of the Holy Spirit? he asked. It is an absolute essential of the enabling and empowering of the Holy Spirit. Luke 24:46 is not a suggestion, it is a mandate.

"The fear of God is the beginning of awakening, to the wonderful promise of the power of the Holy Spirit."

"Jesus was talking not only about Pentecost. That church was the first center of world mission strategy."

"As wonderful as our Foreign Mission Board is, it is the churches who send out missionaries."

Blackaby enjoined messengers to "be pacesetters to turn this generation back to the truth of what Jesus said."

He said, "The Spirit is taking the people of God and rearranging them to God's purposes."

"When we do what God tells us to do, he will do what he promises to do. We must be awakened in the heart, not just in the mind."

"We read the story of the loaves and fish, and then cancel it out with our lack of application in daily life."

"Every church must have an 'utmost' that reaches far beyond our Jerusalem," he said. **B&R**

**The moment Christ is present, he must increase and I must decrease.**

— Henry Blackaby

up and discover that God is in their midst, and the glory of God and revival break forth.

Blackaby said that the greatest deterrent to prayer in the churches is that the pastor is not involved. Some do not want a prayer ministry, he said, but the reality is that revival cannot come without a prayer ministry.

"We need to ask ourselves if revival in America depends on our prayer life, would it break out?" he said.

"I pray that God will be able to awaken us in our prayer life, to pray with strength, to

# Messengers drawn to spiritual awakening ...

— Continued from Page 1  
College, Jefferson City; and Union University, Jackson.

The Tennessee Baptist Scholarship Campaign, will be chaired by Tom Madden, Tullahoma, retired TBC executive director, and longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor.

The education emphasis was given a thunderous standing ovation, signaling a good atmosphere for the January beginning of the \$30 million campaign for college support.

The combined choirs of Belmont, Carson-Newman, and Union began the Tuesday evening program with pre-session selections. They also stirred the audience during the following worship and program time.

Students, faculty members, and alumni from the three institutions gave personal testimonies on the values of Christian higher education at the colleges.

William Troutt, Belmont; Cordell Maddox, Carson-Newman; and David Dockery, Union, also participated in the program. They related the purposes of the schools, relating to the students' minds, hearts, and souls.

Tom Madden made comments to messengers at the conclusion of the program.

"You're looking at the product of your investment in higher education," he told them.

"We are now at the point of being able to help our colleges with a big financial push. This campaign of \$30 million will

provide enormous assistance to our students and our colleges," he said. "We are all indebted to our schools for what they have done for us. We haven't been able to do this before, but now is the time.

"I am asking every one of you to carry this wonderful message back to your churches, and tell everybody to get involved," he said. "As we give to them, they will bear fruit for many years to come. The lack of finances ought not to ever keep any young person out of college.

"In this campaign, please allow the college representatives to visit your church and explain it to you. I urge you, I beg you, to do this for our students, and for our future."

James Porch, Executive Board executive director, underscored the colleges' worthiness and value. He recognized Hyran Barefoot, former president of Union University, awarding him a plaque of appreciation. Barefoot retired earlier this year.

The Executive Board report included a motion to approve the \$28.2 million Cooperative Program budget for 1996-97. It was approved with little discussion.

Higdon, Executive Board president, presented three additional recommendations.

A recommendation to approve a three-year Partnership Mission agreement with the National Union of Baptist Churches of Costa Rica was approved without opposition. It

was signed officially during the mission emphasis on Wednesday evening.

Representing the Costa Rican churches were Luis Chavarria, Union president; and Jorge Arias, Union volunteer coordinator. Sue Smith, volunteer coordinator for the Costa Rica (Southern) Baptist Mission, also was present.

Porch and Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions ministry specialist, represented Tennessee Baptists.

A third recommendation which was approved dealt with minor changes in Executive Board program statements, bringing them in line with new language for the recent staff remodeling.

The fourth business item from the Executive Board involved a proposed one-year agreement between the board and Baptist Hospital Inc., Nashville. After the explanation was given, it was approved without questions.

The agreement, which can be cancelled by either party with 30 days notice, is substantially different from the five-year agreement which began in 1991 and ends this month. In the new agreement there are no guarantees of financial or service assistance. It has very little material substance — much would depend on availability of funds. This would be true even if the hospital were sold.

According to the explanation given, the benefits of the five-year contract (now expir-

ing) are not present in the new one.

The Executive Board on Monday approved a motion to recommend the one-year agreement to messengers. It was the only agreement offered by hospital officials.

During the Wednesday night concluding service, following Blackaby's final devotional message on awakening, the program emphasis was on missions.

Bill Wilson, ministry coordinator, Executive Board presented awards to the outstanding bivocational pastors and small church pastors in Tennessee (See photos below).

Then Tennessee Baptist missions volunteers were recognized for testimonies.

A flag procession allowed volunteers from the audience to stand when the flag of their nation of volunteer service passed in review.

Testimonies from volunteers to Michigan, Poland, and Canada were given. Then the Costa Rica partnership agreement was signed.

Several testimonies were given from career missionaries. Messengers participated in a commitment time as the program concluded.

During the two-day session, messengers approved resolutions on the dangers of gambling, an appeal to pray for and minister to homosexual people, in appreciation of Johnnie Hall for his faithful ministry in Discipleship Training for almost 40 years, who re-



tires in December, and in appreciation of those who helped with the convention.

The resolution on gambling was presented by Bill Bates, Executive Board consultant on moral issues.

The resolution explains the dangers in gambling, speaking specifically to an ill-advised bill passed late in the 1996 legislature, to allow pari-mutuel gambling referendums, which would involve off-track simulcast gambling in Tennessee.

Messengers were urged to contact legislators, and ask for the repeal of Senate Bill 927, and to post the resolution in churches. The resolution was to be sent to state government officials and news media.

Accounts of Ken Hubbard's president's address and Don Dixon's convention message are found on page 6.

The convention meets next Nov. 11-12 at West Jackson Church, with Gary Coltharp, pastor of First Church, Jackson, giving the Convention Message. Jerry Tidwell, West Jackson pastor, is alternate.

The 1997 site was changed from Jackson Civic Center. In 1998, the meeting will be at Meadow View Convention Center, Kingsport, Nov. 10-11, a change from Gatlinburg. B&R

## Convention honors bivocational, small church pastors



**SMALL CHURCH** Pastors of the Year were recognized from the three regions of the state during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on Nov. 13. Selected were Charles Kelley, Clymersville Church, Rockwood, in Big Emory Association, east; Randy Sledge, Riverdale Church, Murfreesboro, in Concord Association, middle; and Terry Abney, Mountain Terrace Church, Memphis, in Shelby Association. Shown accepting their awards, from left, front row, are Sledge and his wife, Brenda; Kelley; and Sandra and Terry Abney.



**BIVOCATIONAL** Pastors of the Year also were recognized from the three regions of the state during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on Nov. 13. Selected were David Crowley, Hillvale Church, Clinton, in Midland Association, east; Steve Loooper, Friends Chapel, Deer Lodge, in Riverside Association, middle; and Terry Griffin, Bible Union Church, Martin, in Weakley County Association. From left are, front row, Wanda, Mait, and Terry Griffin; back row, Gale and David Crowley; and Michelle and Steve Loooper.

# Tennessee ministers challenge counterparts

By Lonnie Wilkey & Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — For the first time in recent years speakers at the Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference were home grown.

All nine messages were delivered by Tennessee Baptists.

"We have some of the best preachers in the convention in our state," said David Daugherty, pastor of Shellsford Church, McMinnville and outgoing president of the conference.

"There was no reason to go outside the state when we have such talented men," he said, noting he was encouraged to use more Tennessee speakers after he was elected last year.

Speakers focused on the theme "Let the Fire Fall."

## Monday Morning

Three speakers addressed how revival could come to "the man of God."

Bob Mowrey, interim pastor, First Church, Cookeville, and retired pastor, Park Avenue Church, Nashville, suggested several guides for ministers.

His eight points follow — (1) Be very sure of God's call; (2) Keep devotional life strong and consistent; (3) Keep a pure conscience before God; (4) Keep personal grievances out of the pulpit; (5) Show people love; (6) Major on evangelistic training; (7) Major on expositional preaching as opposed to topical preaching; and (8) Understand the real definition of success.

Mowrey said he is saddened by the fact that 160 staff persons of Southern Baptist churches are asked each month to leave their work. He referred ministers to II Timothy 4 for assistance.

He suggested that ministers reconsider their aspirations to serve big churches full-time. Jesus and the apostles were



**MORRIS ANDERSON**, new president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference, is flanked by Jimmy Terry, left, Tabernacle Church, Clarksville, vice president, and John Rushing, Northside Church, Columbia, secretary.

bivocational ministers, he pointed out.

Mowrey said he disagrees with the concept that a pastor can serve a church like a CEO of a business. The pastor, who is defined in the Bible as a shepherd, must know his sheep, he added.

The definition of success is in Joshua 1:8, Mowrey said. It is "just to do what God tells you to do."

Jackie Kay of "Looking Up Ministries" based in Millington, told of his experiences after leaving his nine-year ministry as pastor of Bartlett Church, Bartlett, to become an evangelist.

He only had one revival scheduled when he quit, he admitted. Even his wife thought they faced financial problems. But God has provided beyond what he ever imagined, he said.

God always provides a prophet before he sends a revival, Kay said. Then God restores the priorities of the preacher and refines the preacher. The preacher is refined through isolation, desperation, and the realization of God.

Kay used Elijah's experi-

ences recorded in I Kings 17-18 as a basis for his observations.

David Thompson, secretary/treasurer of the conference, and pastor, Alta Loma Church, Madison, described four attitudes in II Corinthians 5:1-11 which will lead the preacher to servanthood. They are anticipation, acceptance, accountability, and apprehension.

Thompson also said, "I don't understand the factions in our Tennessee Baptist Convention. I hope we don't go the way of Virginia and have to split. Some people believe if some are a part of the CBF [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship], we'd just split right down the middle. If being a member of the CBF makes you a better soul winner, a better preacher, stay in it. If it doesn't, get out."

"A house divided cannot stand. If there's no we, then there's no labor," he stated.

## Monday Afternoon

Afternoon speakers focused on letting the fire fall on "the work of God."

"The No. 1 priority for pastors and churches is to see souls born to the kingdom of God," said Verlon Moore, pastor of Hilldale Church, Clarksville and vice president of the conference.

Moore observed there are five million people in Tennessee and three million of those "are going to a Devil's hell."

"We are the third most lost nation on earth. We need the fire of almighty God to fall on our churches," he said.

Moore said his heartbeat is for the "three million people who live next door to us and who will never be saved until we pastors lead our churches to say to God, 'Let your fire fall upon us.'"

Morris Anderson, pastor of First Church, Pigeon Forge, spoke on personal soul winning.

Adding to Moore's statistics,

Anderson said there are 184 million lost people in the United States and four billion worldwide.

"At the rate we're going it would take 6,000 years to win the world for Christ if no one else was born or no one else died," Anderson said.

"The only hope for lost mankind is for pastors and laity to realize the need for personal soul winning," he continued.

Ken Weathersby, black church extension specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, asked those in attendance, "Have you forgotten what it means to be lost without Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?"

He observed churches and people today let trials "keep us from becoming what Christ has called us to be. God can work through trials," he exclaimed.

Through the dark times the churches of the 21st century must reclaim God's promise, Weathersby said.

"We have no excuses today because God has promised the gates of hell will not prevail against it (his church)," he noted.

Weathersby challenged pastors to stand firm when faced by trials. "People are losing faith in men of God because they don't stay and deal with trials in the church."

Noting that pastors frequently change churches, Weathersby said, "I don't believe God changes his mind every 18 months."

"We've got to dig deep in our trenches and weather some trials and storms to be effective ministers," he challenged.

## Monday Evening

Evening messages focused on letting the fire fall on "the church of God."

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, noted "we have unfinished business." He cited seven areas:

(1) a calling to fulfill; (2) a world to win; (3) Christians to equip; (4) churches to build; hurting people to help; (6) a nation to save; and (7) inequities to get in order.

Regarding the last area Sutton encouraged those present to consider a bylaws change that would be presented during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention that would give the president appointive powers. Citing a CBF influence in the convention, Sutton said the only way to open up the system is to change the bylaws.

If not, churches may slow down their giving to the state convention or "we will see what happened in Virginia



pastor's  
conference

## Anderson elected to lead pastors

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A Pigeon Forge pastor was elected president of the 1997 Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference.

Morris Anderson of First Church was elected in a show of hands vote over Gary Watkins, pastor of First Church, Collierville, and Kim Allen, pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville.

An African American pastor, Jimmy Terry of Tabernacle Church, Clarksville, was elected vice president by acclamation.

John Rushing, pastor of Northside Church, Columbia, was elected secretary by acclamation for the coming year. ■

(another state convention formed). I don't want that to happen."

Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Church, Hixson, encouraged ministers not to be afraid of God's power.

"We have more opportunities than ever before to see people saved. It's amazing what preaching the Gospel will do," Phillips said.

Southern Baptists today also have more means to win more people to Christ than ever before, but unfortunately "we are doing less," he said.

He challenged ministers to "clean up" their houses and get things in order so God can empower their ministry.

Phil Hoskins, pastor of Higher Ground Church, Kingsport, closed the conference by noting that praise is an important ingredient missing in many Southern Baptist churches today.

"Every church should be a praising church because Jesus is worthy of all the honor and praise we can give him."

Noting that it is easy to praise God when things are going well, Hoskins challenged those in attendance to also praise Jesus "in the midnight hour."

"You and I can praise God at the midnight hour knowing there is nothing that will happen that God can't take and turn around." ■



**OUTGOING OFFICERS** discuss how the conference is going. From left are David Thompson, Alta Loma Church, Nashville, secretary; David Daugherty, Shellsford Church, McMinnville, president; and Verlon Moore, Hilldale Church, Clarksville, vice president.

# Associations plan, report in fall meetings

## Reports

**Weakley County Association** heard reports of increases in total membership, Sunday School enrollment, Vacation Bible School enrollment, missions organizations, and total giving.

**New Duck River Association** celebrated the retirement of its debt for an office building it opened in 1991. Harold Smith, director of missions, reported the debt was paid from

regular budget provisions, special offerings, and excess funds available at the end of the year made possible by gifts from its 38 churches.

W.L. "Bo" Childs of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation presented \$2,500 from the foundation to **Carroll-Benton Association** to match what the association had raised for a Truckers' Ministry. It will be held at Interstate 40 and Highway 641.

## Recognitions

John McBride, director of missions, **Shelby Association**, was honored with a banquet on his retirement, effective Jan. 5.

**Carroll-Benton Association** received recognition for their work to build Good Samaritan Church, Lawrence, Mich., to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. George Bulson, director of missions, Southwestern

Baptist Association, Mich., and Jesus Lopez, pastor of the church, presented certificates to Ken Zike, missions development director of the association. In addition, W.L. "Bo" Childs of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation was honored. The foundation's Special Ministry Fund provided money to the church's building fund. The church ministers to migrant workers and their families.

## Resolutions

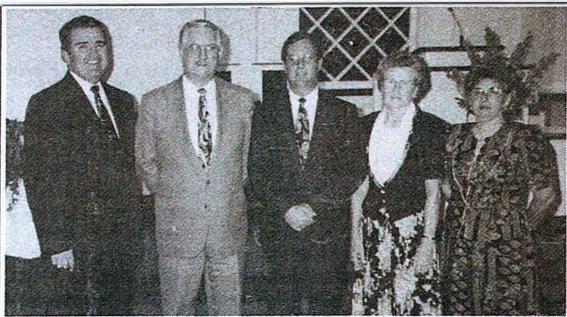
**Madison-Chester Association** passed three resolutions dealing with social issues. One dealt with several issues including a call for revival, the need for adults to be models for youth, especially in the area of sexual abstinence, following the "True Love Waits" Southern Baptist program. It also denounced abortion and drinking of alcohol. The second denounced the action of the Tennessee Legislature in passing Senate Bill 927 which would have allowed counties to hold referendums concerning certain kinds of gambling. This resolution is similar to the one passed by the convention (see page 2). Finally the

association resolved its support of Union University in its 173rd year.

## Business

**Weakley County Association** adopted a partnership with Central Church, Fairfield, Iowa, and Southeast Baptist Association in Iowa to begin a new congregation in Sigourney, Iowa.

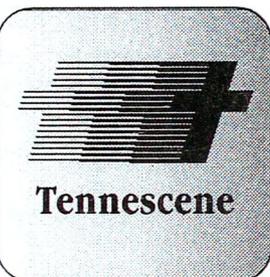
**Shelby Association** voted to add Emmanuel Church, Collierville, to add Hartland Church, Memphis, under watchcare, and keep Trinity Church, Memphis, and New Beginning Missionary Church, Memphis, under watchcare. The association also acted to streamline its staff and committee structure. It agreed to continue providing Cordova Conference Center for three years, when it will be evaluated, and to support the Military Oasis Center on a month-to-month basis. *B&R*



**DIRECTOR** of Missions Richard Skidmore, left, introduces the new officers elected by Weakley County Association at its Oct. 21-22 meeting. They include, from left, Jerry Summers, pastor, First Church, Sharon, moderator; John Clark, pastor, Adams Chapel Church, Dresden, vice moderator; Jerry Seamans, Adams Chapel Church, treasurer; and Gertie Sheffield, First Church, Dresden, clerk.



**WESTERN District Association officers** elected at the annual meeting were Mickey Basham, left, pastor, Puryear Church, Puryear, vice moderator; and Thomas Winchester, pastor, Union Friendship Church, Como, moderator.



## Tennescene

## deaths

■ **Martha Thomas Walworth**, emeritus missionary to Mexico, died Nov. 11 in Mobile, Ala. She was a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. Walworth and her husband, Harvey, worked in Mexico from 1955 until 1988, when they retired. Memorials

may be made to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

## leaders

■ **Pinecrest Church**, Johnson City, has called **Chad Ritterhouse** of Lumberton, N.C., as pastor.

■ **Ed Kincaid** has been called as minister of education/students, North Johnson City Church, Johnson City.

■ **Lantana Road Church**, Crossville, has called **Brian Branam**, a native of Ringgold, Ga., as pastor, effective Oct. 13.

■ **Tommy Vinson**, pastor, Leawood Church, Memphis, celebrated his fifth anniversary of service as pastor Nov. 17.

■ **Eldon M. Boone, Jr.**, minister of education and administration, South Gate Church, Antioch, for seven years, will retire, effective Dec. 31.

■ **Tracy Popplewell**, a senior religion major at Union University, Jackson, has been ordained by First Church, McKenzie. He has been called as pastor of Mount Ararat Church, Darden, effective Jan. 1.

## the schools

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations of Jacksonville, Fla. The funds are dedicated to the college's Student Activities Center, which opened in 1993.

■ **Belmont University**, Nashville, will host Use Less Stuff Day Nov. 23. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., local environmental groups and businesses supporting waste reduction awareness will be on hand to encourage people and demonstrate ways to use less material and items.



**HONORING** Johnnie Hall, second from right, of Tennessee Baptist Convention discipleship training, are leaders of Riverside Association at an Oct. 7 Discipleship Rally. The leaders are, from left, Donald Cobb, pastor, First Church, Livingston; Russell Flatt, pastor, First Church, Rickman; and Ken McMillen, director of missions. Hall, who was the featured speaker of the rally, was honored for 37 years of service to the convention.

## churches

■ **First Church, Hunter**, will hold a one-day revival Nov. 26. Glenn Rogers of Tricities Church, Gray, will speak. "His Praise," will present music.

■ **North Jackson Church, Jackson**, had a special day Oct. 27 which combined emphases on homecoming, high attendance, and a harvest offering.

■ On Dec. 1 **Forest Hills**

**Church, Nashville**, will hold Hanging of the Green at 6:30 p.m. A preschool, children, and adult choir, the latter made up of 100 people, will perform.

■ **Poplar Heights Church, Jackson**, will hold its third annual drive-through Christmas event entitled, "Journey to Bethlehem." It will be held Dec. 6-8 from 6:30-9 p.m.

■ **Shelby Avenue Church, Nashville**, will hold Hanging of the Green Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. A reception will follow the service.



**PRESENTING** a certificate of license for ministry to Chris Hutchins, left, is Scott Thomas, pastor, Mount Harmony Church, Knoxville.

# Kentucky convention votes reduction in SBC giving

By Mark Wingfield & David Winfrey  
For Baptist Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The Kentucky Baptist Convention will keep an extra 2 percent of Cooperative Program receipts for in-state use beginning in September 1997.

The recommendation, which originated with a study committee and was approved earlier by the KBC executive board, was approved by messengers to the KBC annual meeting Nov. 12 at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green. After a lengthy period of debate, the measure was adopted by a 57 percent majority on a 664-503 vote.

In other action, the Kentucky convention elected as president Floyd Price, pastor of Scottsville Church, Scottsville; approved creation of a new entity to own and manage the convention's two campgrounds; rejected a mo-

tion to study allowing churches to determine their own percentage split of Cooperative Program gifts between the KBC and Southern Baptist Convention; and heard the first reading of a motion that could amend the convention's definition of qualifications for seating messengers.

The change in Cooperative Program percentages means the KBC will reduce by 2 percent the portion of Cooperative Program receipts it forwards to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and international causes. Currently, the SBC gets 37 percent of all gifts to the Kentucky Cooperative Program and the KBC keeps 63 percent. Beginning with the 1997-98 fiscal year, the SBC will get 35 percent and the KBC will retain 65 percent.

The change returns the split between KBC and SBC causes to the level where it was before Southern Bap-

tists adopted goals for Bold Mission Thrust, a plan to share the Gospel with every person on earth by the year 2000.

KBC leaders said the change was necessary because churches had not caught the vision of increased giving necessary to fulfill the financial goals of Bold Mission Thrust. In 1981, the KBC had begun moving its percentage split with the SBC from 35 percent toward 40 percent. In subsequent years, however, churches have decreased the percentage of their budgets given to the Cooperative Program rather than increasing percentage giving as anticipated.

Later, Bob Fox, pastor of West Point Church, Centertown, offered a first reading for the proposed constitutional change.

If ratified next year, it would alter Article III, Section 2 of the Kentucky

Baptist Convention's constitution concerning membership. The change would break the link requiring a church to give to Southern Baptist causes in order to be considered a member of the state convention.

According to the constitution, a church currently is allowed two messengers to the annual meeting for contributing to the state convention's work. A church is allowed an additional messenger for every \$250 contributed to the Cooperative Program. A maximum of 10 messengers are allowed per church.

If changed, all representation at the annual meeting would be based on giving to the "convention's work."

Throughout the convention messengers paid tribute to Bill Marshall, who will retire in February after 14 years as executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. ■

# N.C. executive director condemns politicization; announces retirement

By Victor Lee  
For Baptist Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Conservative pastor Greg Mathis was re-elected president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, turning back a challenge from moderates. But the convention's executive director, Roy Smith, created more news at the Nov. 11-13 annual meeting with a condemnation of the politicizing of the state convention by conservatives and moderates and a surprise announcement he will retire at the end of 1997.

Mathis, of Mud Creek Church, Hendersonville, won 60 percent of the vote — 3,209-2,078 — against challenger Ray Howell, pastor of First Church, Lexington. Mathis won by only 96 votes last year and was eligible for a second term in a state where the incumbent traditionally has been re-elected.

"I'm very overwhelmed the messengers chose me for another year," Mathis said. "I will follow the same plan as last year. I'm not going to exclude anyone. I will reach out to anyone who will reach back — and even if they don't, I'll be kind."

The convention also elected conservatives as first and second vice presidents.

The new first vice president, Phillip Davis — the convention's first African American to hold office — unseated incumbent Ann Smith, a former president of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union.

Mathis, Howell and Smith each spoke of the need for unity in the convention. The conservative-moderate debate dominated questioning of Mathis and Howell in news conferences and impromptu hallway chats with messengers.

Of Mathis' re-election, Smith said in a news conference, "I do not see that Greg Mathis failed to do anything or did anything to unseat him."

In his address to the convention, Smith called the division "lethal" and said, "We are a convention almost equally divided into two distinct groups. There is a 'hold-on-at-any-cost' mentality on the one hand and a 'takeover' mentality on the other hand. The clash of these forces is evident for all to see and I can see no positive fallout from the divisions that afflict us."

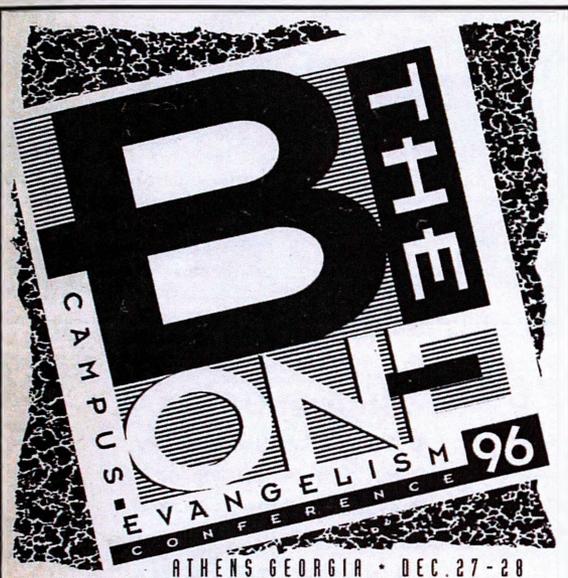
Smith said he would like to see the Conservative Carolina Baptists and the Friends of

Missions (the moderate group) disband.

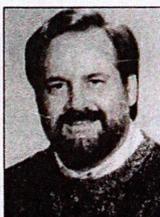
Smith attributed the politicizing to the drop in Sunday school enrollment and the failure of missions giving and baptisms to keep pace with inflation and population growth, respectively. "Our intellect, energies, time, and resources are being expended on other things," he said.

In announcing his retirement at the end of his address, Smith, 67, said he wanted to retire while he was still healthy. He has served as executive director since 1989. Previously he had been interim director for a year and associate director for six years. He also served as a regional missionary for four years and a pastor for eight years. The convention's general board will appoint a search committee for Smith's successor at its January meeting.

Smith said that as he prepares to leave his feelings are "a mixed bag." The negatives of his tenure included the political polarization of state Baptists, he said, while the positives include partnerships in missions and making it possible for the state Baptist schools to elect more of their own trustees. ■



Henry Blackaby



David Guinn



Big Tent Revival



Third Day



Paul & Anna Joseph



Charles Billingsley

## "Be The One" Campus Evangelism Conference for College Students

Conference Fee: \$10 through December 1; \$15 After December 1

For More Information, Call (800) 949-5248 ext. 246 • Free Promotional video, posters, and flyers available • Worldwide Web: <http://student.org/cec>

Sponsored by Dept. of Student Work, Ga Baptist Convention, in cooperation with Collegiate Ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Home Mission Board, SBC, and other state departments of student ministry

### Classified

**SEEKING:** Rural West Tennessee church with about 175 in SS and graded choirs seeks part-time or bivocational minister of music, effective Jan. 1 Send resume to Holly Grove Baptist Church, 8488 Poplar Corner, Bells, TN 38006.



**MISSIONARIES**

*From Churches with Love*

**Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions**

**December 1-8, 1996**

## Missouri Baptists support BJCPA

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention annual meeting Oct. 28-30 elected Springfield layman Arthur Mallory president and defeated motions to remove the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as an exhibitor and to require trustees and committee members to affirm the inerrancy of the Bible.

Messengers defeated a motion to deny exhibit space to the BJCPA by a 498-456 vote.

For the second consecutive year a motion to require people serving on MBC committees, agency boards, and commissions to acknowledge the inerrancy of the Bible failed to garner enough support to pass.

Mallory, last year's second vice president, defeated Jeff Barnes, a Blue Springs pastor and last year's first vice president by a 52-48 percent margin. ■

# Texas Baptists re-elect Wade by a two-to-one margin

Compiled from news reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas elected the incumbent as president during their 111th annual meeting.

Charles Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington, and the two vice presidents who were elected all were endorsed by the moderate Baptists Committed organization. They won by at least a two-to-one margin over candidates supported by Southern Baptists of Texas, a group supportive of current Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

Wade received 4,583 votes to the 2,308 votes garnered by Rick Scarborough, pastor of First Church, Pearland.

African American pastor Marvin C. Griffin of Ebenezer Church, Austin, was elected first vice president while layman James Kolb of Green Acres Church, Tyler, was elected second vice president.

Conservative leaders said they were disappointed by the defeat, and some began talking

of withdrawing to form a new convention, as conservatives in Virginia recently did.

But the group, Southern Baptists of Texas, voted almost unanimously to continue the fight at least one more year. They asked Scarborough to carry their banner again in 1997.

Wade, in his post-election news conference, said there is no need for conservatives to leave. "There's nothing going on they can't support, except we are giving people a choice about denominational issues," he said.

Walt Carpenter of Houston, a conservative leader and editor, said he was "disappointed" conservatives could make no better showing despite an all-out effort. He predicted no new convention would be formed soon. "We will make a major

push (for the election) next year. If we can't get word out in the next couple of years, it's going to be all over."

With little opposition and even less discussion, the 7,331 messengers adopted a \$43.5 million budget and approved the report of a special committee on messenger seating. But after considerable debate, a constitutional amendment to link messenger representation to financial support for the BGCT failed to receive the required two-thirds majority.

The matter on seating came from a special study committee created last year after a motion was made to deny seating to messengers from churches that have practicing homosexuals serving as pastors or deacons.

The committee recommended that no change be made to the BGCT constitution because the means of excluding messengers from churches already is in place.

The Cooperative Program statewide budget approved by messengers is an increase of \$811,375 (1.9 percent) over the 1996 budget.

The \$43.5 million budget is strictly for the BGCT portion of the receipts, but it includes a provision that undesignated gifts from Texas Baptist churches be allocated 67 percent for BGCT-related causes and 33 percent for Southern Baptist Convention worldwide causes unless churches direct otherwise. ■ — Compiled from BP and ABP news stories

## Classified

**FOR SALE:** 1977 Bluebird Bus, 52-passenger, 3 Coleman Ale with onan generator. Asking \$7,500. Call (615) 444-6575, leave message. Southside Church, Lebanon.

**PART-TIME POSITION:** Highland Church seeks applications for a part-time minister of music to direct the adult choir and coordinate the music ministry. If interested, submit resume by Dec. 20 to Search Committee, Highland Baptist Church, 808 W. Hickory Street, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

## For Sale

Church Organ, Allen Model 603-3, 2 manual, 2 computer; presently in 800-seat sanctuary; perfect for same or smaller church; \$16,000; Contact Forest Hills Baptist Church, 2101 Old Hickory, Blvd., Nashville, 37215; (615) 373-8074.

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

**VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY**

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

Call for free  **BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

## For Sale

MCI and Eagle Motorcoaches. All coaches are reasonably priced and are in good condition. Please contact Dennis or Frank at Orion Charters and Tours in Nashville. (800) 333-5354.

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

Call toll-free anytime ... 1-800-473-6688  
We're built on a strong foundation of over 3800 churches.  
**Church Interiors of Nashville**  
New PEWS REFINISHING UPHOLSTERY  
Stained Glass Steeples Baptistries Loose Reversible Cushions  
Lighting and Complete Renovations  
Free! Estimates and Interior Design Consultation

## Dr. Doug Sager's 23rd Annual Mid-Winter Youth Bible Conference

December 26-28, 1996

Featuring Praise & Worship by Michael John Clement with special music by John Herron.



Gatlinburg Convention Center  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee

For more information:  
(423) 966-5332 or (423) 966-9791  
Sponsored by Inner Change Ministries



20' to 33' Buses By **CHAMPION** MOTOR COACH INC.

## Church Buses

- 12 to 38 adult capacity
- Over 20 used buses for sale
- Rental buses available
- Guaranteed Buy Back Program
- We Buy Used Buses

## Carpenter Bus Sales

P.O. Box 2126  
Brentwood, Tenn., 37024-2126

Call Henry Headden today:

1 (800) 370-6180  
1 (615) 371-6180

"Ask about our Rental Bus Program."



Crusader: 15-Passenger (No CDL Required)  
(13 with Rear Storage Compartment)

## Unadulterated sex

By Ron Galyon

**Focal Passage — Exodus 20:14; Mark 7:20-21; I Corinthians 7:25; Ephesians 4:17-19**

We live in a sex saturated society. Turn on the television, listen to the radio, look at a billboard and you are likely to be confronted with a sexual image or message.

There is no doubt this is a difficult topic to confront in the church. It is essential the Christian community confront the sexual tidal wave of our society with God's truth about sex and his message concerning sexual relationships.

Sex is a great gift God has given to be experienced within the boundaries of the husband and wife relationship. Like many gifts this gift can be abused and if it is abused it will be destructive.

If we use this gift the way God designed it, then we can experience joy. If we abuse this gift, then eventually someone will be hurt. There are two principles from this commandment that we need to note.

This commandment prohibits sexual misconduct in marriage (Exodus 20:14; Mark 7:20-21; I Corinthians 7:2-5). Exodus 20:14 uses the Hebrew word for no that expresses the permanent negative. There are no limits or exclusions that have been placed on this principle. I remember as a child that my parents had a certain tone of voice that meant absolutely, under no circumstance, NO! That is what God said, NO!

The focus of the Hebrew word for adultery was upon a married woman having a sexual relationship with a married man or a single man. It would appear that the concept would be more evenly applied to men and women based on the equality of the marriage relationship that we find in I Corinthians 7:2-5. Jesus even extended this principle beyond the act of sexual misconduct to the desire and thought of sexual misconduct.

This commandment was important because it dealt with a core relationship of the core unit of Hebrew society. God placed great importance on the family unit and gave great responsibility to the family unit. The level of intimacy of the husband and wife relationship was to be exceeded by no other relationship. Sexual misconduct by a husband or a wife was an attack of this relationship.

This commandment promotes a committed relationship where sex is the result of the relationship and not the goal. God desires for there to be a tremendous quality to the husband and wife relationship. The only one we should be closer to, than our spouse, should be God. Just as time and effort must go into developing our relationship with God, so should great time and effort go into developing the relationship with our spouse. In I Corinthians 7:2-5 we can see that sex is not the goal but rather the goal is the development of the relationship. The result of the development of the relationship is the joy of the sexual relationship.

Any time a man, woman, or young person is experiencing sex outside of the design of God's plan for the husband and wife, that person is cheating themselves of what God had planned for them.

The pleasure of sexual misconduct falls so short of the pleasure that God designed to take place within the boundaries of the husband and wife relationship.

Sex is causing so much pain in our society. It was intended as a gift to bring joy. We need to turn back to God's way. ■ — Ron Galyon is pastor of First Church, Pulaski.

# God's power to restore

By Michael Smith

**Focal Passage — Ezekiel 37:1-12, 14**

Ezekiel, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, proclaimed both God's judgment and grace. After the destruction of Jerusalem, he focused on the latter. Our Scripture passage contains Ezekiel's most famous prophecy of God's grace, the vision of the valley of dry bones.

**The situation of God's people in exile**

— vv. 1-2

In a vision, God set Ezekiel down in a valley filled with dried, human bones. Exposed to the elements and scavengers, the bones were scattered. Everywhere Ezekiel looked he saw only the results of death. Neither life nor the hope of new life remained.

## Family Bible Lesson

Ezekiel's people, the exiles in Babylon, felt much the same way about their situation and prospects. Shattered by the loss of Jerusalem, the hardships of war, and their circumstances in Babylon, they felt dead. As they looked into the future, the people saw no hope of being restored to their former status as God's people in the Promised Land. Perhaps they even doubted God's desire or ability to do such a thing.

**A probing question and a wise answer**

— v. 3

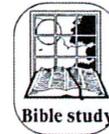
God posed a question to Ezekiel: "Son of man, can these bones live?" Ezekiel's answer demonstrated a proper faith response to God. He left the matter in God's hands, certain that God could do whatever he willed. Ezekiel's response was instructive for the exiles. They were to avoid both hopelessness and presumption and, instead, wait upon God.

**The promise of God's grace — vv. 4-10**

God commanded Ezekiel to speak a word from the Lord to the bones. To that which was dead and without hope, God promised new life. Even as Ezekiel watched, the process of restoration began. With a rattling sound, the bones came together in proper connections, tendons, and flesh grew upon the skeletons, and bodies were formed. Upon God's command, Ezekiel summoned the four winds to breathe life into the bodies, and those who had been dead lived and stood before the prophet. The terms "spirit," "breath," and "wind" which appear throughout the passage are translations of a single Hebrew term which normally refers to the Spirit of God.

**The application — vv. 11, 14**

God tied Ezekiel's vision to the plight of the exiles. They felt like dried bones abandoned in a valley. When they considered the thoroughness of their defeat and the power of Babylon, the exiles saw no way for "these bones to live again." God promised an act of grace. He would do for them what they could not do for themselves. He would return them to Judah.



Bible study

Why would God do such a thing? His answer revealed the driving purpose behind his judgment and grace: "Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it" (v. 14). The Lord's one desire was to restore his people to right relationship with himself. Their exile and their ultimate return were the means to that end. ■ — Michael Smith is pastor of Second Church, Memphis.

# Freedom from legalism

By Thom Tapp

**Focal Passage — Matthew 12:1-13**

Legalism strikes at the heart of grace. It places those it captures in bondage. Simply put, legalism is strict adherence to a set of rules, without concern for the intent of those rules.

Many times legalism is institutionalized and promoted by sectarian leaders whose intentions are to perpetuate control. True legalism hurts individuals and the cause of Christ.

There is hope for those caught up in legalism. Freedom from legalism is found in accepting the grace of God through the person of Jesus Christ.

**John the Baptist's questions — ch. 11:1-15**

John was in prison for his bold stand for the Lord. He had seen Jesus, and baptized him, and now he wondered about him. John's life was now at risk, what man wouldn't want to know for sure that Jesus was the Christ? Jesus hadn't come in judgment as John expected, and he was confused. Jesus responded in love, and confirmed his identity.

**Criticism and rejection of Jesus — vv. 16-24**

The people surrounding John and Jesus had viewed outward appear-

## Explore the Bible Lesson

ance and tied it to inward intent. Jesus denounced this type of legalism, and called it childish. Loving sinners enough to share the Gospel with them did not make Jesus guilty of sin.

**Jesus' prayer and invitation — ch. 12:1-21**

Some people attach many rules, regulations, and complex ceremonial acts to the simple plan of salvation. Jesus taught a simple salvation, and it confounded the wise. Jesus was thankful for those who simply accepted what he taught.

**Conflict over the Sabbath — vv. 1-21**

Jesus focuses on people above rigid regulations. Although God gave the Sabbath, he gave it for a purpose. In another verse, Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Again, we see Jesus demonstrating grace.

In verse 6 Jesus explained that "something greater than the temple is here." I believe this refers to the age of grace, or the ministry of Jesus over the rigid structure of the age of law.

In verses 9-10, Jesus is asked if it is lawful to heal on the Sabbath. He

answered and healed the man with a withered hand. By this, Jesus demonstrated that it is never wrong to meet pressing needs. He put people above regulations.

**Conflict over the source of Jesus' power — vv. 22-37**

Jesus didn't just say he had authority. He demonstrated it. Even as he healed, some questioned his authority. Even today some question his authority, but it is demonstrated in changed lives. The miracle of a changed life is just as miraculous as that of casting out demons.

**The demand for a sign — vv. 38-45**

People are always impressed by a "sign." It gets their attention. Jesus told them the signs they had already seen were sufficient. The same is true today.

**Jesus' true family — vv. 46-50**

Jesus indicated that our spiritual family is our true family. The family of God is vitally important to our spiritual well being.

As we serve our Lord, let's be sure we serve him from pure motives. See people through the eyes of Jesus, and you will have his compassion rather than a condemning spirit. ■

— Thom Tapp is pastor of Oral Church, Lenoir City.



Bible study



## world news

### S.C. Baptists mark 175 years

Baptist Press

FLORENCE, S.C. — South Carolina Baptists mixed celebration with business at their 176th annual meeting Nov. 12-13 at the Florence County Civic Center.

More than 2,000 messengers registered for the meeting, where they elected Mike Hamlet of Spartanburg as president and passed resolutions on marriage, abortion, and homosexuality.

They did more than business, though. Tuesday evening was a celebration, as a full house of messengers highlighted the 175th anniversary of the state convention, opened new partnerships with West Virginia and Romania, and marked the close of partnerships with Kenya and New England.

The South Carolina Baptist Convention is the oldest of the 37 state Baptist conventions, established in 1821 in Columbia.

Messengers also approved a 1997 budget of \$24.3 million, representing a \$600,000 increase over the 1996 budget. ■

### Dakotas adopt \$1 million budget

Baptist Press

EMERADO, S.D. — The first \$1 million for the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship was approved by messengers to their annual meeting in late October.

The 1997 budget of \$1,005,487 is roughly \$30,000 above the current budget. The fellowship, comprising both North and South Dakota, was formally organized in 1989.

Garvon Golden, pastor of First Church, Williston, N.D., was elected president by acclamation. ■

### M-WBC becomes missions base

Baptist Press

ROCHESTER, Minn. — Messengers to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention approved final steps to move from a mission field to a mission base during their Oct. 31-Nov. 2 annual meeting.

The convention, encompassing 140 churches with more than 15,000 members, will begin a three-year partnership through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work in the Brazilian cities of Man-

aus and Maceo.

Also approved was the establishment of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Foundation, to provide donors with a mechanism for giving to long-term and/or special convention purposes, and to provide the convention with the means to promote, receive, administer, and distribute such giving. The foundation will be operated under a contractual agreement with the Baptist Foundation of Texas.

Messengers adopted a budget of \$1.7 million, an increase of more than \$68,000 from last year, and re-elected Glen Land, an Appleton, Wis., pastor as president. ■

### Fired minister drops lawsuit

Associated Baptist Press

GALVESTON, Texas — A woman who sued Texas Baptists for gender discrimination after she was fired from her campus minister job says she has been "forced" to drop her lawsuit because the law allows religious employers to treat women unfairly.

The woman, Raye Nelle Dyer, sued the Baptist General Convention of Texas — along with Galveston Association and her former supervisor — in 1995 after being fired as Baptist Student Union director at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston because of controversy over her ordination to the Gospel ministry.

Dyer worked 10 years as a campus minister in Texas before being removed from her position in Galveston in August 1994. Later, after turning down a demotion, she was fired.

Dyer said she was dropping the lawsuit because recent court rulings made it likely the case would be dismissed on church-state grounds.

She contends her complaint is valid and she is being forced to drop the suit because of a technicality that exempts religious organizations like the state convention from federal laws against employment discrimination based on sex. ■

### Roberts answers questions about salvation for Jews

Baptist Press

STAMFORD, Conn. — Southern Baptists are a young and new church with often misguided theology, claimed speakers recently at the 15th National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations.

During a two-and-a-half hour discussion on the topic of

"Jewish Evangelism," panelists and audience directed comments to Southern Baptist representative Phil Roberts of the Home Mission Board, criticizing the convention for their belief that Jewish people need to be evangelized.

One Orthodox Christian priest suggest Southern Baptists "have ignored history" and that the Baptist evangelization of Jews is as offensive as Baptist evangelism directed to other Christian groups, especially denominations older than Baptists.

"Southern Baptists ... do to Russian Orthodox and Romanian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Christians, frankly, what they do now to Jewish people," the priest declared. "They're saying your faith is not enough — that only Southern Baptist proclamation of Christ can be enough."

Roberts responded that a person's salvation is determined by whether they have personal faith in Christ. ■

### Nevada Baptists adopt first-ever \$2 million budget

Baptist Press

LAS VEGAS — In their 18th annual meeting, Nevada Baptists adopted their first-ever \$2 million budget, an increase of 8.35 percent over the current year.

Messengers voted to increase their giving to world missions for the fourth year in a row, with 26.5 percent of Cooperative Program dollars going to world missions in 1997.

Messengers also changed their constitution to allow no less than six laypeople and no less than six ministers to serve on the executive board at any time.

Joe Taylor, pastor of South Reno Church, Reno, was elected president in a three-way race. ■

### Key Virginia church realigns

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — One of Virginia's largest Southern Baptist congregations has voted to affiliate exclusively with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, a conservative state convention formed in September.

The 1,800 member Grove Avenue Church in Richmond voted Oct. 27 to end a 128-year association with the Baptist General Association of Virginia and join the SBCV. The church ranks seventh in Virginia in financial contributions to denominational causes.

Of the nearly 300 Grove Avenue members who voted on the issue, 53 percent favored an exclusive alignment; 39 percent favored ties with both the SBCV and BGAV; and 8 percent favored remaining aligned with the BGAV, said Pastor Ron Boswell.

A number of Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board personnel maintain membership at Grove Avenue, including President Jerry Rankin and Senior Overseas Vice President Avery Willis. ■

### West Virginians hike CP giving

Baptist Press

BRIDGEPORT, W. Va. — Messengers to the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists voted an increase in their Cooperative Program giving to Southern Baptist national and international ministries during their annual meeting Nov. 1-2.

The convention will forward 35 percent to SBC causes in 1997, compared to 29.5 percent in this year's budget.

Messengers also voted to establish a three-year partnership with South Carolina Baptists, a West Virginia Baptist Bible Institute to offer seminary extension courses, and a West Virginia Bivocational Ministers Fellowship.

All officers were elected by acclamation, including President Mark McClung, a pastor from Summersville. ■

### Arkansas school given \$700,000

Baptist Press

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. — Williams Baptist College has received its largest estate gift ever, more than \$700,000, from the late Melvin and Mildred Callahan of Walnut Ridge.

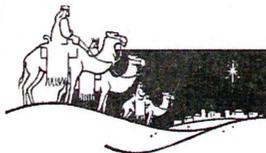
The bulk of the estate gift, \$500,000, is set aside for scholarships, according to President Jerol Swaim, who called the gift "monumental" for the 55-year-old college. ■

### Iowans elect native son

Baptist Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — John Shaull became the first native Iowan elected president of the Baptist Convention of Iowa during its Nov. 1-2 annual meeting.

The Ladora native is pastor of First Church, Winterset. Messengers also voted to up its CP giving to national and international ministries by 1 percent. ■



## Get a head start on Christmas gift giving!

You won't need a camel to deliver your Christmas gifts this year. Give a gift subscription to the *Baptist and Reflector* and let the post office do the delivering. A one year's subscription to the *Baptist and Reflector* is only \$8. Send the form below, along with a check, and your friend will know you care each time they receive their copy of the paper. We will send a card notifying the person of your gift. Mail form to: *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O.Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

Send gift subscription to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_