

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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

Tennessee Baptists 'stand in the gap'

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of Tennessee Baptists were among the multitude of men gathered Oct. 4 on the National Mall at the nation's capitol to praise God, ask for forgiveness of sins, and pray for their country.

"Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men," sponsored by the Denver, Colorado-based Promise Keepers organization, brought together men of various races and denominational backgrounds.

Promise Keepers officials did not estimate the crowd, but attendance estimates from different news organizations ranged from around 500,000 to more than one million men.

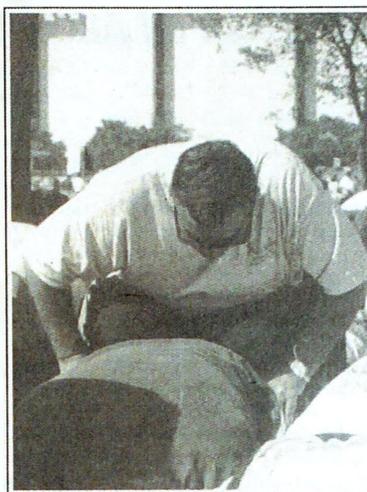
Men were challenged by more than 40 speakers to repent of their sins and to "stand in the gap" for their country.

They were exhorted to love their families and to be spiritual leaders in the home, to minister in their churches, to repent of racism, and to rededicate themselves to Christ.

PK officials stressed the event was not called as a platform for political agendas.

"We believe that the ultimate answer to the moral crisis of society is not in partisan agendas but living truth," said Randy Phillips, president of Promise Keepers.

"... I have a request for those of you



JERRY CURREY leans to pray as far as his wheelchair will allow. A member of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, Currey, who lost a leg and his sight in the Vietnam War, refused to allow his handicaps to prevent him from 'standing in the gap' with an estimated more than one million men.

who love Jesus Christ but may have come here to voice your opinions on specific political agendas. We have dedicated this as a sacred assembly. Would you suspend to-

day your appeals before men and would you unite with us in appealing in prayer before a righteous and just God? ...

"We have not come to exalt our gender as males. We have come to exalt the man, Jesus Christ, who is Savior, who is Lord, and who is God."

In response to concerns from some women's organizations that Promise Keepers is anti-women, Phillips responded: "No woman should feel threatened by this gathering because the ground is level at the foot of the cross. ... Every woman should have hope.

"By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, a man is empowered not to use his strength to elevate himself but to be conformed to live like Jesus, who, it says, came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life."

Men were challenged not to let the weekend be just another event but to go back to their homes, churches, and communities to make a difference.

PK founder Bill McCartney issued a challenge to pastors in attendance to be ready to lead the men who will be returning to their churches with a desire to be part of building a vibrant church.

"There are a lot of people who are not here today. And the reason they're not here is they think this is just a pep rally," McCartney said.

— See Tennessee, page 2

Tennesseans continue strong support of CP

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — During September Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,743,874 to the Cooperative Program.

The budget gifts for the month exceeded budget needs by \$394,529, according to James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

During the first 11 months of the convention's fiscal year, which ends Oct. 31, Cooperative Program gifts totaled \$27,301,971, an increase of \$1,572,678 over the same period for the previous fiscal year.

"To God be the glory," Porch said. "Tennessee Baptists continue to demonstrate their commitment to our missions and ministry endeavors," he added. ■

Tennessee DOM earns national honor

By Leonard Hill
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Wesley Pitts, director of missions, Cumberland Association, has been named the 1997 "Seminary Extension Center Director of the Year" for east of the Mississippi.

In announcing the award, Seminary Extension Director Ed Thiele said, "Wesley Pitts has distinguished himself as a Seminary Extension Center director and teacher of Seminary Extension courses in two Tennessee associations.

"He has taught a wide range of courses and enlisted others to teach. He has used the gifts of teaching and administration well to the glory of God."

Pitts' involvement with Seminary Extension began in 1984 when he started teaching courses at the Carroll-Benton Association Center of the Union University seminary program.

When he became director of

missions for the Clarksville-based Cumberland Association in 1990, Pitts continued teaching Seminary Extension courses.

Pitts has taught 23 different classes, including numerous books of the Bible. His classes have ranged in size from eight to 32 students, and have included both pastors and laity.

"Some of my students have been laypersons who experienced their first in-depth Bible study while focusing on the message of a single book of the Bible," Pitts said.

"I've had students with GEDs and no college training. Others have had advanced college degrees, like a husband and wife team who have taken the 16 courses necessary for a diploma in Biblical studies," he continued.

Pitts noted some of his students "have taken courses

while they sought God's will for their lives. Many of these have gone on to attend seminary. Some could care less if they get credit for the course, they just want to learn more about the Bible.

"In addition to learning more about the Bible, students have become acquainted with others in our association," Pitts said.

"Midway through each two-hour teaching session we take a fellowship break, with students taking turns supplying snacks. It's become a way for members of different churches in our association to get to know each other."

Seminary Extension, with offices in Nashville, is a ministry of the Council of Seminary Presidents. Courses are made available in a classroom setting at more than 350 Extension Centers across the country to students who for some reason are unable to attend a seminary. Most courses also are available by correspondence. ■



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SBC CP giving sets new record

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention ended the 1996-97 fiscal year with record Cooperative Program gifts, more than \$155 million, surpassing last year's record by nearly \$7 million and the budget by nearly \$10 million, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For the SBC's fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the \$155,005,723 total for 1996-97 is \$6,820,646, or 4.6 percent

above last year's record of \$148,185,076.

The increase is the fourth year in a row the SBC Cooperative Program totals have set a record.

CP contributions surpassed this year's Cooperative Program Allocation Budget of \$145,053,499 by \$9,952,224, or 6.86 percent.

Designated gifts also set a record, topping last year's designated gifts by \$3 million, or 2.24 percent. The 1996-97 designated gifts total is \$141,547,992, compared to last year's \$138,446,505. ■

Advertisers turn off ABC's 'Nothing Sacred'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — While the tenor of the controversial ABC/Disney show "Nothing Sacred" hasn't softened much in the first three weeks of the television season, its advertising lineup has changed week to week under heavy pressure from groups dissatisfied with its slant on Catholic priesthood.

The Disney-owned ABC-TV network premiered the show set in an inner-city parish to a chorus of jeers led by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights and echoed by a broad group of evangelicals.

To date 13 national advertisers have pulled their sponsorship from the show, under heat from the religious coalition, which has criticized it as "appalling" and "a political statement against the Catholic Church."

The series has been praised by television critics as the "best new show" on television, but the show is not winning any popularity contests with the viewing public at large. The premiere show settled in at 54th place in the weekly ratings and the second episode fell to 92nd place. Ratings for the Oct. 2 show were not available at press time.

Dropping sponsorships are Isuzu, Weight Watchers, K-Mart, Benckiser, DuPont, Red Lobster, Ocean Spray, Sears, AT&T, Glaxo Wellcome, Ponderosa, Dunkin' Donuts, and Scott's Liquid Gold of Denver.

"Nothing Sacred is yet another egregious example of Disney's Christian-bashing agenda," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. For more information about the show's sponsors, call the ERLC at (615) 244-2495. ■

Six-day revival leads to lengthy baptismal service

For Baptist and Reflector

MARTIN — A six-day revival service at Bible Union Church here resulted in a lengthy baptismal service on Sunday, Oct. 5. Sixty-three people made professions of faith during Bible Union's revival, held Sept. 26-Oct. 1, according to Pastor Terry Griffin.

"God has blessed in a tremendous way," Griffin said. "I've never experienced anything like it."

The revival was led by Donnie Guy, an evangelist from Gulfport, Miss.

Guy has a unique ministry in that he involves people in evangelism who never do any soul-winning or witnessing, Griffin said. And it worked.

Many members who had been inactive came and brought friends. Members made 2,018 contacts for the revival. The church normally averages 121 in Sunday School, but on Sept. 28 they had 191 with about 300 in worship. More than 200 people attended services nightly, Griffin said.

Griffin baptized 14 people during the week of the revival. He told the Baptist and Reflector Oct. 2 that the entire Oct. 5 service would be devoted to baptizing the remainder.

"Baptism is the first step of obedience when a person is saved. We need to get it done quickly," he said. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

Tennessee Baptists 'stand in the gap' ...

— Continued from page 1

"They don't realize the intentionality that we have. Here's what we're going to do.

"We're going to connect in such a way that we're going to meet the needs of our communities. ..."

McCartney added that during the next year Promise Keepers would sponsor stadium and arena events and there would be no admission charge.

"We want you to bring the lost. We want you to bring the lukewarm. Almighty God's going to show up. He's going to grab them. Go out and get them and bring them," McCartney challenged. He also told of plans to hold rallies on the steps of each state capitol on Jan. 1, 2000 to state that men are "fully involved and everything's in order."

Tennessee Baptists were excited about participating in what is said to be the largest religious gathering in the history of the United States.

"I think it was overwhelming," said Bret Robbe, pastor of Clearview Church, Franklin.

"You hope there would be a good response. It was better than good. I've never seen that many people."

Robbe noted that the call to

repentance and prayer for the nation are the first steps in making a difference in the country.

Pastor Ken Clayton of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory, said he was impressed with the silence of so many people during calls to prayer. "There was an incredible hush."

He also was overwhelmed to see such a spirit of love among men of all backgrounds. "There was no pushing or shoving. You could really sense the spirit of the Lord there," he said.

Danny Poole, a leader in men's ministries at Clingan Ridge Church, Cleveland, too

was overwhelmed by the PK rally. While he thought the rally was "awesome," Poole said the highlight of the trip occurred on Monday (Oct. 6) after he returned.

"I spent the entire morning talking about Promise Keepers and my relationship to Christ," he said.

"The rally was good, but it was only the beginning. If you went there just for an event and came back to the same old rut, it's meaningless," Poole observed. "You have to use it as a springboard to witness to people that there's healing for marriages and racial reconciliation through Christ." ■



Partnership Prayer Requests

October

8 — Pray for Baptist work in the southern part of Costa Rica where SBC missionaries Bill and Linda Egbert work.

9 — Pray for members of Second Church of Wroclaw, Poland, as they build the interior of their church damaged by recent flooding.

10 — Pray for Baptist churches in Michigan without a pastor.

11 — Praise God for the great summer that Riverview Church in Prescott, Ontario, Canada, had with its campground VBS and BYBC for children.

12 — Pray for national missionaries Herbert and Marjorie Soto Martinez who began serving this month in the South Zone of Costa Rica.

13 — Pray for the health of SBC missionaries in Costa Rica as they work in a hot and humid climate.

14 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Senior Men Retreat which is being held this week.



MEN CROWD the National Mall at the nation's capitol for the 'Stand in the Gap' rally held Oct. 4. Some estimates placed the crowd to be in excess of one million people.

These times may not be our best or worst

Politics, whether secular or denominational should not be an arena in which we lose sight of the goal or mutual respect.

There should be no reason for Tennessee Baptists to get "bent out of shape" and make exaggerated assertions.

The best attitude for overcoming differences is for everyone to be certain of the "facts" and depend on the only one who is totally dependable — Christ Jesus.

When we ignore this, arguments become weak and ideas lose substance. This advice is for all concerned, and not for just one view.

The annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is about five weeks away. Already there are enough semantics to make some potential messenger perhaps lose incentive to attend the sessions.

The arguments shape up like this. Some Tennessee Baptists (we don't know how many) are making an effort to replace some nominees to committees and boards with nominees of their choice.

They plan to nominate substitutes for nominees to the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees.

Readers can tell what's going on by reading letters in the paper. Charges are made and countered that Cooperative Baptist Fellowship steers or even controls the direction of the TBC. Thus, some perceive, CBF members control how Cooperative Program money is spent.

There are CBF-related members on the Executive Board, but they stoutly deny the charges of control. Our ministries should not be controlled by any group.

Is the Executive Board controlled by CBF members? We doubt whether the numbers are sufficient even if they wanted to. The best direction for all our TBC ministries is to be under the leadership of Christ, and not a prize for the taking.

Unfortunately, the Executive Board seems to have become a vehicle for controlling the convention's directions and "politics," perceived or not.

If there is a desire by CBF, Concerned Tennessee Baptists, or any other group, to selfishly control the boards and committees to shape the convention, that's wrong.

If there is anything amiss with the system, having control merely to steer Tennessee Baptists in one direction or the other — without knowing God's plan for us, will not solve the problem. "Out of the frying pan, into the fire" is a reliable adage. When the debris settles, who — or what will be left? There are many Tennessee Baptists left in the middle, and they are also affected, like it or not. — *WFA*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Young man to airplane pilot: "Thanks for the two rides."

Pilot to young man: "Two rides? You only had one ride."

Young man: "No sir, two. My first one and my last one."

Take this truth

Experience is the best teacher! Have you ever heard that statement? Someone said, "That's wrong. Experience is the only teacher."

I don't know about the relative truth of the two statements, but I do know that experience is a good teacher, and a most effective one.

Memorize this Scripture

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. — II Timothy 1:12

Pray this prayer

Lord, we thank you for things in life we know as certainties because we have seen them happen, and our experiences are truly ours. ■

Who said that?

The Bible is not a manual on mission methods. It does command us to go, to make disciples, to baptize them, and to teach them. There is mass evangelism in the New Testament, but the one-on-one method can also be found. They went from house to house daily preaching the Word. — *Guy Henderson, Passport to Missions, Broadman Press, Nashville, 1979*

Racing firm plans to build track in Memphis

Gambling, that hearty old dealer of slime and crime, is alive and apparently well. News came last week that a Pennsylvania company is planning to crank up the "Tennessee needs racing and gambling" outcry again. The company wants racing in Memphis, and says it's "doable."

Perhaps Penn National Gaming doesn't understand that there are still many citizens and legislators in Tennessee who think racing and gambling are bad, ornery, equivalent to drug and alcohol abuse. By the way, all those evils flock together, like the proverbial "birds of a feather." Take one, and you get the others.

Penn National has proposed a \$15 million harness racing track in Memphis that would also provide facilities for betting on

horse races simulcast from other tracks.

The company would have to get 100 acres rezoned, and appeal to the Tennessee legislature to reverse a decision made earlier this year to eliminate the state's racing commission effective in 1998.

But strong-arm tactics are not unusual in the racing-gambling world. So gear up, readers, here we go again.

Don't wait until the General Assembly convenes in January. Contact your lawmakers now — and also remind them that the lottery idea should be killed also.

We will bring a proposal to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Jackson. We must kyo racing/gambling and the lottery idea. — *WFA*

It's good to get a letter — but some are special

one word more

by Wm. Fletcher Allen, editor



She sat down and wrote us a letter.

A good letter, she expressed her love and loyal-

I remember that when I read that statement, I paused to give honor to her kind of loyalty to a newspaper.

"When I was young," she wrote, "I really enjoyed poems, but now I read it all and especially the Sunday School lessons since I am no longer able to go to church."

"I still live on the old home place where I was born, though not in the same house."

What an amazing testimony.

I learned more about Jessie Taylor Dean last Friday when I read about her home-going. Her daughter, Marguerite Clinard, wrote a poignant letter to us, lovingly paying tribute to her mother.

I learned that Jessie Taylor Dean went to be with the Lord on Sept. 15 and she was 106. It's quite likely that at her passing she was the oldest member of any Tennessee Baptist congregation.

I learned that she was a homemaker and was a charter member of the Woman's Missionary Union at Oak Grove Church in Springfield.

She blessed the Springfield area with many descendants. Besides Marguerite, she had two other daughters who survived her, Wilmoth Clinard and Nell Fuqua; and a son, C. W. Dean.

There were 17 grandchildren in the family — as well as 47 great-grandchildren and 28 great-great-grandchildren.

And there were others.

I don't know much about Jessie Dean. But I do know that she probably left a heritage of many unsolicited and undeserved acts of kindness along the way.

Her faithfulness to family, and to the family of *Baptist and Reflector* readers, blessed us all.

I can appreciate the kind of loyalty to the church and love for missions that caused her to be one of the first in Oak Grove's WMU.

There was something about that letter that said to me, "This lady is unusual, she's special." I was right. Those who follow know she was faithful. ■

ty to the *Baptist and Reflector*. It was August 1993, and we had asked readers to tell us if they had been faithful readers for any particularly long period of time.

So Jessie Taylor Dean sat down in her farmhouse near Springfield and wrote us about her experiences.

"I had my 102nd birthday on July 12," she wrote. "I just want to say that my mother and father subscribed to the *Baptist and Reflector* and we all read it."

"I read it some when I first began to read, but I believe I have read it steadily for at least 70 years."

How to know the difference between assertive and aggressive

families matter

by Paul Barkley counselor, professor



Christians raised to "turn the other cheek," "go the second mile," and "love their enemies," find it difficult to conceive of being assertive. To many sincere

hind the English translation is the ford for a wild animal that has been tamed.

It is really strength under control, but God's control. Barclay uses the example of a horse broken to the bridle. The animal is still as strong and spirited as it ever was, but now that strength and spirit are under the control of the rider who holds the reins. Who holds the reins to your strength and spirit?

Much of the stress and crisis in the family comes from the failure of family members to control their emotional strength and spirit in assertive ways. Christians tend to value the Wendell Wimps and Dorothy Doormats of life without realizing the problems these characters cause themselves and others.

By failing to be assertive, I wind up with faulty merchandise, poor service, and lost opportunities.

Have you ever gotten home with a new shirt to find a stain on it, but just not felt like confronting the clerk or store with their shoddy merchandise?

In the same way, family members can cause problems for the entire family when they refuse to or fail to be assertive about hesitancy in decisions the family is trying to make. "I told you so" is a poor substitute for strongly asserting, "I don't believe that will work for us." When Jesus exhorts us to meekness, I don't believe he is trying to stifle our spirit or strip us of our strength. He was encouraging us to be assertive instead of aggressive.

Assertiveness demands my space and aggressiveness demands your space. I do not have a right to invade your space, but I have the right and responsibility to my own space. ■

Christians the term itself is confused with and synonymous with aggressiveness.

Closely associated with this concept is the misunderstanding of the admonition of Jesus in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the meek."

Meekness in our day is seen as a wimpy waffling characteristic of self-effacement. The Greek word be-

Mohler, Kelley, Dockery to address TBC pastors

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two Southern Baptist seminary presidents will be among the speakers at the annual Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 10 at West Jackson Church, Jackson.

The conference precedes the Nov. 11-12 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"And He Gave Some ..." is the theme of the conference, according to Morris Anderson of Pigeon Forge, president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Addressing the sub-theme "teachers" in the Monday morning session which begins at 8:45 with pre-service music will be R. Albert Mohler, Jr.,



ANDERSON



DOCKERY



KELLEY



MOHLER



RUSHING



TERRY

president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who is slated to speak at 9:20 a.m.; Union University President David Dockery, scheduled for 10:05 a.m., and Charles Kelley, Jr., president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, slated for 10:50 a.m.

The afternoon session focuses on "evangelists." Set to speak are two Tennessee evangelists — Ron Herrod of Oak Ridge at 1:30 p.m. and Jackie Kay of Bartlett at 2:15 p.m.

Baptist Sunday School Board staffer Don Mathis will speak at 3:15 p.m. A testimony will be given at 3 p.m. by Romanian pastor Onisim Mladin.

The evening session will conclude the Pastors' Conference focusing on "pastors."

Two Knoxville pastors are set to speak during the evening service — Hollie Miller of Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville, at 6:40 p.m. and Doug Sager, First Church, Concord, at 7:30 p.m.



Speck, music evangelist, Lebanon; Scott Andrews, minister of music, First Church, Sevierville; and 4 GLORY, music evangelists from First Church, Sevierville.

Election of new officers for the Pastors' Conference is set for 2:50 p.m. on Monday afternoon.

1997 officers are Anderson; Jimmy Terry, Tabernacle Church, Clarksville, vice president; and John Rushing, Northside Church, Columbia, secretary. ■

WMU plans Missions Extravaganza Nov. 10 at First Church, Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union will sponsor Missions Extravaganza 1997 on Monday, Nov. 10, at First Church, Jackson. The Missions Fair will begin in the gymnasium at 3:30 p.m. and conclude at 7:30 p.m.

Home and international missionaries, including those on furlough, those retired, any who have resigned, and those who are still active, and parents of missionaries living in Tennessee will participate along with Ten-

nessee volunteers.

The Missions Fair will be made up of displays from featured guests. The event is a good place for groups of Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Acteens, and Challengers to learn and experience missions. The event will have a true fair feeling with games and clowns.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the fun and fellowship. This is a come-and-go event, according to individual schedules.

There is no registration fee and no meal will be served at the event. ■

Baptist and Reflector sponsors annual Joggers' Jubilee event

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Baptist and Reflector staff once again is sponsoring the Joggers' Jubilee during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Jackson.

The event is not a race. It is a time of fellowship for "early birds" who like to walk, run, or jog. Prizes, donated by TBC institutions and groups, will be awarded to participants.

Jackson is the site of the first Joggers' Jubilee which was initiated by Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen in 1988. Participation in the event has increased each year.

Those interested in participating in Jackson are asked to meet at 6:30 a.m. in front of Union's administration building. The location is convenient to area hotels.

For more information, call the Baptist and Reflector at (615) 371-2003. ■

Tennessee colleges, SBC seminaries plan alumni events during meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Annual conventions are a time many schools hold a fellowship time for their alumni and friends. The annual TBC meeting in Jackson is no different.

The following schools have announced alumni events:

Belmont University: Alumni and Friends Dinner; Nov. 11, 5 p.m.; the Lord Byron Ballroom of the Sheraton Old English Inn; for ticket information, contact Evans Whitaker, (615) 460-5517

Carson-Newman College: Alumni and Friends Luncheon; Nov. 11, noon; Comfort Inn; tickets, \$10 before Nov. 1; \$12 at the C-N booth, contact Alan Medders at (423) 471-3245

Union University: Alumni and Friends Dinner; Nov. 11, 5 p.m.; Barefoot Student Union Building on the Union campus; tickets, \$10 before Nov. 7; \$12 afterwards, contact Sheri Evans at (901) 661-5139

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: Luncheon; Nov. 12, noon; Suede's Restaurant; for more informa-

tion, call Phil Jett, Englewood Church, Jackson, (901) 668-1094

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary: Alumni Luncheon; Nov. 11, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; The Old Country Store, Casey Jones Village; tickets, \$10, before the convention write Roy D. Graves, P.O. Box 239, Kingston, Tenn., 37763 or purchase at the alumni exhibit; featured speaker, Hyran Barefoot, chancellor, Union University; for more information, call Roy Graves at (423) 376-6041

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary: Reception; Nov. 11, 9-11 p.m., Garden Plaza Hotel, indoor poolside; Thom Rainer of Southern will be the host; for more information call Tracy Cooper or Ann Knopp at (502) 897-4700

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: Alumni Meeting and Luncheon; Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m.; Barefoot Student Center, Coburn I Dining Room, Union University; guest speaker, Dan Crawford, professor of evangelism at Southwestern; tickets, \$10, write Philip Lovelace, 407 Charleston, Somerville, Tenn., 38068, or call him at (901) 465-8658 ■

Ministers' wives to hear Cash Sheppard

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual Tennessee Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon will feature former Miss America 1987 Kellye Cash Sheppard.

Sheppard is now a Christian music artist and speaker. She recently released her first CD, "Living By The Word." She lives in Milan where her husband, Todd, is head basketball coach at Milan High School.

The luncheon will be held from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Coburn Dining Room at Union University.

Tickets are \$10 before Oct. 15. Checks should be sent to Madison-Chester Baptist Association, 603 Wallace Road, Jackson, Tenn., 38305. Tickets may be purchased at the convention at the Ministers' Wives table for \$15.

The theme for the meeting is "Empowered to Witness — As an Individual, a Wife, a Mother," according to Dale Williams, president of the Tennessee Baptist Ministers' Wives group. ■

Guidelines listed for presenting resolutions

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The following guidelines are for persons interested in submitting resolutions during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 11-12 at West Jackson Church.

(1) Resolutions, including those sent to the Committee on Resolutions prior to the convention, must be submitted during a business session only by registered messengers.

(2) Resolutions must be presented no later than the last miscellaneous business

session of the first day of the convention.

(3) Only titles of proposed resolutions shall be read into the record when presented, but the full resolution must be in writing and submitted to the presiding officer, recording secretary, and the Committee on Resolutions.

Individuals wishing to submit resolutions are encouraged to submit them prior to the TBC meeting by sending them to Committee on Resolutions, Executive Board, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024. ■

123rd Convention meets in Jackson

'Empowered to Witness' is Nov. 11-12 session theme

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Messengers from churches across Tennessee will gather here at West Jackson Church Nov. 11-12 for the 123rd annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Theme for the meeting is "Empowered to Witness," following last year's convention emphasis of spiritual awakening.

The church has just moved into new facilities — and messengers will be accommodated with all the "newness" involved.

Convention President Herbert Higdon, Jackson, has extended a welcome to all messengers and visitors.

"The City of Jackson opens its heart to messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention," he said. "Here you will find a sincere Southern hospitality and a helpful spirit."

"The annual session of the convention will be conducted in the newest facility in the city, West Jackson Baptist Church. It is spacious and with ample parking space. You will find church members ready, willing, and eager to assist you with your needs."

"You also will find Union University almost next door," he said. "The excellent services of our great West Tennessee university will be open to our meetings."

Higdon also asks Tennessee Baptists to pray for the convention meetings. He said the program and fellowship are excellent, and pointed to speakers who will address the messengers.

Higdon noted that there will be ample time for business, reports, fellowship, and messages. "It will be an exciting and informative time," he concluded, "as we allow God to

bless our lives and make us better for having participated."

Attendance may be up

Messenger registration has been sparse for the last few meetings held in western Tennessee, but saw an increase last year in Nashville.

Almost 1,800 messengers attended the 1996 meeting in Two Rivers Church, the largest registration since the high-water mark of 2,238 at Gatlinburg in 1992.

Also last year the convention approved a \$30 million campaign for endowment in scholarship funds for Carson-Newman College, Belmont University, and Union University. Tom Madden, campaign chairman, reports at the November meeting.

Even so, a boost in attendance is likely because the Credentials Committee is sending messenger cards directly to churches this year — and there is heightened interest in nominations to TBC committees and boards.

Some Tennessee Baptists have expressed intentions to make nominations to the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards. The group is called Concerned Tennessee Baptists (CTB).

With mailouts and meetings they have encouraged churches, especially from the east, to elect their maximum number of messengers and encourage their attendance at the annual session.

An effort on their part last year, which failed by 100 votes, would have given the convention president some nominating powers.

At last year's annual meeting also, messengers approved a three-year Partnership Mission with Costa Rica, and had the opportunity to hear a series of six messages on spiritual awakening and renewal by

Henry Blackaby.

Partnerships, budget

Messengers at West Jackson will be asked to approve a partnership with the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, since a three-year alignment with Polish Baptists ends Dec. 31.

The Executive Board will recommend a Cooperative Program budget of \$30,105,515, compared to the current budget of \$28,192,138.

Toward the Mississippi

A main feature of the two-day meeting is an overview of the Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) at the closing session on Wednesday night.

That segment of the program will be led by Tim Cox,

the sessions and preach the president's message at 11:30 Tuesday morning. He will be assisted in presiding by Vern Powers, TBC vice president and TBC/Baptist Hospital, Nashville, liaison; and Lynn King, second vice president, pastor of Maplewood Church, Paris.

Other elected convention officers include Dan Ferrell, registration secretary; and Joyce Rickman, recording/statistical secretary, both of Franklin.

James Porch will present his executive director's report at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon. Bob Reccord, North American Mission Board president, will speak at 7:45 on Tuesday evening. He is the only speaker

the Committee on Committees.

Committee reports on nominations, reported in full in this section of the paper, reveal that there are 18 first-term nominations for the Executive Board. They represent 18 churches, and only one has served previously on the board.

The Directors of Missions Chorus will lead praise music as the convention gets underway Tuesday morning at 8:40.

Reports from TBC institutions, committees, and agency, and the Executive Board staff will be heard throughout the two-day event.

The first segment of the Executive Board report comes on Tuesday morning, presented by Eugene Cotey, Murfreesboro, board president. The second segment will be given on Wednesday morning.

Union University Singers will provide music during the convention.

Business, elections

Two miscellaneous business segments are scheduled for Tuesday morning and again on Tuesday afternoon.

Election of a new president is scheduled for 3:35 Tuesday afternoon. Two names have surfaced thus far, Earl Wilson, former pastor and retired Tennessee Baptist Foundation president; and Doug Sager, pastor of First Church Concord. Both men are from Knoxville. However, there could be other nominations.

Elections of two vice presidents are scheduled on Wednesday morning.

Credentials and registration will be handled by the appropriate committees.

Locations of committees and Executive Board staff, etc., are listed in the program. *B&R*



TIDWELL



HIGDON



PORCH



RECCORD

Mississippi River Ministry coordinator and volunteers.

The TBC's Vision 2000 long range plan calls for 500 churches to be started in the Mississippi River Ministry and Appalachian Outreach Ministries by 2000.

Next year the North American Mission Board's convention-wide study will focus on the MRM. Also on Wednesday night the convention will honor two pastors representing bivocational pastors and small-church pastors.

Convention officers will be recognized and Executive Board ministries highlights will be given also on Wednesday evening.

Speakers, messages

Herbert Higdon, TBC president and pastor of Cross Roads Church, Bells, will preside at

from outside the TBC.

The convention sermon will be given by Jerry Tidwell, host pastor, at 11:30 Wednesday morning. The West Jackson Church choir will sing prior to his message. Tidwell was elected last year as alternate to Gary Coltharp, who no longer is pastor of First Church, Jackson.

Committees, reports

Challenges could come when the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees reports are given Wednesday afternoon, about 2:50. Nominations from the convention floor may come to each of these committee recommendations.

Clay Austin, pastor of First Church, Blountville, chairs the Committee on Boards, and Robert Elliott, pastor of Central Church, Kingston, chairs

Dissatisfied group set to challenge nominations at TBC meeting

By Wm. Fletcher Allen
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A letter sent last week to Tennessee Baptist pastors probably will get attention now and at the Nov. 11-12 Tennessee Baptist Convention sessions in Jackson.

The mailing from Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, accompanied by information from Roger S. Oldham, pastor of First Church, Martin, states that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), controls the state convention "because so many cooperating Ten-

nessee Baptists tend to sit on the proverbial fence and choose to do nothing."

Referring to Oldham's two information sheets, Sutton's letter asks pastors to "take a few minutes to read it, share its contents with your congregation asking them to pray, and then make up your mind to attend the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Jackson on Nov. 11-12."

Sutton accuses the CBF of being "a denomination competing for Southern Baptist churches, influence, and money." He says the CBF has every charac-

teristic of a denomination with a coordinating council, seminary, press agency, publishing house, ethics agency, mission board and missionaries, and executive director.

Meanwhile, the latest in mailings from Concerned Tennessee Baptists (CTB) called for a rally at First Church Concord, Knoxville, scheduled for Oct. 6. According to the Sept. 5 letter from Charles Bailey, Louisville, president; and Guy Milam, Maryville, that meeting was scheduled to dispense information about the upcoming Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Similar newsletters have been circulated for more than a year. One of the stated aims is to gain more "conservative" members on convention boards and committees.

The CTB newsletter said the group would contest nominees to "key committees such as the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees." The letter also said that CTB "must not disparage or criticize the individuals that we challenge."

Randy Davis, pastor of First Church, Morristown, was to speak at the Monday rally. *B&R*

Report from Committee on Boards, Committees

For Baptist and Reflector

The nominations (see page 7) represent the results of the year-long effort by the convention-elected Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees. These committees have approached their convention-assigned task with a commitment to recommend to the Tennessee Baptist Convention a slate of dedicated people who are first committed to serve our Lord, and in addition, willing to fulfill the responsibilities of the specific board or committee to which they are to be elected.

The committee has honored the convention-adopted and proven process. Nominees presented in this report represent the diligent effort Committee on Boards and Committee

on Committees honored in approved guidelines and intentions. A desire for both integrity and fairness has prevailed throughout the committee's discussions and decision-making.

A review of the committee processes, and an analysis of this report, we believe is helpful as messengers to the convention approach action on the report.

Both committees met early in 1997 for orientation. The meetings provided opportunity to review and refine the process as dictated by the convention's constitution and committee guidelines. Recommendation forms were studied and modified to enable the committee to receive adequate and specific information on each person that would be nominated for their consideration. Next, rec-

ommendation forms were sent to each church and association. Tennessee Baptists were encouraged through the *Baptist and Reflector* to provide nominations to the committees.

Recommendations from Tennessee Baptists were received in the office of the Executive Director. The staff compiled these recommendations and provided a copy to each committee member prior to their next meeting.

Each committee member received in addition to the recommendation a data sheet on each nominee including the history of his prior service, if any, on other committees and boards and a list of other people serving on committees and boards from the same church, as well as, statistical data on the individual's church. This statistical data includes the church's prior year Cooperative Program giving, designated giving, percentage of undesignated receipts given to the Cooperative Program, and average Sunday School attendance.

On April 21, the committee selected the preliminary nominees to the Executive Board. The following morning the committee heard recommendations from the institutional presidents. These recommendations were submitted according to the constitution guidelines.

That afternoon the committee began making its initial recommendations to the Boards of Trust for each institution. Later, in the month of April 1997, the Committee on Committees followed a similar process as outlined in their guidelines.

Following these meetings, committee members were assigned the responsibility to personally contact the nominees to the convention. This call was to verify the individuals willingness to serve and their commitment to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. These reports were then individually submitted to the full committee at its next meeting.

Once all contacts for both Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees had been made, the committees reviewed their initial primary nominations in preparation for the final nomination list. This stage in the process required an additional meeting.

Altogether, Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees have met for many hours in a total of 10 meetings in addition to the hours of telephone, study, and follow-up work.

Please consider the following analysis of the committees' work as it relates to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

A total of 33 vacancies existed on the Executive Board this year. Twenty-one of the persons occupying these positions were eligible to serve a second term. In addition, there were five positions in which incumbents resigned and needed to be replaced. In essence, there was a grand total of 38 positions to be filled. For these positions, the committee received a total of 109 recommendations. In addition, the committee was bound by the constitution to spread these positions among the grand divisions of the state with 14 from the east, 12 from the middle, and 12 from the west.

Only one of the 18 people newly nominated to the Executive Board has ever served on the Executive Board before. That person had served in 1979-80. Only six of the people newly nominated to the Executive Board have someone else from their church serving in the coming year on another board or committee. The 18 new nominees to the Executive Board are members of churches that gave an excess of \$1,473,104 to the Cooperative Program during 1995-96. These same churches averaged 11.63% of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.

All boards, Executive Board and other boards vacancies plus the Committee on Committees vacancies constituted a total of 120 positions to be filled this year. Seventy-two people in these positions were eligible to serve another term. In addition, there were 13 positions in which the incumbent had resigned. Thus, there was a grand total of 133 positions to be filled by the Committee on Boards.

The committee received a total of 345 recommendations for these positions. Only 30 of the newly-nominated persons have someone else serving from their respective church in the coming year on another board or committee. The churches in which these 30 people are resident members gave a total of \$2,527,716.50 to the Cooperative Program during 1995-96. This amount of Cooperative Program giving is 8.9% of the total Cooperative Program gifts during 1995-96.

As indicated, the Committee on Committees followed virtually the same process as the Committee on Boards throughout the year. All convention committees had a total of 34 positions to be filled this year. Five of these positions were eligible to serve another term. In addition, there were seven positions where the incumbents had resigned. Thus, the committee had a grand total of 41 positions to be filled.

The committee received a total of 90 recommendations for these positions. Only five of the new recommendations had served their respective committees before. Only three of the newly-nominated persons had someone else from their church serving in the coming year on another board or committee.

This report is presented by the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees have met for many hours with prayer for these nominees as they assume their convention-assigned responsibilities. ■ —From the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees

Tennessee Baptist Convention 1997 - 98 Cooperative Program Proposed Budget

The proposed Tennessee Baptist Convention budget for 1997-98 reflects the Executive Board and Executive Board Committee's diligent effort to honor the budget preparation process. Also, this proposed budget is a response to the requests for financial assistance by the institutions, the Executive Board, and the Southern Baptist Convention. An overall concern has prevailed to provide a financial plan that focuses on the priorities of evangelism, missions, Christian growth and education, and Christian benevolent needs.

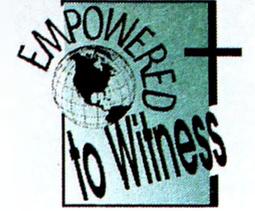
Messengers to the 1997 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will receive a more detailed presentation outlining the entire budget process.

Area	1996 - 97 Budget	Executive Board Recommends	Dollar Increase	% Inc.	% of Total
Executive Board Ministries	7,567,993	8,170,572	602,579	8.0%	27.7%
Convention Operations					
Baptist & Reflector	375,077	397,725	22,648	6.0%	1.3%
Church Annuity Plan (50%)*	317,562	635,125	317,563	100.0%	2.2%
TBC Meeting & Comm.	256,568	316,336	59,768	23.3%	1.1%
TBC Audits	81,500	81,500	-	0.0%	0.3%
Sub-total	1,030,707	1,430,686	399,979	38.8%	4.9%
Christian Education					
Belmont University	2,113,696	2,219,381	105,685	5.0%	7.5%
Carson Newman College	2,113,696	2,219,381	105,685	5.0%	7.5%
Union University	2,113,696	2,219,381	105,685	5.0%	7.5%
Endowment Campaign	20,500	20,500	-	0.0%	0.1%
Harrison Chilhowee	319,829	335,820	15,991	5.0%	1.1%
Assoc. SB Colleges & Schools	-	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
Historical Archives	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%	0.1%
CRV Scholarships	75,000	75,000	-	0.0%	0.3%
Sub-total	6,771,417	7,114,463	343,046	5.1%	24.1%
Christian Services					
TN Baptist Adult Homes	228,739	236,745	8,006	3.5%	0.8%
TN Baptist Children's Homes	1,120,249	1,142,960	22,411	2.0%	3.9%
TN Baptist Foundation	305,252	323,567	18,315	6.0%	1.1%
Sub-total	1,654,540	1,703,272	48,732	2.9%	5.8%
Southern Baptist Convention	10,214,794	11,051,396	836,602	8.2%	37.5%
Sub-total	27,239,451	29,470,389	2,230,938	8.2%	100.0%
Preferred Item					
Church Annuity Plan (50%)*	952,687	635,125	(317,562)	-33.3%	
Cooperative Program Total	28,192,138	30,105,514	1,913,376	6.8%	

* These items reflect the change of 25% of the Church Annuity Plan being transferred from the Preferred Item to the Convention Operations portion of the Budget. This change will cause a corresponding increase in the SBC portion.

Executive Board Ministries Budget Summary

1997-98 Budget Requests Function	Received from						
	Total Budget	BSSB	NAMB	GSMO	Conf./Camp Fees	Other	Cooperative Program
Evangelism/Missions Strategies							
Total Group Budget	3,290,746	-	363,041	742,500	50,110	22,400	2,112,695
Christian Growth Development							
Total Group Budget	2,273,148	51,431	-	43,000	185,570	-	1,993,147
Church Staff Leadership							
Total Group Budget	1,056,619	34,285	19,932	70,000	103,545	38,230	790,627
Missions Awareness and Involvement							
Total Group Budget	1,649,502	-	4,800	169,500	247,300	41,050	1,186,852
Communication Services							
Total Group Budget	917,955	-	-	-	-	386,553	531,402
Administrative Services							
Total Group Budget	1,907,314	-	-	200,000	474,187	161,801	1,071,326
Executive Leadership							
Total Group Budget	576,523	-	-	5,000	-	87,000	484,523
Total Executive Board Ministries	11,671,807	85,716	387,773	1,230,000	1,060,712	737,034	8,170,672



Report of Committee on Boards

Executive Board

Terms Expiring 1998
East

- 37 J. B. Morris, Dayton, First, Dayton, Tennessee Valley
- 66 Ken Still, Brainerd, Chattanooga, Hamilton County

Middle

- 51 Gary McEwen, Trace Creek, New Johnsonville, Truett

West

- 55 Wayne Foropoulos, West Jackson, Jackson, Madison-Chester

Terms Expiring 1999
West

- 72 Thomas Pirtle, Hillcrest, Dyersburg, Dyer

Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 1* John Holland, Salem, Knoxville, Knox County
- 3* Ambers Wilson, Central, Johnson City, Holston

Middle

- 5* Brent Seals, Elizabethton, First, Elizabethton, Watauga
- 8* James Hutson, Rockwood, First, Rockwood, Big Emory

West

- 15* Wallace McGill, Chattanooga, First, Chattanooga, Hamilton County
- 20 Gladys Cowan, Pigeon Forge, First, Pigeon Forge, Sevier County

Middle

- 21 Charles Shields, Concord, First, Concord, Madison-Chester
- 22 Joe Sorah, Calvary, Elizabethton, Watauga

West

- 27 Benny Keck, Oak Grove, Mt. Carmel, Holston Valley
- 29 Allan Lockerman, Cleveland, First, Cleveland, Bradley County

Middle

- 30 Jeff Lane, South Pittsburg, First, South Pittsburg, Sequatchie Valley
- 31** Doris June Large, Central, Fountain City, Knoxville, Knox County

East

- 11* Donald Cobb, Livingston, First, Livingston, Riverside
- 12* Norman Baker, Bethlehem, West Point, Indian Creek

West

- 13 Pat Fife, Immanuel, Lawrenceburg, Lawrence County
- 16* James Hamey, Hickory Grove, Huntland, William Carey

East

- 17* Dan Haskins, Cumberland Homesteads, Crossville, Cumberland Plateau
- 18* Don Edwards, Southeast, Murfreesboro, Concord

West

- 19 Joe Denney, Clearview, Franklin, Nashville
- 23 Carl Scarlett, Miracle, Lavergne, Concord

West

- 26 Warren Hinkle, Lincoya

Committee on Audits
Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 395 Mark Umbhagen, South Harriman, Harriman, Big Emory
- 396 A. R. Baumgardner, Cedar Ford, Luttrell, Knox County

Hills, Nashville, Nashville

- 28 Michael Glenn, Brentwood, Brentwood, Nashville

East

- 33** James Viar, Cookeville, First, Cookeville, Stone

West

- 2* Thomas Vinson, Leawood, Memphis, Shelby
- 4* Bettye Summers, Camden, First, Camden, Carroll-Benton

East

- 6* Joseph Rosas, Union Avenue, Memphis, Shelby
- 7* Ray Newcomb, Millington, First, Millington, Shelby

West

- 9* Otis Hinton, Temple, Paris, Western District
- 10* Herbert Higdon, Jackson, First, Jackson, Madison-Chester

East

- 14* William Bates, Jackson, First, Jackson, Madison-Chester
- 24 Cathy Miller, Bellevue, Cordova, Shelby

Middle

- 25 Catherine Via, Cross Roads, Bells, Crockett County
- 32** Jerry Summers, Sharon, First, Sharon, Weakley County

Tennessee Baptist Foundation
Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 102* Melvin Riedel, Sevierville, First, Sevierville, Sevier County
- 105 Jim Mathis, Morristown, First, Morristown, Nolachucky

Middle

- 106** James Clark, Bellevue, Nashville, Nashville

West

- 103 Joe Swaim, Covington, First, Covington, Big Hatchie
- 104 H. Garrison Coltharp, Jackson, First, Jackson, Madison-Chester

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.
Terms Expiring 1998
East

- 131 John Segree, Estill Springs, First, Estill Springs, Duck River

Middle

- 130 John Segree, Estill Springs, First, Estill Springs, Duck River

West

- 132 Edsel West, South Harriman, Harriman, Big Emory
- 120 Shelby Lord, Lenoir City, First, Lenoir City, Loudon County

Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 117* Edsel West, South Harriman, Harriman, Big Emory
- 120 Shelby Lord, Lenoir City, First, Lenoir City, Loudon County

West

- 125** James Lindsay, Doe River, Elizabethton, Watauga
- 118* Glenn Weakley, Hendersonville, First, Hendersonville,

Bledsoe

- 119 Jerry Jones, Lawrenceburg, First, Lawrenceburg, Lawrence County

East

- 121* Peggy Patterson, Franklin, First, Franklin, Nashville
- 123* Walter Jackson, Judson, Nashville, Nashville

West

- 122* Jerry Massey, Paris, First, Paris, Western District
- 124 Roger Oldham, Martin, First, Martin, Beulah

Belmont University
Terms Expiring 1999
Middle

- 184 Stan Hardaway, Hendersonville, First, Hendersonville, Bledsoe

Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 148* Gary Keys, West Colonial Hill, Kingsport, Sullivan

Middle

- 144* John McCall, Carthage, First, Carthage, New Salem
- 145 B. Otto Wheeley, Memorial, Crossville, Cumberland Plateau

West

- 146* Glynn Clark, Immanuel, Nashville, Nashville
- 147* Mark Wright, Woodmont, Nashville, Nashville

East

- 149* William Sheriff, Forest Hills, Nashville, Nashville
- 150* J. Donald Turner, Creeview, Nashville, Nashville

West

- 151 Bob Vassar, Pleasant Heights, Columbia, Maury
- 152 Helen Kennedy, Judson, Nashville, Nashville

East

- 153 John Haley, First Baptist Church, Nashville, Nashville
- 154 F. Murray Mathis, Murfreesboro, Third, Murfreesboro, Concord

West

- 155 Clinton Swafford, Winchester, First, Winchester, Duck River
- 156 Louie Buntin, Immanuel, Nashville, Nashville

Carson-Newman College
Terms Expiring 1998
East

- 204 M. J. Griffin, Red Bank, Chattanooga, Hamilton County

Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 186* John Bowers, Elizabethton, First, Elizabethton, Watauga
- 187 Joseph Johnson, Central, Bearden, Knoxville, Knox County

West

- 188* Charles Catlett, Jefferson City, First, Jefferson City, Jefferson County
- 189* Robert Fox, Oliver Springs, First, Oliver Springs, Clinton

East

- 190* Sam Grigsby, Manley, Morristown, Nolachucky
- 191* Carolyn Guerry, Chattanooga, First, Chattanooga, Hamilton County

West

- 192* Ronell Owensby, Rogersville, First, Rogersville, Holston Valley
- 194 Peggy McConnell, Newport, First, Newport, East Tennessee

195 Vernon Cox, Brainerd, Chattanooga, Hamilton County

- 196 Randy Davis, Morristown, First, Morristown, Nolachucky
- 197** Ted Russell, Concord, First, Knoxville, Knox County

Out of State

- 193** Sidney Mason, Roanoke, First, Roanoke VA, Out of state

Union University
Terms Expiring 1998
West

- 247 Jane Alderson, West Jackson, Jackson, Madison-Chester

Terms Expiring 2000
Middle

- 231 Claude Pressnell, Franklin, First, Franklin, Nashville

West

- 222* Mike Rowland, Bolivar, First, Bolivar, Hardeman County
- 223* James Ayers, Parsons, First, Parsons, Beech River

East

- 224* David Nunn, Halls, First, Halls, Dyer
- 225* Fred Ward, Huntingdon, First, Huntingdon, Carroll-Benton

West

- 226* Lynn Cobb, Bellevue, Cordova, Shelby
- 227* Joe Walker, Ripley, First, Ripley, Big Hatchie

East

- 228 Jack Holmes, Jackson, First, Jackson, Madison-Chester
- 229 Betty Coplin, Pleasant Hill, Jackson, Madison-Chester

West

- 230 Ed Hammons, Bellevue, Cordova, Shelby
- 232 Peggy Graves, Cornerstone Community, Jackson, Madison-Chester

East

- 233 Michael Weeks, West Jackson, Jackson, Madison-Chester
- 234 Jack Porter, Bethel, Greenfield, Weakley County

West

- 235 Richard Lee, Englewood, Jackson, Madison-Chester
- 236 Skip Parvin, Milan, First, Milan, Gibson County

East

- 238** Wayne Perkins, Kenton, First, Kenton, Gibson County

Out of State

- 237** Bettye Whiteaker, Cliff Temple, Dallas TX, Out of state

Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy
Terms Expiring 1998
East

- 287 John Lanc, Grace, Seymour, Chilhowee

Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 272** Carroll Reagan, Sevier Heights, Knoxville, Knox County
- 273* Doyle Wallace, Morristown, First, Morristown, Nolachucky

West

- 274* John Sing, Beech Grove, Louisville, Chilhowee
- 275*
- 277* William Clark, Concord, Chattanooga, Hamilton County

278 William Hart, Piney Grove, Maryville, Chilhowee

- 276* William Selecman, Central, Crossville, Cumberland Plateau

Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc.
Terms Expiring 2000
West

- 296* Billy Cary, Huntingdon, First, Huntingdon, Carroll-Benton
- 297 Harry Smith, Bellevue, Cordova, Shelby

East

- 298 Henry West, Henning, First, Henning, Big Hatchie

Baptist Health System of East Tenn., Inc.
Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 332* Richard Cramer, West Hills, Knoxville, Knox County
- 333
- 334* A. Dean Williams, Newport, First, Newport, East Tennessee

West

- 335* Judith Tyl, Kingston, First, Kingston, Big Emory
- 336* Patricia Davis, Knoxville, First, Knoxville, Knox County

East

- 337 Lon Shoopman, Madisonville, First, Madisonville, Sweetwater
- 338 Warren Payne, Central, Bearden, Knoxville, Knox County

West

- 339 Craig Wild, Newport, First, Newport, East Tennessee

Committee on Arrangements
Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 378 Tom Youmans, Bethlehem, Onida, New River
- 379** Richard Childress, Signal Mountain, Signal Mtn, Hamilton County

West

- 377 David Sparrow, Southland, Memphis, Shelby
- 380** James Seago, Pleasant Hill, Jackson, Madison-Chester

East

- 381 Clark Brown, Bethel, Greenfield, Weakley County

Committee on Boards
Terms Expiring 1999
Middle

- 421 Luell Smith, Greenbrier, First, Greenbrier, Robertson County

Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 408 Nina Ervin, Wallace Memorial, Knoxville, Knox County
- 410** Clay Austin, Blountville, First, Blountville, Holston

West

- 411** Larry Williams, Ooltewah, Ooltewah, Hamilton County

Middle

- 407 Phillip Barnett, Shelbyville,

West

- 454

Committee on Credentials
Terms Expiring 1998
Middle

- 443 Tim McGhee, Smyrna, Chapel Hill, New Duck River

Terms Expiring 1999
East

- 477 Mike Ramage, Black Oak Heights, Knoxville, Knox County

Terms Expiring 2000
East

- 467 Georgia Snodderly, Bethany, Knoxville, Midland
- 470 Kim Kane, Smithwood, Knoxville, Knox County

Middle

- 469 Russell Richardson, Grace, Murfreesboro, Concord
- 471** Fred Rotaler, Southeast, Murfreesboro, Concord

West

- 468 Louise Pulliam, Bolivar, First, Bolivar, Hardeman County

Committee on Resolutions
Terms Expiring 1998
East

- 491 Danny Davis, Calvary, Alcoa, Chilhowee

West

- 483 Joe Ledford, Lynn Valley, Elizabethton, Watauga
- 484 David Sandifer, Mountain Creek, Chattanooga, Hamilton County

West

- 486 Steve McDonald, Calvary, Oak Ridge, Clinton

West

- 482 David Worley, Obion, First, Obion, Beulah
- 485 Thomas Winchester, Union Friendship, Como, Western District

East

- 481

West

- 487

East

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West

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East

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West

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East

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West

- 493

Numbers prior to names are position numbers. Names are followed by church affiliation and association of each church.

Convention Annual Meeting Schedule

Annual Meeting



Convention Officers

- Herbert Higdon** **President**
Retired Director of Missions, Madison-Chester and Crockett associations; member, First Church, Jackson
- Vern Powers** **Vice President**
director, Baptist Relations, Baptist Hospital, Nashville; retired from staff, TBC Executive Board ministries
- Lynn King** **Second Vice President**
pastor, Maplewood Church, Paris
- Joyce Rickman** **Recording/Statistical Secretary**
member, Clearview Church, Franklin
- Dan Ferrell** **Registration Secretary**
staff, TBC Executive Board ministries
- James Porch** **Treasurer**
staff, TBC Executive Board ministries

Tuesday Morning

- 8:40 — *The Convention Gathers*
Praise Music Directors of Missions Chorus
Call to Order Herbert Higdon
Prayer Gary Williams
- 9:00 — *The Convention Organizes*
Committee on Credentials Marvin Spivey
Committee on Arrangements Joe Stacker
Welcome Jerry Tidwell
General Program Items Herbert Higdon
Announcements
Review Rules of Order
Recognition of SBC Representatives
- 9:10 — *The Convention Worships*
Devotional Hoyt Wilson
- 9:30 — *The Convention Ministers*
Congregational Hymn Henry Simpson
- Reports:
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
Woman's Missionary Union Carrol Kelly
Tennessee Baptist Foundation W. L. Childs Jr.
TBC Financial Report James M. Porch
Committee on Audits Mark Lund
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff

- Golden State Missions Hank Jones
Executive Board Report Eugene Cotey
Recommendations:
Budget
Board Actions
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
Miscellaneous Business Herbert Higdon
- 11:30 — *The Convention Celebrates*
Congregational Hymn Tracy Wilson
Special Music Susan Hopper
President's Message Herbert Higdon
- 12:10 — *Benediction* Terry Griffin

Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:45 — *The Convention Gathers*
Praise Music Union University Singers
Congregational Hymn Andy Roby
- 2:00 — *The Convention Worships*
Devotional
2:20 — *The Convention Ministers*
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
Special Music Union University Singers
Executive Director's Message James M. Porch
- Reports:
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
Benevolent Institutions:
Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc. C. Kenny Cooper
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. Gerald Stow
Tennessee Baptist Health Care Systems, Inc. Stephen C. Reynolds
- Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
Historical Committee Toby Everett
- 3:35 — *The Convention Elects*
Election of President Herbert Higdon
- 3:50 — *The Convention Affirms*
New Church Staff
Recognition James M. Porch
- 4:05 — *The Convention Acts*
Miscellaneous Business Herbert Higdon
Constitution & Bylaws
Committee Mike Womack
Election of President
(second ballot if needed) Herbert Higdon
- 4:40 — *Benediction* Roy Harkness

Tuesday Evening

- 6:45 — *The Convention Gathers*
Praise Music Tennessee Baptist Chorale
Congregational Hymn Phillip McKibben
- 7:05 — *The Convention Worships*
Devotional Roger Freeman
- 7:25 — *The Convention Envisions*
College Campaign Report Tom Madden
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
- 7:45 — *The Convention Affirms*
Congregational Hymn Andy Milam
Special Music Tennessee Baptist Chorale
Message Bob Record
- 8:30 — *Benediction* Roger Cooper

Wednesday Morning

- 8:45 — *The Convention Gathers*
Praise Music West Jackson Church
Congregational Hymn Sam McElroy
- 9:05 — *The Convention Worships*
Devotional Larry Fields
- 9:25 — *The Convention Ministers*
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
Tennessee Baptist schools David Dockery
- Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
- 9:55 — *The Convention Acts*
Election of First Vice President Herbert Higdon
Adoption of Budget Herbert Higdon
Executive Board Report Eugene Cotey
Special Recognitions James M. Porch
- Election of Second Vice President Herbert Higdon
- Miscellaneous Business
11:25 — *The Convention Celebrates*
Congregational Hymn Larry Brant
Special Music West Jackson Church
Convention Sermon Jerry Tidwell
- 12:10 — *Benediction* Billy Murphy

Wednesday Afternoon

- 1:45 — *The Convention Gathers*
Praise Music Brownsville Church
Congregational Hymn Matt Plunk
- 2:05 — *The Convention Worships*
Devotional Mike Glenn

- 2:25 — *The Convention Ministers*
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
Baptist and Reflector Agency
Report Fletcher Allen
- Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
- 2:45 — *The Convention Acts*
Committee on Arrangements Joe Stacker
Committee on Boards Clay Austin
Committee on Committees Robert Elliott
Constitution & Bylaws
Committee Mike Womack
Miscellaneous Business Herbert Higdon
Committee on Resolutions Ron Davidson
- 4:25 — *Benediction* James Comb

Wednesday Evening

- 6:45 — *The Convention Gathers*
Praise Music First Church, Jackson
Congregational Hymn Paul B. Clark Jr.
- 7:05 — *The Convention Worships*
Devotional Tommy Vinson
- 7:25 — *The Convention Affirms*
Special Recognition William G. Wilson
Bivocational Pastor
Small Church Pastor
Affirming TBC Leadership James M. Porch
1997 Officers
1998 Officers
Executive Board Ministries
Highlights ServanTeam 21 Staff
- 8:05 — *The Convention Ministers*
Congregational Hymn Julian Suggs
Mississippi River Ministry in Tennessee:
Making a Difference Between the Rivers
- 8:40 — *Benediction* J. G. Wise

Convention Week Activities, Information

- > **Agency/Institution Leadership Breakfast** — Nov. 12, 7:30 a.m., Garden Plaza Hotel, Adams Room
- > **Annuitants Dinner** — Nov. 11, 5 p.m., Union University, Gym II
- > **Annuity Board Fellowship Breakfast** — Nov. 11, 7 a.m., Garden Plaza Hotel, Adams-Calhoun Room
- > **Baptist Bookstore** — located in the church Fellowship Hall and Gym
- > **Belmont University Alumni Dinner** — Nov. 11, 5 p.m., Sheraton Old English Inn
- > **Book of Reports** — available in packet for messengers or at Registration Desk
- > **Carson-Newman College Alumni and Friends Luncheon** — Nov. 11, Noon, Comfort Inn
- > **Childcare** — Monday - Wednesday, Building E, Birth - 5 years of age
- > **Chorale Rehearsal** — Nov. 10, 1 p.m., Englewood Church
- > **Committee on Boards Meeting** — Nov. 10, 9 a.m., Room A128
- > **Committee on Committees Meeting** — Nov. 10, 11

- a.m., Room A128
- > **Committee on Credentials** — A committee member will be available in Room A141 throughout the convention
- > **Committee on Resolutions Meeting** — Nov. 10, 1:30 p.m., Room A129
- > **Constitution and Bylaws of the TBC** — see 1997 *Book of Reports*
- > **Constitution and Bylaws Committee Meeting** — Nov. 10, 1:30 p.m., Room A128
- > **Convention Office** — Room A136, (901) 660-3869
- > **Directors of Missions Banquet** — Nov. 12, 5 p.m., Union University, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Coburn Dining Rooms I, II
- > **Directors of Missions (Retired) Breakfast** — Nov. 12, 7 a.m., Union University, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Coburn Dining Room I
- > **Executive Board Meetings** — Nov. 10, 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 12, 4:35 p.m., Building B, Choir Suite (second floor)
- > **Exhibits and Displays** — Located in Fellowship Hall and Gymnasium, Monday, 1-7

- p.m., Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- > **Information Desk** — Located in the Main Entrance Lobby
- > **Joggers' Jubilee** — Nov. 11, 6:30 a.m., Union University (in front of administration building), sponsored by *Baptist and Reflector*
- > **Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Luncheon** — Nov. 12, Noon, Suede's Restaurant
- > **Ministers' Wives Luncheon** — Nov. 11, Noon, Union University, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Coburn Dining Room III
- > **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Meeting and Luncheon** — Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m., The Old Country Store, Casey Jones Village
- > **News Room** — *Baptist and Reflector* will be based in Room 130, (901) 660-3533
- > **Parliamentary Authority** — In accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest revised edition).
- > **Procedure of meetings of the convention** — See the 1997 *Book of Reports*

- > **Registration** — Room A142
- > **Resolutions** — See page 4
- > **Resource Directory** — Look for your 1998 directory, which will include the *Resource Directory* and the *Leadership Directory*, to arrive by mail in February
- > **Ribbons for Name Badges** — Members of the following groups may pick up ribbons at Name Badge Table in the Main Entrance Lobby — first-time messengers, visitors, mission volunteers, associational staff, directors of missions, bivocational ministers, Executive Board, Committee on Arrangements, and Committee on Credentials
- > **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Reception** — Nov. 11, 9 p.m., Garden Plaza Hotel, Indoor Poolside
- > **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Meeting and Luncheon** — Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m., Union University, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Coburn Dining Room I
- > **Tapes** — Orders for cassette/video tapes of convention sessions and Pastors' Conference may be placed in the Main

- Entrance Lobby
- > **Telephone Bank** — Room A143
- > **Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference Banquet** — Nov. 10, 6 p.m., Englewood Church
- > **TBC President's Breakfast** — Nov. 11, 7:30 a.m., Garden Plaza Hotel, Adams Room
- > **Tennessee Baptist Recreation Association Dinner** — Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m., Union University, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Coburn Dining Room III
- > **Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association Dinner** — Nov. 10, 6 p.m., Union University, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Coburn Dining Room I
- > **Tennessee Baptists Encouraging Women in Ministry Fellowship Breakfast** — Nov. 12, 7:30 a.m., The Old Country Store, Casey Jones Village
- > **Union University Alumni and Friends Dinner** — Nov. 11, 5 p.m., Union University, Hyran E. Barefoot Student Union Building, Coburn Dining Room

Rules of Order

- ✓ All motions and resolutions shall be submitted to the presiding officer and recording secretary in writing, legibly signed by the maker and shall include the name, address, and church of the person submitting the same.
- ✓ In order to obtain the floor, each messenger shall address the chair, give his or her name and church, and wait to be recognized.
- ✓ All messengers who participate in the business sessions of the convention shall conduct themselves in keeping with the stated purposes in the Constitution of the TBC.
- ✓ Discussion, debate, and nominating speeches shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.
- ✓ No messenger shall speak more than once on the same question until all have spoken who wish to do so.
- ✓ The chair shall recognize messengers wishing to speak to each side of the question alternately.

churches

■ **Shelby Avenue Church, Nashville**, will hold its "Fall Give Away" for the needy Oct. 11. The event will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until everything is gone. Available during the event will be clothing, shoes, appliances, bedding, furniture, and household items. For more information, call (615) 227-2961.

■ **First Church, Clarksville**, will hold its Judgment House '97 Oct. 16-19, 23-26, and Oct. 30 - Nov. 1. For more information, call the church at (931) 645-2431.

■ **Bordeaux Church, Nashville**, will hold Homecoming and Old Fashioned Day Oct. 26. Members and visitors will dress in old-fashioned attire. Activities include luncheon and afternoon musical program led by the group, Resurrection.

■ **Meridian Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival Oct. 24-26. Bob Norman, retired pastor, Clearview Church, Franklin, will speak.

■ **First Church, Union City**, has named a pastor search committee.

■ **Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga**, sent a 26-member medical team to Nicaragua in September.

■ **Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage**, will hold revival Oct. 12-15. Jackie Kay, evangelist of Millington, will speak. For more information, call (615) 883-5034. Also the church ordained 14 men as deacons Sept. 28.

■ **Milton Church, Milton**, will hold revival Oct. 12-18. Ross Maroney, pastor, Stones River Church, Smyrna, will speak.

■ **East Commerce Church,**

Lewisburg, will hold revival Oct. 12-15. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

death

■ **James McDonald**, retired business manager, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries, died Sept. 22 as a result of a heart attack. McDonald, who served the convention from 1972-1992, was minister of music, Lincova Hills Church, Nashville.

leaders

■ **Troy Amster** of Montgomery, Ala., has been called as minister to students, First Church, Cleveland.

■ **Bill Sherman**, pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville, for 30 years, will retire Dec.

31. A former president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1978, Sherman is a member of the TBC Executive Board. He has taught at Belmont University, Nashville, of which he has been a trustee. Sherman is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned the doctor of theology degree. He is the former pastor of University Heights Church, Stillwater, Okla., and Central Church, Malone, Texas.

■ **Melody Kidd**, minister of children, South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, was ordained Sept. 14 by University



SHERMAN



LEADING the Sept. 21 constitution service of Cumberland Fellowship Church, Crossville, were, from left, Bill George, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries; Hank Jones, pastor; Mike Garrett, pastor, Meridian Church, Crossville, which is sponsoring the church; and Roy Davis, director of missions, Cumberland Plateau Association. The new church has 66 charter members. The service was held at Meridian Church. Members of both congregations spoke about the blessings they had received during the joint effort.

Church, Hattiesburg, Miss.

■ **Cornerstone Church, McMinnville**, has called **Mikel Caywood** as associate pastor for youth and music ministries, effective Sept. 28.

■ **Hillhurst Church, Nashville**, has called **Joel Tilson** as pastor, effective Sept. 15.

■ **Bobby Jones** has been called as minister of worship, North Cleveland Church, Cleveland.

people

■ **Max Bahner**, a member of Signal Mountain Church, Signal Mountain, has been honored by the establishment of a \$35,000 annual scholarship fund at Carson-Newman College by the Wright-



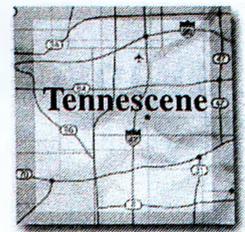
BAHNER

Bentley Foundation of Chattanooga. The foundation was es-

tablished by Spencer Wright of Spencer Wright Industries of Chattanooga. Bahner, a partner with the law firm of Chambliss and Bahner of Chattanooga, is a 1954 alumnus of Carson-Newman. He has been a trustee of the college and served as chairman in 1990. He also was a director of the



RECEIVING a certificate acknowledging the 50th anniversary of Henard's Chapel Missionary Church, Rogersville, is Richard Cassidy, right, pastor, from John Parrott Jr., director of missions, Holston Valley Association. The presentation, from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, was made during anniversary activities Sept. 18, which included a luncheon and afternoon musical program. The congregation also received a picture of the Sam Long School building, where the congregation began meeting, from Kathleen Wright, charter member.



college's recently concluded \$50 million capital campaign. Bahner also is a founding fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation

■ **Cornerstone Church, Clinton**, ordained **Lee Walker** as a deacon Sept. 7.

association/state

■ **Nashville Association and TBC Executive Board ministries** will hold a Parent Enrichment Retreat Oct. 10-11 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood. Lane Morris, assistant professor, Human Ecology Department, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, will lead it. For more information call the association at (615) 259-3034 or the state office at (615) 371-2047.

Tennessee samplers

by leaders of churches, associations

Justification for end

By James Robertson, pastor Sharon Church, Knoxville

Some people have accepted the old adage, "The end justifies the means," as a way to live. What does it mean? It means that if you think that the outcome, or goal, is important, then anything you do to achieve that goal is all right.

It seems that this is practiced in nearly every endeavor. If the goal of the business person is to make money, then low wages, poor working conditions, and no benefits are okay. If recruiting a top athlete is the goal, then altering test scores so that he can be admitted is just fine.

If the goal is to raise money for a worthy charity, then having a raffle or other forms of gambling is okay. If the desire is to have a big crowd in worship, then any form of entertainment is okay.

The end result is so valuable that it justifies whatever measures are necessary to achieve it.

I trust that we as followers of Christ reject this twisted logic as an excuse for our actions. The end does not justify

any kind of action. Let us not condone any illegal, immoral, or uncaring devices to achieve good ends. Good goals ought to have good means.

Pray for one another. ■

Holding an advantage

By Allen Raines, pastor Everett Hills Church, Maryville

Stan Frager and his wife have a daughter, Sarah, who was born missing a muscle in her foot and because of that wears a brace all the time. One day she came home from school telling about being in a "field day race."

Because of the brace Stan wanted to

give words of comfort and encouragement thinking how it must feel to be faced always with defeat, but before he could speak, she burst out with, "Daddy, I won two of the races!"

Stan couldn't believe it! Sarah went on to say, "I had an advantage."

Ah, he thought, she was given a head start, some kind of physical advantage. But, again, he was surprised. She said, "Daddy, I didn't get a head start. My advantage was I had to try harder!"

This story reminds me where we are as a part of the family of God. We are truly given an advantage with some of the barriers we are having to overcome. In the days ahead we will have an advantage ... when we try harder. ■

City involved in witchcraft affected by Romania effort

By Marty Cross
For Baptist Press

BALS, Romania — Of 850 decisions to follow Jesus Christ during a recent crusade of Southern Baptists in Romania, none was more dramatic than one here, often referred to as the country's "capital of witchcraft."

During an invitation at a public meeting one evening, a "teacher" witch came to the altar, fell on her knees, and denounced her life in witchcraft. She went on to accept Jesus as her Savior, then helped close the service by joining in the song, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus."

"This is an incredible witness to the town of Bals," said Joe Savage, pastor of North Cary (N.C.) Church. "They told me the city has been under Satanic influence for generations." Throughout the world, witchcraft is more than a religion. It's a way of life and an occupation. Many people in Bals pay witches

to remove and place curses, tell their fortunes, read their palms, and fix things in their life, he said.

"God had been working on her heart before she came," Savage added. She had come to the local pastor, seeking a medical doctor who helped in a clinic sponsored by the church. The pastor shared the Gospel with her face-to-face.

Then she came to a crusade service one evening. The next day several team members fasted and prayed all day for her salvation.

Savage, working through the Southern Baptist International

Mission Board, led the team of 14 volunteers from North and South Carolina in the evangelistic effort to Romania. Team members distributed 5,000 New Testaments and 12,000 Gospel tracts, worked in two orphanages, and conducted preaching crusades in villages and churches nightly for 12 days.

In Craiova, opposition from Orthodox Church leaders boost-

ed the team's work. Facing Orthodox backlash, police intervened to stop Savage and other team members from preaching on the street. But more and more people were drawn to the ruckus.

Savage talked to police and then continued to preach despite any Orthodox protesters around him. At the end, about 25 people in the crowd responded to an invitation to accept Jesus Christ. ■

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Classified

WANTED TO PURCHASE: *Daniel and the Revelation* by Uriah Smith, published by Southern Publishers Association, Nashville, Tenn., revision copyrighted 1944. Contact Osta Underwood, 2300 Ashwood Ave., Nashville, Tenn., 37212; (615) 297-8011.

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Dr. Gerald L. Stow, President/Treasurer
P. O. Box 2206
Brentwood, TN 37024
(615) 376-3140 or 1-800-624-8591

A Plan With A Purpose

Why do we steadfastly support 15 hospitals in three states, including seven in Tennessee? The Baptist hospitals in Tennessee are Baptist Memorial Hospital (Memphis Medical Center and East), Germantown Rehab, Huntingdon, Lauderdale, Tipton and Union City. Because we want to provide you the best possible access to high quality health care, wherever you live. But more than that, we think of these hospitals as an extension of our mission. Our regional hospitals are part of an overall plan with a purpose - the Christian ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing. And even though our plans sometimes change, our purpose will always remain the same.

Baptist Hospital Sunday is October 12, 1997

 **BAPTIST**
Memorial Health Care

A LEADER FOR GENERATIONS

Overcomers

By James Hutson

Focal Passage — II Corinthians 4:1, 7-18

How do we live the Christian faith? We are encouraged by God and thus we can be encouragers to one another. We are also urged to "Be Overcomers." Have you ever considered quitting? The old cliché "winners never quit, and quitters never win" is a nice cliché. But there have been times when many have been tempted to give up. Some gave in to the temptation. The number of those who leave the ministry each year is discouraging. Almost half of Southern Baptists are either non-resident or inactive to the church to which they belong. Paul affirms in II Corinthians 4 that he "did not lose heart." How did he do that?

He remembered his call to serve the Lord.

When you read the word "ministry," we make the mental leap to a group of church staff members. They are the ones who are in the ministry. That may be common culture, but it is not New Testament Christianity. Every Christian has a ministry (service) to perform. Paul does not say "I have this ministry." He says "we have this ministry." Paul remembered his Damascus Road experience. He remembered his commitment was to serve the Lord. These remembrances helped Paul not to lose heart.

His strength came from the Lord, not himself. Paul contrasts treasure and earthenware vessels. Earthenware vessels were common in every home in the Middle East. They were inexpensive, easily broken, and quickly discarded. The treasure is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Paul was weak, but the Gospel was strong.

Then Paul sets forth four statements. We are afflicted, not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; we are persecuted but not forsaken; we are struck down but not destroyed. Colin Kruse in his commentary on II Corinthians illustrates these statements by referring to Paul's imprisonment, his frequent journeys, his toil and hardships, and his anxiety for the churches he had founded. Paul knew what it was to be exposed to hardship and be close to death, but he also realized that the crucified and risen Lord was with him. He also believed that his sufferings contributed to the expansion of God's kingdom. Paul's strength to endure came to him from his Lord.

His faith was in the Lord, not himself and not in others. Paul believed that final victory belonged to those who believed in and served the Lord. Death was not Paul's biggest worry. His biggest worry was that he would continue to be faithful to his Lord. In verses 17-18, Paul contrasts that which is temporary — light afflictions and those things which are visible — with that which is eternal — eternal weight of glory (God's glory as seen in Jesus Christ) and those things which are unseen. Paul knew and practiced that believers are to live by faith, not sight.

Paul did not lose heart. His life was hard but he never became bitter. All of us have or will experience difficult times. In those times we need to continue to trust the Lord. Suffering can make you bitter, or suffering can draw you closer to the Lord. Paul would later write to Timothy: "If we die with him, we shall also live with him; if we endure, we shall also reign with him." Only the grace of Almighty God and our faith in him can enable us to be overcomers. — Hutson is pastor, First Church, Rockwood.

Unwavering faith

By Dennis Trull

Focal Passage — Daniel 3:14, 16-25

This story in the lives of Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego is one of the best known and best loved of all Bible stories. It is a story of unwavering faith in the midst of very fiery circumstances. King Nebuchadnezzar had erected a huge golden image, very likely of himself, and declared that at the sound of the music everyone was to bow down and pay homage to the image. The consequence for not obeying the king's edict to bow down and worship the image was to be thrown alive into a furnace. Notice the response of the three Hebrew children.

Their stand (v. 14)

It was reported to King Nebuchadnezzar that Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego had failed to obey his command to pay homage to the image. Nebuchadnezzar was not accustomed to having anyone defy his

Family Bible Lesson

orders. His question in verse 14 was in response to the stand they had already taken. He had the three Hebrew children brought before him and offered them another opportunity to bow down to this image. He sternly warned them that if they did not bow down this time they would die in a furnace of blazing fire. A Southern Baptist ethics professor had some advice pertinent to this situation: "Do what is right. If you do the right thing, time and God are on your side. If you don't do the right thing, time and God are both against you." We don't feel our way into right acting, we act our way into right feelings.

Their statement (vv. 16-23)

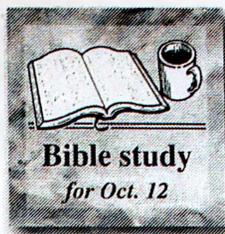
Nebuchadnezzar had posed an arrogant question to the three Hebrew children: "And what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?" Verses 16-18 contain their statement or answer to the king's question. It was a statement of unwavering faith that God could deliver them if he wanted.

The key words in these verses is "but if not." One man said, "Immortal words of faith: *but if not*. My God will rescue; *but if not* I shall still believe. That is real faith. You go to the doctor and the doctor has bad news. You pray, 'Lord, help me survive this disease; *but if not*, no matter what, you are still my God.' You do what is right, but nothing in life seems to be going the way it should. You pray, 'Lord, help me, help me save my job, or my marriage; *but if not*, still will I serve you.'

Jesus exemplified the same kind of faith years later. Remember in the Garden of Gethsemane? "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, nevertheless (*but if not*), not my will, but yours be done."

Their Savior (vv. 24-25)

Nebuchadnezzar wanted to see the three Hebrew children disintegrate. To his amazement, not only did they not burn, he saw one who looked divine to him. This fourth person was a reincarnate manifestation of the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. These Hebrew young men literally experienced this promise from God: "When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." Fiery trials are opportunities for us to take a stand, and make a statement for our Savior, Jesus Christ. Unwavering faith in a wavering world is still sorely needed today. — Trull is pastor, First Church, Savannah.



Pride and selfish ambition

By Michael Ruffin

Focal Passage — Genesis 11:1-9

What causes alienation between God and humanity? What causes separation between individuals? What causes division between groups of people? Genesis 1-11 is concerned with the answers to such questions. The Tower of Babel story is especially interested in the separation between God and humanity as a group and the separation between groups of people.

The context. Context is very important in Bible study. Our interpretation of the Tower of Babel story should pay attention to the material surrounding it. This narrative is the negative climax of Genesis 1-11. Those chapters have traced the effects of continuing sin on the relationship between God and humanity. The preserving of Noah's family in the flood gave hope that humanity might have a new beginning and improved results, but the drunkenness of Noah and the sin of his son Ham quickly dashed those hopes. Nevertheless, the genealogies of chapter 10 tell us that humanity grew from the three sons of Noah and that the various branches of those families had "their own language." At first glance, it appears that the human family is fulfilling God's command to be fruitful and fill the earth. The Tower of Babel story, however, puts

Explore the Bible Lesson

a different spin on matters. It tells us that in fact the human family was scattered because of their rebellion.

The problem. The crisis in the text is depicted in a statement by the people: "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (v. 4). What is the problem with this desire? Surely there is nothing wrong with the human desire for accomplishment.

The problem may have been arrogance and pride. After all, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). The type of pride exhibited by the tower builders is a pride that wants to give supreme place to self rather than to God. Recall that Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree because they wanted to be like God. Is the problem not that these people wanted to do great things but they wanted to do great things with no thought of God? Were they trying to live in a way that would give no praise and no credit to

God? When a human civilization ultimately values its own abilities and accomplishments more than acknowledgement of and submission to God, is it building a tower of Babel?

Or, the problem may have been fear. The people do not want to be "scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (v. 4). Such fear stands in the way of fulfilling God's purposes. In all likelihood, anxiety as well as pride played a part in their sin.

The result. The result of this corporate, political rebellion was the very thing that the people were trying to avoid: they were scattered and their language was confused. This is judgment. Yet even in the judgment of God we see his ultimate purpose being fulfilled. Again context is important. Immediately following the Babel narrative, the genealogy of Shem is reported. A genealogy of Shem had already been given along with those of Ham and Japheth in chapter 10. This second genealogy is meant to prepare for the appearance of the descendent of Shem named Abraham. So, the immediate result of the Tower of Babel episode is negative: people are further alienated from God and from each other. But soon God is going to begin the process of healing that separation. — Ruffin is associate professor, School of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville.



world news

SBC dropped from lawsuit

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention has been dismissed from the gift annuities lawsuit filed in a Texas federal court more than two years ago, according to Morris Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

Attorneys for the plaintiff, Boyd Richie, agreed to dismiss the SBC after meeting with Chapman in August. The court entered



CHAPMAN

an order dismissing all claims against the SBC on Sept. 22.

"The face-to-face meeting with Mr. Richie and his attorneys gave us an opportunity to tell them personally what we had written in court docu-

ments filed since the beginning of the case," Chapman said.

"The SBC simply has not engaged in the type of transactions which are at issue in this suit. Mr. Richie and his attorneys listened to us and agreed. The SBC did not make any payment of any kind to the plaintiff in order to be dismissed from the suit."

The suit, Richie vs. The American Council on Gift Annuities, Inc., became a class action in 1995 and asked for the rescission of countless charitable trusts, the return of all charitable gift annuities, and that the charitable organizations be held liable for treble damages. ■

Arkansas governor discusses faith, adversity in book

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Few political observers will ever forget the tumultuous events surrounding Mike Huckabee's inauguration as governor of Arkansas on July 15, 1996. In a new book published by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers, Huckabee offers a firsthand account of that historic day and how it has impacted

his personal and professional life.

The 190-page book, titled *Character Is The Issue*, is Huckabee's first published book.

He said a primary goal of the book is to encourage readers to "commit to be individuals of personal character and integrity and to try to instill that in others."

Acknowledging some people are uncomfortable with his faith perspective, Huckabee, a former Arkansas Baptist pastor and president of the state convention, pointed out, "I wanted the book to be an honest book. I can't write an honest book without talking about faith, without talking about my personal relationship to Jesus Christ.

"That is the centerpiece of who I am." ■

IMB worker dies in Philippines

Baptist Press

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines — A 36-year-old Southern Baptist worker in the Philippines died unexpectedly Sept. 18, apparently from an allergic reaction.

The worker, Berri Matz of Bixby, Okla., collapsed at home and was pronounced

dead on arrival at a hospital here. U.S. Embassy reports listed the cause of death as cardiac arrest due to asthma-induced aspiration.

Matz and her husband, Larry, were appointed by the International Mission Board in 1996. She was the mother of two children, ages 10 and 8, and had learned only weeks ago she was pregnant with her third child. ■

NAMB's Perry to retire Oct. 15

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Huey Perry, chaplaincy manager for the North American Mission Board, will retire Oct. 15. Perry first came to the Home Mission Board in 1977 to lead the agency's institutional chaplaincy program. In 1986, he was elected director of the chaplaincy division.

Perry will be the assistant director of chaplaincy services for Allied Holdings in Decatur, Ga., the nation's largest transporter of new automobiles.

"I feel blessed that God gave me the opportunity to be here," Perry said, referring to his 20 years of service with the Southern Baptist missions sending agency. "... It's been a great journey." ■

Hundreds find Christ; 65 trained in inner-city seminar

Baptist Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — On a basketball court in the middle of an inner-city park Sept. 17, three young men heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prayed to accept him as Lord and Savior.

A few hours later, one young man passing out tracts on the streets of downtown Portland led a homeless man and a young couple to Christ in less than an hour. At about the same time, a group of five teenagers standing on a street corner heard the Gospel. At least one of them asked Jesus to be Lord of her life.

Some 313 people made the same decision the week of Sept. 15-19 here as 65 participants in a North American Mission Board-sponsored inner-city evangelism seminar learned how to reach some of the most hurting and desperate people in America with the Gospel. Then they promptly put their skills to work.

The conference demonstrated many inner-city residents are hungry for the message of hope found in Christ's work on the cross. ■

For Adults and Teens

The Book of II Timothy

Work the math problems below — then use your answers to complete the verse.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 3 × 3 = ___ - A | 15 - 8 = ___ - N |
| 7 + 6 = ___ - B | 7 + 16 = ___ - O |
| 4 × 6 = ___ - C | 2 × 2 = ___ - P |
| 11 - 6 = ___ - D | 3 × 5 = ___ - Q |
| 17 + 3 = ___ - E | 14 - 3 = ___ - R |
| 5 × 2 = ___ - F | 18 + 3 = ___ - S |
| 36 ÷ 2 = ___ - G | 7 + 12 = ___ - T |
| 15 + 7 = ___ - H | 5 - 4 = ___ - U |
| 8 - 6 = ___ - I | 14 + 3 = ___ - V |
| 6 × 2 = ___ - J | 3 × 7 = ___ - W |
| 24 ÷ 3 = ___ - K | 5 × 5 = ___ - X |
| 4 × 4 = ___ - L | 5 - 2 = ___ - Y |
| 18 ÷ 8 = ___ - M | 2 × 7 = ___ - Z |

5 23 3 23 1 11 13 20 6 19 19 23

4 11 20 6 20 7 19 3 23 1 11 6 20 16 10

19 23 18 23 5 9 6 23 7 20

9 4 4 11 23 17 20 5 13 3 22 2 26 9

21 23 11 8 20 11 21 22 23 22 9 6 7 23

7 20 20 5 19 23 13 20

9 6 22 9 26 20 5 11 2 18 22 19 16 3

20 25 4 16 9 2 7 2 7 18 19 22 20

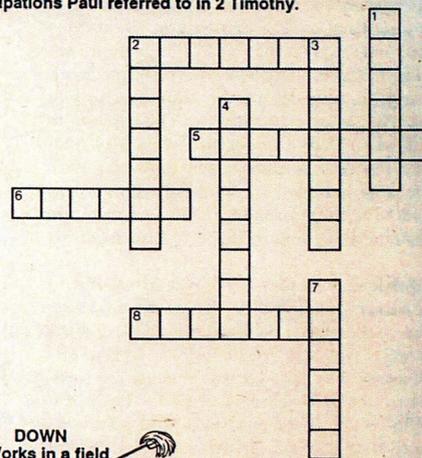
21 23 11 5 23 10 19 11 1 19 22 -2 Timothy 2:15

Fun for the Family

Just for Kids

The Book of II Timothy

Use the answers at the bottom to fill in the people's occupations Paul referred to in 2 Timothy.



Answers to the Oct. 1 Fun for the Family Puzzles

The Book of 1 Timothy for adults
PAUL; TIMOTHY; CHRIST; DEACONS; MINISTERS;
YOUTH; WIDOWS; ELDERLY; SLAVES

The Book of 1 Timothy for children

CHRIST JESUS
CAME INTO THE
WORLD TO SAVE
SINNERS.

-1 Timothy 1:15

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| DOWN | | |
| 1. Works in a field | | |
| 2. Warrior | | |
| 3. Instructs students | | |
| 4. Behind bars, wears chains | | |
| 7. Pure, ready for use | | |
| | | ACROSS |
| | | 2. Helps other people |
| | | 5. Leader of church |
| | | 6. Does his job |
| | | 8. Competes according to the rules |

SOLDIER	VESSEL	CRIMINAL
TEACHER	WORKER	ATHLETE
PREACHER	FARMER	SERVANT

"Fun for the Family" is a feature of the *Baptist and Reflector* that will appear regularly.