

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST REFLECTOR

Volume 164/ Number 42

Statewide Edition

November 4, 1998

this week's news

- ▶ South Carolina pastors speak out against lottery. — Page 2
- ▶ Lewisburg church puts missions study into action. — Page 2
- ▶ Sexual activity among teens declines. — Page 3
- ▶ A Jefferson City educator cites tips for becoming a memorable teacher. — Page 3
- ▶ Former SBC administrator Tim Hedquist dies. — Page 6

Nov. 10-11 in Kingsport

All roads lead to the TBC annual meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will convene Nov. 10-11 at the MeadowView Convention Center in Kingsport.

The two-day meeting will begin on Tuesday with a Solemn Assembly beginning promptly at 9 a.m.

Every messenger is urged to be a participant in the first hour of the convention, according to Herbert Higdon of the Relationship Focus Group, which asked for this special prayer time.

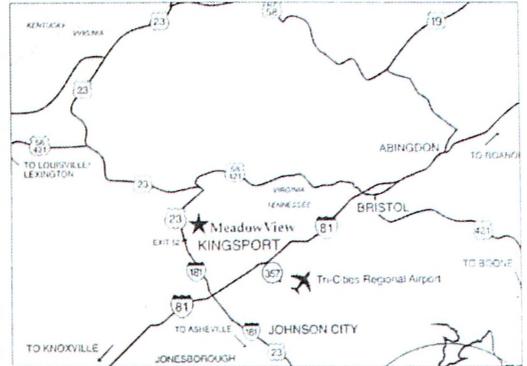
"We want God to take over that first hour of the convention to praise the Lord, pray, and ask God to bring us together to produce fellowship, harmony, and unity," Higdon said.

Among matters convention messengers will consider this year will be a proposal

to expand Tennessee Baptists' facilities at Camps Carson and Linden, a new three-year partnership with Portugal, a process which will give Tennessee Baptist colleges more flexibility in trustee selection, and the election of new convention officers.

Everyone attending the convention this year may have a free photograph taken by PCA International. There is no obligation.

The photographers will be located in the Washington Room on Nov. 10 and 11 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. — See All, page 2



THE MEADOWVIEW CONVENTION CENTER, site of the TBC annual meeting is directly off of Interstate 181, MeadowView Exit 52.

Tennessee Baptists give record amount to CP during 1997-98

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists gave a record \$30,837,906 to the Cooperative Program for 1997-98.

The amount is \$791,457, or 2.63 percent over the amount given in 1996-97 and exceeds the 1997-98 budget of \$30,105,514 by 2.43 percent. This is the second consecutive

year Tennessee Baptists' gifts to the Cooperative Program have exceeded \$30 million. October gifts alone totaled \$2,709,601.

"Such a record of giving

must be seen as an expression of Tennessee Baptists' intent to maintain the priority of missions and evangelism," said TBC Executive Director James M. Porch. *B&R*

Tennesseans commissioned for international work

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Commissioning four employees of LifeWay Christian Resources to serve in four regions of the world was a "fulfillment of a personal dream," the agency's president, James T. Draper Jr., said.

The employees were commissioned as international consultants Oct. 23 during a special chapel service at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Draper said when trustees of the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay) contacted him in 1991 about serving as president, they asked him his dreams for the agency.

He listed one.

"I told the trustees one day I dreamed of having Sunday School Board employees overseas, helping churches. It seemed like an impossible dream," he said.

The four employees, all members of Tennessee Baptist churches, will become international church development consultants of LifeWay, serving under the auspices of regional leaders of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. They will move to the field in early 1999.

Neal Cordle and his wife, Joan, will live in Germany and serve in central and eastern Europe. They are members of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory.

Steve Cretin and his wife, Ann, will



EVELYN WOOLRIDGE, right, dabs off the face of Ann Edwards, Preschool Sunday School Ministry Department, as Edwards walks through the greeting line for LifeWay employees who were commissioned as international consultants during chapel services on Oct. 23. Her husband, Michael, looks on. — Photo by Jim Vene-man

live in Singapore and serve southeast Asia and Oceania. They are members of First Church, Franklin.

Ernie McAninch and his wife, Lee Ann,

will live in Ecuador and serve western South America. They too are members of Tulip Grove Church.

Michael Woolridge and his wife, Evelyn, will live in Kenya and serve eastern Africa. They are members of Miracle Church, LaVergne.

Draper said sending the consultants "marks a unique beginning for a partnership with the International Mission Board. We've never done this before. They've never done this before."

Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations and a former LifeWay employee, said, "The Great Commission wasn't given to a mission board. It was given to every Christian and every church. Our job is to help lead Southern Baptists to be on mission with God. Now you're [LifeWay] sending four of your best."

He noted of the 12,000 people groups in the world, approximately 2,000 still have little or no access to the Christian Gospel.

"For them it is still B.C. (before Christ) because Christ has not been introduced to them," Willis said.

Willis said the main role of the LifeWay consultants will be to work with new churches to help them equip leaders and nurture new Christians, enabling them to start additional churches.

The consultants will spend several weeks at the IMB Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, before moving to their mission assignments. ■

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

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- ▶ **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
- ▶ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
- ▶ **Board of directors:** Paul Medley, Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Elmer Crosby, Reed Dixon, Don Edwards, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Kenneth Hubbard, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Mattie Mullins, Ray Newcomb, Doug Sager, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Ambers Wilson
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- ▶ **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
- ▶ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.
- ▶ **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and fourth week of August.



Lottery won't improve education, say S.C. pastors

By Don Kirkland & Todd Deaton
For Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Saying they did not intend to lift up or put down any political candidates, a group of approximately 200 South Carolina pastors — including many Southern Baptist pastors — held a news conference at the state capitol in Columbia Oct. 22 to arouse the public against gambling's "false promises" with the Nov. 3 election at hand.

Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg, and immediate past president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said the press conference on the steps of the statehouse was aimed at alerting voters to gambling's dangers to society and the increasing strength of the gambling industry in the life of South Carolina and its government.

The pastors issued a statement expressing their belief that South Carolinians should not be taken in by the idea be-

ing promoted — particularly in a call for a lottery in the state — that money made from gambling is the answer to the question of how to improve the public education system.

"The organized gambling industry," the statement said, "sells itself with the idea that state revenue from gambling will improve education in South Carolina. Nothing could be further from the truth. The organized gambling industry promises economic growth, but delivers economic misery."

The Democratic candidate for governor, Jim Hodges, has advocated a state lottery to provide funds for improving public education in South Carolina. Incumbent Gov. David Beasley says he opposes the lottery but would be willing to let the people decide the issue in a referendum.

Currently, 37 states and the District of Columbia operate state lotteries. The state constitution forbids a lottery in South Carolina.

Southern Baptist pastors and lay leaders across the state, meanwhile, were called to a day of prayer Oct. 25 in a letter from the executive director-treasurer and president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Carlisle Driggers and David Gallamore, together with the convention's Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee, called on Baptists "to step to the forefront once again to lead the fight against gambling."

"As you know, we as South Carolina Baptists have stood against gambling in any form for many years," their letter stated.

Noting organized gambling forces have mobilized and are spending millions, Driggers and Gallamore noted battle lines likely will be intense when the legislative session begins in January. "If the gambling industry moves forward with their plans, life as we know it in our state will change dramatically for the worse," they wrote. ■

All roads lead to the TBC annual ...

— Continued from page 1

All directors of missions, TBC Executive Board members, TBC staff, and collegiate ministers are encouraged to have a photo taken for use in directories and other publications. Be sure to identify yourself with one of those groups during photo registration.

Other convention reminders include:

▶ Childcare will be provided at First Church, Kingsport, located at 200 West Circle, for

children ages birth through 5 years old. Hours of care will be Monday-Wednesday, Nov. 9-11, beginning 30 minutes before and continuing 30 minutes after each session.

▶ Off site parking will be held at Bays Mountain Church, near MeadowView Convention Center. Shuttle service will be provided.

▶ To reach messengers attending the annual meeting for emergencies, call the convention office at (423) 578-6582.

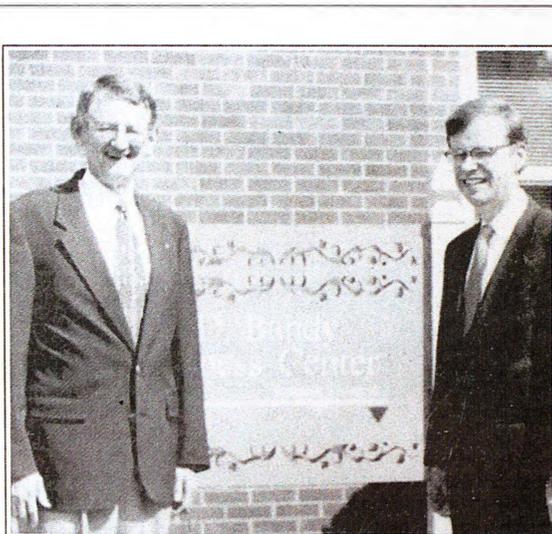
▶ The annual Joggers' Jubilee, sponsored by the Baptist and Reflector, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 a.m. Meet at the main entrance of the MeadowView Convention Center. This is not a race, but a time of fellowship for those who like an early morning walk, jog, or run.

▶ A Missions Extravaganza will be held Monday, Nov. 9, at the MeadowView Convention Center. There will be visiting North American and International missionaries. The event

offers something for all ages.

▶ The Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference will convene on Monday, Nov. 9. Sessions begin at 8:45 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5:45 p.m. at the MeadowView Convention Center. The theme of the conference is "Magnify the Word."

▶ Tennessee Baptist colleges are planning dinners or luncheons for their alumni and friends. Check at the booths of Carson-Newman College, Union University, and Belmont University for details. ■



Wellness center rededicated

Belmont University celebrated the late Bill Bandy's 56th birthday recently with the naming and rededication of the Bill D. Bandy Wellness Center at Belmont Heights Church, Nashville. Bandy, professor and chairman of the physical education, health, and wellness department at Belmont, died in May after finishing the World Qualifier Duathlon. He was a member of Forest Hills Church, Nashville. Participating in the ceremony were Belmont President William E. Troutt, right, and Joe Stackler, pastor of Belmont Heights Church.

Lewisburg church follows up on North American missions effort

By Tom Summers
For Baptist and Reflector

LEWISBURG — In March Parkview Church here participated in the North American Mission Board week emphasis.

Included in the study was a video presentation about the Mississippi River Ministry which stretches from Missouri to Louisiana and includes Tennessee.

The video reflected the habitat of the region and the perils residents face every day just to survive. Residents live in shacks, buses, and their children are hard pressed to attend school.

Through the Mississippi River Ministry, Southern Baptists developed a ministry for the residents of this region.

Missionary volunteers come to the MRM area and provide food and clothing, work on homes, and perform other tasks to make life better for the residents along the Mississippi River, one of the nation's poorest areas.

The Baptist Men of Parkview Church felt led to help.

One ministry illustrated by the video was the "bread-crumbs" ministry. Each Sunday a bread box was placed on the communion table at Parkview to collect pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters which represented "bread crumbs" or what was left over. An effort also was made to collect food, clothing, and other items.

Parkview Pastor Bill Franks communicated with the NAMB as the church collected and stored items locally. Many items were donated by local businesses.

On Oct. 11 three Parkview members — Wade Prosser, Jimmy Chapman, and Eugene Martin — took the items to Jonesville, La., where the items will help serve more than 4,000 people.

Parkview's mission study led to mission action. ■ — Summers is clerk for New Duck River Association and is a member of Parkview Church, Lewisburg.

TLW '99 goals continue abstinence push

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Recent government surveys have found that sexual activity among teens is declining, and while True Love Waits officials don't presume to take all the credit, they'll take some.

"Although True Love Waits is not the only player in the sexual abstinence movement, it has had a tremendous impact on many young lives," said Jimmy Hester, co-coordinator of True Love Waits for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The percentage of teenagers who have had sex has declined for the first time in 20 years, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion division).

The study found the percentage of sexually active high school students, age 15 to 19, fell from 54 percent to 48 percent from 1991-97. The decreases in sexual activity were more significant among males, white and black. Young women and Hispanics have not altered their behavior as much.

Birth rates among 10- to 15-year-olds dropped 12 percent during the same period. The

report is based on new analysis of surveys involving more than 10,000 students from 1991-97.

True Love Waits, created in April 1993 by LifeWay, has become a worldwide campaign designed to challenge teenagers to make a promise to God to abstain from sex until they enter a biblical marriage relationship. In 1994,

more than 211,000 True Love Waits cards covered the National Mall in Washington, and in 1996, more than 350,000 cards were stacked to the roof of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

In October 1999, TLW officials hope to see a national display of cards on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. "Crossing Bridges with Purity" is the True Love Waits theme for 1999-2000.

True Love Waits goals for 1999 are:

► Friday, Feb. 12, community display. During the months of January and February 1999, students will conduct local campaigns challenging their peers to sign commitment cards to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. On Feb. 12, schools, local churches and community organizations will come together to make a joint display at a focal place in the community.

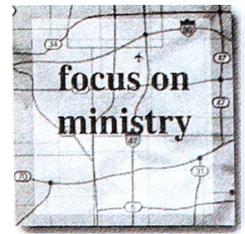
► Spring and summer 1999,

state display. Cards from community displays will be sent to a central point in the state for a statewide display during spring and summer.

► Oct. 2, 1999, national display. Cards from each state display will be sent to San Francisco for a national display on Oct. 2, 1999. Plans include carrying the cards from all over America across the Golden Gate Bridge.

► December 1999, international display. Cards from all of the state displays in the United States and cards from other countries will be sent to New Zealand to be displayed together near the International Date Line (where the year 2000 will first arrive). The international display will represent students around the world poised to move into a new era of history with a commitment to moral purity.

"I hope Christians around the world will join to praise God for what he is doing in



the lives of today's young people, and how they are challenging our society's moral standards, uplifting and modeling godly character," Hester said.

A "True Love Waits Manual 1999-2000: Crossing Bridges with Purity" is available by calling 1-800-458-2772. The 96-page manual includes complete information about creating community and state displays, relating to local media, creating True Love Waits rallies and events, and getting cards to national and international displays. For questions regarding True Love Waits, call 1-800-LUV-WAIT. ■



Christian psychiatrist reports qualities of healthy families

By Chip Alford
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Characterized by a high divorce rate and a low regard for commitment, America is losing the concept of a strong, healthy family. But it doesn't have to be a terminal condition, a child psychiatrist and popular Christian author and speaker said.

"God is always in charge and he will see us through; we have that promise," Grace Ketterman told almost 700 church workers attending the National Preschool/Children Convention Oct. 19-22 at LifeWay Christian Resources here.

Teaching Bible-based qualities for healthy relationships is an important key to solving the family breakdown, she said, describing such instruction as "very possible" and "urgently needed."

Ketterman has been helping troubled families for more than 40 years through speaking engagements, counseling sessions and books such as *Parenting the Difficult Child* and *Mothering in All Ages and Stages*.

"In working with troubled families, so often I find that children's problems

come from marriage problems," Ketterman said, noting 60 percent of American elementary school children come from single-parent or blended families.

Referring to research first conducted 30 years ago and replicated in later studies, she shared six qualities common to strong, healthy families:

(1) Commitment. "They are committed to one another as individuals and to the family as a whole," Ketterman said. "So many people are operating under a philosophy of hedonism, groping and grasping for any kind of pleasure. It's so easy to quit, but we have to be able to think more wisely."

Children often lack commitment to follow through with assignments and responsibilities, Ketterman said, because parents fail to model appropriate behavior. "Permissive parenting" also has resulted in many children being unable to understand and cope with anger and frustration. "We teach it by being committed ourselves, sticking to our promises," she said.

(2) The ability to cope with crises. "This isn't just the huge things like a cancer diagnosis or broken bones," Ketterman said. "These things often

bring families closer together. It's the little things that usually cause friction, like when the school bus is coming and you can't find one of the kid's shoes."

She said parents and children must learn "to stop power struggling and start problem solving." Making wise decisions requires learning to size up the situation, identify options to solve the problem, examine the consequences, and make the best choices.

(3) Effective communication. "This demands that we learn to listen," Ketterman said. "It demands an open mind to hear all the sides of an issue, to understand emotions and all the things that go on within us."

... We need to learn to 'listen' with our eyes. Our eyes, faces, body gestures and posture give away so much of what we are feeling. With little children, this is so very crucial."

(4) An affirming and appreciative attitude. "We have to learn to build up people instead of tearing them down," she said. "We can teach children a different [more posi-

tive] way of speaking."

(5) Activity sharing. "Healthy families share in all kinds of things they do, not just recreation, but work, too," Ketterman said. This can involve everything from helping children with homework and doing yard work together to playing board games and sharing a family meal.

"By sharing activities, we can further the bonding process that begins at birth," she said. "Sometimes we think bonding happens only at birth, but it goes on for a lifetime."

(6) Practicing their faith at home. "How common it is for us to delegate teaching to the schools and the teaching of faith to the Sunday School," Ketterman said. "How often parents are shy about using the name of Jesus." But the healthy family "talks naturally about God, about faith, about what God is doing in their lives," she said.

The lessons parents teach children are for a lifetime, Ketterman said. "They impact them all along the route of their life." ■



Good relationships essential for becoming a memorable teacher

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — To be remembered as a favorite teacher when tomorrow's adults recall childhood, today's workers with preschoolers and children need to focus on relationships, a national conference leader told weekday early education directors meeting here Oct. 19-22.

Barbara McDougal, a speaker, writer and confer-

ence leader from Jefferson City, said while relationships and expectations vary widely among people, she believes "people who are real let you see into their heart."

A former administrator and professor at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, McDougal said she believes people who choose to work with children do so because "you love children. It is the happiest time you can have when

you are with those children."

Participants in the National Preschool/Children's Convention at LifeWay Christian Resources told McDougal among qualities they recall in their favorite teachers are a sense of humor, enthusiasm, a caring personality, and willingness to spend time showing an interest in each child every day.

McDougal said among relational needs children have are

discipline that is firm, consistent and kind; unconditional love and acceptance; security and trust; rules that are understood, reasonable and enforceable; responsibility for making decisions and living with consequences; genuine praise and help in building self-esteem; and a good example.

Among the qualities needed in teachers, she said, are the ability to listen; understand

no one is perfect; keep cool; realize potential and limitations; keep a sense of humor; save thunder for big things; and treat each child and co-worker with respect and appreciation.

"When you blow it," she said, "admit it, apologize, and move on. A mistake is an opportunity to learn."

The convention was sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources. ■



letters from readers

about letters

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

The pastor's job

Two letters in the Oct. 21 issue caught my attention, both relating to the presidential matter. I agree with one letter writer that it is not our responsibility to pass judgment or "cast the first stone." When a person reaches adulthood, he or she is responsible for his or her own actions.

Still, others must share that responsibility. Sad to say, many in this and the past generation had no parental guidance, don't even know their biological parents, and often they are poor examples if they do know them. And often their relatives, foster parents or whoever was responsible for guiding them also were poor examples. That's why crime and immorality are at epidemic levels now, and out of "man's" control today.

Also, I agree with another letter writer in that issue that we should stand up for what is right. But when a pastor gets behind the pulpit and tells the people who they should or should not vote for, he is damaging God's cause and his church.

He is not going to change anyone's opinion, except maybe their opinion of him. He is only human and might be wrong himself. Also, he will likely offend some, who may drop out of church completely. The pastor's job is to proclaim God's Word. If it applies to us or some political figure, we should have enough intelligence to recognize it.

Ellis Howell
Henderson 38340

Sheds light

Like many of your readers I received a letter from Concerned Tennessee Baptists signed by Charles Bailey, Guy Milam, and Richard Holden. While I understand the frustrations of these men, as a member of the Education Committee, perhaps I can shed some light on their concerns.

First, like them, I was extremely disappointed by the action taken by Carson-Newman College trustees. In fact, I made the motion to the Education Committee to escrow Cooperative Program funds allotted to C-N until they rescinded their action. My motion did not pass the committee. While in this process, we began to hear from numerous Tennessee Baptists, not identified with any political faction, that our historical relationship with Carson-Newman was important to them.

With this in mind, and under the leadership of Ray Newcomb, our committee began to see if we could redeem the situation. Contrary to other perceptions, our work focused on our relationship with Union and Belmont. Our goal was to negotiate a relationship that helped Union and Belmont, and if Carson-Newman wanted to vote and be a part of this, that was their option. We were aware two schools had remained faithful to the process.

The question of who controls the colleges is often misunderstood. For the record, trustees control the colleges. The trustees allow the convention to elect the trustees as part of the partnership with the institution. To be honest, the CP only supplies somewhere between five and seven percent of the budgets of the colleges. You cannot give five-seven percent and expect to have 100 percent control.

The Protocol, while imperfect and limited, is the beginning of an ongoing discussion on how we and our institutions can face the future together for the glory of God. To vote down the Protocol would send the message to our current university trustees that the convention is either unwilling or unable to realistically address the growing needs of our institutions.

Let's not slam the door on our institutions or on the future itself. Please support the Protocol and the continuing efforts of the Education Committee to work with our schools toward our common goals.

Michael L. Glenn, pastor
Brentwood Church
Brentwood 37027

No accolades

It should be noted that the accolades commending the Relationship Focus Group's report are not shared by all Tennessee Baptists.

The literariness of the RFG's report, with accurate biblical support, is unquestionable. Its fervency is explicit and greatly appreciated. Undeniably the report encourages, exhorts, and mildly rebukes. A letter writer in the Oct. 21 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* referred to the RFG as "leaders of integrity."

However, I respectfully submit, as leaders of integrity they have issued a report without tangible substance. The state truism and platitude with pious rhetoric, while appealing, falls short of meeting present needs. The RFG acknowledges "the diversity" of Tennessee Baptists, a fact already known by every knowledgeable Tennessee Baptist. Also, while acknowledging "differences which could divide us," these were not identified to insure mutual understanding

and agreement. The RFG's desire that Tennessee Baptists "remain one convention" is the desire of most, but not at the expense of theological compromise.

The overall recommendation of the RFG, with noted exceptions, simply urges us to continue doing what we have been doing. Without this report Tennessee Baptists would continue to recognize and respect the fact of our diversity. Allowing diversity does not give a person license to believe whatever they choose and be an accepted member of a specific group. When diversity cannot find acceptable coexistence, diversity becomes divisive, destroying unity.

Certainly, we should do all the RFG urges. But in every situation confronting God's people, sooner or later, he requires they take decisive action. Attempting to "spiritualize" this situation away won't work.

John L. Miller
Dickson 37055

Keep from battling

My heart is to be a Bible-believing, soul-winning Christian who works through the local church to bring hope and help to a world living in darkness. I am a conservative who believes that our highest calling is to a personal relationship with God and bringing others to the same.

Having said that, I now respond to a recent article in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* entitled "Battling Baptists."

My purpose is to request that we Baptists do not allow that article to become a prophetic statement. We still have time to exhibit leadership. In reality, we will never have the same relationship with our three Tennessee Baptist colleges we once

had. In reality, there are diverse positions on many issues within the Tennessee Baptist family. In reality, there have been theological concerns which need to be addressed. The biblical method for addressing these issues is not in "pharisaically pious positioning of power," but the sweet fragrance of discipleship, statesmanship, and brotherhood. Indeed, liberal theology will sap the Spirit out of our denomination, but also will pious religiosity.

What can we do? We can do what Jesus would do.

(1) Come before God with a humble and loving spirit, confessing sins of pride, arrogance, and selfish ambition.

(2) Commit to pray for those who differ from us.

(3) Go to Kingsport and demonstrate a spirit of togetherness.

(4) Make our major focus the "winning and growing" of lost people to the glory of Jesus.

One good place to begin is with the approval of the Protocol for College Trustee Selection.

Our Education Committee has worked through the process and developed a document establishing a method that is workable with all positions within our convention. Nobody is happy with everything, but in its entirety, this is probably our best option. If we haggle over every detail and attempt to modify it, we will fulfill the "battling Baptists" prophecy.

Let us agree we will disagree, agree to dialogue, pray for each other, pass the Protocol, and get on with the business of winning and growing people to Jesus.

Will you join me?

Mike Boyd, senior pastor
Wallace Memorial Church
Knoxville 37912

CLASSIFIED

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Individual must possess desire/ability for assisting the church in creating new ministry models and a willingness to have responsibilities directed by developing as well as existing needs. Send resume to Associate Pastor Search Committee, Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan, St. Louis, MO 63139.

MINISTER: Northside Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume Attn: Search Committee, Northside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 463, Princeton, KY 42445, or fax (502) 365-2695.

LEADER: Desiring part-time music/worship leader. Contemporary and traditional music. Resume to First Baptist Church, 7310 Overbey Rd., Fairview, TN, (615) 799-2944.

MINISTER: Full-time Minister of Education, Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis, TN. Send resume to Sonny Randle, 1659 Cranford, Memphis, TN 38117.

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Tennessee Baptists — the ball is in your court

By Lonnie Wilkey, Editor

Next week messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will gather at the MeadowView Convention Center in Kingsport.

What will happen is anybody's guess.

Lest we forget, there will be positive reports on the excellent work being performed across our state. There will be some good preaching along with opportunities for fellowship. We will elect a new slate of officers. Several names have surfaced for the presidency. I have intentionally not reported on those rumored. Minds could change between now and the convention. Also, someone not mentioned could feel led to allow him or herself to be nominated at the convention. The election should be open and available to any Tennessee Baptist.

A lot of attention is being focused on our educational institutions, particularly Carson-Newman College.

In April Carson-Newman College trustees voted to move away from the convention's method of electing trustees to become a self-perpetuating board.

Some people were and still are ready to sever ties with Carson-Newman College by removing all funding from the school.

The Education Committee of the TBC Executive Board began to examine its relationship with Union and Belmont universities as well as to Carson-Newman College.

Ably led by Millington pastor Ray Newcomb, the Education Committee sought to bring about healing.

Numerous meetings led to the development of a Protocol for College Trustee Selection which was printed in its entirety in the Sept. 30 issue. A guest analysis by L. Joseph Rosas III, a Memphis pastor who chaired the subcommittee which developed the Protocol, further explained the document.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



In last week's issue Charles Bailey, in a letter to the editor, provided an opposing view.

Suffice it to say, the Protocol is not the "perfect" document. There are things in it that I do not agree with. Members of the Education Committee and representatives from the schools who hammered out the proposal do not agree on everything.

Framers of the Protocol tried to develop a proposal that would give the colleges more flexibility in selecting trustees while allowing the convention to retain some control. They did that. The Protocol involved give and take. We cannot always have our way.

Opponents of the Protocol do not like the fact that while the convention can vote someone out as a trustee, messengers cannot vote someone in. That is a valid concern. However, somewhere in the equation trust must be factored in. If the convention rejects someone, hopefully the Committee on Committees and trustees from the school would listen to suggestions and try to come up with a suitable alternative.

Carson-Newman College is still taking some licks for what they did in April. In the editorial following their action I said I thought they should have waited until they had exhausted all convention processes. I still feel that way. Trustees, however, did what they thought best for the school.

Carson-Newman should be given credit for wanting to remain identified with the

TBC and for agreeing to the Protocol. Critics will say they just want to keep the \$2.4 million they receive annually.

I don't believe that. Losing that much income would hurt initially, but Carson-Newman could survive in the long run. The school has many supporters who would pitch in and make up for the loss in income.

From talking with President Cordell Maddox, faculty members, trustees, and others, I am convinced Carson-Newman is committed to its Tennessee Baptist heritage. I get the same feeling from Belmont and Union University administrators as well.

Our colleges are a part of the Tennessee Baptist family. We may not agree with what one family member has done, but do we kick them out for good?

It's time to work together and continue the healing process the Education Committee has begun.

Tennessee Baptists — the ball is in your court. Do we heal the wound or do we amputate? Don't just listen to one side or view, get the facts and make a prayer-based decision.

Already a Knoxville newspaper has written about "batling Baptists."

Will we give the paper more ammunition to use against us in Kingsport or will we send a message of love, forgiveness, and healing? It's up to you. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Doctor to patient: "The best thing for you to do is to give up fried foods, red meat, and desserts." Patient: "I don't deserve the best. I'm an unworthy man. What's the second best?"

Take this truth

Humility is a tricky thing. It's not the same as effacing oneself or trying to put one's self down. I like the statement I read somewhere: "Humility is not thinking lowly of oneself. It's not thinking of oneself at all."

Memorize this Scripture

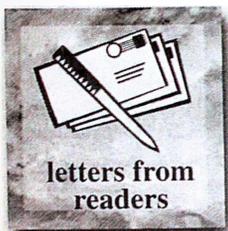
"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself." — Matthew 16:24

Pray this prayer

"Lord help me to find some cause bigger than I am and give myself to it."

Partnership Prayer Requests November

- 5 — Pray for Rick Lane, IMB missionary, who is helping Costa Rican churches with worship and music ministries.
- 6 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Older Children Music Day Camp on Nov. 7
- 7 — Pray for Camille Theriault, premier of New Brunswick, Canada. Ask God to bless him as he governs as one who fears God and serves men.
- 8 — Pray for more than 1,200 people who accepted Christ during the simultaneous revivals held Sept. 28-Oct. 6 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ask God to bless the new Christians with follow-up ministries.
- 9 — Praise God for the recent meetings led by Richard Blackaby at First Church, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada. Ask God to bless the people who were saved.
- 10 — Pray for the youth in the Chinese Church in Costa Rica. The Chinese youth feel isolated since they are dealing with two cultures — their own & Costa Rica culture.



Church manners

I would like to "applaud" the Oct. 28 editorial "... to applaud or not?" Mr. Wilkey is right. We all need to focus on what is pleasing to God, but too often we focus on the subjects, not the objects of our worship. The result is that Christians no longer know how to conduct themselves in God's house and lack worship manners or even the sense of needing worship manners. Instead, they become stumbling blocks to other worshippers.

There are too many in our midst that view appropriate

church manners the same as those proper for a secular performance. This would include clapping, eating and drinking, hooting, and wearing hats. They fail to recognize that musicians in church are supposed to play or sing for the glory of God, not for the pleasure of the congregation, and that the place of worship is a holy and reverent place, not a performing arts venue.

Today, too many pastors and church leaders join in the clapping, to make others feel at ease, instead of setting the example and following I Corinthians 10:32, which admonishes Christians not to cause anyone to stumble.

Pastors often casually remark that "we are giving God a hand" without stopping to realize that God doesn't need or want "a hand," but instead he wants exuberant joy (Psalms 100: 1-2) and reverent awe (Hebrews 12:28-29) in our worship. God wants song and mu-

sic, thanksgiving, and for us to "bow down in worship (Psalms 95:1-6).

Churches need to have leaders willing to distinguish between the clapping of hands as an expression of joy in one's worship (such as clapping with the music) and the clapping of hands to denote approval and appreciation for the achievements of our fellow musicians.

Perhaps, many people think worship manners are no big deal, but I would encourage them to read Leviticus 10: 1-7 — the story of two Old Testament men who forgot their manners and lost their lives because, "Among those who approach me, I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored."

Cindy House
Nashville 37214

YouthLink search

On Dec. 29-31, 1999, more than 100,000 Southern Baptist

youth and college students will gather in seven sites across America for YouthLink 2000. YouthLink 2000 will bring a challenge to a new generation of Southern Baptists to be on mission for God throughout their lifetime.

Look on the Internet at www.youthlink2000.org for more information on YouthLink.

The search is now on for several Southern Baptists who will be 100 years of age in 1999 who can share the vision and challenge of following God's leadership. We would like for your readers to turn in the names and contact information of people they know who will be 100 years old in 1999 to: Dean Finley at the North American Mission Board.

Send names to: Dean Finley, 906 S. National Avenue, Springfield, MO 65804.

Dean Finley
Springfield, Mo. 65804



Tim Hedquist dies at age 56

Baptist Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tim A. Hedquist, 56, former vice president for business and finance with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, died of a brain tumor Oct. 24 here, where he had been associate pastor of Idlewild Church since 1996.

Hedquist was on the Execu-

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utive Committee staff from 1977-90. He resigned to become assistant pastor for staff administration at Bellevue Church, Cordova. Before joining the Idlewild staff he was associate pastor and church administrator at First Church, Dallas, for five years.

The California native is survived by his wife, Rita, former secretary at First Church, Nashville, two daughters, and four grandchildren. ■

WMU's O'Brien returns to work

Baptist Press

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ing employees, Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, returned to the organization's national headquarters for the first time Oct. 22 after suffering a mild stroke Sept. 26.

O'Brien was released from a Birmingham hospital Oct. 13. She continues to receive physical therapy three days a week as an outpatient and to get steadily stronger, officials said.

O'Brien's return was an emotional experience for all.

While not full time, O'Brien began coming to the office for a few hours each day twice a week, effective Oct. 27. In addition, her executive assistant will work with her at home some each week. ■

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Doctor's murder appalling: Land

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The murder of a western New York obstetrician who performed abortions is "appalling," said Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Barnett Slepian, who performed abortions at a downtown Buffalo, N.Y., clinic, was gunned down by a sniper's bullet Oct. 23 at his home. Land said violence against abortion providers is not "a morally jus-

tifiable or permissible Christian response to abortion" and is inconsistent with Scripture. ■

Graham leads crusade in Tampa

Associated Baptist Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Sixty years after surrendering to preach the Gospel here, evangelist Billy Graham returned to lead a crusade Oct. 22-25.

The four-day event drew a total of 283,000 people, including 78,000 the closing day, a record for any Tampa stadium. ■

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A good start

By Dale Denning

Focal Passage — Nehemiah 2:12, 15-20; 3:1-2, 22-23

Before Nehemiah undertook the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem, he took the time to go out and quietly investigate the situation. He wanted to make sure he knew the direction in which God wanted him to go. The first step in being successful in a God-given job is to carefully examine the surrounding circumstances.

This week's lesson demonstrates the need to enlist others. Here is a great story about a man who tried to do a job on his own: "I am a bricklayer by trade. On the date of the accident I was working alone on the roof of a six-story building. When I completed my work, I found I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which fortunately was attached to the side of the building at the sixth floor. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out, and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 500 pounds of brick. I weigh 135 pounds. Being surprised at being jerked off the ground suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull, and broken collar bone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind, and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground, and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel weighed approximately 50 pounds. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body area. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks, and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the bricks, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel six stories above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope. The empty barrel weighed more than the rope, so it came back down on me, and broke both my legs."

If this man had followed the example of Nehemiah in our text, he wouldn't have found himself in such terrible shape. It is imperative when one begins a job for the Lord, that he/she surround himself/herself with ample help.

Confidence in God is also essential. God is not going to lead you into anything of which he will not be very much a part. Chapter four of Nehemiah is saturated with many wonderful demonstrations of Nehemiah's confidence of God.

The final step in starting a God-given task is to get organized. Nehemiah assigned specific sections of the wall to specific groups of people. The rebuilding was calculated and strategic. Preparation is important in everything we do in life, especially when we are doing God's work. — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

Renewing commitment

By Darrell Nimmo

Focal Passage — Psalm 73:1-3, 12-13, 16-18, 21-26

The book of Psalms is one of the most beloved books in the Bible. It is actually a collection of hymns. The Psalms include a variety of expressions such as praise, confession, testimony, petition, and instruction. One of the reasons the Psalms are loved so much is that they say what we are unable to. They address the heart and provide comfort and reassurance. They give us strength because God has filled them with his promises. We can identify with the writers and the difficulties they faced inwardly and outwardly. Such is the case with this week's lesson. Here we find the writer trying to make sense of it all. As you read Psalm 73, you may find yourself. We have all pondered the observations of the Psalmist and perhaps wondered ourselves. We are not alone. Many of the great warriors of the faith at times questioned their circumstances. Consider Gideon, Elijah, Job, Habakkuk, and John the Baptist. But each found their answers by admitting their doubts and taking them to God for understanding. In turn, God revealed the truth and reassurance they were looking for.

Family Bible Lesson

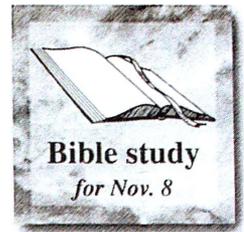
Seeing is believing (vv. 1-14). The Psalmist begins by acknowledging the goodness of God. He knows God has blessed Israel and those who have a pure heart. But, as he looks at the prosperity of the wicked, he began to question the fairness of it all. For they seemed to be doing better than those who served God with a full heart. They even address God with an arrogance of self exaltation and apathy. At times their irreverence was even blasphemous. The problem is what was the point of trying to be righteous if there was no benefit to doing so. If

God was going to bless the wicked the same as the righteous, why sacrifice? There are many today who have embraced this philosophy of life.

They think that intellectual belief in God is sufficient to secure them a place in heaven. The life they live here in this world will have no significance on their eternity in heaven. Therefore, since we only go around once, eat, drink, and be merry. It is hard for the Christian to live in the world and not be affected by it. We are constantly bombarded about what the world deems important. But, the values of the world lack the element of the eternal. Everything is focused on what can be accomplished between the time we are born and the time when we die. Jesus taught us to look beyond this life to the life to come. If we take our eyes off of that, we may begin to doubt the benefit of a godly life.

Believing is seeing (vv. 15-28). The Psalmist tried to make sense of it all but felt oppressed and depressed. Nothing made sense, until, he entered the sanctuary of God. Then everything began to make sense. Everything has its origin in God. If life is going to make sense, we must start with the giver of life. God is not only the giver, but the sustainer of life as well. When the Psalmist began looking through the eyes of faith, he gained a whole new insight. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus is the life, life abundant, life everlasting. Life apart from God is really no life at all. In fact, the Scriptures say we are dead. The wicked for a time may seem to have the best life has to offer, but it is only a fleeting moment.

I teach a class of ninth grade boys in Sunday School. I have used this illustration many times to help illustrate this truth. I have asked them to remember something they did on their 5th birthday. Most could not remember anything because it was too long ago. I then ask them how much of this life are they going to remember when they have been in heaven for a million years. — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.



Foundations for right living

By Calvin Metcalf

Focal Passage — Exodus 20:1-17

In Elton Trueblood's book entitled *Foundations for Reconstruction*, he includes the following poetic version of the Ten Commandments:

"Above all else, love God alone; Bow down to neither wood nor stone. God's name refuse to take in vain; The Sabbath rest with care maintain. Respect your parents all your days; Hold sacred human life always. Be loyal to your chosen mate; Steal nothing, neither small nor great. Report, with truth, your neighbor's deed; And rid your mind of selfish greed."

The kind of government which ruled Israel during the exodus was a type of theocracy where God governed the people through his spokesman Moses. The key to their progress was their common allegiance to God. The Ten Commandments, or the Decalogue, summarized the heart and soul of Israel's covenant with themselves and with God. This document was essential for good behavior as well as national unity. God's authority in giving the Ten Commandments was based on his grace in delivering Israel from Egypt.

The first commandment was unique to Israel's polytheistic society. While the people worshiped Yahweh, they also recognized the existence of

Explore the Bible Lesson

other gods. Therefore, the first commandment, in eliminating all other gods, is really first. All the other commandments depend on the keeping of this one. To have other gods would lessen the need to obey and serve the only God.

The second commandment reminded Israel that there was no substitute for God. The first commandment said "no false gods"; the second one said "no false worship." Worship is false when the worshiper tries to make the vehicle of worship the object of worship.

The third commandment admonished Israel to reverence the name of God. This commandment forbade the profane use of anything related to God.

The fourth commandment identified the Sabbath as a separate day of the week. It was designed to be a reminder to Israel lest they forget what God had done for them.

The fifth commandment directed the Israelites to care for their parents and their elderly. Their reward would be a stable society where health and long life could be enjoyed. It was designed to preserve God's people. Respect in the home would create respect for both God and country, which was essential to their survival.

The sixth commandment was concerned with the protection of human life within the Hebrew community. It condemned unjustified murder. God took seriously life which he had created and wanted his people to do likewise.

The seventh commandment forbade illicit relations outside the marriage covenant. It opposed a casual and recreational approach to sex. Adultery violated the laws of human existence and destroyed the marriage commitment.

The eighth commandment condemned the taking of that which belonged to another person. When we steal, we are taking that which God has entrusted to another person. We will answer to God for our thievery.

The ninth commandment required the telling of the truth. It condemned lying and malicious gossip within the Hebrew community. Today it would include everything from the subtle dishonesties of advertising and salesmanship to the outright lying of insecure people.

The tenth commandment dealt with unhealthy desires. The sin of covetousness was the most difficult of all. It could cause a person to violate all the other commandments. In this commandment, God dealt with motive and attitude as a prerequisite of a godly life. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.

leaders

■ **Don Aycock**, pastor McLean Church, Memphis, has edited the book, *God's Man — A 366-Day Devotional Guide to Christlike Character*. It is published by Kregel Publications of Grand Rapids, Mich. It can be ordered at the publication office, P.O. Box 2607, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2607, (800) 733-2607.

■ **Ron Blankenship**, former pastor of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville, has begun a consulting ministry called "Fresh Ideas Ministries." He is available for pulpit supplies, revivals, renewal meetings, personal financial analysis seminars, time management seminars, and more. He can be contacted at (615) 833-6299.



BLANKENSHIP

■ Calvary Church, Morristown, has called **Sidney W. Nichols** as pastor. He has served churches in Alabama and is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Alabama Theological Seminary.



NICHOLS

associations

■ **Hamilton County Association** held its annual meeting Oct. 15 in a new format, a banquet. It drew about 300 people. Mildred McWhorter, retired missionary who served in Houston, Texas, for 35

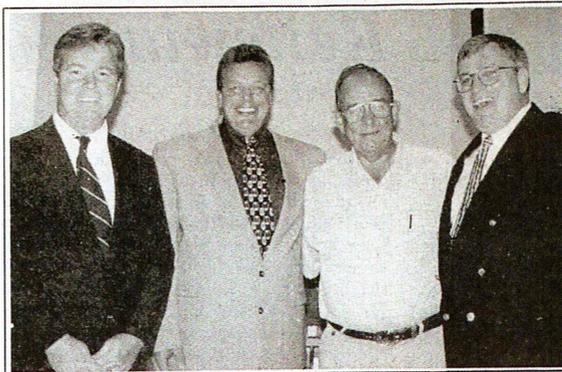
years, spoke. Those attending learned the association gave more than the budget required for the second year. Becky Witt, financial and administrative assistant for the association, was honored for 10 years of service.

■ **Hamilton County Association** will hold a 1998-99 Tax Seminar Dec. 8. It will be led by Deborah Taylor, accounting manager of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries. It is designed for ministers, financial secretaries, treasurers and others who prepare W-2s, 941 forms, and payroll checks. For more information, contact the association at (423) 267-3794 or by e-mail at hcbca@vol.com.

■ **Wilson County Association** messengers added one church to the association and two churches under its watchcare program during its recent annual meeting. Added as a member church was New Vision Church, Watertown, of which Richard Loveday is the pastor. Placed under watchcare were West Hills Mission, Lebanon, of which Jonas Taylor is pastor; and Second Church, Lebanon, of which Roderick Glatt is pastor.

■ Messengers attending the annual meeting of **Nashville Association** learned its churches gave more than the budget required. They added Blessed Korean Church as a member. Elijah I. Whang is pastor. The messengers also approved a budget which will fund two new staff members, a full-time ministries director and a part-time financial secretary.

■ **Central Association** messengers honored Carl Smith, pastor, Madison Street Church, McMinnville, during its annual meeting. Smith has served the church for 40 years. The messengers also passed a resolution asking the trustees



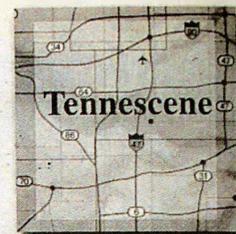
ELECTED OFFICERS of Indian Creek Association during their annual meeting were, from left, Jeff Hicks, pastor, Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, moderator; Cal Hampton, pastor, Green River Church, Waynesboro, vice moderator; Phil Fisher, Green River Church, treasurer; and David Miller, director of missions.

of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, to "rescind their action" taken this year (see page 5). Messengers also commended Jackie Matheny, a member of Shellsford Church, McMinnville, who is sheriff in Wayne County, for leading an effort against drugs in Warren County.

■ **Big Emory Association** messengers voted to assist Treasure Valley Association in Idaho in the development and completion of a major mission project over the next two years. The association also recognized Pastor Edsel West of South Harriman Church for 20 years of continuous service in the association and accepted Catoosa Church, Oliver Springs, into the association. Don Pride is pastor of Catoosa Church.

■ Messengers to **Beech River Association's** annual meeting voted to help Island City Church, Eaton Rapids, Mich., to repair their building, with mission trips, and a monthly supplement for the pastor's salary. The association also adopted two resolutions, one opposing gambling and the other on Carson-Newman College. The resolution expressed "extreme disappointment and profound grief" to the trustees and administration of Carson-Newman College for "violating their sacred trust" with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its cooperating churches.

■ **Haywood Association** messengers joined its Crisis Pregnancy Center with Birth Choice Center to more effectively minister to young women in crisis pregnancies and voted to conduct an area-wide tent crusade Aug. 22-26, 1999. Messengers learned the association set an all-time high for volunteers in mission projects with 181 people serving on 15 mission projects and that the churches in the association had a 20-percent increase in baptisms.



BIG HATCHIE ASSOCIATION recently recognized its outgoing moderator, Bill Northcott, center, for two years of service. The plaque was presented by Director of Missions Ray Jones. With Northcott is his wife, Sandra. The Northcotts are leaving the association. Northcott began service Nov. 1 as leader of the Church Staff Leadership Group of the TBC Executive Board.

■ **North Cleveland Church, Cleveland**, held revival Oct. 25-28 with Bill Bruster as guest speaker and Fes Robertson as guest soloist.

■ The Women's Ministry of **First Church, Cleveland**, held a conference Oct. 31 featuring speaker and author Esther Burroughs.

churches

■ **Immanuel Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold revival Nov. 15-20. Donnie Cantwell will speak and Wayne Ray will lead the music.

■ **Puryear Church, Puryear**, held revival Nov. 1-4. Paul Veazey of Union University, Jackson, spoke and Galon Morris led the music.

school

■ **The Belmont University** Auxiliary Book and Gift Fair will be held Nov. 5-6 in the Neely Dining Room of Belmont University, Nashville. Hours on Nov. 5 are 10-11 a.m. and 1-7 p.m. and on Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



OFFICERS of Haywood Association are, from left, Dewey Jones, Holly Grove Church, Bells, assistant treasurer, Ken Culver, pastor, Calvary Church, Brownsville, moderator; Linda Pratt, Brownsville Church, Brownsville, clerk/treasurer; Charles Pratt, director of missions; and Mark Conway, pastor, Zion Church, Brownsville, vice moderator.



PARTICIPATING IN THE annual meeting of New Duck River Association were, from left, Harold Smith, director of missions; Evelyn Parks, Shelbyville Mills Church, treasurer; Frank Edwards, pastor, Hannah's Gap Church, vice moderator; and Jamie Bone, pastor, Wartrace Church, moderator.