

T E N N E S S E E ' S B A P T I S T REFLECTOR

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week's
news

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Among TBC actions in Kingsport

Messengers vote to escrow C-N funds

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — Messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a motion to escrow the \$2,229,381 set aside for Carson-Newman College in the 1998-99 TBC budget.

A near record crowd of 2,245 messengers convened at the MeadowView Convention Center here Nov. 10-11. The previous high for a TBC annual meeting was the 2,280 messengers who attended the Gatlinburg meeting in 1992.

Among other actions, messengers elected a new slate of officers (see story below), adopted an amended Cooperative Program budget of \$31,467,034 to include an additional \$100,000 to Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, approved a \$9.5 million camps development project, approved a partnership with Portugal Baptists, and considered numerous amendments to the TBC Constitution and Bylaws.

At the beginning of the sessions, messengers discovered the Protocol for College Trustee Selection had been referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee because in its present form it violated the constitution and bylaws of the convention.



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch, right, presents a plaque to Doug Sager, pastor of First Church, Concord, Knoxville, outgoing president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The opening session of the 124th annual meeting began with a call to solemn assembly.

In issuing the call to solemn assembly, TBC President Doug Sager said: "The most important thing that can happen to us in these two days is to have a

fresh touch from God."

Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington, urged messengers to cleanse their hearts of sin.

"The hardest words for me are 'I have sinned.' Before we can really let God bless us, we must look at our own hearts and see if there is anything between us and God," he said.

Two long-time Tennessee Baptist pastors — Bill Sherman of Nashville and Wayne Allen of Memphis, both past convention presidents — led messengers in the solemn assembly. Their presentation was followed by small group prayers.

Protocol delayed

The Protocol for College Trustee Selection was an effort to provide Tennessee Baptists' three schools of higher education — Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University — more flexibility in choosing their trustees.

In April, Carson-Newman College trustees voted to become a self-perpetuating board. Numerous meetings of the Education Committee of the Executive Board led to the development of a plan for college trustee selection. Carson-Newman College — See Messengers, page 3

Larry Gilmore elected as new TBC president

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — Larry Gilmore, pastor, College Heights Church, Gallatin, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention over Vern Powers, staff member, Baptist Hospital, Nashville, and Carl Scarlett, pastor,

Miracle Church, LaVergne. Elected vice president was David Daugherty, pastor, Shellsford Church, McMinnville over Ron Murray, pastor, Central Church, Johnson City. A total of 1,406 messengers cast ballots in this election.

John Parrott Jr., director of missions, Holston Valley Association, was elected second vice

president over Don Owens, pastor, Immanuel Church, Lebanon.

Gilmore was nominated by Phil Hoskins, pastor, Higher Ground Church, Kingsport, who described him as "a faithful preacher of the Gospel" and soul winner. Hoskins reported several accomplishments of College Heights Church, including gifts of \$70,000 to missions during the past year. (The church of about 1,562 resident members gave \$14,924 to the CP during the 1997-98 year.)

Powers was nominated by Lon Shoopman, pastor, First Church, Madisonville, who reported Powers was pastor of churches for 30 years and was a staff member of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries for 20 years before serving Baptist Hospital, Nashville. He noted Powers was committed to the Cooperative Program. (First Church, Nashville, where Powers is a deacon, has about 2,263 resident members and gave \$108,212 to the CP in 1997-98.) Scarlett was nominated by

Vote on Officers		
President		
Gilmore	835	50.5%
Powers	699	42.3%
Scarlett	118	7.1%
Vice President		
Daugherty	725	51.6%
Murray	681	48.4%
Second Vice President		
Parrott	329	57.7%
Owens	241	42.3%



LARRY GILMORE, center, pastor of College Heights Church, Gallatin, and new president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is flanked by David Daugherty, left, pastor of Shellsford Church, McMinnville, vice president, and John Parrott Jr., director of missions, Holston Valley Association, second vice president.

James Powers, director of missions, Concord Association, who noted Miracle Church gives 10 percent of its undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program. (Miracle Church, which has about 750 resident members, gave \$36,059 to the Cooperative Program during the 1997-98 year.)

In the vice president's race, Daugherty was nominated by Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, and Murray was proposed by Calvin Metcalf, retired pastor, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.

— See Larry, page 4

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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TBC executive director challenges messengers

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — TBC Executive Director James Porch reminded Tennessee Baptists of the importance of relationships during his address to messengers Nov. 10.

Without relationships there would be no churches, no associations, no state conventions, he observed.

"The inspired Word of God vibrates literally with relationships," Porch reminded messengers.

He also observed that "our heritage as a convention grew out of relationships." He noted that in the future "how we relate together must become a

priority concern."

Porch reminded messengers of an important principle. The presence or absence of viable relationships depends on either the nurture or neglect of those relationships, he said.

To find a model of relationships, Porch noted, "We have to go back to the Word of God and find the model."

Citing the story of Barnabas in the book of Acts, Porch noted that Barnabas witnessed the grace of God there.

"Our hope as Tennessee

Baptists rests in the good news of the grace of God," Porch said.

"We Baptists are active, solution-oriented. We like to stay busy. Possibly we have forgotten the good news of the grace of God," he suggested.

He noted that Tennessee Baptists have been bound together by missions, evangelism, Christian education, and benevolence. "That has done us well in the 20th century, but the 21st century will take more," he said.

"The grace of God is our only hope" for the future, Porch asserted. "We need a grace experience. It will bind us, it will hold us."

Porch cited the story of Thomas Jefferson and John

Adams, who both died on the same day in 1826. The two men, great leaders in the history of America, had been in bitter debate for many years. They finally reconciled a few years before their death.

Adams wrote: "You and I ought not to die until we explain ourselves to each other."

"That is why we keep talking together. That's why we have a Relationship Focus Group," Porch said.

"Only in times of coming together, hearing together, and explaining to one another, can we fully see the grace of God," Porch suggested.

"Grace is our hope. May God bless us in the coming hours and year," he concluded. ■



PORCH

Rio pastor issues invitation to Brazil at final session

For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — Tennessee Baptists were invited to "be witnesses of these things" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the closing session of the 124th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos, pastor of First Church, Rio de Janeiro, and president of the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio, brought greetings to Tennessee Baptists from 76,000 Carioca Baptists in 309 local churches in Rio.

Basing his message from Luke 24:45-48, Vasconcelos reminded Tennessee Baptists that as verse 48 states, "you are witnesses of these things."

To be a witness is to be a

martyr for Jesus Christ, the Brazilian pastor told Tennessee Baptists.

He reminded messengers and guests that if "you have been moved by the power of the risen Christ, you are a witness."

Vasconcelos told messengers they did not have to sign up to be a part of the Tennessee/Rio partnership. "Christ has already signed you up. You just have to say when you are going."

He challenged his fellow ministers.

"If you are a pastor, you are already signed up." And, he cautioned pastors, church members look to their pastors as examples.

"If we as pastors do not



JOINING TERRY SHARP, second from left, at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention were Rio Baptists Cristina Mel, left, who sang during the final session, and Pastor Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos, right, of First Church, Rio de Janeiro, and his wife.

jump in the first place, church members will not jump," he said. "And if we do not jump and the church does not jump,

something bad will happen."

The partnership with Rio Baptists goes through the year 2000. ■

TBC Disaster Relief teams needed for Central America

By Marcia Knox
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief needs volunteers to serve on 42 teams to assist with the recovery in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch in Central America, according to TBC state Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

Three Tennesseans are working on the island of St. Kitts now helping victims of Hurricane Georges: Herb Adams, Curt Fowler, and Ronnie Snoderly

The request for the 42 teams comes from Jim Palmer, International Mission Board regional Disaster Relief coordinator, who is now in Central America. Teams are to begin arriving now and be prepared to serve at least one week. Teams are to complete their service by Dec. 19.

The following teams are needed for Nicaragua: three medical teams, one

translation team, one construction coordinator, and five construction teams.

Teams needed for Honduras are: six medical teams, one logistical coordinator, five logistical teams, one water coordinator, five water distribution teams, one cleanup coordinator, four cleanup teams, and five transitional teams.

Teams needed for Guatemala are three medical teams and one translation team.

Tennessee Disaster Relief has committed to at least five projects as of Nov. 16. They are: Nov. 23-Dec. 1, a medical team in Nicaragua; Dec. 5-12, a construction team in Nicaragua, and a medical team in Honduras; Nov. 28-Dec. 5, a water distribution team in Honduras; and Dec. 5-12, a translation team for Honduras.

The approximate cost for volunteers will be airfare plus total land costs for a week around \$275 which includes food and insurance. Those individuals inter-

ested in volunteering need to call the TBC Disaster Relief office at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7926.

The following bulk items are needed for Disaster Relief efforts: two or four-pound bags of dried beans, five-pound bags of corn meal or flour, one, three, or five-pound packs of spaghetti, five-pound bags of rice, 20-quart boxes of powdered milk.

Other items, size not specified, are crackers, cookies, candy, dry cereal, peanut butter, and canned goods such as meat and beans. Also needed are diapers and T-shirts.

Bulk items can be taken to Red Bank Church, located at 4000 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga, TN 37415.

Financial contributions to buy supplies can be sent to the TBC designated "General Disaster Relief" or for "Hurricane Mitch." Send to TBC Disaster Relief Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■

Messengers vote to escrow funds for Carson-Newman ...

— Continued from page 1

trustees voted to accept the Protocol agreement and revise their bylaws to come into compliance if the Protocol was approved by TBC messengers.

The Executive Board learned 10 days prior to the convention the Protocol was in conflict with the convention's constitution and bylaws and ultimately voted to refer the Protocol to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (see separate story on page 4).

Motion to escrow funds

During the presentation of the budget on Tuesday morning (Nov. 10), James T. Stroud, pastor of Third Creek Church, Knoxville, moved that "the proposed Cooperative Program budget be amended to provide that all Cooperative Program allocations for Carson-Newman College be withheld and placed in a reserve fund pending a satisfactory resolution of the violation of the bylaws, policies, and programs of the Tennessee Baptist Convention by the trustees of Carson-Newman College which occurred on April 17, 1998."

A similar motion was offered by Charles Bailey of Laurel Bank Church, Friendsville. He later withdrew his motion.

The Budget and Program Committee reviewed the motion and brought back a recommendation that the "proposed amendment be defeated because it violates the spirit of the ongoing efforts for reconciliation by the Executive Board, Relationship Focus Group, and the Education Committee."

On Wednesday morning the matter was brought to the floor for discussion.

Stroud said the action of Carson-Newman College trustees in April "violated our trust." He noted Carson-Newman was now "an independent college" but they "want our money and our students."

Stroud said the C-N action violated the constitution and bylaws of the convention.

Mike Glenn, pastor of Brentwood Church, Brentwood, and a member of the Education Committee, urged messengers to defeat the proposed amendment.

He cited the school's long history with the convention. "We have asked for 12 more months. I am angry. I know you are angry. Please do not act in anger," Glenn pleaded.

He added that passing the amendment would make C-N a victim and aid them in their fund-raising efforts. "Give your Education Committee and Executive Board 12 more months. We can always throw them out later. Once the toothpaste is out of the tube, we cannot get it back in."

Jerry Tidwell, pastor of West Jackson Church, Jackson, spoke for the amendment.

Carson-Newman leaders respond to TBC action

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — Carson-Newman College President Cordell Maddox expressed "surprise, but not shock" at the action of Tennessee Baptist Convention messengers to escrow funds for Carson-Newman College.

In April trustees of Carson-Newman College voted to become a self-perpetuating board, thus taking the convention out of the election process.

"When the decision was made, trustees discussed this possibility," Maddox said. "We felt we had to risk that."

Maddox said that if messengers were angry with him or the trustees "that was one thing," but the action to escrow money will hurt students.

Maddox pledged, however, that the college will honor scholarship commitments for this year. "We will have to tighten our belts, appeal to people who love Carson-Newman and believe in it, and ask for their support," he said.

Maddox currently has 1,046 students from 306 Tennessee Baptist churches. All of the money received from the TBC is used for scholarships for Tennessee Baptist students, Maddox said.

The C-N president said the college will continue to serve Tennessee Baptist students and churches. "We will continue to be committed to missions and the Great Commission."

Maddox stressed that on Thursday (the day after the convention) classes would go on as usual with "an outstanding Christian faculty trying to transform

the lives of young people.

"We are going on as usual. We will find the funds we need to take care of the money being escrowed," Maddox said.

He stressed that Carson-Newman wants a relationship with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Protocol for College Trustee Selection, which Carson-Newman College trustees voted to endorse, was sent to the TBC Constitution and Bylaws Committee, to bring in line with the constitution and bylaws and be presented to the annual meeting next year. "I'm sure we will be willing to have dialogue during the year," Maddox said.

Some messengers have called for Carson-Newman to reverse the charter change made on April 17.

Maddox said that would have to be a trustee decision. "I would be shocked if they would change the charter," he noted. "They said they would change the bylaws to go along with the Protocol if approved."

Maddox said he hopes the Protocol can be worked out.

"I want Baptists to know the door for dialogue is open with Carson-Newman."

"We have been a part of the Tennessee Baptist family all these years and we want to remain a member of that family."

Jeanette Blazier, a member of First Church, Kingsport, and chairman of the C-N trustees, told the *Baptist and Reflector* the college did not vote to sever ties with the TBC. "On the day we took that vote, we stated we reaffirmed our commitment to Tennessee Baptists and the

students and churches we have served throughout the years," she said.

"Today we are still committed to that — even after the vote," she said referring to the decision by messengers to escrow C-N funds.

Blazier, who later was allowed to speak to messengers during the Wednesday afternoon session, thanked Tennessee Baptists for the support they have given the college over the years. She also thanked TBC Executive Director James Porch, the TBC Executive Board and Education Committee, and the Relationship Focus Group for their work on the Protocol.

In the interview with the *Baptist and Reflector*, Blazier said she was disappointed "we could not have started with the Protocol ... We had made progress in strengthening and building our relationship (during the Protocol discussions)."

Blazier and Marvin Cameron, pastor of West Hills Church, Knoxville, and vice chairman of the Carson-Newman trustees, noted the trustees "already have endorsed the concept of the Protocol. We look forward to continuing discussions related to it."

The two trustee leaders also echoed Maddox's pledge to continue business as usual.

"We have been Baptist from the beginning. We will be Baptist tomorrow, next year, and in the next century," Cameron said. "Our commitment is to serve every student who seeks an education that is Christ-honoring and excellent," Cameron said. *B&R*

He said his hope was for Carson-Newman to come "back into the fold. My belief is the best thing we can do to motivate Carson-Newman to come back is for us to escrow these funds."

He cautioned that if the amendment was not passed it might make churches "decide if they want to support Carson-Newman with Cooperative Program dollars. Please don't force churches to make a decision this year with designated giving," Tidwell urged.

Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, and a trustee of Carson-Newman, said the trustees exercised an issue of governance. "It was not our intention then or now to distance ourselves from Tennessee Baptist life. Our intention was simply to enable us to do our work more effectively."

He cautioned that escrowing funds would limit money for student scholarships.

Wayne Allen of Briarwood Church, Cordova, said the convention has shown "patience and grace" with Carson-Newman by continuing to fund them out of this year's budget.

"To be a TBC institution their trustees must be elected by this convention," he said.

Bill Sherman, retired pastor

of Woodmont Church, Nashville, countered that the issue was not whether the convention should or should not escrow funds, but rather "do we want to be family?"

Acting in a strong response against C-N would polarize and alienate the family, Sherman said. "Let's be people of grace; let's be people of love," he urged.

Bill Daniel, pastor of Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, cautioned that approving the amendment would "be setting a precedent for our churches to escrow funds from our convention." He urged the convention not to hold "our students victims because we disagree with actions of trustees."

Charles Bailey said there would be no motivation for reconciliation if some action was not taken. Also, he said, taking no action might encourage other institutions to do the same thing Carson-Newman did.

Several other messengers spoke for and against the amendment before a ballot vote was taken.

The motion to escrow the funds passed by a 959 to 742 margin.

Funds added to HCBA

Another motion affecting the budget related to Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

Messenger Guy Milam, pastor of Springview Church, Maryville, moved to amend the Cooperative Program budget to restore \$100,000 taken from the school's budget at the 1992 TBC annual meeting in Gatlinburg. Milam said the move was done then because of a financial crunch in the convention.

Reed Dixon, messenger from First Church, Sweetwater, and a member of the Budget and Program Committee, said the funds were reduced then because of the high receipts per student served by the academy at that time.

Enrollment then was about 100 students, said President Walter Grubb. It has since risen to 215.

Grubb, who was in line at a microphone to address the motion when debate was cut off, told the *Baptist and Reflector* he was not aware such a motion would be made prior to the convention.

"I was surprised but certainly pleasantly pleased by the action taken," he said.

Grubb said he got up to share that the academy received less money from the TBC last year than it did 15 years ago and that it received \$730,000 less over the last five-year period than it did during the five-year period be-

fore the 1992 convention action.

Messengers were told that adding \$100,000 to Harrison-Chilhowee would actually increase the total budget by \$160,000 because it would mean more money would be sent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Messengers approved the additional funds for HCBA and then adopted another motion which added the amount to the total budget, rather than have the amount taken from other institutions and entities.

Messengers defeated another motion made by Alpha Patrick, a messenger from Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, which would have added \$15,000 each to the budget of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. The effort failed by a 576-527 margin.

Messengers ultimately adopted a 1998-99 CP budget of \$31,467,034, \$160,000 more than originally proposed. The budget for 1997-98 was \$30,105,514.

Development of camps

Messengers overwhelmingly approved a Camp Development Project and to proceed with construction at a cost not to exceed \$9,520,201.

— See Messengers, page 4

Messengers vote to escrow funds for Carson-Newman ...

— Continued from page 3

The project is designed to include a major retreat and conference center at both Camp Carson in Newport and Camp Linden in Linden.

Otis Hinton, pastor of Temple Church, Paris, and chairman of the planning subcommittee, told messengers the camps have served Tennessee Baptists well over the past 50 years, but the time has come for changes.

"This will go down in history as one of the most important decisions we made at our 124th annual meeting," Hinton predicted.

The project was overwhelmingly approved with just a few dissenting votes.

Constitution & Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee was kept busy during the two-day meeting with about nine proposals referred to them by convention messengers in a 24-hour period.

Committee chairman Robert Tyson, pastor of First Church, Middleton, said the committee tried to present matters that could be dealt with at the convention. Because of the complexity of issues and lack of time at the annual meeting, the others will be considered by the committee for next year, Tyson said.

Messengers approved on second reading an amendment to the constitution which notes no person will be eligible for election to the Executive Board if the action would result in more than one member of the same church serving as a director.

A proposed constitutional and bylaw amendment which would have provided that any proposed amendment be presented to the Constitution and Bylaws Com-



TBC MESSENGERS raise their ballots.

mittee 90 days prior to the annual meeting ultimately was referred back to the committee who was asked to include an "exception" rule. The matter received extensive discussion. Many messengers, while understanding the predicament of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, felt 90 days was "too long a window."

A proposed constitutional amendment which would have allowed the individual receiving the second highest vote total for convention president to become vice president failed.

Messengers also passed on first reading a constitutional amendment to include the words "in the fiscal year immediately preceding the annual meeting of the convention" to Article II. COMPOSITION. The addition follows "The term 'cooperating Baptist church' shall be applied to such churches as contribute financially to the convention or its agencies." The rationale was to bring the wording into confor-

mity with and clarify the established practice of the convention, according to Kim Allen, pastor of Little West Fork Church, Clarksville, who made the motion.

Among other bylaws and constitutional changes offered was a proposal from Gerald Atkins of Fairview Tabernacle Church, Sweetwater, that the Executive Board of the TBC be comprised of 99 members, of which the "66 cooperating associations shall elect and send one member." The remaining 33 members would be distributed in proportion to the Baptist population in the three grand divisions.

Tyson assured the convention the committee "seeks to serve you" and he asked messengers to pray for the committee as they work during the next year. "Some big matters have been placed in our hands," he said.

Committee on Boards report

The reports from the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees were approved with

one exception.

Howard Olive, who was eligible for another term on the Executive Board, was replaced by Ron Stewart, pastor of Grace Church, Knoxville. The vote was 553-507 to amend the report to substitute Olive with Stewart. The move to amend the report was offered by Richard Holder of First Church, Alcoa. Messengers spoke for and against the motion, including Jerry Mantooth, pastor of Monte Vista Church, Maryville, where Olive is a member and former pastor. Mantooth noted Olive is "a man of honesty and integrity with a deep love for Tennessee Baptists." Opposition to Olive centered around his involvement with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Messengers were made aware of the substitute nomination by a handout that was available on a table outside the convention entrance. The handout stated: "It is time for a change. We need to stop electing CBF personnel to places of leadership in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. If the committees are unwilling to make the change, the change must be made from the floor."

Resolutions

Tennessee Baptists approved three resolutions which expressed opposition to the expansion of legalized gambling in Tennessee, affirmed the respect and value of all human life, and a resolution of gratitude for everyone involved with the 124th annual meeting of the convention.

The gambling resolution cited the following items.

- Opposing any referendum or constitutional convention which would remove the protection provided in our constitution against various forms of gambling.

- Oppose legalization of video poker.

- Oppose any reinstatement of the Tennessee Racing Commission.

- Support the repeal of SB 927, the 1996 simulcast gambling expansion act, so that a race track will not be economically feasible for any gambling interests.

- Refuse any political contributions from gambling-related interests.

The resolution regarding respect and value of human life noted that "all human life is a sacred gift from our sovereign God."

Other matters

Tennessee Baptists also:

- Heard several messages including the President's Address, Convention Sermon, and more. See separate stories in this issue.

- Were presented reports from the Executive Board staff as well as TBC institutions and the *Baptist and Reflector*.



Ballot results

Escrowing C-N funds		
yes —	959	56.4%
no —	742	43.6%
Substituting Ron Stewart for Howard Olive on Comm on Bds. Report		
yes —	553	52.2%
no —	507	47.8%
Removing C-N from Comm. on Bds. Report		
yes —	556	55.3%
no —	450	44.7%
Increasing budgets of TBAH and TBCB		
yes —	527	47.8%
no —	576	52.2%

- Defeated an attempt to dissolve the Relationship Focus Group appointed at last year's annual meeting. The RFG will operate for one more year.

- Voted by a 556-450 margin to delete the listing of Carson-Newman trustees from the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees report that was distributed to messengers.

- Heard a report from the Committee on Arrangements that next year's annual meeting will be moved from First Church, Nashville, to First Church, Franklin; Ray Fowler, retired pastor of Highland Heights Church, Memphis, who now lives in Athens, will preach the convention sermon; the TBC annual meeting will be held Nov. 13-14, 2001 at First Church, Concord, Knoxville; and that the annual meeting slated for Nov. 11-12, 2003 be held at West Jackson Church, Jackson. ■

Larry Gilmore ...

— Continued from page 1

Metcalf reported Murray was "fair-minded." (Shellsford Church, which has about 482 resident members, gave \$12,631 to the CP during the 1997-98 year and Central Church, which has about 1,339 resident members, gave \$131,592 to the CP during that year.)

Nominating Parrott was Charles Earl, retired director of missions, Holston Valley Association, and nominating Owens was David Thompson, pastor, Alta Loma Church, Madison.

Elected by acclamation to repeat their service were Joyce Rickman, member, Clearview Church, Franklin, as recording secretary, and Dan Ferrell, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board Ministries, as registration secretary. *B&R*

Executive Board votes to refer Protocol

For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — At its pre-convention meeting here the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board voted to reconsider its Sept. 15 action regarding the Protocol on College Trustee Selection.

Executive Board members reversed their action to refer the Protocol to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee which will work in conjunction with the Education Committee, the Executive Board, and the presidents of Carson-Newman College, Belmont University, and Union University and report back to the 1999 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Ray Newcomb, chairman of the Education Committee told board members: "We thought we were proceeding in the right direction. We found we were dealing with constitution and bylaws changes.

"This is the consensus of the Education Committee after being advised by lawyers and parliamentarians," he told the board.

Newcomb said the action was no one person's fault. "We are all at fault. We should have referred (the Protocol) after the September meeting."

Newcomb, pastor of First Church, Millington, added: "We wanted the Tennessee Baptist Convention to know our hearts so much, we were in error because it does bring changes to the bylaws.

"The best, correct procedure is to refer it as is to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with us working in conjunction with them as advisors."

Board members debated the matter briefly. Some felt delaying the matter upset messengers and would be perceived as some by a power play by the Executive Board to keep the matter from being discussed.

Mike Glenn, a member of the Education Committee, pointed out the decision came at the recommendation of TBC President Doug Sager who had let Executive Board leadership know about 10 days before the annual meeting the Protocol conflicted with the convention's constitution and bylaws.

"We are asking for another year so we can get our ducks in a row," Glenn said.

Michael Smith, pastor of Second Church, Memphis, and president of the Executive Committee, agreed. "We have to do something like this to honor our procedures. This will come back to the convention for action and a vote."

The motion to reconsider and to refer to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee passed with about three dissenting votes.

The board also approved a recommendation from the Education Committee to request the convention "take no action contrary to the budget" regarding the three colleges "in light of the continuing discussions regarding the Protocol." ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

Escrowing funds could have long-term implications

By Lonnie Wilkey, Editor

Tennessee Baptists last week followed the rules.

TBC President Doug Sager, in consultation with his parliamentarians ruled correctly that the Protocol for College Trustee Selection could not be presented to the annual meeting because it was not in compliance with our constitution and bylaws. No one argues that point.

The Education Committee and Executive Board had good intentions. They wanted messengers to discuss the Protocol before sending it on to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

During the sessions, messengers voted to escrow funds to Carson-Newman College this year until the matter of their trustee selection is settled.

Again, this is in perfect compliance with the constitution and bylaws of the convention. The C-N trustee action did put the college in violation of TBC bylaws.

Tennessee Baptists followed the rules as perhaps we should.

I cannot help, however, but think about the ultimate rule book, the ultimate constitution and bylaws — God's Holy Word.

I also think about the ultimate rule-maker — Jesus Christ. In the spirit of love, compassion, and healing, Jesus showed a willingness to "bend" the rules of his day when it was needed. Consider these examples:

> The woman at the well would not have had a life-changing experience because Jesus should never have even spoken to her.

> Numerous people never would have

been healed on the Sabbath had Jesus not broken the "law of his day." The list could go on.

Tennessee Baptists have spoken, however, and it is their right.

What are the consequences of escrowing their \$2.2 million-plus?

We must consider the "victims." I agree with the assertion of some that Carson-Newman College, as it relates to the trustees and administration, is not a victim. The trustees knew what could happen as a result of their action.

Tennessee Baptist students, in the long run, could be victims should there not be sufficient scholarship funds in the future. Credit Carson-Newman College. President Cordell Maddox told me after the vote the school would honor its scholarship commitments this year.

The Protocol for College Trustee Selection could be the solution to the problem. Pray for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as they try to put it in a form that will be in compliance with the constitution and bylaws. Continue to pray for the Education Committee, the Executive Board, and the presidents of the three colleges as they work with this committee during the coming year.

There is another potential victim of this action and it is a matter of concern.

People on both sides of the escrowing matter indicated a willingness to hold the Cooperative Program hostage. Some have said their churches would send their funds to Carson-Newman College directly; others have said they would designate money from the convention if funds con-

tinued to flow to Carson-Newman.

That is a dangerous attitude. Tennessee Baptists support many vital ministries that are dependent upon Cooperative Program funding. Think of ministries that will suffer if we "punish" the Cooperative Program because of someone else's action. Money is in the budget this year for Carson-Newman. The \$2.2 million-plus will be escrowed. If churches send funds straight to Carson-Newman instead of to the Cooperative Program, other budget items will come up short at the end of the year. If a satisfactory ending is reached with Carson-Newman they will eventually receive their funding for the coming year, plus any other funds sent directly to the school. Other convention ministries would then become victims.

Let's not make the CP a victim over Carson-Newman or any other matter.

Let's return to what our ultimate "constitution and bylaws," the Bible, says. When asked what the greatest commandment of all was, Jesus replied in Matthew 22:37-40 (KJV):

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

"And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Tennessee Baptists, we need to follow our rules. We must remember, however, that our ultimate authority is not our Constitution and Bylaws and it is not *Robert's Rules of Order*, it is God's Holy Word, the Bible. **B&R**



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Joe: "I saw a unique book the other day entitled *How to Succeed in Business*." Moe: "Why was it so unique?" Joe: "It has no chapter 11 in it."

Take this truth

Long-range planning is important, not only in business but in all of life. Remember when you come to a crossroads and choose one path, you choose the entire journey, including the end.

Memorize this Scripture

Proverbs 6:6-8

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to choose wisely, knowing my choice is 'brief but for eternity.'" ■ Wood can be e-mailed at docfred1@Juno.com

TBC annual meeting provided the good, not so good

By Lonnie Wilkey, Editor

The Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting last week had many high moments and some not so high. Space would not allow every item to be discussed. Future editorials may address issues more in depth.

Here were some of the good points of the 124th annual meeting of the TBC:

> Messages. Every convention speaker rang the bell. President Doug Sager, TBC Executive Director James Porch, Convention Sermon speaker Richard Emmert all delivered excellent messages. Effective and timely sermons were also brought by Tony Campolo, Rick White, and Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos, a Brazilian pastor who closed the annual meeting on Wednesday night. Special thanks goes to White, pastor of First Church, Franklin, who was speaking to Oklahoma Baptists. A last minute replacement for Lawrence Hudson of Memphis, who is ill, White rearranged his schedule to speak.

> The registration process. Kudos go to Dan Ferrell, registration secretary, and his team of volunteers. On Tuesday morning, messengers were lined up down a long hall, waiting to be registered. Ferrell told me they registered 600 messengers in 40 minutes and more than 1,000 in about two hours. Every messenger in line on Tuesday was registered prior to the first vote which took place somewhere around 10:30 a.m. That in and of itself is amazing.

> Executive Board report. Tennessee Baptists were treated to one of the better Executive Board reports of recent years. It was concise, yet left no doubt that the Executive Board is trying to meet the needs of the churches, staff, and laity of Tennessee. A special word of credit should be given to Ex-

ecutive Director James Porch. Most Tennessee Baptists are aware his wife, Lynn, is battling cancer. Few, unless they were at the convention, knew Dr. Porch endured much physical pain because of a kidney stone during the week. He refused to be sidelined until after the sessions were over.

> The presiding of Doug Sager. TBC President Doug Sager was fair in his presentations. He interjected humor at appropriate times when tension seemed to peak. Because of the complexity of issues, things bogged down often when he had to confer with his three parliamentarians. There were at least nine issues which required a ballot vote. Credit him for trying to make the right calls.

> The closing session. Tennessee Baptists ended the convention on a high note. Pastor Fausto of the First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro challenged messengers to get involved in the partnership with Rio. He was joined by Brazilian Christian recording artist Cristina Mel, who delighted the audience with her music and testimony.

> Good hosts. Sullivan Association did an excellent job of hosting the convention in Kingsport. Along with the staff of the MeadowView Convention Center, they made messengers feel welcomed.

The not so good moments included:

> Failure to discuss the Protocol. Messengers came wanting to discuss the Protocol. The Carson-Newman situation needs closure. Also distressing was the convention's willingness to heed the plea of the Education Committee and Executive Board and to leave things status quo until the matter is settled. See editorial above.

> Not allowing convention processes to work. Adding \$160,000 to an already chal-

lenging budget was not a good idea. This is no reflection against Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy. The school, under the leadership of Walter Grubb, has made great strides in recent years.

Challenging the report of the Committee on Boards to unseat an individual the Committee had deemed eligible for another three-year term was not good. Personalities should not be the issue. The Committee on Boards deemed Howard Olive of Maryville had fulfilled his obligations as a member of the Executive Board.

We need to be careful to enable convention processes to work. Many decisions made by convention committees require hours and hours of work and careful thought and prayer. Messengers should be free to bring things to the convention's attention. Most matters, however, need to be referred to the appropriate committee. We elect the committees. Should we not be willing to trust their decisions?

> Monopolizing the floor. Many messengers were at microphones to speak when the question was called on several issues and did not get to speak. A relatively few number of messengers seem to speak often. We need to be considerate of other messengers and their desire to be heard.

Pray for our convention in the days and months ahead. There are some Tennessee Baptists who left the convention distressed over actions taken. Others left feeling it was a great convention.

We need to remember we are one body and one family. As messenger Bill Sherman ably stated at one point, "We are family." I echo his call to be "people of grace" and "people of love." **B&R**

Partnership Prayer Requests November

18 — Pray for Peter Kendrick, cooperative missions ministry team leader for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

19 — Pray for Tony Castelvi, a Canadian Baptist in Calgary, Alberta, recuperating from recent cancer surgery.

20 — Pray for Grace Thru Faith Church in Memphis, which plans to be in a new facility this December. Ask God to bless the church as it serves the Mississippi River Ministry area.

21 — Pray for the national WMU of Costa Rica, for God to bless their work and service as they lead in ministry.

22 — Praise God for the medical library and small Sunday School leadership conferences held last month in Michigan.

23 — Pray for Osa Marie and Gerry Wittenmyer, former evangelism and leadership development consultant for western Canada as he begins a new ministry in Washington state.

24 — Praise God for the recent Fall Festival of Marriage held in Michigan. Ask God to bless the couples who attended.



Pastors focus on Bible in conference

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — Pastors and guests attending the annual pre-convention Tennessee Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference heard messages about the Bible as speakers considered the theme, "Magnify the Word."

The meeting was held Nov. 9 at MeadowView Convention Center here.

Sutton speaks

Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville, spoke during the evening session initially thanking pastors for their prayers. He referred to an car accident earlier this year in which he struck a pedestrian who was killed.

Sutton spoke from Matthew 23 in which, he said, Jesus expressed anguish, affection, alienation, agony, and anticipation for the residents of Jerusalem.

"I've learned experientially that you can run to God for refuge," he said.

Sutton reminded the crowd that the disciples of Jesus failed him. Just like them, modern-day Christians will fail, but they should follow as God leads, obey as God dictates.

Those who follow God represent him, Sutton reminded.

Referring to the need for stewardship among Christians, Sutton cited the action of the Carson-Newman College trustees this year to become a self-perpetuating board. He noted it was "a violation of stewardship" among Tennessee Baptists.

From Chicago, Ill.

Stephen Thurston, pastor, New Covenant Missionary Church, Chicago, used the story of the raising of Lazarus from death in John 11:12 as a reference. Thurston also is third vice president of the National Baptist Convention of America.

When Lazarus left the grave, Thurston noted, his hands, feet, and mouth were bound with graveclothes. Lazarus can be viewed as a metaphor for many Christians today who also are "bound" in these ways, he explained.

Martha's hands were "bound" because of her work in the kitchen, limiting her Christian efforts. But she was freed from that when Jesus told her that her work wasn't as important as he was.

Mary's mouth was "bound" from worshipping God. Then she learned from Jesus and worshiped him by bowing and anointing his feet with oil, which she wiped with her hair.

Finally, the feet of Lazarus were bound until Jesus came. Then people who saw the for-

merly dead Lazarus believed and left to tell others.

If Jesus Christ was on earth today, he would be a "pedestrian preacher," said Thurston, encouraging children and possibly questioning the work of the church.

Christians should get busy, avoiding a prolonged search for their spiritual gifts, and present their bodies as a living sacrifice to God, said Thurston.

From Carson-Newman College

James Baumgardner, professor of history, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and bivocational pastor, Mouth of Richland Church, Blaine, spoke during the afternoon session.

Pastors should ignore pressures to offer programs and build buildings to draw people. Instead they should preach from the Bible, said Baumgardner.

He warned particularly against building family life centers, offering entertainment, and preaching "sermon-

sion. Caldwell is pastor, North Monumental Church, Chattanooga.

He described a search for someone to manage his life. Caldwell said he received two resumes for the position, holding up an envelope from each. One had the return address of hell and the other heaven, he said.

Caldwell described an investigation of the two applicants — Satan and Jesus Christ — as though the search was being conducted by someone unfamiliar with them.

Caldwell learned from the resume of Jesus that Jesus wouldn't provide ready-made solutions to life's problems. So Caldwell became more attracted to Satan, who promised a fun-loving life. Then he learned more about Satan.

Caldwell learned Satan caused Adam and Eve to lose their rent-free, mortgage-free home, to sweat for their living, and to bear children in pain. Satan also lost his job in heaven, lost a war, and was ban-

swayed by popular opinion, but who "spoke up for people and causes which weren't popular."

Vice president

Eugene Pierce, vice president of the conference and pastor, Cedar Grove Missionary Church, Kingsport, warned if the Bible is not taught, our society is doomed.

"The crisis we have in America today is a crisis of morality. We don't know what's right or what's wrong.

"The only hope of our youth is God's Word," declared Pierce.

Just as God's Word was considered a treasure in II Kings 22-23, Christians today should consider the Bible a treasure, he suggested.

The Bible will stand forever, is food for the soul, the only book written by God, and a light for a human's path, said Pierce.

Baptists today own the Bible, but are not "of the book," he explained.

But lives can be changed and immorality defeated if God's Word is taught, he explained.

"It is time to rediscover God's Word, the only hope for our nation," declared Pierce.

From Clarksville

Bobby Kail, pastor, Crossland Avenue Church, Clarksville, described his relationship with God's Word.

He noted the Bible is described as being quick, powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, able to divide the soul and spirit, can discern the thoughts and intents of the heart, and will not return void.

Personally, Kail said, the Bible helps him in his daily life and empowers him.

The Scripture enables him to witness and defend his statements because he has "the authority of the Word of God," he explained.

"If you don't know the Word you won't have an answer," he said. "The spirit goes with you if you know the Word."

Because the Bible is the "inerrant, infallible Word of God," said Kail, no one should take anything away from the Bible. In doing that, they are taking away his hope and joy, he stated.

From Nashville

The retired pastor of First Church, Nashville, Franklin Paschal addressed "the current crisis in morality" in the United States.

President Clinton has repented, asked for forgiveness, and is not alone in his transgression, said Paschal.

One reason for the attention to the matter are the media, who have covered the titillating aspects of it, he suggested.

Christians shouldn't defend the sins of the President. And



NEW OFFICERS of the TBC Pastors' Conference stand with the president of this year's conference, Jimmy Terry, right, pastor, Tabernacle Church, Clarksville. The new officers are, from left, John Rushing, Northside Church, Columbia, secretary; Edgar Pierce, Cedar Grove Missionary Church, Kingsport, president; and Kim Allen, Little West Fork Church, Clarksville, vice president.

ettes for Christianettes."

Pastors should be called to the ministry and to each church, develop camaraderie among pastors, be honest with each other, and cooperate, he said.

"God is not in the business of building careers or churches designed to attract just the right people. God is in the business of building his kingdom and his calling is to that end and that end only," said Baumgardner.

Unfortunately, he continued, Southern Baptists have become known for their battles. He predicted these battles will hurt the one thing which has differentiated our denomination, the Cooperation Program.

From Chattanooga

Along with Sutton and Thurston, Virgil Caldwell spoke during the evening ses-

nished to a lake brimming with fire and brimstone, said Caldwell.

In contrast, Jesus was Noah's rainbow, Nicodemus' night school teacher, Nehemiah's wall builder, and a rock in a weary land.

And the people who were references for Jesus were numerous.

An astrologer said he was the bright and morning star. A baker said he was the bread of life. A cardiologist said he was the heart fixer. A psychiatrist said he was the mind mender. An engineer said he was the bridge over troubled water. A florist said he was the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley. A geologist said he was the rock of ages. A lonely person said he was the company keeper at the midnight hour.

Finally, Caldwell said, Jesus was a leader who wasn't

Christians should not sin, because God will not reward it.

However, he said, sin should not lead Christians to leave their friends or the church.

Christians can be comforted because they have an advocate with the Father. And they should recall that each must "work out your own salvation," said Paschal.

From evangelist

Ronnie Owens, evangelist based in Tazewell, spoke about the blind man who was healed in Mark 10. Just like that man, people can receive the guidelines for life from God if they realize they have a need, become aware of the possibility of healing, and ask for healing, he explained.

Owens said he also has been healed by God, of alcoholism.

He warned that religious people often keep people from God. For example, church members reject handicapped people and people of different ethnic and racial origins. Church members also reject people for their style of worship, suggested Owens.

"Baptist meetings don't have to be quiet, my friend," he said.

"The good news is Jesus still saves, heals, satisfies, and gives everything," said Owens.

From Cookeville

The pastor of Bear Creek Church, Cookeville, Eugene Schmid, spoke on the role of Jesus as captain of the boat described in Mark 4 and metaphorically as captain of the lives of Christians.

As "sailors" following the commands of Jesus, we shouldn't rely on our own reasoning, he warned.

The compass for his soul is the Bible and his anchor is his hope for heaven, he described.

When sailors carry out the orders of Jesus, he never loses a soul, just as a human captain tries to protect his ship and cargo, said Schmid.

There are "contrary winds every where you look," he said, so just as a good sailor, the Christian must fight some battles. For example, Christians should avoid compromising God's Word, he explained.

Finally, Schmid said, Christians should remember they serve God, whose son Jesus commanded nature, marine life, animals, and birds.

The pastors also elected officers for the next year (see photo on this page.) B&R — Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this article.

Pre-convention event held by WMU

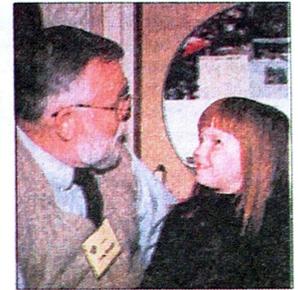
1998 Missions Extravaganza



LEARNING about the work of Mike Ewing, right, missionary in Tanzania, is Dorothy Choate of First Church, Etowah. Ewing and his family are on furlough and living in the missionary house of Judson Church, Nashville. He is from Memphis.



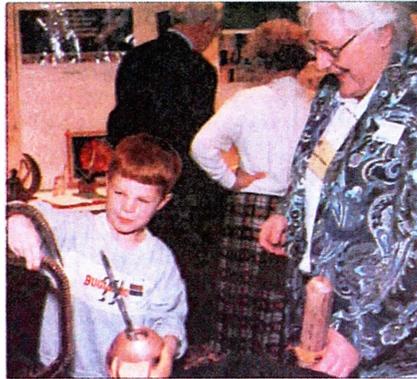
GIRLS IN ACTION of Sullivan Church, Kingsport, learn about Chile from Leslie Huff, whose wife, Clara Brincefield Huff, is a missionary emeritus of Chile. The Huffs are members of First Church, Smyrna.



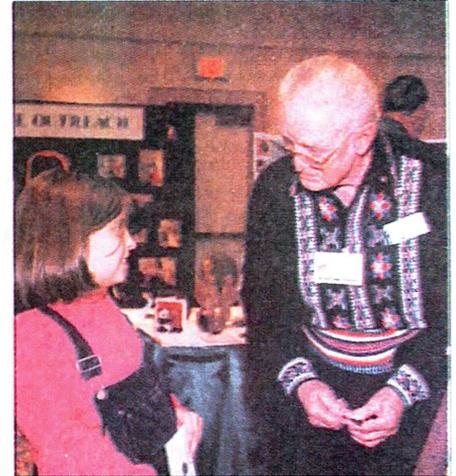
MAKING A new friend is Tom Everett, home missionary who is director, Western Heights Baptist Center, Knoxville. He visits with Laura Mixon of Calvary Church, Kingsport.



VIEWING some missions information are, from left, Levi Chapman, Ryan Sheets, and Jake Sheets of Ridgeview Church, Church Hill.



CAMERON MIXON of Calvary Church, Kingsport, looks at a snake from Chile with Carol Henson of Ooltewah, missionary emeritus of Chile.



MISSIONARY EMERITUS William Skinner of Paraguay visits with Susan Ellis of Flag Pond Church, Flag Pond. Skinner is a member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Who serve in three regions of Tennessee

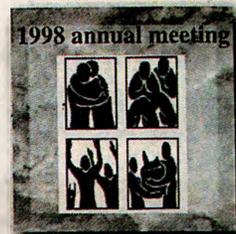
Bivocational, small church pastors recognized



BIVOCATIONAL PASTORS of the Year were recognized on Tuesday evening of the convention annual meeting. They included, from left, Gaither Townsend, Bays Mountain Church, Kingsport; David West, Faith Mission, Memphis, and his wife, Peggy; and Danny Jones, Richland Church, Lynnville, and his wife, Debbie.



SMALL CHURCH PASTORS of the Year were honored during the annual meeting and included, from left, front row, Michael Blankenship, Cross Roads Church, Greenbrier, and his wife and daughter, Karen and Samantha; second row, Gary Edwards, New Salem Church, Limestone, and his wife, Sarah; and Kenneth Basham, Russwood Church, Springville, and his wife, Judy.



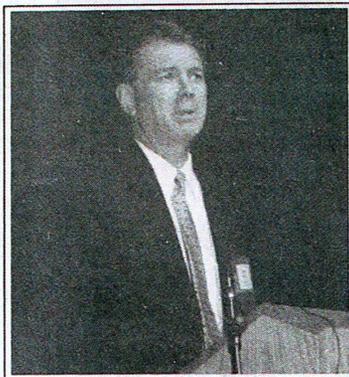
In Convention Sermon

Baptists should love each other: Emmert

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

Way to be unified
"Love is the means to our unity," Emmert diagnosed. "Without love you have no uni-

KINGSPORT — If the Israelis and Palestinians "can come together" at a table despite hundreds of years of bloodshed and hatred and war without Jesus, "I believe Tennessee Baptists can come together at the table with Jesus," declared Richard Emmert in the Convention Sermon presented Wednesday morning of the TBC annual meeting.



EMMERT gives the Convention Sermon on Wednesday morning of the TBC Annual Meeting.

Emmert, pastor, Manley Church, Morristown, for the past 18 years, called for unity among Tennessee Baptists.

"Do you think the lost care about our differences? No.

The devil is certainly pleased when Baptists aren't unified. "All the devil wants is to bring division to us."

Tennessee Baptists can be unified "although we have strong leaders," he stated, and unity is important so "all Baptists can have a voice."

Unity is possible "because God is still on the throne. Entrust the convention to God," he declared.

We have unity in Christ, but you maintain it with love."

Unity doesn't have to result in individuals sacrificing their beliefs, he explained. Group members can have different gifts and beliefs, but people can't trust each other without experiencing love.

Emmert challenged the crowd to love those they disagree with. That will lead to trust. And they should love de-

nominal workers, who have difficult jobs, he added. Jokingly, he noted most people know it's wiser to chose service in Africa or in the belly of a whale like Jonah before choosing denominational work.

Spiritual maturity
Love is the sign of spiritual maturity, stated Emmert, not great oratory skills, great faith, healing the sick, raising the dead, moving mountains, dying as a martyr, writing books, giving lectures, participating in TV programs, or any other things to which Christians gave their time or energy.

What matters is "how much I let the love of Jesus flow from me," he declared.

Personal experience
Emmert said he felt called to speak to TBC members at this particular time because of his spiritual journey.

He said as a child he enjoyed holding a grudge. For example, he admitted, for several years when he was angry at his mother, he didn't give her a Christmas present.

Instead of ending up in jail, he met Jesus Christ, who began "dealing with me and my relations with other people."

He realized he must love others because it is a command of God.

Over the years, God changed him, he explained, by giving him "a delight in loving people around me."

Steps to loving
Emmert said he learned three things during his spiritual journey toward loving others. He learned he joined other Christians struggling with this issue and to follow the example of Jesus, who loves without requirements, without fatigue, and without impediments.

Maturing Christians
Christians can take comfort in the fact that everyone is still in the process of maturing as Christians, noted Emmert. Billy Graham, the nationally-recognized evangelist, is still maturing, he explained.

Emmert confessed while a Christian and an adult he has done "stupid, silly things."

He nearly caused a wreck involving another car and driver because of impatience. And after a tornado struck near his home and left victims, he decided to study rather than help them.

Every person is immature as a Christian, he declared. "They've never made it. The Apostle Paul hadn't made it."

Example of Jesus
Emmert said he felt God teaching him to love by considering the example of Jesus while he was on earth.

The mission of Jesus Christ during his human life was to love and be a blessing to others, he noted. And Jesus showed a love "that didn't consider the cost."

Jesus loved despite being the object of hatred, rejection, death threats, insults, and being spit upon and hurt, he noted.

Then Jesus accepted the one thing he would never choose to do by himself, sin.

"His love could not be stopped."

A person can receive this love without any requirements, stated Emmert. He or she simply has to accept it.

Then the pettiness of people and the demands of constant sacrifice diminish and a person becomes "energized in the love of God," he declared.

God is saying, "I can do it through you. When you love that way it's my job," concluded Emmert. **B&R**

Rick White summons messengers to leadership

For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — Christians should be working on becoming "kingdom leaders," declared Rick White in a message during the TBC annual meeting Wednesday morning.

White substituted for Lawrence Hudson, pastor, Monument of Love Church, Memphis, who was ill. White is pastor, First Church, Franklin, where he has served for 16 years. During that time, the church has grown from 600-4,700 members, noted Doug Sager, TBC president, who introduced him.

White noted most people are leaders in some group and take their models for leadership from their careers.

And most people begin to move from a desire for success to a quest for significance. In other words, said White, they want to leave a legacy after they die.

For Christians

Christians can leave a legacy if they're interested in God's kingdom, said White, which "is greater than all of us." Christians should want to make a difference in the kingdom, he noted.

To become kingdom leaders, Christians should live life based on promise, live life with passion, live life with purpose, and persevere.

Based on promise

White referred the crowd to the story of Levi, the tax collector, in Luke

5:27-32, and encouraged them to accept God's promise of life, like Levi did.

This promise and others also will sustain the Christian, White continued.

"Don't forget in days of darkness what I gave you in days of light. He is all that you need in any situation that you are placed."

With passion

Another factor needed by the Christian to become a kingdom leader is passion.

Many Christians are like Demas, said White, whose story is recorded in II Timothy 4. They leave the work of Christianity after a while.

"If you are in the ministry any length of time you know there are a lot of voices that call at you," said White.

Many Christian leaders may feel since they are at the peak of their ministries, they are too strong to be tempted. He encouraged Christians to finish well.

White also warned that a move away from work for God's kingdom can occur imperceptibly, both to the person and to those around him or her.

"There are far too many of us in this room right now who know brothers who have fallen," he stated.

With purpose

Referring to Levi, White noted the tax collector invited his friends and held a meal for them, Jesus, and his

followers. Levi "maximized his influence for the cause of the kingdom," stated White.

Christians are to be salt and light, metaphorically, in the world as the Bible commands, said White. Neither salt nor light is very effective if it is located a distance from objects and people, he added.

In a similar way, Christians need to be near people so they can have "the



WHITE addresses messengers and visitors gathered at the MeadowView Convention Center.

maximum impact."

Persevere

White condemned the pettiness of people, including Christians.

Pettiness is seemingly omnipresent where two or three people are gathered, he stated, using the biblical phrase.

Pettiness causes people to become rigid and inflexible. It negates the joy of discovery.

"If you're a leader in a kingdom church, you will deal with some pettiness."

And in the church, pettiness is not just a nuisance, White continued. It's a disease.

"It's something we're going to have to contend with."

White encouraged the crowd to persevere.

Christian leaders must use their influence to confront the pettiness of Christians and other people, he stated.

"Don't you allow yourself to become obsessed by something which is insignificant."

"Consider how you spend that influence. Don't get drawn into matters that have little or nothing to do with God's kingdom."

Stages of leadership

White explained Christians move through stages of kingdom leadership. He asked the crowd to identify their present stage.

"As kingdom leaders, as people who have influence, let's finish well," he concluded. **B&R** — Connie Davis

During President's Message

Sager calls Baptists to missions

By Connie Davis
For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — "I don't know whether you know it or not, but God is alive and well in Tennessee," declared Doug Sager, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention during the President's Message. He spoke Tuesday morning of the TBC annual meeting.

"I believe the greatest days of Tennessee Baptists and Southern Baptists are ahead of us and not behind us," he continued.

Sager, pastor, First Church, Concord, Knoxville, reported he has been encouraged by what he has learned during his year as president. He said he has met pastors and church members who are doing "amazing" work. "They ought to be up here rather than me," he stated.

One reason for his optimism, he said, is what he has learned as a trustee of the International Mission Board. Today Christians can evangelize all people of the world, he reported.

Sager said he has been impressed by the missionaries he has met. He has gotten to know missionaries who could be pastors of large churches or successful businessmen in the United States, but instead, they are serving in remote places.

"Everywhere I go I see people excited about the Gospel," he said.

Tennessee churches

Sager told how First Church, Concord, began ministering to residents of a trailer park. Then members of the Concord church worked with members of Grassy Valley Church, Knoxville, which was located near the trailer park, to hold a tent revival.

He encouraged Tennessee churches to follow that example and work together.

"Folks, we need to understand we're not in competition; we're in cooperation. Let's do it together.

"Share and leave the results to him," continued Sager, referring to God.

Tennessee volunteers

Sager challenged the messengers and visitors to go back to their churches and encourage at least three people to accept a missions assignment during the next year.

With about 3,000 Baptist churches in Tennessee, that means 9,000 missions volunteers could become involved in 1999 if Tennessee Baptists would accept this challenge, said Sager.

The effort is called Volunteer Challenge 2000 and is being directed by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Office. Last year Tennessee churches reported thousands of volunteers involved in missions work, the office reported.

Sager also encouraged the crowd to serve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, next



SAGER SHOWS a Volunteer Challenge 2000 form and asks messengers and visitors to express their interest in serving as a missions volunteer in Tennessee, the United States, or other countries during 1999 and 2000 by completing it.

May, when 150 teams will help churches hold revivals. This effort will support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership.

He noted another challenge will be the Tennessee/Portugal Baptist Partnership, which will begin in 2000.

Missions volunteers will be recognized for their efforts in 1999, said Sager, inviting them to recognition services to be held by the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Office.

He noted First Church, Concord, has



accepted a missions challenge. Its goal is that a member of the church will be involved in missions work every week of the year.

Beyond Baptist business

"Hear my heart. There's a hungry world out there that desperately needs Jesus. It's not about meetings, budgets, and amendments, although we have to do some of that. It's about the souls of men. Let's not be worried about the Texas plan; let's be worried about the Jesus plan," referring to convention changes in the state of Texas. "Let's focus on what's

real and right."

He encouraged any pastor who hasn't served as a missions volunteer to do so, and he invited pastors to join a missions effort of the Concord Church.

Calling on the crowd to be church leaders, he stated, "When you give your people a heart for missions, it will change the way they live at home."

"When you see what God is doing all over the world, it will change your life." **B&R**

Tony Campolo suggests measure for Christians

For Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — The anger Southern Baptists express to each other will destroy their fellowship and is a bad witness to the world, said Tony Campolo, a national adviser and commentator on Christianity.

Baptists don't realize the negative impact of their anger, he added, referring to it as the "fruit of resentment." And like other sin, it is addictive.

But God can "set us free from the animosity and bitterness that keeps us from each other," he added.

Campolo spoke to messengers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting Tuesday evening. He is the author of 26 books; host of the TV program, "Hashing It Out," on the Odyssey channel; professor of sociology at Eastern College, St. Davids, Penn.; and associate pastor of Mt. Carmel Church, Philadelphia. The church and school are associated with the American Baptist Convention.

Measure of faith

Campolo encouraged the messengers to measure their faith by the following biblical standards. Are they taking the Good News to the poor? Are they healing the sick? And are they delivering the oppressed?

Campolo shared he often spends time with God in the mornings in "absolute stillness" to renew himself spiritually.

And he said he needs long periods of time for renewal.

During such periods God can cleanse Christians, said Campolo, which is a process God is still conducting because his experience of time is different from that of humans.

God will cleanse and purify Christians of "the dirt, darkness, and filth" of their lives but we ought not to sin, he directed.

God also can cleanse us of sin because the Holy Spirit resides in each Christian, said Campolo.

He encouraged Christians to relate to God like the late Mother Theresa, who said she spent most of her time with God listening and he spent most of his time with her listening also.

Campolo also referred to the example of Jesus. When he returned to his home town to teach, he was mobbed and nearly thrown from a cliff by town residents.

Jesus didn't respond by calling down 10,000 angels with automatic machine guns, like most humans would. Instead he started talking about lilies.

Jesus wasn't restricted by the "cultural stereotypes of masculinity," said Campolo. "He transcends gender."

To be incarnated

Christians can follow the example of Jesus and become the "incarnation of the fullness of humanness" by following the three measures of faith he proposed.

Helping poor people

The Bible only contains one description of a judgment day for humans and that description doesn't include a theology test, he continued. That passage directs Christians to help poor people.

Let Christianity be more than "a nice warm thing between us," he said, although works alone are not all that God requires.

"If we're not passionately committed to the poor, that's pretty good evidence we never really committed ourselves to the Lord initially," said Campolo.

He told about helping residents of Haiti during several visits there. Christians can't solve

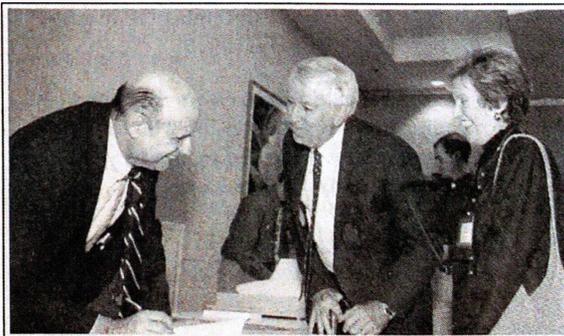
world poverty, "but we can do what we can do," he continued.

Healing sick people

Campolo said he has changed his views about healing and begun to anoint people with oil, lay hands on them, and pray for them because of the Bible's direction.

Usually, nothing happens at the time, he said, but people have reported they have been healed later, even when his prayer was one of those "empty hollow prayers that are almost blasphemous," he described. And when bodies aren't healed, spirits may be, he added.

Christians should never judge the reason for lack of physical healing, Campolo warned.



SIGNING ONE OF his books for Frank Hawkins, center, pastor, First Church, Kingsport, and his wife, Pat, is Tony Campolo. The book signing was held by LifeWay Christian Stores after Campolo spoke.

Texas Baptists chart two courses for the future

By Mark Wingfield
For Associated Baptist Press

HOUSTON — While celebrating 150 years of cooperative work in the past, Texas Baptists Nov. 9-10 charted divergent paths into the future.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas solidified its resolve to operate autonomously, bucking the conservative domination of the Southern Baptist Convention, but not committing itself exclusively to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a national moderate movement.

Meanwhile, the most conservative wing of the BGCT, after attending the Nov. 9-10 annual session in Houston,

then broke away Nov. 10 to form a separate state convention they said will be more loyal to the SBC.

An ad hoc effort to bring reconciliation between the two streams of Texas Baptists did not immediately stem the separation, instead giving way to talk of a need for spiritual — if not organizational — reconciliation.

A series of four key votes this year shaped the 2.5 million-member state convention's continued positioning of itself in contrast to the SBC. During the meeting, messengers:

- Gave final approval to a constitutional amendment that makes qualification to send

more than two messengers to the convention's annual session dependent in part on financial support for BGCT causes.

- Re-elected without opposition a slate of moderate officers, including Russell Dilday, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

- Soundly turned back an attempt to defund the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

- Adopted a resolution on the "biblical equality" of men and women that disagrees with a controversial amend-

ment to the *Baptist Faith and Message* statement enacted by the SBC last summer.

Texas Baptist moderates and conservatives have been at odds since 1979, when conservatives began a successful movement to gain control of the SBC.

The new Southern Baptists of Texas Convention convened with 537 messengers from 183 churches split off from the BGCT. The vote was taken during a break in the BGCT



annual session.

Miles Seaborn, the group's president, declared: "We broke camp. We're gone. We ain't going back."

The new convention approved a budget of \$903,500, half of which will be sent to the SBC. ■

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PASTOR: Henard's Chapel Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Mail to 145 Henard's Chapel Road, Rogersville, TN 37857. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

MUSICIANS: Music Director and piano player for growing church in Hermitage. Call Pastor Wes Thompson at Baker's Grove Baptist Church, (615) 883-5039.

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

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Open call for letters to be included in a Book of Letters for Rev. Burl McMillan

 **Rev. Burl McMillan, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Southeast TN Vice-President, will retire from TBCH December 31 after 20 years of service.**

A book of letters from friends, co-workers, and others is being prepared for Rev. McMillan. The book of letters will be presented to him by the TBCH Board on December 7.

If you would like to send a letter to be included in this book, please mail your letter before November 30 to:
Nancy Wells
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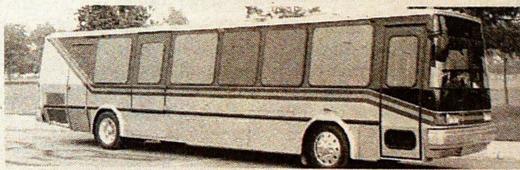
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Resolving problems

By Dale Denning

Focal Passage — Nehemiah 5:1-13

As we turn to the fifth chapter of Nehemiah, we discover an amazing situation. In the midst of the great national endeavor to erect the wall around Jerusalem, we notice that inside the city there existed a great internal strife. Basically, the poor of Jerusalem were being taken advantage of by the wealthy. They were being exploited. One would think that with so much attention being given to the construction of the wall that basic human fairness would not be challenged by a city that appears to have such a monumental common goal. However, even when it appears that the situation is ideal for togetherness, discord manages to find a way into the picture. Such was true in Jerusalem.

After the poor of Jerusalem began to cry out for justice, Nehemiah stepped into the picture and confronted the injustices directly. That great American hero, editor, school teacher, and Presbyterian clergyman, Elijah Lovejoy left the pulpit and returned to the press in order to be sure his words reached more people. The Civil War might have been averted and a peaceful emancipation of slaves achieved had there been more like him. After observing one lynching, Lovejoy was committed forever to fighting uncompromisingly the awful sin of slavery. Mob action was brought against him time after time; neither this nor many threats and attempts on his life deterred him. Repeated destruction of his presses did not stop him. "If by compromise is meant that I should cease from my duty, I cannot make it. I fear God more than I fear man. Crush me if you will, but I shall die at my post. ..." Lovejoy was a man who willingly addressed injustice, and Nehemiah came from the same mold. He confronted the nobles and the rulers for their lack of compassion for their fellow Jews.

Nehemiah then brought all of the people together, including the poor and those that had exploited them. In this group setting, Nehemiah offered a solution that took everyone into consideration. The strongest argument presented in Nehemiah's address was his ability to point to himself as an example to follow. He stated that he and his family had loaned money to the poor, but they were not charging interest, nor were they repossessing any of the property.

One Sunday morning in 1865, a black man entered a fashionable church in Richmond, Virginia. When Communion was served, he walked down the aisle and knelt at the altar. A rustle of resentment swept the congregation. How dare he! After all, believers in that church used the common cup. Suddenly a distinguished layman stood up, stepped forward to the altar, and knelt beside the black man. With Robert E. Lee setting the example, the rest of the congregation soon followed his lead. Examples speak much louder than words.

This episode does have a happy ending. Those who had been exploitative made financial restitution with the poor. Nehemiah even had the exploiters go before the priests and make an oath to no longer capitalize on those that were poverty-stricken. Even more impressive is the fact that, according to verse 13, the people kept their vows. — Denning is pastor, Chapel Hill Church, Milan.

God's vision for exiles

By Darrell Nimmo

Focal Passage — Ezekiel 37:1-11a, 25a, 26-27

Ezekiel was called as a prophet in 593 BC. His ministry overlapped the latter part of Jeremiah's ministry. Whereas, Jeremiah prophesied to the people of Judah, Ezekiel preached to the exiles in Babylon. Ezekiel's message was similar to Jeremiah's. Prior to the fall of Jerusalem, he preached judgment. Afterwards both prophets preached hope.

Vision of Valley of Dry Bones (vv. 1-14). One of the unique characteristics of the book of Ezekiel was the visions. In one of those visions, God's Spirit showed Ezekiel a valley. In this valley lay the remains of those who no doubt were victims of a battle. The defeat was enormous and seemingly total. The fact that the bodies were not buried would perhaps indicate that no one was spared. Upon closer observation by Ezekiel, he found the bones had been there for quite some time. The bones were scattered and very dry. Any hope for life was totally and completely eradicated.

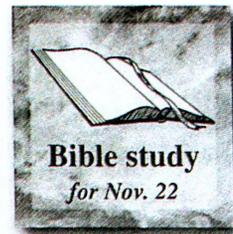
Family Bible Lesson

From this picture God spoke to Ezekiel and gave him a wonderful vision of hope. God told Ezekiel to speak to the bones. Notice, however, it was the words God gave him to speak that caused the bones to come together and flesh to appear. In Colossians 1:17 Paul reminds us, "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." In the Bible, words were extensions of the speaker. Therefore, the word of the Lord was actually a personification of God himself. John 1:1 gives us a clear understanding of this. It was God's word which creates and it is his word which renews again. After speaking to these bones the word of the Lord, they arose a mighty army again. Hope-

lessness was replaced with the joy and a renewal of life.

This has a wonderful message for us today as well. In our lives we may experience things that may leave us breathless, exhausted, and hopeless. It may be a loss of a spouse, job, child, or perhaps divorce, even our own health. Any chance for the slightest hope of joy in our life completely extinguished or at least greatly diminished. Many seek an end to this existence through suicide. Others just exist from day to day with no meaning or real purpose in life. Our life just flatlines. However, God gives us a message of hope in this passage of Ezekiel. Even in the midst of what seems a hopeless situation, God can bring life, renewed life. He puts it back together, establishes again what was missing, and gives a new joy for living replacing what we thought was gone forever.

Sign of two sticks (vv. 15-28). God often used objects to help reinforce the message he was conveying to Ezekiel. In this case, God had Ezekiel take two sticks and write Judah on one and Joseph on the other. Judah represented the southern kingdom and Joseph represented the northern tribes of Israel, or the northern kingdom. Here we see another beautiful picture of hope. After the exile, God was saying to Ezekiel that he would restore both the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom as one people again. No longer would God's people be divided, but peace would prevail and togetherness established. It is my belief that this message not only described the restoration after the exile, but extended beyond into the New Testament as well. Paul used a similar imagery when he talked about the Gentiles being grafted in to the people of God. What a marvelous picture of hope, peace, reconciliation, and eternal joy. And, he shall be our God, and we shall be his people. Both, the Jew and the Gentile. — Nimmo is a member of First Church, Hendersonville.



Guidelines for worship

By Calvin Metcalf

Focal Passage — Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9, 20-22; 29:41-46

Public worship is an interesting phenomenon of our spiritual lives. It has about as many definitions as there are people in attendance. If worship occurs, the Holy Spirit has to translate and communicate. Truth has to be internalized. Music has to be appropriated into our emotional beings. Prayers have to be composed by everyone. Unless we allow God to have our undivided attention, worship becomes little more than a few moments of boring spectatorship. Worship is an event that gets something going between God and the worshiper. Public worship occurs in the context of people. We identify with others as we all reach up to God.

The God who met Israel at Sinai and gave them instructions for their covenant life needed a proper dwelling if he were to go with them on their journey. Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mount Sinai receiving the specifications of Israel's worship center. The focal point of the worship center was a tabernacle, a portable sanctuary which housed the symbols and vehicles of Israel's worship. A roped-off area around the tabernacle was called the courtyard. Inside were two particular rooms. One was called the Holy Place, and the other was called the Holy of

Explore the Bible Lesson

Holies. God designed the furniture and the furnishings which would assist in worship.

Our lesson begins with God instructing Moses to take an offering. The purpose of the offering was to build a sanctuary for God so that he might dwell among his people. This request was consistent with the ancient view that the gods, or The God, needed an earthly dwelling. If God were going to be with his people, there needed to be a symbol of his presence.

The resources for such an offering were most likely the gifts given to the Israelites by the Egyptians as they left the land of bondage (Exodus 12:35-36). Even though God designed the particulars of the tabernacle, he wanted his people to make a tangible investment in its construction.

As plans were revealed concerning the tabernacle, four items are important for our consideration. The first, and probably most important, was the ark. The ark was a rectangular box of acacia wood, 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches deep. It was so sacred it could only be carried by poles so that it was not touched by human hands. The Testimony, which referred to the Ten Commandments,

was the next item. It was to be placed in the ark. The ark was covered by the mercy seat. It served as a practical covering for the ark, as well as a symbolic covering for the sins of the

people. Here God met his people with love and forgiveness. The mercy seat supported another sacred item called the cherubim. The cherubim consisted of two figures made of gold and positioned at either end of the mercy seat. They were associated with the nearness of God and a place where God would speak to Moses.

Verses 41-46 accent several important aspects of Israel's worship. Along with the morning worship, the evening ritual was prescribed. It included the sacrifice of a lamb, along with a grain and wine offering. This was to prepare for God's presence.

God made it clear that he would consecrate the tent of meeting, along with Aaron and his sons, who would be the priests. God likewise renewed his desire to be with his people and to be their God. His desire was that they conduct themselves in such a way that everyone should know that he (Yaweh) was their God, who rescued them from Egypt. Since God redeemed his people, it was important that such an event was declared and interpreted. When this was properly done then worship would occur for the people of Israel. — Metcalf is pastor emeritus, Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.

associations

■ **Shiloh Association** held its annual meeting Oct. 19-20. Messengers recognized **John Bedford**, director of missions, for serving five years and **Harold B. Caperton**, member of First Church, Adamsville, for many years of service to the association.

■ **Crockett Association** held its annual meeting Oct. 19-20 and decided to ask each church to send \$50 to Union University, Jackson, to help furnish the new missionary residence. Messengers also dedicated the minutes to **Gary Williams**, former director of missions.

■ **Madison/Chester Association** held its annual meeting Oct. 26-27 and decided to ask each church to send money to Union University to help furnish the new missionary residence. Messengers resolved to continue a boycott of the Walt Disney Corporation and to stand against lotteries and pari-mutual gambling.

churches

■ The Puppet Ministry of **Cherokee Church, Memphis**, will present the Living

Christmas Tree Dec. 11-13. The presentation is entitled "Christmas Memories." For more information, contact the church at (901) 683-7344.

■ A recent revival at **John-son Grove Church, South Fulton**, resulted in six people making professions of faith and many others making other spiritual decisions. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of McKenzie, spoke.

■ **Cross Roads Church, Greenbrier**, held a senior adult luncheon recently which drew over 70. Former pastor **Jeff Laborg** spoke.

■ **Shelby Avenue Church, Nashville**, will hold "Hanging of the Green" Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. Features include carol singing, worship banner, traditional decorations, and candlelighting. A reception will follow the service. For more information, contact the church at (615) 227-2961.

■ **Eastwood Church, Cookeville**, held revival recently which resulted in seven people joining the church and four making professions of faith. **Charles Davis**, a pastor in Grayson, Ky., spoke.

■ **Greenvale Church, Church Hill**, will host the **Bentons** Nov. 22 at 11 a.m.

■ **Concord-Grandview Church, Brentwood**, will hold a "New Neighbor" Cele-



CHOSEN to lead **Giles County Association** during its Oct. 19-20 annual meeting were, from left, **Mary Jones**, clerk; **Carl Bond**, director of missions; **Danny Jones**, moderator; and **Bill Worthing**, vice moderator.

bration for the about 200 new residents of the area. The event will be Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. Activities will include a dinner. For more information, call the church at (615) 941-2293.

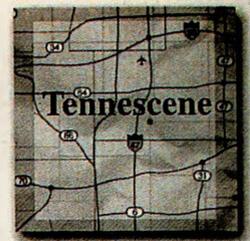
■ **Silver Springs Church, Mt. Juliet**, will hold "In Bethlehem Inn" Dec. 4-5. Participants will be transformed into a visitor to Bethlehem when Jesus was born and enjoy a meal similar to one eaten at that time. To make a reservation, which is required, and for more information, call (615) 641-0280.

■ **Second Church, Memphis**, will present several Christmas music programs during December. The Hanging of the Green will be led by the Youth Choir Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. The Music of Christmas will feature the Chil-

dren's Choirs Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. Sing Noel will be performed by the Adult Choir and Instrumental Ensemble Dec. 13 at 10:50 a.m. A Piano and Organ Concert will be held Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. Finally, a Candlelight Communion Service will be held Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

leaders

■ **Clyde W. Hamilton**, pastor, Center Church, Trenton, retired Oct. 18 after serving the church 25 years. He also served as pastor of Mifflin Church, Luray; Oakfield Church, Oakfield; Southside Church, Jackson; and New Harmony Church, Savannah. Hamilton is now available to serve churches in part-time positions. He can be reached at



(901) 427-7072, P.O. Box 411, Jackson, TN 38302-0411.

■ **Robert Hooker**, associate pastor, Lucy Church, Millington, has been called to the staff of Meridian Church Jackson.

■ **First Church, Crossville**, licensed **Jay Detweiler** to preach recently. He is available to speak in churches and can be reached at (931) 484-3532 or (423) 881-4148.

■ **Clear Creek Church, Selmer**, honored **Charles Castles**, pastor, for serving nine years on Oct. 18. Members gave him a plaque and love offering and held a luncheon in his honor. **Max Franks** of Savannah spoke.

■ **Ed Gardner**, former pastor, Philadelphia Church, Waynesboro, and interim pastor, Unity Church, Lawrenceburg, is available to serve other churches. He may be reached at (931) 722-3833, 99 Gardner Lane, Waynesboro, TN 38485.

More views of TBC annual meeting



WAITING at a microphone to speak are, from left, **Frank Hawkins**, pastor, First Church, Kingsport; **Wayne Allen**, pastor, Briarwood Church, Cordova; **Tom Madden**, retired executive director, TBC; **Bill Sherman**, retired pastor, Woodmont Church, Nashville; and **Jerry Sutton**, pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville.



CONFERRING during a business session are, from left, **Doug Sager**, TBC president; **Hollie Miller**, vice president; **Carl Creasman** and **William Seale**, parliamentarians; and **Randall Davis**, TBC attorney.



JOE AND LINDA LEDFORD of Lynn Valley Church, Elizabethton, visit with **Leslie Hartley**, missionary to Croatia. She is on furlough in Elizabethton.



UNION University administrators serve ice cream to messengers and guests following the Tuesday evening session. The event was to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the school.



PAUSING during a meeting of the TBC Secretaries Association are, from left, **Sarah Farmer**, president, of Johnson City; **Clara McCart** of Johnson City; and **Lana Rose** of the TBC staff. McCart began the professional training program for Baptist secretaries.