

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

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Statewide Edition

November 22, 2000

on Bible as authority

## TBC messengers approve bylaws changes, resolutions

ie Wilkey & Connie Davis  
and Reflector

MAN TOWN — Ten-  
Baptists overwhelming-  
ted a series of bylaw  
s that will provide all  
see Baptist Convention  
ions more flexibility in  
g trustees while keep-  
e approval of those  
s in the hands of TBC  
gers.

action and others took  
during their annual  
g Nov. 14-15, at Ger-  
vn Baptist Church here,  
drew 1,801 registered  
gers.

ennessee Baptists also cel-  
l the 75th anniversary  
Cooperative Program  
ory on page 6) which  
oted into being during  
annual meeting of the  
gn Baptist Convention  
Memphis in 1925.

ther business Tennessee  
ts elected Knoxville pas-  
llie Miller as president,  
ved resolutions dealing  
ne Cooperative Program  
e Baptist Faith and Mes-  
nd adopted a record bud-  
\$36,230,595 for 2000-  
an increase of 7.2 percent  
ne previous year's budget.  
F&M resolution acknowl-  
the BF&M as an infor-  
a source and affirmed the  
as "the final authority for  
nd practice."

**C-N surprise**  
potential distraction per-  
g to the discussion of the  
s changes proposed by  
onstitution and Bylaws  
nittee was thwarted by  
nexpected action of Car-  
ewman College prior to  
annual meeting.

N trustees voted in 1998  
ange the college's charter  
able the trustees to elect  
own successors. On Nov.  
wever, four days before  
BC annual meeting, Car-  
Newman officials filed a  
er change with the state  
ney general, turning the  
tion of college trustees  
to the Tennessee Baptist  
ention. The story was re-  
d in last week's issue.

C-N leaders struggled with  
the timing of the charter  
change, President James  
Netherton told messengers  
during the opening session.

"My intention was to do it  
on Wednesday after the bylaws  
changes. I felt Carson-New-  
man should not get out in front  
of the convention, but instead  
wait and act in response."

Netherton became con-  
vinced, however, after talking  
with others that C-N needed to  
step out in faith.

"In a new partnership,  
someone has to act first and  
lead the way," Netherton ob-  
served. "We made the change."

Netherton's announcement  
received an ovation from the  
messengers.

Executive Board President  
John Holland of Knoxville then  
recommended on behalf of the  
board that the convention re-  
lease the money that had been  
held this year in escrow for C-N.

Messenger Jim Stroud of  
Third Creek Baptist Church,  
Knoxville, spoke against re-  
leasing the funds.

"Before we vote on the mo-  
tion we need to determine if  
the violations of the TBC by-  
laws, the TBC business and fi-  
nancial plan, and the violation



**NEW OFFICERS** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention are, from left, Roger "Sing" Oldham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Martin, vice president; Hollie Miller, pastor, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, president; and Hal Fletcher, pastor, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis, second vice president. — Photo by Connie Davis

of the TBC program statement  
for Carson-Newman College  
have been resolved," Stroud  
said.

"My position is these viola-  
tions have not yet been re-  
solved," Stroud added, and  
then cited examples of the "vi-  
olations."

Reed Dixon, a messenger  
from First Baptist Church,  
Sweetwater, spoke in favor of  
releasing the funds.

He noted many meetings

have taken place over the past  
three years "so we can achieve  
a workable resolution and  
maintain a family relation-  
ship" with Carson-Newman.

"Carson-Newman has taken  
a step of faith that they will  
accept the trustees elected by  
this convention. What more  
can they do?"

The motion to release the  
funds passed overwhelmingly.

### Bylaws presented

The Constitution and By-

laws Committee presented its  
proposed changes to the by-  
laws during the opening ses-  
sion of the two-day meeting.

"Over the past three years  
the Tennessee Baptist Con-  
vention has been called upon to  
address a variety of concerns  
that have been expressed from  
several sources," said Robert  
Tyson, chairman of the com-  
mittee and member of First  
Baptist Church, Springfield.

"The proposed changes we  
bring to you this year seek to  
define the nature of the rela-  
tionship, clarify the roles of the  
boards of trustees, protect the  
integrity of the board selection  
process, and address the issue  
of ascending liability," he said.

Tyson said the committee  
had discussed at great length  
the viewpoints expressed by  
messengers on the floor of the  
convention during the past two  
years.

"It was clear to us that the  
messengers did not want the  
colleges and universities to be  
treated differently or be given  
special privileges that were not  
available to Harrision-Chil-  
howee, the children's homes,  
the adult homes, the hospitals,  
and the Tennessee Baptist  
— See TBC, page 3



**TBC PRESIDENT** Jerry Tidwell, right, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, confers with parliamentarians, from left, Norman Templeton, First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville; Bill Seale, First Baptist Church, Morristown; and Carl Creasman, Rocky Mount Baptist Church, Athens. — Photo by Jim Veneman



**THE MISSIONS EXTRAVAGANZA**, sponsored by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union prior to the TBC annual meeting, reminded messengers of the focus on missions. Retired missionaries Paul and Peggy Grossman, seated, visit with Shelby Lord, right, a messenger from First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, and Judy Luck of First Baptist Church, Athens. — Photo by Connie Davis

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## Christians gather in Florida to pray for nation, candidates

Baptist Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Dozens of Christians from across the city spontaneously gathered at the state capital Nov. 16 to pray for the nation, the two presidential candidates, and judges who could decide the fate of the 2000 presidential election.

Jerry Garrard, senior pastor of Celebration Baptist Church and a past president of the Florida Baptist Convention, told Baptist Press the prayer meeting developed following a Promise Keepers event in downtown Tallahassee at First Baptist Church.

"After the meeting was over, many of us got together and felt the Lord leading us to go and pray at the state capital," Garrard said. "Once we got to the capital plaza, a group of ladies walked up to us and said that God had told them to come to Tallahassee and pray for the city."

While praying in the darkness and mist, Garrard said even more people came. "It turned out to be just a sweet time of prayer," he said.

Garrard said Southern Baptists and other evangelical churches in Tallahassee have stepped up their prayer efforts since the election crisis began on Nov. 8. "People are aware that it is in the hands of the Lord," he said. "We have been driven to our knees and prayer closets and now we are being driven to conduct public prayer meetings. This is more than just about a vote. This is about the spiritual health of our nation." ■

## Alabama Baptists affirm Bible

Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Baptists reaffirmed their historic commitment to the Bible as their sole authority for faith and practice and reaffirmed their basic belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ during their annual meeting Nov. 14-15 here.

Alabama Baptists also adopted a record \$38,670,000 Cooperative Program budget without discussion. This is a \$670,000 increase over the 1999 budget.

The statement on the Bible and Jesus Christ emerged during a time when other state conventions debated whether to affirm the 2000 version of The Baptist Faith and Message approved

during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in June.

Alabama Baptists chose to commend all versions of the Baptist Faith and Message but not any one version over the other because "the Alabama Baptist State Convention (ABSC) has never written or adopted a confession of faith, and Baptists have consistently honored the Christian faith as a noncreedal people," said James Bruton, chairman of the ABSC resolutions committee, as he read parts of the resolution "On Doctrinal Heritage and Confessions of Faith."

The resolution explains the historical development of The Baptist Faith and Message and details ways it can be used as a resource, Bruton said during debate over the resolution.

Passing overwhelmingly by the 1,762 registered messengers, the resolution garnered about 15 minutes of debate that resulted in only one attempt to amend it. ■

## Louisiana Baptists adopt BF&M as official statement

Compiled from Baptist Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. — By a 1,112-860 vote, messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention adopted the Baptist Faith & Message statement of beliefs as the state convention's official statement of belief Nov. 14.

According to a report in the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, messengers to the LBC also re-elected conservative pastor Tommy French of Baton Rouge as convention president, turning back a challenge from moderate-backed Perry Sanders of Lafayette, instead of according French the usual unopposed second term. The vote in the race was 1,188-799.

The newspaper quoted French as saying, "The purpose of a statement of faith is to say these are the basic principles by which we operate." Donors to Baptist missions and charities "would like a standard by which (their employees) serve. In order to do that, you have to lay down a parameter which they can understand and by which they can live," French said.

If, however, personal fidelity to the Baptist Faith and Message is a prerequisite for working within the state convention and its charitable institutions, "then there are about 860 of us who will never be asked to share" in that work, said Jon Stubblefield of First Baptist Church, Shreveport. ■

## Florida Baptists embrace changes to BF&M statement

Baptist Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Florida Baptists declared soli-

darity with the Southern Baptist Convention, overwhelmingly updating their constitution and bylaws to reflect changes this summer to the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message confessional statement.

However, messengers to the Nov. 13-14 Florida Baptist State Convention here opted against making the revised statement a litmus test for leadership.

About 1,500 messengers approved bylaw changes updating references to the state convention's official faith statement from the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message to the document "as revised in the year 2000."

Florida churches that disagree with the revisions, however, can remain in good standing with the state convention. Language on membership adopted in 1994 requires adherence either to the Baptist Faith and Message or any other declaration of faith which parallels the tenets of our historic Baptist faith.

Lakeland pastor Jay Dennis, newly elected president of the Florida convention, told reporters that reference would include the 1963 version of the Baptist Faith and Message, as well as an earlier 1925 version and even the 1833 "New Hampshire Baptist Confession," which predates the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dennis said the membership requirement was not intended to exclude anyone but to affirm support for the Southern Baptist Convention.

John Sullivan, executive director of the state convention, told messengers he doesn't agree with every word in the Baptist Faith and Message but supports it in principle.

"This is not an infallible document," Sullivan said. "I do believe most Florida Baptists believe most of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message."

Sullivan, a former pastor, said the convention needs tight theological parameters to keep extreme viewpoints, such as affirmation of homosexuality, from gaining influence among the state's Baptists.

Messengers did not support, however, a recommended bylaw that would have made affirmation of "all the principles set forth" in the newest Baptist Faith and Message a qualification for any person nominated to a convention board of trustees. ■

## IMB trustees OK record budget

Baptist Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board unanimously approved a record-setting 2001 budget of \$254.1 million, after the board's chief financial officer noted giving to the Cooperative Program recently has been especially strong.

The new budget includes \$239.6 million for operating, \$13.5 million for capital, and \$1

million for special contingencies. The budget reflects a \$12.5 million, or 4.84 percent, increase over the board's 2000 budget of \$241.6 million.

The Cooperative Program is expected to provide 35.93 percent of the new budget, with Lottie Moon Christmas Offering projected to raise 45.79 percent. The rest of the new budget comes from investment income, hunger and relief funds, designated giving income, fielder funds, unallocated revenues from prior years, and other sources.

In his report, Carl Johnson, who is retiring early next year as the IMB's vice president of finance, said he believes the operative Program's strength is such that it will be able to stand current tensions in the Southern Baptist Convention. He pointed out that the Cooperative Program was \$18.7 million over its projected budget for the fiscal year ended in September.

Highlighting the Portland, Ore., trustee meeting was a pointment service for Southern Baptists' 33 newest overseas missionaries. The event, in conjunction with the opening night of the Northwest Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Portland, drew an audience of about 1,900.

During an executive session not open to the public because personnel matters were discussed, trustees also approved a report from its trustee and partnership committee, which affirmed the leadership of President Jerry Rankin, including the board's New Direction policy, which Rankin has championed. The committee formed last spring in response to tensions between the IMB administration and trustees handling of the renovation of the agency's Richmond office and other administrative matters.

Trustees also approved a report requested by the SB Executive Committee on cooperative partnerships overseas.

## Oops!

The *Baptist and Reflector* would like to apologize to our readers.

In the Nov. 8 issue, listed some Bible study questions in the TBC Service Station column that we thought would be helpful.

After closer investigation, at least two of the questions (www.biblecenter.com and www.aggelia.com) were found to be contrary to views of the Bible, theology and faith.

We apologize for the mistake and pledge to be more careful in future listings.

Thank you for helping monitor the list for problems. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey



# C messengers approve bylaws changes ...

ued from page 1

ion," Tyson said.

messengers made it at they wanted the TBC the trustees of the in-ns, not just approve t was also clear to the ee that the messengers the privilege of chal-nominations brought e Committee on Com-and the Committee on

messengers clearly the boards of trustees arious institutions to be able to the TBC to the that a board member removed for improper

ve worked on the bylaws l to address these issues y that provides an or-noughtful, and prayerful approach these mat-tyson said.

discussion was allowed the opening session but gers could offer amend-

messenger Roger "Sing" Old-First Baptist Church, offered an amendment fy that the Committee mittees and Committee rds reports would be ed during the first day convention in future Traditionally those re-ave come on the last day onvention.

int of parliamentary in-as raised by Jim Stroud t another day should be o make amendments be-he document provided to gers was different than e originally printed in ptist and Reflector and k of Reports.

well reported later in the at the only changes made clarify that the changes t apply to the Executive and did not alter the l report.

## Bylaws discussed

discussion of the proposed dments took place on esday morning. The by-changes were divided into parate motions (B, deal-ith recommendations 2 with an explanation of mendation 6, and C, deal-ith recommendations 4 . See the Oct. 11 issue of



**GERMANTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH** provided a comfortable environment and ample room for the TBC annual meeting. — Photo by Thom Tapp

the *Baptist and Reflector* for wording of the amendments.

Messenger Tom James of Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown opposed the first motion, noting that "it seems to concentrate the power."

He observed, "To me it won't be an election, it will be an affirmation."

Douglas Dutton, a member of First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville, agreed it would "concentrate the power in the few." He also said the changes would enable the institutions to select their own corporate management and that it would be "almost impossible" for messengers to substitute nominees.

Bob Agee, a member of the committee and messenger from West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, assured messengers the proposed changes did not give "veto" power to institution presidents and that the final decision rested with the Committee on Boards and ultimately the messengers.

Reed Dixon spoke for the changes, noting "we have argued and fussed" over this issue for a number of years.

"Let's move on to the work of the Lord and let our institutions go to work."

Efforts to have the recommendations ruled out of order failed. "If the chair has the option of letting messengers take action, that's the side I will rule on," said TBC President Jerry Tidwell of West Jackson Church.

A ballot vote was taken on motion B. A two-thirds majori-

ty was needed for adoption. The amendments passed by a margin of 822-365, or 69.25 percent.

Much of the same discussion prevailed on motion C.

Concern was expressed again over the perceived concentration of power.

"As a messenger I feel we are being excluded and all the power is being given to a few," said Chris Francis of New Vision Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Kim Allen of Little West Fork Baptist Church, Clarksville, said he has listened to that contention for three years. He noted the convention has elected a committee that "has served us well and faithfully."

"It is time to let the body decide and not the people at the microphones," he said.

Also discussed was the protection provided by the motion from ascending liability or legal judgments against TBC entities stemming from lawsuits which could draw from CP funds.

Another ballot vote was taken on motion C. It passed by a margin of 831-345, 70.66 percent.

## Officers elected

Hollie Miller, pastor, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention over John Holland, pastor, Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville, and president, TBC Executive Board. Miller was elected by 57.58 percent of the vote or 798-588.

Miller was nominated by Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue

Baptist Church, Cordova, and Holland was nominated by Herbert Higdon of First Baptist Church, Middleton.

Oldham was elected vice president over Joey Rosas, pastor, Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, by 52.65 percent of the vote or 556-500. Oldham was nominated by Ray Newcomb, pastor, First Baptist Church, Millington, and Rosas was nominated by Michael Smith, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Memphis.

Elected as second vice president was Hal Fletcher, pastor, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis, over Don Edwards, pastor, First Baptist Church, Sweetwater. Fletcher received 55.67 percent of the vote or 506-403.

Fletcher was nominated by Dennis Deese, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hunter, Elizabethton, and newly elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, and Edwards was nominated by Archie King of Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

Elected without opposition were Joyce Rickman, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, recording secretary, and Dan Ferrell, ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, registration secretary. TBC Executive Director James Porch was elected treasurer.

## Resolution on BF&M

Five resolutions concerning the Baptist Faith and Message statement were considered by the Resolutions Committee, chaired by Danny Davis, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Alcoa.

Davis acknowledged that just as the convention is diverse, so was the committee. "None on the committee got all of what we wanted," he said, referring to the proposed resolution. "We tried to get the feel of the convention as it met here this week. He reminded messengers that the convention in its history had never acted on any Baptist Faith and Message statement.



The committee chairman also acknowledged that while the Baptist Faith and Message has been beneficial for many years, "we wanted to focus attention on God's Word as the final authority" and to note "the right of the local church to adopt any statement."

The resolution presented to the messengers and later adopted in its entirety can be found on page 4.

Richard Holden, pastor of First Baptist Church, Alcoa, made a motion to substitute the word "affirm" for the word "acknowledge" in the first resolve and to add "2000 revised edition" after the Baptist Faith and Message in the same paragraph.

Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, spoke against the amendment.

He noted the resolution as worded "says all it needs to say" and "allows all the room we need as diverse people."

Steve Jacobson of Frayser Baptist Church, Memphis, spoke for the amendment.

He noted the BF&M statements of 1925 and 1963 were not viewed as creeds and that Baptists can accept or reject statements.

"The statement must be affirmed," he stressed.

Roy Graves of First Baptist Church, Kingston, also favored the amendment. "We need to take a stand as Tennessee Baptists saying we believe the Word of God is true and that the BF&M is a truthful statement we can believe and adhere to."

Joey Rosas, pastor of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, opposed the amendment.

"We don't need to debate the BF&M on the floor of the convention. We have never done that," Rosas affirmed the Bible as the "inerrant, infallible Word of God" and urged messengers to vote against the amendment.

After further discussion, the question was called. A ballot vote was taken and the amendment failed by 55.88 percent or 542-428.

A second amendment was offered that would have added the words "and other autonomous Baptist entities or individuals" at the end of the fourth "Whereas." The amendment failed.

Messenger Bill Johnson of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, made a motion to postpone — See TBC, page 4



**PRESIDENT** Jerry Tidwell acknowledges applause from messengers recognizing his efforts in leading the annual session and convention the past year. On the platform are, from left, parliamentarians Carl [unclear], Norman Templeton, and Bill Seale; Fletcher Allen, vice president, TBC; and far right, James [unclear], executive director, TBC. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey



## Convention sermon

# Christianity calls for sacrifice: Shaw

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

GERMANTOWN — Sam Shaw, pastor, Germantown Baptist Church here, declared that just as Jesus, Paul, early Christians, and current Christians, Tennessee Baptists should be ready to sacrifice for their faith.

A video tape introduced his message. It presented the plight of Christians on Ambon Island, Indonesia, who are being persecuted and killed by Muslims. Then Shaw, who served as a missionary to the Dominican Republic for seven years, reported on visiting a church in India which had a martyr board. The board listed the names of three members. While in Kashmir, he met Christians who had been beaten for their faith. He met a man who had been hanged from his feet for three days.

"Folks, I think there's something very healthy [about seeing] a film like this and to hear stories like this at a Tennessee Baptist Convention," said Shaw, "because it reminds us of the cost of the cause, of the danger of following Jesus."

### Jesus warned disciples

He referred to Matthew 10 and noted Jesus sent out his disciples and warned them of the recriminations of going out. Jesus told them to expect beatings, public humiliation, betrayal by

closest family members, and universal rejection and hatred because of the treatment he had endured.

"This sounds so strange to us; this sounds so foreign, almost irrelevant, because for all of our lifetimes combined, Christianity has been the dominant religion in this country. And for 300 years in this country, to call yourself a Christian has been considered normal and good and patriotic and beneficial. And we've come to expect that that will be the case."

Most Christians today report better lives because of their spiritual decision, noted Shaw.

### Benefits of faith

"There is great benefit in coming to Christ, the fruit of the spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, all of that. And if you think about it, if you act like a Christian, you won't be involved in illicit sex, so you don't have to worry about sexually transmitted diseases."

"If you act like a Christian you will not drink to excess, which means you do not have to worry about alcoholism. If you act like a Christian you'll work hard; you'll be thrifty; you'll save. Some of you who are in



SHAW

business, your businesses will probably prosper.

"And if you act like a Christian, you'll be kind and generous and compassionate toward people, and some people will think well of you."

"But the problem is we begin to expect that because we're Christians, we will be treated well, and Jesus said, that will not always be the case."

"In the New Testament, in the early church and throughout most of the world today, following Christ meant and means suffering. The path of obedience puts health, family, and life at risk for many Christians."

### Risks of faith

"In this room right now, there are potential martyrs. Dr. Porch, if we continue to take mission trips ..., it is only a matter of time ... until accidents or diseases or death takes place and Jesus wanted to prepare his followers for that."

Shaw warned the messengers to consider the result of living the Christian life for the benefits on earth.

He quoted the Apostle Paul: "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men."

American Christians should study the sufferings of Paul, said Shaw, which included being given 39 lashes five times, beaten with rods three times, stoned,

three times shipwrecked, and spending a day and night in the sea.

Instead, Christians today "move to safer neighborhoods, ... choose a milder climate, ... buy air conditioning, ... purify our water."

Jesus said in Revelation a certain number of people "must die for the sake of the Gospel" before he returns.

### Measure of faith

Shaw pointed to II Timothy 3:12, "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus, will be persecuted."

"I think it (the verse) means one of two things. If we desire to live a godly life, people around us will have one of two reactions — conversion or persecution. And if that's not happening, one of two things is true — either I'm hiding my light, I'm concealing the scandal of the cross — or people are moving toward being converted or persecuting us. Can a covert church thrive?" he asked.

Despite the overall situation, Shaw told messengers they shouldn't "feel any guilt because you're not being persecuted at this moment," noting Jesus wasn't persecuted constantly.

### Other examples of those who have suffered

Shaw referred to early Christian martyrs like Hans Brett,

who was burned at the 1577, and Paul Bunyan cited Southern Baptist aries who were martyrs Moon, Bill Wallace, Bethea of Africa, Paul a cy Potter of the Dominican public, Libby Oldham c Archie Dunaway of Thomas Westrup of Ch fus Gray of the Philippi Gladys Howell of Taiwan

Current missionaries

endure persecution, Shaw.

Jesus said don't fear persecution binds Christ him, truth will prevail can only kill you, God and cares, God is in con secution will be mor worth it, and it is the eternal joy.

"When someone su their faith ..., a glance, ridicule, physical har kind of health problem a family member missi life lost, they're not sayi faith is strong, they're ing their courage is v. They are saying one thi sus is more precious t family; he's more preci my health; he's more p than my life." B&R



## TBC messengers approve bylaws changes, ...

— Continued from page 3  
the vote on the original resolution indefinitely in order to keep from having a "win/lose" situation.

Postponing "gives us a way to see that we can walk together as Tennessee Baptists in midst of great diversity without setting up winners and losers."

Hollie Miller, newly elected TBC president, opposed postponing the resolution.

"If we don't make a statement, we're just trying to straddle the fence. We do have an opinion and that opinion is with the Word of God," he said.

After further discussion the motion to postpone the resolution failed.

Messengers then voted on the resolution as originally presented and it passed overwhelmingly in a show of ballots vote.

### Other resolutions

Messengers approved two resolutions without opposition — the traditional resolution of gratitude to the host church and others and one on the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

That resolution noted the CP has been hailed "as the

greatest mission giving program in the history of the world" and that Tennessee Baptists have given more than \$623 million over the past 75 years "to support over 6,000 North American missionaries and 13,000 international missionaries, to educate 140,000 seminary students, and a host of college students, to start thousands of new churches, to fund countless benevolent and relief ministries, and to underwrite a whole array of other Christian endeavors."

The resolution resolved that "we commend the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for their commitment to world evangelization and for 75 years of faithful giving" as well as encouraging "every Tennessee Baptist congregation to conduct a local Cooperative Program emphasis during 2001 and to consider prayerfully increasing by one percent the amount of their church budget giving through the Cooperative Program."

### Other items

► A motion to create a 12-person committee to develop a confession of faith for Tennessee Baptists was over-

whelmingly defeated.

► Tennessee Baptists approved a new state-to-state partnership with the Baptist Convention of Iowa from 2001-2004 as well as participation in the "Loving Las Vegas" strategic focus initiative of the North American Mission Board next summer.

► Messages were given by Jerry Tidwell, James Porch, and Sam Shaw. See separate stories in this issue.

► Messengers heard reports from institutions as well as TBC Executive Board groups.

► The TBC officially ended its state-to-state partnership with the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Michael Collins, executive director of the Michigan convention, and TBC Executive Director James Porch presented each other gifts commemorating the 20-year partnership. The relationship is the longest state-to-state partnership in the SBC.

► Messengers approved on second reading a change to the TBC Constitution, and approved changes in the program statement of the Baptist and Reflector.

► Messengers elected Robert McCray, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dandridge, and alternate Don Edwards, pastor, First Baptist Church,

Sweetwater, to present vention sermon at the TBC annual meeting N 14 at First Baptist C Concord, Knoxville. B&R

### Resolution on the Baptist Faith and Message

WHEREAS, The Tennessee Baptist Convention share Southern Baptists a commitment to evangelistic and mission passion and to doctrinal faithfulness in the midst of a world dominated by moral relativism and a materialistic worldview

WHEREAS, Tennessee Baptists have stood with other Southern Baptists in recognizing the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as totally true and trustworthy and the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists; and

WHEREAS, We honor Article IV of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Constitution to wit that, "the Convention shall have ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the churches or associations cooperating with and contributing to the objects of the Convention"

WHEREAS, The adoption of any statement of faith is a duty of the local church; and

WHEREAS, We confirm the unifying principle of diligent and aggressive efforts in missions, evangelism, and the support of Christian education, and benevolent opportunities;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, That the messengers to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, Tennessee, on November 14-15, 2000, acknowledge the Baptist Faith and Message as the source of information in assisting believers to express their faith and

Be it Finally RESOLVED, That the messengers affirm the authority of God as the final authority for faith and practice.



# Annual meeting reveals, defines Baptists

Wilkey, editor

time in the future when histori- looking for case studies as to how a Baptist meeting, he or she would do well to examine the 2000 meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

More than anything else, this meeting revealed what it means to be Baptist.

Issues are diverse and are going to be sometimes with passion.

It occurred at Germantown Baptist Church, yet, with just a few exceptions, it was centered on issues, not persons, and was done with a gentle

and some Baptist meetings I have attended, I would dare say that every member could return to their home church and feel good about some aspect of the annual meeting.

I liked the slate of officers that was elected. All are good men from churches. The individuals they were elected to the positions also are good men from churches.

Members are grateful that the proposed changes to the TBC bylaws were

This gives our institutions flexibility in electing trustees. At the same time, C messengers retain the right to

elect trustees and they can challenge nominees for those positions. De-

spite the rhetoric preceding the convention, the messengers spoke with

clarity and finality on this issue. The

actions that dealt with the bylaws

with the required two-thirds majority with 69.25 percent and the other

56 percent.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by Robert Tyson of Spring-

field, deserves praise for taking some tough issues and molding a document together that reflects the feelings of about 70 percent of those who attended the convention.

These changes to the bylaws have ushered in a new era of trust into the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

We, as Tennessee Baptists, must trust the institutional leaders to submit names for their trustee boards who can operate those institutions. They have to trust that the Committee on Boards and, ultimately the messengers, will consider those names objectively and agree with their selections. If not the process starts over.

The trust issue is not one sided. Tennessee Baptists have a right to expect the trustees we elect to operate the institutions as distinctly Baptist and distinctly Christian. Anything less than that would betray that trust.

This convention also showed that sometimes we can't always have everything that we want and that compromise is not always bad.

The resolution on the Baptist Faith and Message is a good example.

There are messengers who would have preferred that the Tennessee Baptist Convention remain quiet on the matter of the Baptist Faith and Message statement. Others feel the adopted resolution did not "go far enough" by affirming the 2000 revision of the Baptist Faith and Message document.

Instead, messengers approved a resolution that both groups can "live with." The key to the resolution is that it affirms what we all believe and we can all agree on — "the Word of God as the final authority for faith and practice."

The Resolutions Committee worked hard and diligently, led by chairman Danny Davis of Alcoa to draft a resolution that was workable for everyone. They are to be commended.

## Other observations

➤ Carson-Newman College President James Netherton and the C-N trustees are to be commended for taking the initiative and filing a charter change before the annual meeting commenced. This helped to diffuse a potentially difficult debate on the bylaws. It brought the focus to the validity of the proposed changes on their own merit, and not whether we needed to pass those changes just to bring Carson-Newman "back into the family."

We all know that God works "everything together for good." Two years ago when Carson-Newman changed its charter we really did not know what "good" could come from it. I think we have discovered that C-N's action forced our convention to take a serious look at its bylaws. The adopted changes, contrary to some opinions, do not weaken the rights of Tennessee Baptists. Instead, they offer protection to us as a convention and allow us to have a "say" in who operates our institutions, while allowing the trustee boards to govern the institutions.

➤ At times during the convention concern was expressed that we failed to affirm the Southern Baptist Convention.

I disagree. We affirmed the work of the Southern Baptist Convention in a way far better than words when we adopted the 2000-2001 budget.

Providing Tennessee Baptists meet this challenging, but attainable budget, the Southern Baptist Convention will re-

ceive in excess of \$13 million from Tennessee Baptists. If the budget is met, the SBC portion will increase more than \$1 million from this year, making it the largest dollar increase in our budget.

We affirm the work of Southern Baptists with our dollars.

➤ TBC President Jerry Tidwell provided good leadership not only during the annual meeting but throughout the year. His low key approach while presiding and his willingness to let messengers share their concerns contributed to a positive meeting.

And while it is distressing that our business sessions sometimes are interrupted by conversations with the parliamentarians, no one could fault Tidwell for not trying to "make the right call." Parliamentarians Carl Creasman, Norman Templeton, and Bill Seale also deserve thanks for trying to be fair and see that all Tennessee Baptists had an opportunity to be heard.

As we enter a new convention year, continue to bathe our convention and its leaders, including incoming President Hollie Miller, in prayer.

God has blessed Tennessee Baptists in a mighty way.

It's up to us now as Tennessee Baptists to practice what we preach and to continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ here in Tennessee and around the world. How some people spend eternity will depend on what we do. **B&R**



## editorial

# true mark of a Christian — being thankful

Parrott Jr.

In his classic autobiography *The Place*, Corrie ten Boom tells of how she and her sister were forced to leave all their clothes during Nazi rule at a death camp. Miss ten Boom stood in line feeling forsaken and alone. Suddenly she remembered Jesus hung naked on the cross. With wonder and worship during that seemingly forsaken moment, she leaned forward and whispered to her sister, "Betsie, they took our clothes, too." Betsie gasped and said, "Corrie, and I never thanked Him." Thanksgiving does not require a lot — just recognition of what our

Savior has already done.

Today's culture wants us to believe that there is really no reason to be thankful unless we have bountiful material possessions. I believe that one of the greatest marks of a person truly being born-again is a thankful heart.

Our thankfulness is not captured by bountiful surroundings but God's gift of love to us in his Son, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Every day we need to be thankful for the Good News, and we can be especially if we remember how bad the bad news was. We were helpless and hopeless in our sins, then God demonstrated his love for us. He forgives our sins and gives to us a new life and a home in

heaven. Good health, a job, food on the table, and our family surrounding us are all things to be thankful for, but the Apostle Paul did say that in everything give thanks!

Even when the times are difficult and lonely we can be thankful that nothing can overcome God's love for us. He has done the most necessary thing for us on the cross. Do not doubt that he is able to supply our needs.

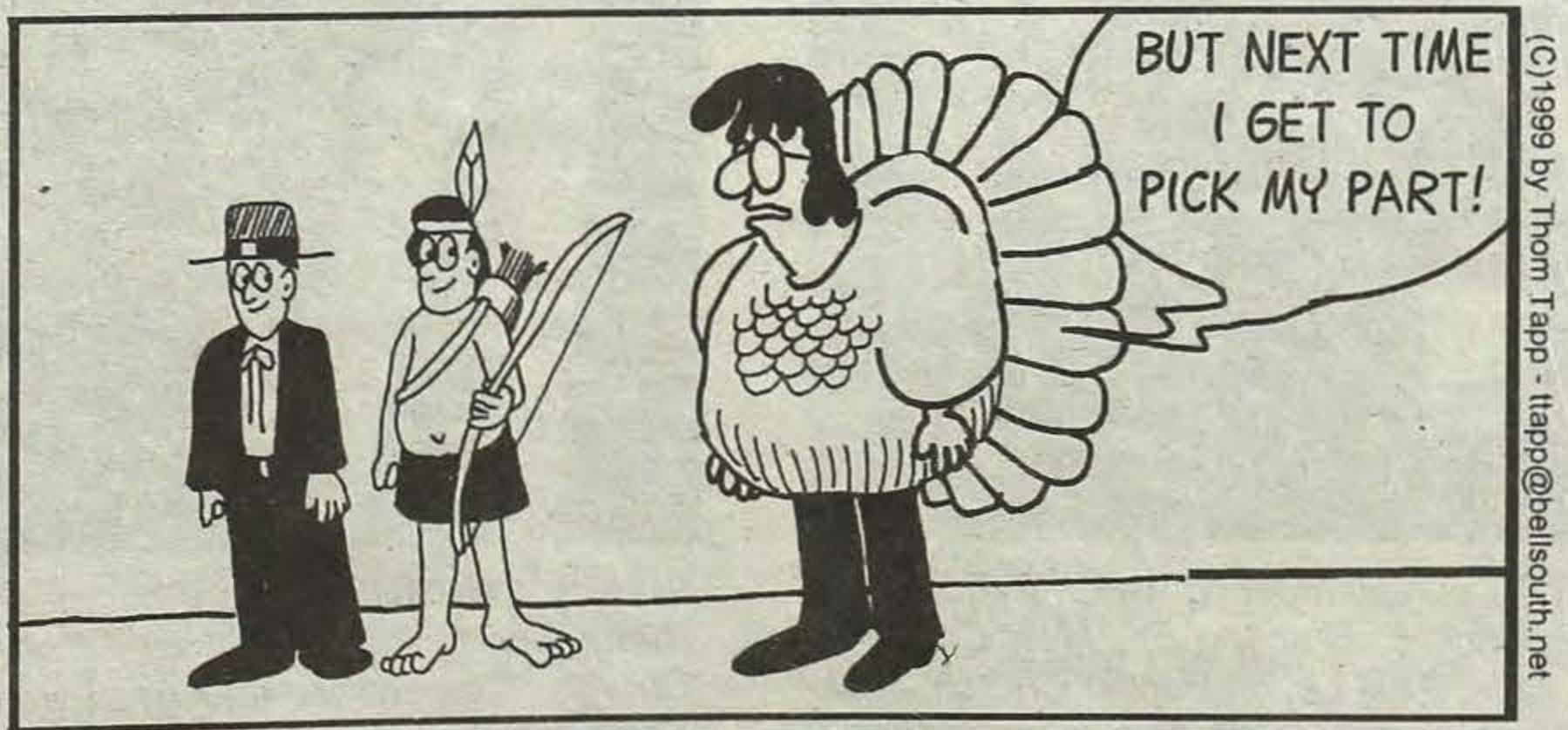
In the midst of the pageantry that surrounds the Thanksgiving Season, take time to count your blessings. Let God's love for you at the cross be at the top of the list. Of course it always surprises what the Lord has done! ■ — Parrott is director of missions, Holston Valley Baptist Association.

## Partnership Prayer Requests November

- 22 — Pray for First Romanian Baptist Church in Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada. The church has called a pastor from Romania and is awaiting his immigration to Canada.
- 23 — Pray for the new officers to be elected this month by messengers to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.
- 24 — Pray for Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, as it partners with a new church start in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. Ask God to bless their work.
- 25 — Pray for Guy and Elena Key, IMB missionaries to Brazil, who are working with 10 cell groups in the community of Ora Sul in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 26 — Pray for Art and Dottie Dennis, IMB ISC Nicaragua Disaster Response volunteer coordinators as they work with volunteer teams to help victims of Hurricane Mitch.
- 27 — Pray for New Life Church in Salmo, British Columbia, Canada. The church is having many unchurched people attend as they reach out into the community.
- 28 — Pray for a 10-member construction team in Nicaragua Nov. 25-Dec. 3, led by Ronnie Snoderly of Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville.
- 29 — Pray for Fairview Mission Church in Fairview, Alberta, Canada, as they seek a senior pastor.

## Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Baptist Church, Lenoir City



(C)1999 by Thom Tapp - ttapp@bellsouth.net



By recounting its effects

## Messengers observe 75th anniversary of CP

By Connie Davis  
For Baptist and Reflector

GERMANTOWN — "Just a few miles from here in the old city auditorium in Memphis, the Cooperative Program had its official beginning in 1925," said James Porch, executive director/treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Tuesday evening during a 75th anniversary celebration of the CP.

He went on to say as a result of the CP, he and his late wife, Lynn, received two babies which they adopted from the Sellers Baptist Home in New Orleans, La. Also, the CP provided direction to his life through a Royal Ambassador Camp and a Baptist college, Porch recalled at the celebration, which was held during the TBC annual meeting.

"So when I talk to you about the Cooperative Program I'm not talking to you out of my head; I'm speaking to you out of my heart," said Porch.

"Thank you, Tennessee Baptists. You make the Cooperative Program more than a plan. You make it real."

### A pastor

Frank Lewis said the CP is one of the reasons he is a Southern Baptist. "I could never find another denomination that has a plan to reach the whole world for Christ. That is why I am a Southern Baptist." The crowd applauded in agreement.

The pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, noted Jesus went to great lengths to share the Gospel with people. Jesus realized "the creeds of their day" weren't going to help them, said Lewis prior to convention action concerning the Baptist Faith and Message.

"They were the victims of a religious system that had gone so far to the stringent letter of the law that it didn't care about people anymore."

"It's not our creed that will unite us nearly as much as our mission that will unite us. Creeds are important. Confessions are important. But to the lost person that's almost a non-issue. To the lost person it's compassion, it's care demonstrated by works of ministry that say we hurt for you and we're here to help."

Lewis also praised the CP for funding the university and seminary he attended and assisting the church he served in Las Vegas, Nev.

### A missionary

Missionary to Brazil Sharon Fairchild said, "Southern Baptists are the greatest sending force this world has ever seen and the reason for that is because of the cooperation of Southern Baptists sending people that are called."

She thanked Baptists for salary, home, car, help for her children's transition to the United States, and funding for ministry.

"Southern Baptists have left their footprints all over Brazil, one of the greatest harvest fields this world has ever known," she said.

She referred to the diversity of those cooperating for the CP, which brought applause from the crowd.

"But one thing we are in union on, and that is missions. And friends, if we lose our focus on missions, we're going to lose God's hand on our convention. We may not agree on everything but we need to agree on what his heart says. He so loved the world that he sent sacrificially. And that's what we do as Southern Baptists; we send sacrificially."

"I never cease to say thank you for allowing us to do what God has called us to do."

### Former TBCH residents

Two women who were residents of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, Memphis,

thanked messengers for providing for them through the CP.

Mary Bobbitt, assistant principal of a school in Memphis, went to the TBCH in the mid 1960s with her brother and sister. "The home played a very important part in seeing that my path in life moved toward the direction that the Lord intended for me to take," she said.

Kay Hill, a school teacher in Millington, and her twin brother spent 1957-68 at TBCH and went on to graduate from Union University, Jackson. She said without the TBCH "my life would be totally different than what it is today."

### Thanks for adult homes

Joy Nabi of Franklin told how CP giving has helped fund Baptist homes for developmentally disabled adults, where her son, Scott, 39, lives. Nabi is president of Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, which has begun three homes in the Nashville area. The homes are managed by Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Brentwood.

### Union City layman

James Glasgow Jr., a member of First Baptist Church, Union City, said he is often overcome by the responsibility given to Christians to share the Gospel with everyone in the world. But he is relieved when he realizes that through the CP, he is doing just that.

Glasgow said he enjoys reading the *Baptist and Reflector* each week because of its reports on missions work around the world. Through the CP "each of us are ministers throughout the world," said Glasgow.

### Church administrator

Les Collier, church administrator, Cherry Road Baptist Church, Memphis, told how he



COLLIER

lost most of his vision and then his business as a finish carpenter. Through surgeries, he regained most of his vision and his church hired him as a part-time church administrator. He was able to do that job without any experience through information and training provided by the Tennessee Baptist Convention through the CP, he said.

Recently he has been named to that role full-time. Collier said, "You have made it possible for me to be a church administrator. You have impacted my life."

### University student

Melody Maxwell, student at Union University, Jackson, from First Baptist Church, Collierville, told how she had seen the CP work through Girls in Action, Bible Drill, Acteens, and GA and Acteens Camps.

Maxwell said she has also seen the CP work during missions efforts in the United States and overseas and through the missionaries she met there, and at Union.

While at Union, because of CP support, she doesn't have to struggle to fund her education, but can "focus on what God wants me to do," said Maxwell.

### Church missions worker

Andrea Young, a school teacher who works with missions groups at First Baptist



Church, Bolivar, said prepared for this present she realized she had been miss in teaching the people at her church about CP.

She described mission



YOUNG

work. Acteens workers Montgo Village Center, Knoxville, which she described as a Baptist children's in which she saw the thing.

She also praised the that only 2-4 percent of is used for administrative promotion.

### Dickson layman

Neal Westerman of Baptist Church, Dickson, his church did not grow began to give to the CP 50 years ago.

At that time, the church had 132 members and meeting in its original ing. It was being led by grandfather who served pastor. Since then, Sylvia Church has grown to 600 members and has called three staff members.

The Cooperative Program also helped the church participate in accomplishing Great Commission although it was a small church said. *B&R*



WESTERMAN

## Bivocational and small church pastors recognized



**BIVOCATIONAL** pastors honored at the TBC annual meeting were, from left, Jim Ramsey, First Baptist Church, Smartt; Fredrick E. Brabson Sr., New Covenant Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Jerry Dale Coln, East Laurel Baptist Church, Jackson. The pastors were named top small church pastors in the annual recognition.



**SMALL CHURCH** pastors honored at the TBC annual meeting were, from left, Ricky Scott, Rome Baptist Church, Lebanon; William Palmer, Witt Baptist Church, Morristown; and Brad Banks, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Collierville. The pastors were named top bivocational pastors in the annual recognition.



# Tidwell calls for purity, biblical view

e Davis  
nd Reflector

MANTOWN — "Most of the confusion and division in the Baptist experience as a denomination, maybe as a church and maybe even as a denomination, is the result of leadership of us, who might be called 'liberal' or 'conservative' motivated," said Jim Tidwell during his message at the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Tidwell admitted to you that I attended a few conventions where the main motivation for being there was ... to go to for something or something. But I'm convinced to you this morning when God looks at our leaders, and other pastors ... when our lives are in the wrong place ... only breaks God's heart," said Tidwell, TBC president who is from West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson.

**View of future**  
Tidwell said his experience as a convention president was more positive than he dreamed of. But he warned the future could be gloomy. "There are some of us ... who spend so much of our lives fighting battles that we are not fighting that we are ourselves losing the pursuit of passion for the things that matter most to God. There

are some folks ... (who) are spending so much time fighting fundamentalism that they have completely forgotten the ministry in their churches and the Great Commission."

"On the other hand, we also have pastors who are so busy fighting liberalism, and I know I've found myself in that camp, that they have lost their purpose and their mission and ... their real passion for seeing lost people saved."

## The Bible, BF&M

Tidwell also spoke on the Bible and the newly revised Baptist Faith and Message.

"Let me say to those of you who question this issue regarding the inerrancy of Scripture and the trustworthiness of Scripture. I don't have anything else to hold onto."

"I did not grow up a Southern Baptist," he explained. His pastor didn't believe the book of Revelation belonged in the Bible, he added.

"As we look throughout the history of the church and the Old Testament to the New Testament, even to the modern church today ... the more the church has deviated from the law of God, from the Word of God and its authority, the more they have deviated and departed from the agenda of God."

"If we don't accept this book as the authority, as a total, truthful, trustworthy revelation from God, ... you must accept

one of two scenarios. The first one is God is not perfect; God is not holy and therefore he is incapable of giving us a perfect revelation.

"The second possible scenario is that God is a holy God; that God is a righteous God; and he's just up there playing games with us, putting us on some sort of hide and seek mission trying to discover what the real truth is."

"I don't believe either one of those scenarios is accurate."

Tidwell referred to changes to the Baptist Faith and Message by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention last summer. The 2000 version removed the statement identifying Jesus Christ as "the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted."

The 1963 version of the BF&M described the Bible as "the record of God's revelation of himself to man," while the new version says the Bible "is God's revelation of himself to man."

Where the 1963 version identified Jesus as "the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted," the new version says, "All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is himself the focus of divine revelation."



TIDWELL

Tidwell said, "We can see it (the Bible) differently; we can interpret it differently, and that will even call for a lot of disagreement and discussion; but let's accept it as our authority and our rule."

"Let's not call it just a book," he said, referring to a statement made at the SBC annual meeting. "It's not just a book. It's God's revelation to us." The crowd responded with lengthy applause.

## Big enough for all

Tidwell said during the year he had gotten to know and appreciate two men despite his differences with them. They are Charles Bailey, pastor, Laurel Bank Baptist Church, Friendsville, and leader of Concerned Tennessee Baptists, a conservative group, and James Netherton, president, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Tidwell referred to the recent action by Carson-Newman to reverse a previous action and once again allow Tennessee Baptists to elect its trustees.

"He (Netherton) stepped up boldly to make a move towards Tennessee Baptists. Folks, ... this ... could have backfired and blown up in his face. And he chose to make a step towards us. I've learned to love Jim Netherton."

"There are some of you who've said ... and there have been times in the past when I've said it ... the convention is

not big enough for a Charles Bailey and a Jim Netherton. I submit to you this morning it is big enough. That the very thing that some people would say that divides us is the very thing — that diversity — that can make us stronger than we've ever been before."

"If we could come together this morning ... this afternoon, and tomorrow; if we could get right with God, get right with his Word, get right with his people, and right with the mission of seeing lost people come to the Word and knowledge of Jesus Christ, if we could get right with those things, then we could be under God's agenda and God could do his work like never before through Tennessee Baptists," Tidwell concluded.

## Additional messages

Tidwell referred to problems in society. He warned pastors not to become so concerned about stemming the "flood" that they don't watch for "small leaks."

He also spoke from II Kings 8 about Elisha and his grief over the Israelite who would become king because he had wrong motives and over the Israelites who had lost their commitment to God. **B&R**



## Executive director's message

# What sort of Baptists ought we to be? Porch queries

ie Wilkey  
and Reflector

MANTOWN — Tennessee Baptists living in a day when there are misunderstandings and false presumptions about who Baptists are and who we are supposed to be, suggested Jim Porch.

Executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention assured messengers attending the annual meeting at Mantown Baptist Church on Nov. 14 he would "refrain from a strong attempt to teach a quick course on Baptism."

Instead, Porch encouraged messengers to "surrender to the call to hear the Word of God teaches that can enable us and enable us to renew our identity. In essence, I go behind Baptist tradition to seek answers from the Holy Spirit," Porch said.

reappearing of Christ has waned," Porch observed.

Porch declared his expectation of the reappearing of the Lord, but went on to ask an inescapable question, "During our waiting time, our interval between birth and the reappearing of Jesus, what sort of persons ought we to be in holy conduct and godliness?"

Porch then posed the question, "What sort of people called Baptists ought we to be?" The TBC leader examined the word "ought."

"In my personal study of the term I attempted diligently to give 'ought' a positive flavor. ...

"The term leaves no room for choice. If I claim to be a Christian, redeemed by the living Christ, I have no choice here."

"Scripture defines certain 'oughts' as necessary holy obligations. As a Baptist Christian, exercising the priesthood of the believer, I cannot claim my exemption from this teaching," Porch observed.

He cited three "oughts" that pertain to Tennessee Baptists.

First, he said, "as Baptist Christians, we ought to be diligent to be at peace

with each other."

The peace of the New Testament was never passive, Porch said.

"Instead, dynamic peace, New Testament peace, refers to the presence of respect for differences. Such peace offers no need to advertise differences."

Observing that Baptists often refer to each other as "brother and sisters and friends," Porch noted that often in conversations someone will say, "but we disagree."

"Sometimes I wonder if such disclaimer is offered as self protection. In other words, I want you, my audience, to know we are not too close."

Second, Porch continued, "as Baptist Christians, we ought to be diligent to be pure."

The Word of God "admonishes us to be spotless and blameless," he said.

To be blameless though refers to someone who refrains from causing trouble, Porch said.

"In essence, when there is an absence of spots and an absence of a sense of blame, there is room for purity."

Such purity, he added, requires integrity and honesty.

Third, Baptist Christians ought to be diligent to propagate the Gospel.

"According to Scripture, our Lord tar-

ries to allow us time to be diligent in telling the Gospel story," Porch said.

"Our vision in evangelizing the masses must give way to focus upon telling the story of Jesus to hurting, helpless, hopeless, and haunted people," he stressed.

"And, this is happening across Tennessee," he continued. "It occurs in truck stops, prisons and jails, resort areas, vegetable fields, school rooms, locker rooms, and restaurants and bars along the Mississippi River and mountains of Appalachia."

"You may not hear much about it. Much of this type of evangelism is simply stated in the message of the parable of leaven. It's quiet, prevailing, and gets the job done. ...

"As I become more and more acquainted with these Christian Baptists, I have discovered they are Baptists with focus. They take the 'ought' seriously and wisely use their energy. Such personal evangelism is being done by people who are truly Baptists at peace."

"As Baptists are busy telling the story of Jesus, they don't have time to fuss and fight. They're just busy telling the story of Jesus."

"These are the people out in our churches." **B&R**



PORCH



# Pastors' Conference provides messages on Christ

By Kevin Shrum  
For Baptist and Reflector

GERMANTOWN — Centered around the theme, Jesus Christ, God's Only Son, Our Eternal Savior, and Lord, based upon Hebrews 3:1, the singing and preaching at the annual Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference focused attention on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Hal Fletcher, pastor of Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis, began the conference with a moving message from Revelation 12 on the "Weapons of Our Warfare." Fletcher noted that the weapon of the blood, the weapon of the Bible, and the weapon of backbone are God-given gifts to the church so that Satan — the bully from hell — can be overcome with power and authority.

Fletcher was later elected second vice president of the convention during the second day of the annual meeting held at Germantown Baptist Church.

Sherrel Nave, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Johnson City, preached on the simple, yet profound subject, "You Can Trust Him," based on Daniel 3 and the events surrounding the three Hebrew children. Nave outlined the defining situation that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced as their faith was challenged, the determined stand they made in facing their circumstance, and the dynamic salvation they experienced as a result of God's



**PASTORS' CONFERENCE** officers include, from left, Dennis Deese, First Baptist Church, Hunter, Elizabethton; Sherrel Nave, Mountain View Baptist Church, Johnson City, vice president; and Kim Allen, Little West Fork Baptist Church, Clarksville, secretary-treasurer.

abiding, empowering presence through the fire.

Jeff LaBorg, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church, Savannah, closed the first session with a powerful message from Mark 2 and the healing of the lame man brought to Jesus by four friends. LaBorg noted that Jesus was in the house and that when Jesus is "in the house" mighty things can happen. Jesus also preached the Word of God, which bore great results and caused great consternation among the religious elite. LaBorg also noted the dynamic faith of the lame man's friends.

The second session also exhibited powerful preaching. Rob Finley of Prayer Resources, Memphis, preached from the book of Hebrews, calling it a

handbook for revival in the church. Finley suggested that the causes of revival are found in the person of Christ, the provision of Calvary, the practical application of faith, and the practical willingness to love even in the face of trouble and trial.

Roc Collins, a pastor in Virginia, brought a message entitled, "Jesus the High Priest," based upon Hebrews 8. Collins emphasized the truth that Jesus is such a High Priest that he is matchless and mighty. As our High Priest Collins noted that Jesus is our Savior who saves us from sin. Jesus is the seated High Priest, having accomplished our salvation.

The second session was concluded by Stephen Olford, an

evangelist and teacher from Memphis. Olford's delineation of his message concerning Christian discipleship, discipline, and ministry flowed out of the depth of his study and experience.

The final session of the night concluded with messages from David Miller, an evangelist from Heber Springs, Ark., Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova; and Virgil Caldwell, pastor of New Monumental Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

Miller, taking his text from Colossians 1, outlined the parameters of Jesus' lordship. Miller noted the meaning of lordship and then the manifestation of Jesus' lordship — Jesus is Lord of creation, of conversion, of the church, and of the consummation of the ages.

Miller noted that Jesus' lordship not only lets us know who he is, but it also sets a standard by which we are to judge our thoughts, commitments, and relationships.

Rogers, noted for the potency and power of his preaching, did not disappoint. Taking his text from II Kings 13, Rogers noted the principles for victory in the life of the minister of the Gospel — the mandate for victory, the method for victory, and the measure of victory.

The final message of the conference was delivered by well who began his message playing "How Great Thou Art" on his saxophone. He then delivered a message entitled "Feeble Attempt to Settle Debt with God," based on Psalm 116:12. While noting it was impossible to repay for his blessings, Caldwell noted that there were some things he planned to do. God know he was thankful, would give God his time, talent, his tithes and offerings, and his very life.

The music in each session was outstanding and included groups, soloists, and church choirs.

During a business session the following were elected officers: Dennis Deese, First Baptist Church, Hunter, Elizabethton, president; Sherrel Nave, Mountain View Baptist Church, Johnson City, vice president; and Kim Allen, Little West Fork Baptist Church, Clarksville, secretary-treasurer. ■



## Building Powerful Ministry Teams

A Workshop for Ministry Professionals

January 11-12, 2001

Baptist Center, Brentwood, Tennessee

Sponsored by LeaderFocus,

Church Staff Leadership Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

### Conference Leaders:

- ◆ Chuck Allen: Executive Director, Leadership Development, North American Mission Board, SBC, Atlanta, GA
- ◆ Jerry Chapman: Leader Development Specialist, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, Tenn.
- ◆ Archer Thorpe: Leader Development Specialist, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, Tenn.

### Workshop Objectives:

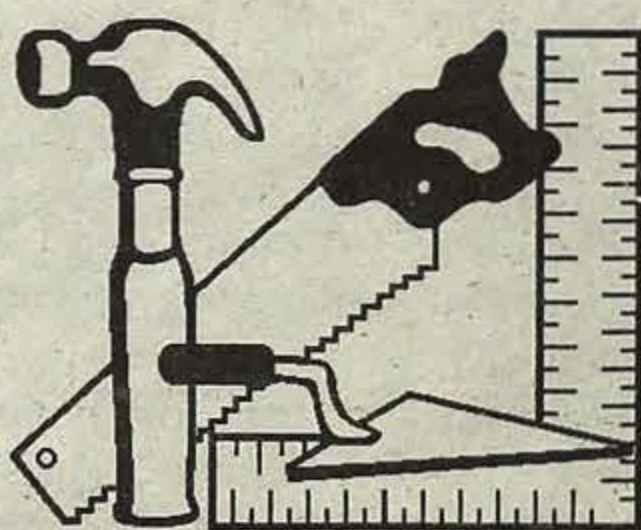
- Understand the principles and practices of high performance teamwork
- Discuss your team's present and future performance
- Expose your team to the characteristics of highly effective ministry teams
- Develop a plan for increased team effectiveness

**Schedule:** Thursday: 1-5 p.m. Dinner provided. 7-9 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. — 3 p.m. Lunch provided.

**Registration** is limited to 50 staff members. Deadline is Dec. 8, 2000. Cost is \$30 registration fee per person. Materials and conference meals are included in the fees.

**Please send** name, address, phone number, church name, association, and check to Jerry Chapman, Church Staff Leadership Group, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or call 800-558-2090, extension 7932, (615) 371-7932, fax (615) 371-2014, e-mail jchapman@tnbaptist.org.



## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Piggott, Ark., is seeking a mature, experienced full-time senior pastor. Send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 365, Piggott, AR 72454.



First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Ky., is seeking candidates for the position of senior pastor. The compensation package will be based on training and experience. The church, established in 1883, is a congregation of approximately 600 resident members, with women's ministry and participation in both the Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Williamsburg is the home of Campbell College, the largest Baptist college in Kentucky. Candidates should submit the following materials: 1) a letter describing your approach to and qualifications for ministry; 2) a current resume, including references; and 3) a videotape and/or audiotape of a Sunday service that he has conducted. All applications should be addressed to Ms. Frances Ball, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 230 South 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769. All communications and materials will be held in the strictest confidence.

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a full-time secretary to assist the minister of education and outreach. Computer skills, interest in people, and ministry required. Call (615) 373-8074 for application.

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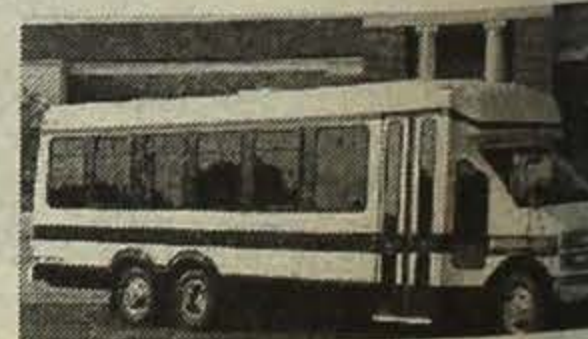
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# Messengers attend Missions Extravaganza



Held by Tennessee  
Woman's Missionary  
Union



**FOWLER**, left, of West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, with Leslie Allen, assistant coordinator, Mississippi River Min- based at Gibson County Baptist Association, Trenton.



**MISSIONARY** to Latvia Monte Erwin of Nashville, visits with Lauren Kemp, center, and Lindsay McBride of First Baptist Church, New Bern.



**TWINS** and missionaries Grace Morris, left, of South Korea and Ginger Collier of Brazil participated in the Missions Extravaganza.



**HER COLLIER**, missionary to Brazil, visits with, left, Edna Tilley, First Baptist Church, Rock-; Ernestine Gravatt, Wells Street Baptist ch, Memphis; Hesta Bailey, FBC, Rockwood; Mabel Harmon, Dorothy Sims, and Jewel Posey, all three of Wells Street Church.



**THE RIGHT**, Bobbye Clark, left, Raleigh Baptist ch, Bartlett, visits with Pat Culp of Christian men's Job Corps of Memphis.



**RETIRED MISSIONARY** Fran Skinner, left, describes an item from Paraguay for Doyle Neal, right, director of missions, Beech River Baptist Association, as his granddaughter, Loye Hudspeth of Germantown, looks on.

## BC, Cookeville, begins renovation with 'steeple raising'

Katherine Kidd  
Baptist and Reflector

**COOKEVILLE** — It was a Sunday of expectations Nov. 12 for First Baptist Church here. To mark the beginning of a building/renovation project, the church raised a steeple on its tuary.

For years, First Baptist Church has shared the indignation of a non-recognizable church plant. Parked inauspiciously behind a large government building downtown, First Baptist has shared in with the post office, city hall, and a neighboring bank. Re- minded one member, "It has often been a cult for newcomers to find us, even though we are right in the middle of city."

Jonathan Nelms, minister of music, saw the need for the steeple and came up with the idea to place it atop a brick "tower" structure that stood at the corner of the building.

The steeple and cupola added about 10 feet to the 70-foot brick tower. Mem- bers and visitors worshiped and then watched the steeple raising from chairs

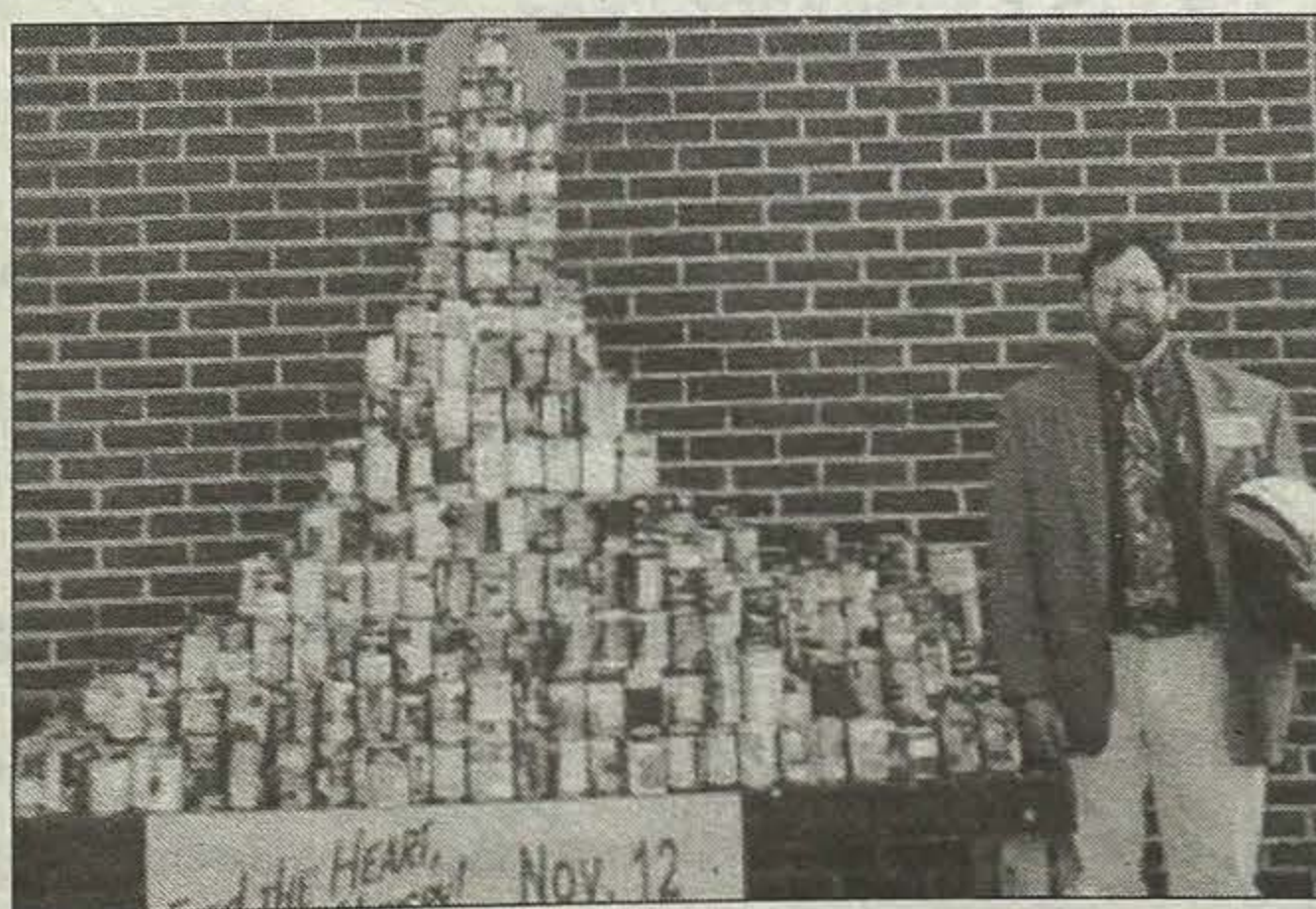
set in a nearby bank parking lot.

Featured guests were Charles Womack, mayor of Cookeville; and Gerald Stow of Franklin, former pastor and retired president, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

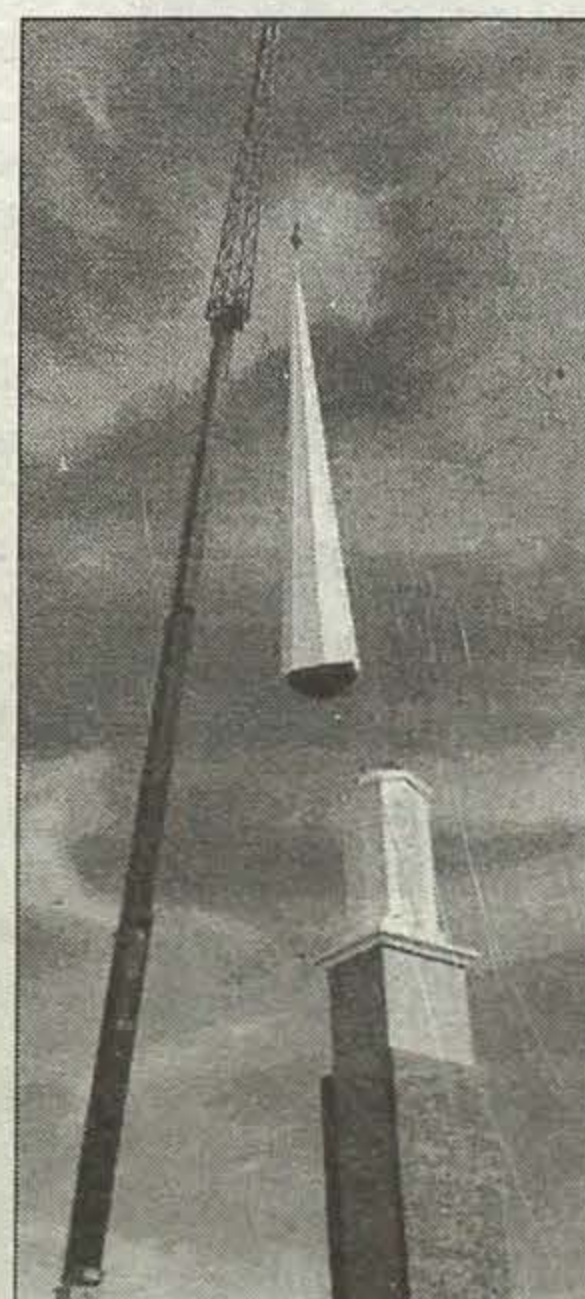
As a part of the activities, church members collected 1,722 cans of food for the Putnam County Clearinghouse with help from grocers. And 801 people

attended Sunday School to participate in high attendance day. To meet a commitment he made if 800 people attended Sunday School, Gary Harvey, minister of education, rode in the crane basket during the steeple raising. To conclude ac-

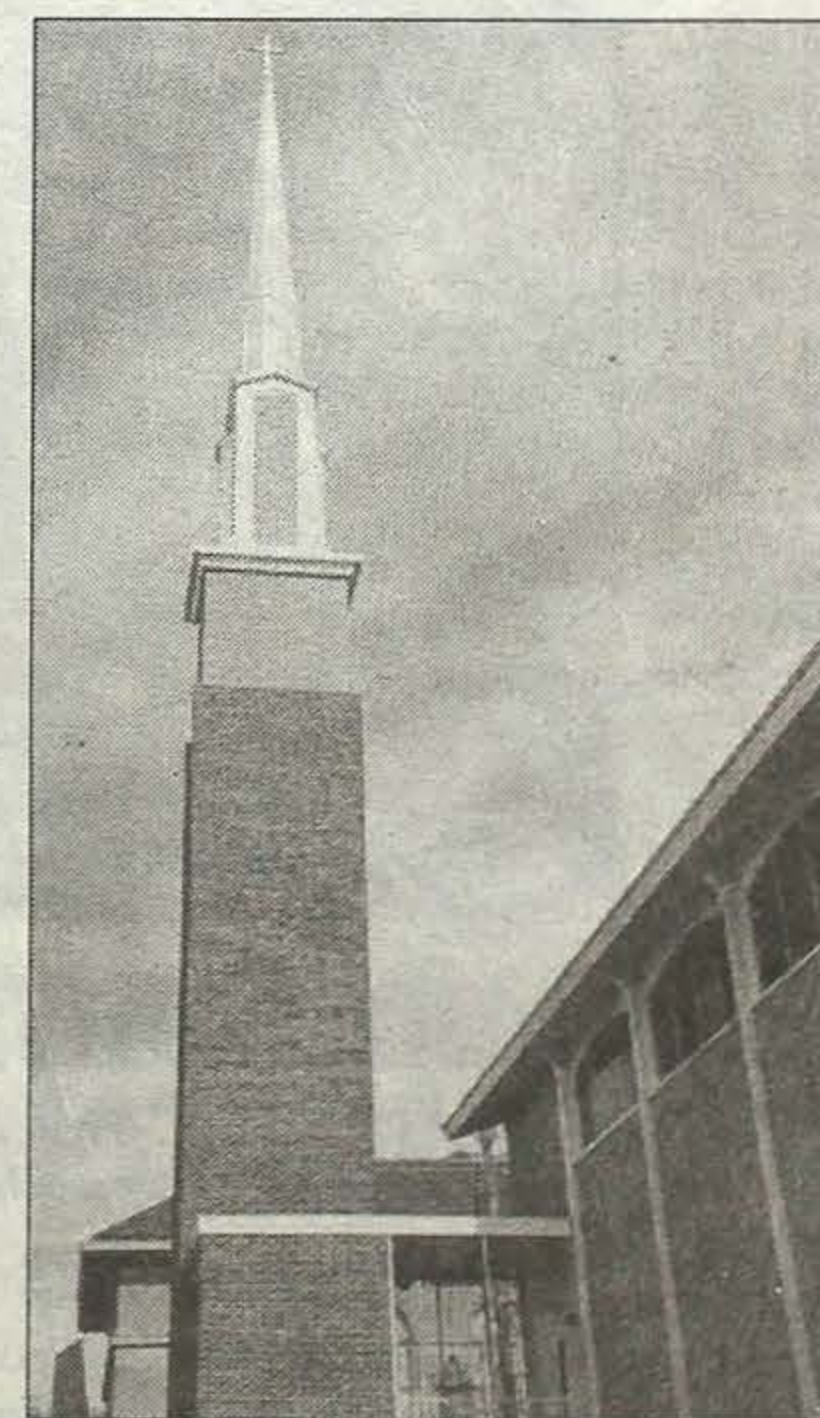
tivities, a luncheon was held. ■



**GARY HARVEY**, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Cookeville, stands with some of the 1,722 cans of food collected for an area food closet on the special day.



**THE FINAL** part of the steeple is lifted into place.



**THE NEW STEEPLE** and cupola sit atop the First Baptist Church, Cookeville, building.



# Border states take various actions on BF&M statement

Compiled from Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Resolutions dealing with the Baptist Faith and Message were among a myriad of business considered last week by states that border Tennessee.

In Georgia, about two-thirds of 3,400 messengers at the Georgia Baptist Convention approved a resolution on Nov. 14 voicing "approval and appreciation" of the Baptist Faith and Message statement of beliefs adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Messengers at the annual meeting in Savannah passed the resolution by a show of ballots.

Much of the debate, according to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, focused on a statement not carried into the current BF&M from the 1963 version, that "the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

In other business, Georgia messengers passed resolutions opposing partial-birth abortion; opposing the use of Georgia tax funds on sex education that does not take into account laws against fornication; and opposing fund-raising raffles in local schools.

Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers voted Nov. 14 to establish a study committee to recommend a stance on the BF&M to be considered at next year's annual meeting, instead of taking a vote this year.

Kentucky messengers also elected a moderate-backed nominee for convention president, electing retired missionary Jim McKinley over conservative-backed Kevin Ezell,

pastor of Louisville's Highland Baptist Church by a vote of 1,091-978. According to the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Ezell embraced the statement as adopted this year while McKinley supported the 1963 BF&M.

Baptist General Association of Virginia messengers voted Nov. 14 to create a committee to study whether the BGAV's approach to missions is compatible with its national mission partners, and whether Virginia Baptists are involved in deciding how the money is utilized by the national agencies.

The motion made no specific reference to the SBC International Mission Board or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The motion to create a study committee of missions organizations in partnership with the BGAV passed by a show of hands without discussion. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* quoted BGAV President Thomas R. McCann Jr. as saying in his opening remarks that the SBC has "grown away from us and no longer needs us. ... It is time to create something new. ..." McCann also stated, "It is unreasonable for Virginia Baptists to send their dollars to any group who deliberately refuses to include us in decisions on how those dollars ought to be spent."

Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Nov. 14 re-elected a conservative, Mike Cummings of Lumberton, director of missions for Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, then swung to-

ward two moderate-backed nominees, Asheville pastor Buddy Corbin and Raleigh pastor Larry Harper, for first and second vice president, respectively, over conservative nominees.

A resolution was passed affirming Cooperative Program giving, cooperation with the SBC, and state convention autonomy.

And a constitutional amendment to end the convention's fraternal relationship with Wake Forest University narrowly fell short of a two-thirds majority, 2,390-1,564.

The BSC General Board had proposed changing the fraternal relationship to a "historical" relationship. The board's proposal would have removed WFU from the BSC's Council

on Christian Higher Education, but kept funding for scholarships.

But messengers amended the proposal to remove WFU completely from the constitution and end scholarship funding by 2004. The amendment, which needed only a simple majority, might have lowered support for the original motion, which needed a two-thirds majority since it would have changed the BSC constitution.

The failure of the amended motion leaves the BSC's fraternal relationship intact. ■

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First Baptist Church, McCa Ga-Copperhill, Tenn., is a full-time minister of music for minor adults. Please send resume to John Way, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 867, Caysville, GA 30555.

Oral Baptist Church in City, Tenn., is seeking a part-time minister of music. We want one with a good knowledge of music who will enthusiastically lead our people in praise and worship and is willing to be a part of a total ministry team. If you are seeking a good place to serve the Lord, we would like to talk to you. Please send your resume to Music Committee, Oral Baptist Church, 4850 Kingston, Lenoir City, TN 37771. (615) 865-717-0157.

### MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Seeking a full-time minister of youth, with additional administrative responsibilities, for a staff church. Seminary graduate preferred. Send resume to Search Committee, South Baptist Church, 5115 Butler Rd., St. Louis, MO 63128. Phone (314) 843-5558, or SOCOPAT@aol.com. Pastor is John L. Sel.

Memorial Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., has immediate opening for a part-time, innovative minister of youth. Phone (423) 877-7987 or 877-7476, or mail 4445 Hixson Pike, Hixson, TN 37343.

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

The First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., is receiving resumes for minister to families and children. This position is a full-time, high-energy, individual, preferably seminary-trained, to minister with schoolers and children, the church, and leaders. Includes theology and creative in ministry. FBC is supportive of both SBC and CBF. Resumes should be mailed to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Way Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402.

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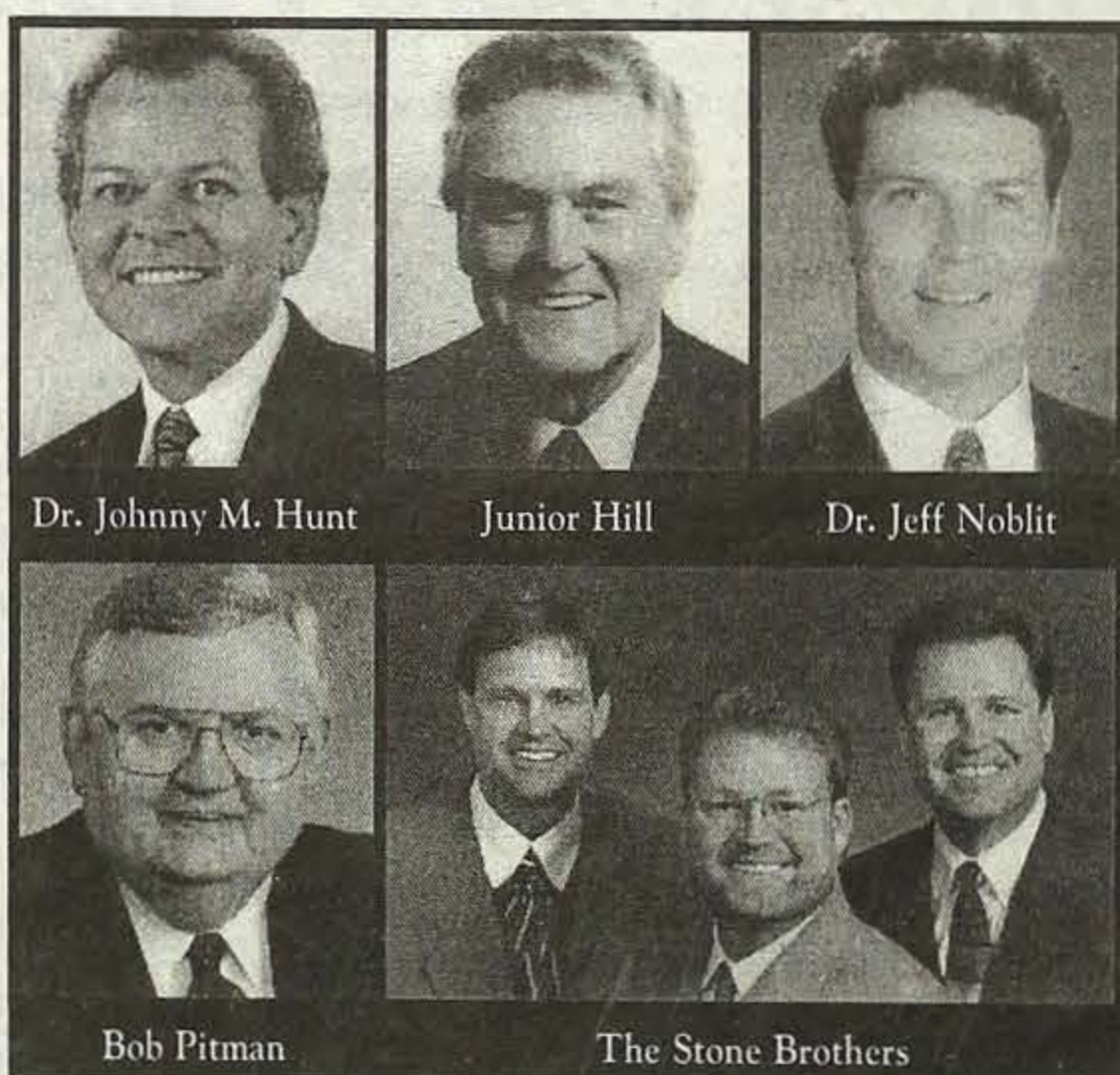
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Minister's  
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my

My favorite Thanksgiving text is Luke 17:11-19 when 10 lepers cried out to Jesus for mercy and he

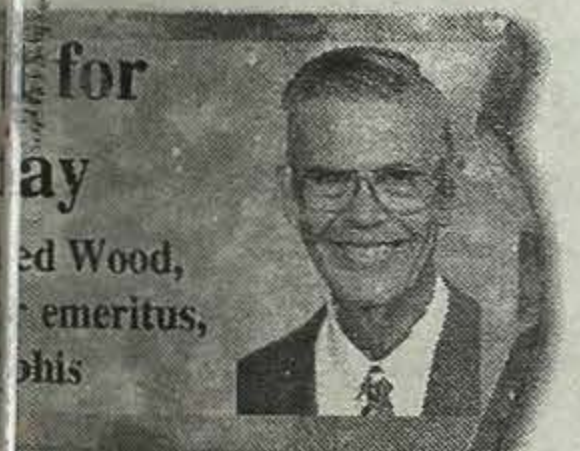
them. But only one returned to thank him. It seems to be that more people were healed and gave thanks, a reminder that we are often more indebted to God than thanking him. Those who practice the "attitude of gratitude" are content people. They are less likely to be critical, or depressed. Gratitude is one of the most satisfying, fulfilling life.

One of the persons from whom I learned gratitude was my mother. From an earthly standpoint, she had a lot to be thankful for. She was disabled, widowed, and buried her middle son when he was young. During all the years she lived with my wife, my son, and me, she thanked us for everything we did for her. My cousin once asked mother how she could feel if she had to go to a nursing home. She said, "Well, I don't want to do that, but if I do, I'll be the happiest person there!" And in her final years, when she was leaving home, she thanked me every time I visited. Only a heart that has practiced gratitude throughout its lifetime can have victory over difficult circumstances.

At home, Carol Ann thanks me every time I take her out to eat and we buy a meal. I thank her every time she fixes a meal at home, when she runs errands such as taking my clothes to the cleaners and when she buys my favorite foods.

Gratitude seals relationships, with other people and with the Lord. It is important that we thank God for our salvation. Whenever I am with someone who has just prayed to receive Christ, I suggest that they pray again and thank the Lord for saving them. This confirms a new Christian's salvation, especially in his own heart. And it can and should begin a life of gratitude.

Thanksgiving is more than a season. It is a great principle for life. ■ — Draper, a former Texas pastor, is president of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.



just for  
day  
Wood,  
emeritus,  
Ohio

**Start With a Smile:** Optimist to second grade girl? "Now read the first line and then the second

little girl: "I can't read either one of them." Optimist: "You don't think you need glasses? Why not?" Girl: "We haven't had those words in school yet."

**this Truth:** "Don't speak as to be understood, but so as never to be misunderstood. That's even better."

**Prize this Scripture:** "Write the vision, and make it plain ... that he may run that readeth it." — Isaiah 8:1-3

**this Prayer:** Lord, help me to make everything I do understandable even to the one who is in a hurry. ■



## The new covenant

By Marvin Nail

**Focal Passages:** Jeremiah 31:31-37; Hebrews 8:6-7, 13; 9:11-15

Many of us older adults are fond of speaking of those days when a man's word was his bond and it was not necessary to reduce every deal to writing. Perhaps there are no hard statistics to support a specific number, but I recall having plenty of scoundrels around in my boyhood days just like we have now. We might like to believe there was a time when we could trust each other to be truthful. But the fact is that we have always been more comfortable having it in writing.

We should have learned by now that even having words written by God in stone is no guarantee we will keep it any better. It might make us more comfortable to have writings that we can use to hold each other accountable and to give us more reason to trust God. Nevertheless, if obedience is not based on relationship it is not the submission God chooses.

**The characteristics of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).** The old covenant delivered by Moses was a contract in which both parties, God and Israel, agreed to certain conditions. In exchange for God's guiding and protecting them the former Hebrew slaves agreed to keep certain rules. They were, in a sense, still slaves but to a new and benevolent Master. The rules were spelled out in considerable detail in the laws given to Moses. But just like their ancestors in the garden they seemed unable to resist the temptation to stretch the boundaries.

For Israel the challenge seemed to be not so much refraining from disobedience but seeing how far they could stretch the laws without being disobedient. When we can reduce a relationship to a piece of paper there is always the tendency to do this. When the prophet speaks of having it written in our minds and hearts he is speaking of making God's commands so much our own that

they become natural for us. We will not need to stand guard over the behavior of others because they have the Spirit of God to guide them just as we do.

**The immutability of the New Covenant (vv. 35-37).** The covenant that the prophet sees God having with his people will be an eternal covenant. It will no longer be subject to the whims of the people because it will be a covenant that has its roots in the depths of our soul.

When the Father gives us a new heart in our new birth its primary desire is to please God. We enter a relationship with the Father based on a mutual love that is willing to make any sacrifice for the other. Where there is no willingness to sacrifice there is no love and no relationship. Where such a willingness does exist it cannot be ended.

**The superiority of the New Covenant (Hebrews 8:6-7, 13).** The covenant God made with Israel at Sinai was wonderful. Its principles made a nation out of a group of slaves. Those guidelines are at the core of the founding principles for many nation's laws.

But telling people what they must or must not do does not make them better people. To really make people behave better there must be a desire in their hearts to do so. For nearly 2,000 years we have known that such an inward desire is created only when Jesus Christ is at the center of our desire.

**The mediator of the New Covenant (9:11-15).** Only in the life and work of Jesus is it possible for us to have that inner desire to follow the guidance of God. Only through the earthly ministry of Jesus, including his death and resurrection, can we have the power and willingness to live as we should. — Nail, a former Nashville pastor, works at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.



**Family Bible**  
**SS Lesson — Nov. 26**

## Promoting missions work

By Rick Roberts

**Focal Passage:**

**Acts 15:1-3, 7-11, 30-32, 35**

**Talk about missions work (vv. 1-3).** The 15th chapter of Acts records a crucial time in the life of the early church. What was at stake was the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Two important aspects of the story that should be noted are the way conflict in the church was handled and the result of the conflict.

Paul and Barnabas had met with great success in their first missionary endeavor. In response, certain men came from Judea to correct what they believed to be error in both doctrine and practice regarding the Gentile mission.

It is clear from the whole of chapter 15 that the supposed doctrinal error was that faith in Jesus Christ alone was all that was necessary for salvation. The error in practice according to these Jewish believers was that the Gentile converts were not required to submit to circumcision and the whole Jewish Law. Paul and Barnabas had not laid any of this upon their Gentile converts and as one would expect they came into sharp disagreement with the men from Judea. Paul and Barnabas were defending the Gospel of Christ itself and that is why they came into such sharp disagreement. We in the church today should take note that when it comes to matters of the Gospel of Jesus Christ we should be willing to stand and be counted. Too often however our largest struggles

in the church today are over matters of taste or personal opinion.

Another thing to note is how the conflict was handled by the church in Antioch. Realizing that the questions raised by this conflict had far reaching consequences they sought the entire council of the church leaders of that day. The church appointed Paul, Barnabas, and some others to go to Jerusalem. Sometimes the issues that the local church is dealing with are too difficult to be resolved without seeking outside council. We should never be ashamed to admit that we are in water that is too deep for us. We as Tennessee Baptists have tremendous resources available to us to help in such times.

**Champion the missions message (vv. 7-11).** During the protracted Jerusalem Council Peter spoke on behalf of the Apostles and what he had to say demonstrates the maturity of the leading Apostle. Peter called upon all present to recall that he himself had been commissioned by God to speak the Gospel to Gentiles. Peter also called upon them to remember that those Gentiles had been saved and their conversion had been demonstrated by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter then told them that those converts had not converted to Judaism before salvation. Peter also reminded the Jewish Christians that if they had not found righteousness before God through the Law, how could they expect the Gentiles would find a right standing

before God through the Law. No, Jews and Gentiles alike had but one problem and that was sin and only one remedy and that was salvation. Notice how Peter who had cowered before others now stands like a "rock" for the truth of the Gospel.

**Strengthen the base of missions (vv. 30-32, 35).** The outcome of the conference at Jerusalem was that concessions would be made on both sides. The Jewish Christians would not insist that Gentiles be circumcised and submit to the Law of

Moses and the Gentiles would not participate in immorality or idolatry and they would not eat meat from animals that had been strangled (with the blood still in the meat). Notice that these concessions dealt with how one entered the church and how one related to the church. It was now universally accepted that all came to be saved the same way and to prevent fractures in the fellowship between Jewish and Gentile converts certain moral and social conditions would be met.

At the end of the day Paul and Barnabas are again doing what they were called by God to do, preaching and teaching the word of the Lord. What we find when conflicts are handled as they should be with a humble and submissive spirit, the church is able to do what it should be doing preaching and teaching the word of God in unity. — Roberts is pastor, First Baptist Church, Rockwood.

**Explore the Bible**  
**SS Lesson — Nov. 26**



## deaths

■ **Emery Farmer**, retired director of missions, New Salem Baptist Association, based in Carthage, died Nov. 17. He served the association from 1989-92. He also served as pastor of Flewellyn Baptist Church, Springfield, 1984-89; Cross Creek Baptist Church, Indian Mound, 1980-84; First Baptist Church, Cornersville, 1972-80; New Middleton Baptist Church, Gordonsville, 1968-72; First Baptist Church, Red Boiling Springs, 1966-68; and Oak Grove Baptist Church, McEwen, 1960-64. He was a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville; and Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. Farmer is survived by his wife, Margaret, Clarksville; and daughters Martha Repsel, Clarksville, and Elizabeth Holmes of the TBC staff, Hermitage.

## leaders

■ Western District Baptist Association, based in Paris, dedicated its annual at its annual meeting recently to **Charles R. Conger** who has

served as treasurer for 26 years. Conger is a retired banker and member of First Baptist Church, Paris, where he is assistant teacher of a men's Bible class.

■ Third Baptist Church, Nashville, has called **Rich Painter**, a student at Belmont University, Nashville, as minister of youth.

■ First Baptist Church, Tracy City, has called **Scott Linginfelter** as pastor. Linginfelter previously served as associate pastor of a church in Columbus, Ind.

■ **Brian Reynolds**, senior pastor, Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, has resigned.

■ **Walter W. Rice** was honored recently by the Adult 5 Sunday School Department of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge. Rice has taught Sunday



RICE

School at the church for 52 years. His health required a transition to substitute status recently. Rice said he was motivated to study the Bible after attending his father's Sunday School class as a boy. It was taught by J.H.



**ELECTED** to lead Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy trustees recently were, from left, Mike Collins, insurance executive and member, Rutledge Baptist Church, Rutledge, secretary; Carroll Reagan, pharmacist and member of Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, chairman; and Harry Wampler, businessman and member, First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, vice chairman. All three have children who are students or who have been students. The trustees oversee the Bible Training Center for Adults, Chilhowee Retreat Center, and King's Academy, a boarding and day school for students in grades K-12.

Moore, a Quaker and professor at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate. Rice also credits Ken Combs, pastor of Central Church, when Rice and his wife joined the church in 1948. He believes it takes at least one hour of study or preparation for every five minutes of presentation. The book of Romans is his favorite and chapter 8 is his favorite chapter.

■ Calvary Baptist Church, Kingsport, has called **Thomas L. "Tiger" Brooks** as minister of youth and children.

Brooks, a student at Milligan College was ordained to the ministry by the church Oct. 29.

## churches

■ **Macedonia Baptist Church, Kenton**, held a Judgment House Oct. 28-29, 31, and Nov. 1. As a result, 62 people made professions of faith and 317 made other spiritual decisions.

■ **Silver Springs Baptist**

**Church, Mt. Juliet**, will host its annual walk-through dramatic production "In the Inn," Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2. Participation includes a meal similar to a first century Palestinian meal. Reservations are needed. For more information, call (615) 641-0280 24 hours a day.

■ **Lookout Valley Baptist Church, Chattanooga**, will host David Ring, evangelist, based in Franklin, Nov. 30, 1 p.m. For more information, call (423) 825-5335.

■ The Student Ministry of **Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville**, will present a musical, eXtreme Christmas, Not a Silent Night, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 255-5335.

■ **Bear Creek Baptist Church, Parsons**, dedicated its new sanctuary Nov. 15. George Hill, retired director of missions, Carroll-Benton Baptist Association, spoke.

# Other scenes of 2000 TBC annual meeting



**MESSENGERS** vote on a matter of business during a session of the annual meeting.



**JAMES PORC**, right, TBC executive director, accepts a plaque from Michael Collins, executive director of Baptist State Convention of Michigan, mark the end of the 20-year partnership between the two conventions.



**DIRECTORS** of missions who retired during the past year were honored at the convention and include, from left, Bob Campbell, Fayette Baptist Association; George Hill, Carroll-Benton; John Churchman, Chilhowee; Roy Fowler, McMinn-Meigs; Joe Naylor, Dyer; and Glenn Hester, ALPHA. Not present was Bill Smith, Western District.



**THE EXHIBIT HALL** of the annual meeting drew many messengers who wished to get information from the Baptist entities represented there.