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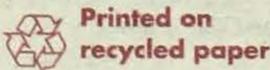
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MBC messengers encourage convention loyalty

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting, although turning away a proposed constitutional amendment to specifically exclude Cooperative Baptist Fellowship members from leadership positions, approved a bylaws amendment encouraging convention loyalty.

A total of 1,413 messengers registered for the Oct. 28-29 meeting at First Baptist Church in Jackson, up from the 1,319 messengers who attended the 2002 annual meeting there.

Messengers elected longtime Mississippi pastor Gene Henderson to serve as the new president. Henderson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Brandon, was elected by acclamation after no other nominations were made. He will replace Frank Pollard, retired pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, who was in his second consecutive one-year presidential term and thus ineligible for reelection.

Messengers defeated a constitutional amendment proposed during last year's annual meeting by Ralph Henson, pastor of Arrowood Baptist Church in Meridian. The motion stated: "I move that the Mississippi Baptist Convention not allow anyone to be employed, elected, or appointed to positions with the Mississippi Baptist Convention if that person is currently serving in an employed, elected, or appointed position with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship." The CBF was founded in the early 1990s as a reaction against the Southern Baptist Convention's embrace of conservative doctrines.

Messengers also approved a 2004 Mississippi Cooperative Program budget of \$30,854,971, which is \$737,816 (2.34 percent) less than the record 2003 budget of \$31,592,787. Giving to the Mississippi Cooperative Program has not reached monthly goals in 2003 and like-

COC, COB nominees to be challenged ...

— Continued from page 1

Baptist Church, Joelton); Wayne Stinnett, Beech Springs Baptist Church, Kodak, 424 (Bobby Turner, First Baptist Church, Dandridge); Larry Reagan, Adams Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden, 425 (Billy Murphy, Friendship Baptist Church, Friendship); and James "Tommy" Pierce, Towering Oaks Baptist Church, Greeneville, 426 (position unfilled due to move of Tom Gholson from East Tennessee to Middle Tennessee).

Jim Fitch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gallatin, and chairman of the Committee on Committees, told the *Baptist and Reflector* the committee has received, as a courtesy, notice of amendments to their report at the annual meeting.

"Technically we cannot act on them until they are made," Fitch said.

TBC chaplains hold annual retreat

Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — This year's Chaplain's Retreat, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Strategic Ministries Team of the Missions Mobilization Group, was held Oct. 9-10 at CarsonSprings Conference Center here with almost 50 chaplains and their spouses in attendance.

"The annual Chaplain's Retreat is a time of continuing education, training, networking, and personal growth," said Beverly Smothers, TBC strategic ministries specialist.

"A favorite activity is the time of sharing stories from their chaplaincy ministries which include military, institutional, pastoral care, internet chaplaincy, truck stop ministry, crisis intervention, and others," Smothers added.

The guest speaker for "The Minister as a Person" theme was Everett Reneer, a retired professor of counseling at Mid-

western Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. Reneer held four sessions on the topic.

Charles Covington, a Baptist Memorial Hospital chaplain from Memphis, served as the music and worship leader. A breakout session was also held for the various chaplaincy disciplines such as hospital, military, justice system, etc., and for their spouses.

John Samb, North American Mission Board Chaplaincy Di-

vision representative, presented a NAMB update.

Elected during the biennial meeting as 2004 Retreaters were: Bill Tober, Baptist Church, Clarksville; Linda Knott, First Baptist Church, Donelson; and Dan Haskins, pastor, Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church, Crossville.

The retreat was made possible by Cooperative Program funding, according to Smothers. □ — Marcia Knox



OFFICERS OF the 2004 Chaplain's Retreat are, from left, Joe C. Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, and 2003 Retreat chairman; Beverly Smothers, First Baptist Church, Nashville and strategic ministries specialist; Bill Tober, First Baptist Church, Clarksville; Linda Knott, First Baptist Church, Donelson; and Dan Haskins, Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church, Crossville, program chair for 2004.

ly will fall short of the full budget amount by the end of the year.

The Southern Baptist Convention portion of the 2004 budget will remain steady at 35 percent, or \$10,799,240, for the ensuing year. □

SEBTS library acquires copy of Greek manuscript

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — The library at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is now one of 13 libraries in the world to own a reproduction of Codex Vaticanus, placing the seminary alongside Harvard, Princeton,

Brandeis, and Stanford.

Codex Vaticanus, also known by its textual apparatus symbol B, is considered one of the oldest surviving Greek manuscripts of the Bible. Scholars date the original manuscript to the fourth century. The original, located at the Vatican, has been reproduced into 450 copies. Each is numbered and signed by Pope John Paul II.

With the acquisition of a reproduction of Codex Vaticanus, Southeastern becomes only the second Southern Baptist seminary, after Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to own a copy of the text. Southeastern is the first library in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States to own a copy. □

Free photos offered to TBC messengers

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Photographers will provide free photos for messengers and their spouses at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention which meets next week at Jackson Baptist Church.

Photographers will be available on Monday, Nov. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. in Rooms A114-117. Every messenger receiving a photo made will receive a free package of photos with no obligation to buy. □

He noted that at the convention the committee will meet "and consider then if we want to take any action." Fitch said the committee must make sure those amended nominees are eligible to serve.

Fitch expressed appreciation for notice of the challenges. "This courtesy allows us to inform our nominees they are being challenged," he said.

Fitch noted the "last thing we want to do is to ask Christian people to be placed in an embarrassing situation in a surprising way," he said.

At press time on Monday, all of the challenged nominees had agreed to continue with the process.

Bert Jones, associate pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, and chairman of the Committee on Boards, said his committee "has continued to work within

the requirements of the Constitution Bylaws to fulfill the tasks that the committee has placed in our hands."

Jones said the committee has six months to consider the recommendations made. "We have attempted to nominate persons who represent with equity all geographical areas of the state, ordained and lay members, men and women, associational members, etc."

"We have strived to nominate persons who are strong supporters of the convention and who belong to churches that are also strong supporters of the state," he added.

"We've done our job as it has been our duty and we feel we have done it well."

According to the printed program, messengers will vote on the two reports on Monday (Nov. 12) afternoon. □

Stone Baptists challenged to pray for persecuted Christians

Trinie Wilkey
and Reflector

COKEVILLE — When Pastor Oswaldo Magdangal, known as Pastor Wally, speaks from experi-

entative Filipino, Pastor Wally was once "the No. 1" in all of Saudi Arabia. His crime? He was a convert to the Islam religion before he preached and taught about Jesus Christ.

Pastor Wally told of his imprisonment and time spent on the road to messengers of the Baptist Association during their annual meeting Oct. 27 at Hampton's Crossroads Baptist Church here.

When God showed love, mercy, grace, and compassion. He also showed glory."

While in prison Pastor Wally was tortured and beaten. He said that he "came close to the hands of a young fanatic."

His imprisonment and death sentence, which occurred in 1992, made international headlines.

The Filipino pastor, who now heads Christians in Crisis, based in Sacramento, Calif., eventually was granted a pardon, released, and told to never return to Saudi Arabia.

His release on Christmas Day of 1992 came 70 days after his imprisonment.

"I was a nobody who became somebody in the eyes of God," he told Stone Association Baptists.

Pastor Wally now spends his ministry as a "voice for the voiceless" and is in the process of a global campaign to enlist at least 500,000 prayer intercessors to pray either daily or weekly for those persecuted for their faith and beliefs.

The ministry's mission statement, according to its web site, is "to help spread the gospel and serves as an advo-



PASTOR OSWALDO MAGDANGAL (Pastor Wally), second from right, visits with, from left, Justin Randolph, youth pastor, Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Cookeville; Steve Tiebout, pastor, The River Community Church, Cookeville; and John Fracker, Poplar Grove Church, during the annual meeting of Stone Baptist Association in Cookeville.

cate and a voice for God's people who are faced with crisis and persecuted due to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"We believe that as members of God's family, the body of Christ worldwide must respond in assisting and meeting

the needs of the other members in God's family who are less privileged and less fortunate, even as each one labors to help reach the lost with the gospel."

Pastor Wally told association messengers some "sad

news."

It is not the Hindus, the Buddhists, the Jews, or the Muslims that are persecuted today, he said. "The most persecuted group are Christians," he said, adding that there are approximately 200 million persecuted Christians worldwide.

He cautioned those in attendance not to think that persecution of Christians just happens overseas. It may be more subtle in the United States, he said, but there is persecution in America, Pastor Wally said.

The good news, he told Stone Baptists, is that the most vibrant witness comes from those who suffer persecution for Christ.

He reminded them that Jesus Christ of Nazareth died for us. "All we have to do is live for Him," the Filipino pastor challenged. □

Union banquet

Giuliani highlights principles of leadership

Curry
Press

KESON — Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani outlined specific principles of leadership he has learned from experience when he spoke to more than 2,000 supporters of Union University here, at the school's 7th annual Scholarship Banquet Oct. 27.

When you're mayor of New York City, you don't develop principles of leadership and you don't think about how you're really going to get run over. You really have to stay ahead of the game in order to function day after day," Giuliani said.

As a result, he began writing a book called "Leadership," extracting lessons learned from being mayor and serving as a United States attorney and a businessman.

In the midst of writing the book, Giuliani was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He found that the same principles used in running a major city were needed in determining what treatment to pursue when his health was in jeopardy. The focus of the book then shifted to principles of leadership that can help anyone survive a crisis.

Giuliani said he had written about 80 percent of the book before the Sept. 11 attacks. He then could not look at the book for months and nearly forgot it.

He went back to it about four or five years later, and it was a very, very different feeling," he said. "The book was how to deal with a crisis, ... and I thought I thought when I was writing it I had dealt with every emergency, crisis you could possibly imagine, but suddenly something happened that I had not imagined and not anticipated and it gave me a real chance to get through the worst crises you face."

Leadership also requires relentless preparation, Giuliani said.

Leadership, Giuliani said, is to know what you believe.

"If you don't know what you believe, you can't lead anyone else honestly. And if you don't know what you believe, you have no place to go in a crisis; you have nothing to hang on to when your life is in jeopardy," he said.

To be a leader, one also must be an optimist, Giuliani said.

"People follow hopes, dreams and aspirations, and they follow solutions to problems. ... You've got to be the one to figure out how to solve the problem, and even if you can't figure out how to solve it, how to approach it," he said, citing something his father taught him at a young age.

"If you're ever in an emergency, if you're ever in a fire, become the calmest person in the room. Don't get excited," he recounted his father as saying. "Make yourself deliberately calmer than you feel, and if there's any chance of figuring your way out of it, you'll give yourself the chance to figure your way out of it."

Third, Giuliani said a leader must develop a sense of ethics by training himself to think of the difference between right and wrong.

"Otherwise you could take all of these talents and principles and use them for evil purposes," he said. "[Osama] bin Laden, as far as I can tell, is a man who has strong beliefs, and he's a man who's trying to solve a [problem]. He's known as an enormously charismatic leader. What's the difference? The difference is ethics, morals, a sense of right and wrong."

Courage also is enormously important to leadership, Giuliani said. But courage is not something a person has or doesn't have; courage is developed.

"Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is the presence of fear and being able to overcome it," he said.

Leadership also requires relentless preparation, Giuliani said.

"Any great football coach is a coach that prepares the team better than the other football coaches. ... Relentless preparation wins wars, it wins battles, it wins football games, and it saves countries when it's necessary," he said.

America needs to be courageous and relentless in preparing for terrorism, Giuliani said. The nation needs to go about its business of traveling and working and being America, but it also needs to pay attention to terrorism and prepare in all possible ways.

Another principle of leadership Giuliani shared is teamwork. He explained that he was able to endure 9/11 because of a terrific team of people he could rely on. He had a police commissioner who had tremendous experience in dealing with global terrorism, a fire commissioner who was a firefighter for 29 years and had fought fires during the worst period of time for New York City when the Bronx was burning, and a director of emergency services who had spent his lifetime learning the enormously complex communication network of New York City, to name a few.

Finally, Giuliani said a person who is running an organization must remember it involves managing human beings, not statistics.

"To be a really effective leader, you have to love people," he said. "They have to be important to you as people, not just as baseball players or soldiers or police officers or economists or teachers or students."

The Union University Scholarship Banquet is an annual event to raise scholarship funding for Union students. David Dockery, president of the university, announced Oct. 27 that more than \$400,000 was raised this year, with the largest attendance ever.

Previous banquet speakers include James Baker III, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, Colin Powell, John Major, and Lou Holtz. □

D.L. Lowrie honored for 50 years of ministry

Baptist and Reflector

BLUFF CITY — D.L. Lowrie, former executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (1989-92), preached his first sermon in 1953 at his home church, Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church here.

Fifty years later, while preaching a revival at Chinquapin Grove, the church, led by Pastor Steve Hensley, and family surprised him with a celebration of his 50 years of ministry.

Family and friends noted God has used Lowrie to bless many lives "from the mountains of East Tennessee to the plains of Texas."



LOWRIE

Lowrie's 50-year ministry included one pastorate in Tennessee (Biltmore Baptist Church, Elizabethton) and six churches in Texas, including First Baptist Church, Lubbock, where he served from 1980-86 and 1992-2001, when he retired and was named pastor emeritus.

Lowrie also served for two years as director of the state missions commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

He continues to preach revivals and lead Bible conferences and is teaching young ministerial students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"God has been very good to this country boy," Lowrie said.

Lowrie and his wife, Alice, have four sons — David, Steve, Tommy, and John. □

Solid information

Thank you for your insightful editorial regarding misconceptions currently being circulated among Tennessee Baptists. You have been faithful to your task as the editor of our state paper by alerting us to these matters. No doubt, it required courage to research and publish your findings.

Tennessee Baptists have a tradition of wanting to know the facts and of allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us as we discuss matters and take actions. The solid information you have provided will help messengers prepare for the important decisions we shall be called upon to make.

Paul Peak
Murfreesboro 37130

Misconceptions

There are actually several misconceptions in the editorial, "Misconceptions can be harmful if not corrected."

Misconception #1: If a church only gives a little bit to the CBF, then its OK. The CBF is an organization that holds beliefs and agendas in contradiction to the very Cooperative Program that was touted in the article. Any gift to the CBF ought to make a person ineligible to serve the TBC and have say as to how CP dollars are spent.

Misconception #2: Only 12 percent of the Executive Board is CBF; that must be fair. Why is it that 12 percent of the Executive Board members are from CBF churches when only 2 percent of churches in Tennessee support the CBF in any way? Surely this must be lopsided representation. Also, what about the rest of our boards and committees? Look at the trustees at Carson-Newman and Belmont and you will find that the CBF ratio goes up dramatically.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — STUDENT

Full-time minister of youth with education and/or administration gifts in particular. Please submit resume to Long Heights Baptist Church, P.O. Box 523, McKenzie, TN 38201.



Seeking full-time student minister (grades 7-12) in a fast growing, evangelical, mission-minded, multiple staff church. Please send resume and, if possible, a video to Derek Staples, pastor, Lynwood Baptist Church, 2935 Lynwood Hills Dr., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Resumes must be received by Nov. 11, 2003.

MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

Kingwood First Baptist Church in Kingwood, Texas, is now accepting resumes for minister of adult discipleship to lead in planning, implementing, and evaluating the needs of our adult Christian education ministry. Please send resumes to KFBC, Attn. Minister of Adults Search Committee, 2303 Tree Lane, Kingwood, TX 77339 or e-mail resume to eowen@kfbctx.org.

Misconception #3: The conservatives who direct their money in other ways besides the TBC are wrong. Why is it when liberals give to the CBF and CP they are defended, but when a conservative gives in alternative ways it becomes "against the original intent of the Cooperative Program"? Isn't giving to the CBF in direct contradiction to the CP?

Finally, I would like to answer a question posed in the article, "What's wrong with human nature that we have to be in control of something or we can't support it?" The reason conservatives want to be in control is because right now things are out of control. You can look at the theological beliefs of any religion professor at two of our TBC colleges and find out how out of control they are. Please don't believe the misconceptions that will be tossed out at this year's convention.

Scott Linginfelter, pastor
First Baptist Church
Tracy City 37387

Careful research

Thank you for your editorial/opinion article on misconceptions in the Oct. 22 issue.

I am grateful for your courage in dealing with such a potentially volatile subject. Your research was carefully done. You used sources to identify factual data to share with all Tennessee Baptists. You protected confidentiality and used names only when permission was granted. Sometimes misconceptions are fed by emotions rather than hard facts. Thank you for your efforts to provide the hard facts without taking a judgmental position.

You are to be commended for

researching the data and sharing your findings with Baptists in Tennessee.

Harold Smith
Brentwood 37027

Disturbing study

I read the B&R dated Oct. 8. I take time every week to read it, as most Tennessee Baptists should. Mark Wingfield wrote an article based on a study done by the Barna Research firm. I like Barna Research and get their e-mails of the new studies that they do.

The writer failed to mention the thing that disturbed me most about this study, which was about the theological limitations in the smaller churches. Wingfield said that people attending mid-size and large churches are more conservative in their theology as well as in their political and social views but what he failed to say was what the study really said.

The study said, "the data revealed that small churches have a lower proportion of attenders who are spiritually active, which was defined as individuals who attend a church service, read the Bible, and pray to God during a typical week." The study went on to point out, "In addition, the research showed that adults affiliated with small congregations are less likely to be born again, less likely to believe in salvation by grace alone (i.e., not by good deeds), and less likely to have an orthodox view of God (i.e., holy, creator, ruler of the universe, alive today)."

I am disturbed by this study because it tells me that people in small churches do not understand the questions or they are

more interested in the social atmosphere in a small church than the truth of Scripture. The writer missed the most important part of the study. As a pastor of a small church, it bothers me that there are people in our churches who are not "spiritually active" and I am concerned about a solution.

Russell Rhodes, pastor
New Blackwell Baptist Church
Rutledge 37861

Alternative TV

In a recent issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, I noticed a poignant article regarding the preponderance of profanity on television. I applauded you for informing your readers regarding this media betrayal of the Family Hour and beyond.

I would also like your readers to be aware that there is an alternative. Many are not aware that Southern Baptists provide a television viewing option for today's families through our own full-time television network — FamilyNet. The signal reaches into millions of homes in the United States and Canada with quality, family-friendly, child-safe programming. In addition to a safe haven for family viewing, the Good News is proclaimed in full-length programming as well as spot announcements. And, in concert with the North American Mission Board's Evangelism Response Center, persons are able to call a toll-free telephone number and talk with someone who cares about them.

From TruthQuest: California, a FamilyNet production for youth done in cooperation with LifeWay and Baptist Press to Mary Lou's Flip Flop Shop, a

half-hour children's show (Olympic Gold Medal Southern Baptist) Mr. Retton to Swan's Place for Southern Baptist humor (Swanberg, there's so for the entire family.

In addition to your calling television outlet press concern over content, I suggest another action: we can employ to direct television viewing to help bring FamilyNet to cable television and direct cast satellite homes in Tennessee. If currently a satellite subscriber, we can ask their provider to add FamilyNet to their current lineup of channels. For those not currently subscribing but who would like to have access to such programming, a contact to these television outlets represents potential for a new customer. This raises the interest of the

For more information, visit our web site (www.familynet.com) or call us toll-free at 800-832-3388.

R. Chip
Fort Worth, TX

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

After 28 years of faithful service, our pastor, Rev. Calvin M. Retton, is retiring Dec. 21, 2003. Therefore, East Union Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking God's direction in its quest for a pastor to continue the Lord's work. We pray with us as God reveals His choice in filling this great position. For those interested in this position, please send your resume of personal interest or references to EUBC, Attn. Gordon M. Retton, Chairman of Pastor Search Committee, 2244 Beechwood Rd., Jackson, TN 38301.

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Part-time minister of music for Long Heights Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. Please submit resume to Long Heights Baptist Church, P.O. Box 523, McKenzie, TN 38201.



Minister of music, Trinity Methodist Church, Opelika, Ala. 1,350 members, salary range \$40,000-\$60,000. The minister of music position here at Trinity is responsible for leading and overseeing the entire ministry of music within the church. Trinity offers three Sunday morning worship experiences: traditional, contemporary, and blended. Trinity is a conservative, evangelical church with a purpose of winning people to Christ, disciplining them in Christian faith, and providing opportunities for His people to serve to the glory of God. Contact Scott Copelika, Church Administrator, 800 Second Ave., Opelika, Ala. 36801, phone (334) 745-3680, fax (334) 742-9085, or scott@tumcopelika.org.

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Doug Sager

Pastor
First Baptist Concord • Knoxville



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The editor's grumpy, so it must be annual meeting time



Lonnie Wilkey, editor

My wife, kids, close friends, the B&R staff can always when the annual meeting of Tennessee Baptist Convention approaches. They do not need a calendar. Usually get quiet, almost not, and at times may be a grumpier than usual, especially at home, if you listen to and the kids. Don't mean to. It just happens. This time of the year is one of a few times being an editor is to be enjoyable. Rather concentrating on telling the stories of the good things that Tennessee Baptists are doing I caught up in the whirlwind surrounds the annual meeting. Sometimes feel like the tug of war battle. I can do enough and I never any one. I try to allow different views from mine to be. Just check this week's letter page 4. I get older, I am discover-

ing, however, that I don't have to please everyone as long as I try to honor and please God.

This year I have been helped because I am in a MasterLife class at my church. Immersing yourself in God's Word is a great way to relieve some of the pressure you feel from the outside.

A few weeks ago I thought the major crisis (and there is always at least one at every annual meeting I have attended) would be the budget. The Budget and Program Committee has done an excellent job, however, in relieving some of the earlier tensions and concerns about the budget. Now the crisis appears to be challenges to the reports of the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards (see story on page 1).

Let me make it clear. Any Tennessee Baptist has the right to challenge a nomination. That's the way it should be. If you think the committee has made a mistake, offer an amendment. Mistakes do happen because committees are comprised of humans.

I have a hard time, however, in believing the two committees made eight "mistakes" in one year. That is how many amendments will be made to the nine

combined positions available on the two committees.

But I suspect it really doesn't matter who the committees nominate. Concerned Tennessee Baptists, in their October newsletter, made it clear they were going after all the positions on those two boards except for one.

They even published a "Conservative Tennessee Baptist Voter's Guide" to the convention to show people how they should vote. They listed positions without names and provided an amended candidate.

But there are names in those positions. They are real people with real feelings. Most are unaware or unconcerned about convention politics. They were asked if they were willing to serve if elected and they agreed. I trust most, if not all, prayed about their decision first.

These people have done nothing wrong. They all belong to cooperating Tennessee Baptist churches that support the Cooperative Program.

I do not know all of those being challenged, but I do know several and all are Bible-believers and are strong supporters of missions and evangelism through the Cooperative Pro-

gram. I have been on a mission trip with Bobby Turner of First Baptist Church, Dandridge. She is a prayer warrior bar none. If I ever have a serious prayer need, I would want Bobby to be aware of it. She has prayer walked all over the world and served on numerous mission trips. I have seen her in action in Iowa. I have seen her weep over an area in Iowa that was predominantly Muslim because she knew they were lost without Jesus. She loves the Lord and is committed to His service. Neither Bobby nor her church has done anything to merit being bumped from a committee.

I don't think those who wrote convention bylaws intended for nominations to be replaced by alternative slates. It undermines the committee process. If this is going to be the trend in the future we may as well do away with the expense of the committees and let it become a "free-for-all-election" at the convention. I don't think any one really wants that to happen year after year.

Those being nominated by the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards have gone through a lengthy process and were found worthy to serve. I have nothing against those folks

who are offered as substitute nominees. I know some of them quite well and consider them friends and have no problem with them serving. To my knowledge, however, only one of them was recommended this year so they could be considered by the two committees.

Now, however, the two committees will have to verify these eight people in a short time span at the convention as compared to the time and effort they spent in making sure those nominated were eligible to serve.

My prayer is messengers will look at those being nominated (see story on page 1) and decide on their merits. If it appears the committee made a mistake, act on the mistake, not the entire slate of nominations.

Scripture tells us "this too shall pass." I know the annual meeting will come and go. People will win some votes and lose others. Most of my grumpiness will go away, or so my family hopes.

Life will go on and next year we will face another "crisis" that must be addressed. In the meantime I can get back to my first love of sharing the stories that bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ. After all, isn't that what we are really about? ☐

Loss of a friend provides insight about longing for heaven



By James Porch

A few days, bearing a very grief, I will make the trip Nashville to Jackson to my consecutive annual Tennessee Baptist Convention. Throughout each session, I exultantly see the absence genuine Tennessee Baptist knowing joy in the presence of the living Lord Jesus

The following lines offer not to initiate a Baptist canon of Paul Durham. To record straight, as his close friend, on occasions I find him to be ornery, cranky, sometimes a genuine pain. Anyway, he has heard me say above to him at one time or another. Nevertheless, our re-

lationship grew beyond friendship into a covenant bond in and through Christ and the continued discovery of the integrity of each other and care for each other. Each day for the rest of my life I will miss him as I miss precious others now, "in my cloud of witnesses."

In 1984, Paul Durham served as a gracious host as the Tennessee Baptist Convention convened at Radnor Baptist Church in Nashville for the Annual November meeting. During the previous year, the Convention had affirmed me to preach the annual sermon. Through prayer and preparation, I built my message around Nathanael and offered a plea for revived genuineness and absence of deceit under the title, "A New Generation of True Israelites."

On Sunday morning, Aug. 31, 2003, Paul still pastor of Radnor, finished his sermon and with great stress completed a short prayer. Afterward aware of his apparent distress, I assisted his

sons and several men of the church as we helped Paul walk from the sanctuary following the massive stroke that would claim his life five days later. In the interval since his death, I've intentionally reviewed my sermon preached in the church he served and the process of our developing friendship over two decades. No preacher knows fully why he preaches any sermon. Sometimes years after the thunder or the bleep of the homily dies, the pulpiteer finds new reasons. Now reflecting back, I realize the personal prophetic trait of that sermon, as in the coming year, I began a grace experience of 20 years with a true Nathanael.

Friendships often begin at a junction. Two folk on different roads meet, and the mystery of connection over time begins to grow into a relationship, and a bond will grow if the duo offers the proper nurture to the relationship. At the time I preached the Nathanael sermon, Paul and I, well, "we were less than acquaintances." During the following year, our mutual friend, Howard Olive, chided us, "you two need to get your acts together." Prior to that time, we held no real animosity for each other. Simply, he just thought that I was prissy and I thought he was gaudy. How silly. Following an extended lunch one day, "mostly talking," we began to get our act together.

For nearly 20 years in the absence of any plan, objective, or goal, we just found joy in each others presence, made time to listen to each other and sometimes weep, laugh, or argue and maintain a freedom in

communication far beyond just words.

While my grief is heavy for his family, and my family, I grieve also for Tennessee Baptists. His heartbeat of life included his Heavenly Father, family, local church, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. To him the mission of the convention merited his time, his devotion, and his servant mentality. The pilgrimage of Tennessee Baptists advanced through some challenging times greatly due to his insight, wisdom, and determination.

He often commented, "If Tennessee Baptists stop talking to each other, we will begin to die." Yes, my grief, while personal includes sorrow for Tennessee Baptists.

Long ago I realized that elections and votes do not always determine the most effective leaders among Tennessee Baptists. Paul Durham labored among Tennessee Baptists as one in the great category of, "Regardless, if I win or lose, I will go on serving, for what Tennessee Baptists are about in God's kingdom is greater than myself."

Following the death of a friend, you have to move on. Yet, you have the option to do more than just miss someone. That is the occasion for a choice and it is the good choice to remember. The Scriptures tell us that between the Friday of the Cross, and the Sunday of the Resurrection, Saturday happened. Saturday to those who had attended the Cross Event and were Jesus' friends had to be a day filled with wonder, waiting, and even weeping. Yes, I am on this side of the Resurrection. I know there

is victory after the grave. Still there is the human reality and frailty following the death of a special loved one, and I have to go through the Saturdays of grief.

I possess no need to recite events and accomplishments in Paul's life. They speak for themselves. In regard to the great joy of his family, those who called him Paul, dad, and/or PawPaw they revered him for his Christian example, unconditional love, and abiding presence in their lives.

To reminisce over a friendship is to provide yourself with an opportunity to glean all the spiritual impact, meaning, and nurture you possibly can from the life of a person you have known and loved. You also have the responsibility to ask not only how the person's life has impacted you, but how will you carry on in the great joy of his or her memory.

The loss of a friend should offer the believer insight and reality in longing for the joy of heaven. This means the loss of mere sermon ideas and preachments, and the experience or, "gut check," about the reality about this business of going to heaven. It simply is realizing heaven is for real, not because you want it to be. Rather, you know it, and you have a friend there and a homecoming.

In one of our last conversations we talked in depth of the meaning of the call. We both found peace in celebrating the Father's call to be authentic, and then whatever else.

I thank God that I had the opportunity to know a true Nathanael. ☐

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Churches help wildfire evacuees

Baptist Press

HIGHLAND, Calif. — Surrounded on three sides by roaring flames a mile away, Immanuel Baptist Church became a beacon of God's love to families in crisis.

Of the 80 people who found the church in San Bernardino County to be a safe haven from wildfires, six of them accepted Christ as their Savior Sunday morning Oct. 26.

"It was so exciting to see how even out of a tragedy the church ministered as the hands and feet of Christ," said Gail Mullennix, director of the Thrift Store at church here. "We have watched people just come and sit in our parking lot because they feel safe here."

When families in the San Bernardino County area were evacuated Saturday night, Oct. 25, the church opened its doors as a shelter.

More than 500 homes have been lost in the seven-day old fire that covers a 40-mile urban

interface area in the county. In various Southern California fires, more than 1,000 homes have been lost and 500,000 acres burned. The San Bernardino fire, a combination of two fires that had merged into one during the weekend, had caused two deaths and was only 10 percent contained as of Oct. 28, according to reports by the Associated Press.

Eighteen families in the Immanuel congregation who lost their homes were being given clothing and toiletry bags from the church Oct. 28, along with vouchers for grocery stores. Starting on Oct. 29, the entire community was given the same gifts.

As emergency relief efforts are still being organized, some churches already have begun ministering. In the Del Rosa area of San Bernardino, Sal Martinez, pastor of Del Rosa Baptist Church, was one of the few who did not lose his home in his neighborhood. He rallied church members Oct. 27 to pass out bottles of water, dust masks and 100 turkey sandwiches to those in need.

Set Free Church of Yucaipa

began passing out blankets, making balloon animals for children, and providing bottles of water at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, an evacuation site set up by the Red Cross.

"We just want to show the love of Jesus," said Mark Souter, assistant director of men's discipleship at Set Free Yucaipa. "We're trying to do everything we can to meet their needs." □

Midwestern to launch campaign

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees and administrators broke ground Oct. 21 for a "Walk of Honor" on the site of the former Farmland, Inc., property acquired adjacent to the Kansas City campus. The

groundbreaking ceremony for the walkway with donor-purchased bricks capped off Midwestern trustees' Oct. 20-21 meeting and signaled the launch of Midwestern's \$2.1 million capital campaign: "The Vision: Growing Disciples Today To Make Disciples Tomorrow."

"Today marks a vital step in the development of Midwestern Seminary," President Phil Roberts said. "As we consider the marvelous opportunity to memorialize those who have contributed to our lives in the

service of Christ [on the Walk of Honor], let's also honor them by being faithful with the opportunity to advance Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The campaign includes a memorial fund for former Midwestern students Dr. M. Myers and William Koehn, international Mission Board missionaries who were killed in December while serving at a Baptist hospital in Yemen.

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The Sweetwater Baptist Association is accepting resumes through Nov. 30, 2003 for the position of director of missions. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of the Search Committee, Sweetwater Baptist Association, 696 Anderson Dr., Madisonville, TN 37354.

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remember in prayer

Editor's Note: The following prayer requests are from Pierson, prayer strategist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. These prayer requests will be printed daily in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Tennessee

Praying for Tennessee, believe with us that we are in need of spiritual awakening and join us in praying that God will send a revival to Tennessee and America. (1 John 5:14-15)

Appalachian Regional Ministries

Wally Campbell serves as missions and ministries coordinator for the Chilhowee Baptist Association based in Alcoa. Pray for its focus this next year on becoming a praying association. Leaders are encouraging church members to prayerwalk the ministry area of the association.

Mississippi River Ministry

Pray for "Helping Hands" of Humboldt as they minister in the Humboldt area of Gibson County. Members are currently in the process of setting up a new ministry and are in need of four volunteers who can serve during the week.

Iowa

The Iowa Baptist Convention presently has 12 of 100 churches without pastors. Pray for God's blessing on pastors for these churches. Pray for able in-pastors and long-term pastors.

Impact Northeast

Pray that a part of what God is doing in metro New York City. Pray that God will refine and purify the people so they will shine the light of Christ into the "darkness."

Canada

Pray for David and Sanan Brazzeal in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Pray that the more than six million French-speaking Quebecois may "taste" and experience personally the "scrumptious" and satisfaction of God. Pray that God's story may be communicated in the Quebecois culture in fresh and powerful ways through artists who know and love Him.

Brazil & Portugal

Pray for God to help each of our missionaries in Brazil and Portugal in their constant struggle to overcome their speaking, writing, and understanding difficulties in Portuguese.

Editor's Note: Mark your calendar for the 2004 November Prayer Saturation month, which is a month of prayer for revival and spiritual awakening.

just for today

Fred Wood, retired pastor, Memphis

Start with a Smile: Wife to husband on his way to the super market: "Get me some herbal vegetables and be sure they haven't been sprayed with poisonous chemicals." Husband to vegetable clerk: "The vegetables are for my wife. Have they been sprayed with poisonous chemicals?" Clerk: "No, bud, you'll have to do that yourself."

Remember this Truth: "If you want a job well done, do it yourself!!"

Remember this Scripture: "What have they done to thine house?" — Isaiah 39:4

Remember this Prayer: Lord, help me to be sure people understand what I mean when I speak, realizing the importance of perception. ☐

Acting boldly for God

By Jim Cross

Focal Passage: Acts 4:1-31

In his broken and heavily accented English the Islamic student shouts in a mixture of sadness and anger, "How long, how long have you known? How long have you known about this Jesus?" The reply of the missionary comes, "Honestly, I cannot remember a time that I did not know about Jesus." The student turns away shouting, "It not fair, it not fair, me 25 years old and this is first time I hear. It not fair."

Costly reporting (vv. 1-3)

After the healing of the blind man, Peter and John had an audience with whom to speak. Read the text has it tells about Peter giving the visitors to Jerusalem local fishing tips. Listen to John as he tells about the "one that got away." Yes, if these were modern day Christians this would be the main topics of conversation.

But for these two who have experienced the power of the resurrection there is but one word on their lips; Jesus. When we move from, "How about those Titans?" talk, to "How about my Jesus?" talk, it will cost you something.

Many roads lead no where (vv. 7-20)

Notice Peter and John's answer to the very direct question,

"By what power or in what name have you done this?" If Peter and John had been contemporaries with us, their answer would have been something like, "Well we talk about Jesus, but it is fine if you want to be right with God some other way ... this Jesus is just our way, sorry to have troubled you."

Peter and John answered in a way that even the modern pulpit is afraid to speak. "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."

We live in a society that preaches that true Christians should be the most tolerant of all people. The society preaches that the measure of our Christianity is our level of inclusiveness.

Peter and John, looking into the face of many different religious traditions, narrows the roads to one, Jesus.

The cost of boldness (vv. 21-31)

The Islamic student has been overwhelmed with the gospel. Though only a few months ago he had never seen "the Holy Book of the Christians," God the Holy Spirit energized in him simple faith, tied to the Word of God.

The agonizing cry, "It not fair" becomes his call to boldness. In a society that is 100 percent-hundred-percent Muslim, the cost of reporting the Gospel is not laugh-

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Nov. 9

ter, it is not ridicule; the cost is the daily potential of physical death.

As the student moves among his peers he risks the opening of conversations. He moves to secret places to hold open to his friends "The Holy Book."

Though there is caution in his actions there is not fear, for the price of boldness has already been paid. This is not a price that he must pay, this is a price that has been paid for him and imparted to him, the power of the Holy Spirit of God.



CROSS

Mission moment

During this month of November be preparing yourself to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in a way that you have never given in the past. The story of this one Islamic student is multiplied hundreds of times over, in many different cultures by those that we support through the International Mission Board. They carry the power of boldness with them everyday. ☐ — Cross is pastor of First Baptist Church, Donelson.

Revelation

By Bill Vest

Focal Passage: Colossians 1:24-2:5

Who am I? Why am I here? Does my life matter? Where am I going? What is the purpose of life? These questions are the universal questions of man. Sadly, human philosophy has found that these questions are inherently unanswerable. For this reason man exists with a miserable lack of peace.

The Bible on the other hand continually proclaims that these questions are answerable. In fact, they have already been answered. God has given them to us through the process of revelation. This revealed mystery turns the unanswerable questions that bring confusion and fear into a hope that provides security and freedom.

For us to properly serve the Lord and His church we must have a sense of security and a proper view of the glory of the Christ whom we serve. Paul continues to reveal the preeminence of Christ by trying to get the believers to see that they are tethered to Christ.

While Paul is not present among these believers (3:1) he knows that they are being tempted by false teaching that would drain their confidence in Jesus Christ. Therefore Paul wants them to understand the mystery of life in Christ. He has already declared that believers in Jesus Christ are made worthy before

God, because of what Jesus has done by giving Himself on the cross for their sins. With this information, He spurs them to live lives worthy of the gospel. So that they might confidently contend for the gospel, he reveals a secret from God in three parts: He has secured our relationship with God; He lives in us always; He frees us so that we might serve the Lord with all our might.

In chapter 1 verse 23 we learn that Christ will present us blameless to God if we are not moved



VEST

from the hope that saved us. With that caveat we might live in fear, fear that sin will move us. Fear of others leading us astray. Fear of falling behind or not knowing the way Christ went.

This fear could be debilitating or it might cause us to look for hope in another's teaching. Because of this danger,

Paul reveals the mystery of God. We cannot fall away. We cannot be lead away. We cannot be lost, for hope is Christ and He is in us (v. 27). With our salvation secured we can be content, with no other need to continue looking for peace. There are a lot of things I don't know: the outcome of world events, if my health problems will be resolved, if my financial prospects will get better or worse; I

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Nov. 9

don't even know if I will be alive tomorrow. But this I know: I know Jesus and He knows me. I know He has made me worthy before God, I know He will enable me to live a worthy life. I know that because He is in me and I am in Him, I have the hope of glory. I am content.

Content yet contending, secure yet serving. We are not to be inactive until the return of Christ. We must strive to know Christ, then to guide others into this knowledge. This is the struggle of Paul on behalf of the gentiles (vv. 28-29). Paul is struggling to guide God's people so that they might be complete in Christ. As we read on (2:1-3) we find the continuation of Paul's purpose, our progress. As we know more and more of Christ we find that we have all the wisdom and treasures of knowledge. With that we won't be deceived by the empty deceptive words of the false teachers (v. 4). With the paralyzing questions of life answered, we are now positioned to follow the example of Paul and our Lord before him and labor to make Him known (1:29).

In these truths we are secure. For these truths we are to contend. ☐ — Vest is pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church, Englewood.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world!

Deaths

◆ **Eddie Spegal**, 72, retired pastor, soldier, military chaplain, and hospital chaplain of Bells, died Oct. 21. He was pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Trenton; Walnut Hill Baptist Church, Bells; and Ashport Baptist Church, Ripley. Spegal also served for 22 years in the U.S. Army and 34 years in the U.S. Army National Guard serving in Germany, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. He was pastor of churches in Missouri, Louisiana, and Augsburg, Germany. Spegal also was a hospital chaplain in Fayette Baptist Association, based in Somerville, and Gibson Baptist Association, based in Trenton. His son, Ken Spegal, is pastor of Clear Creek Baptist Church, Dyer.

Leaders

◆ **Richard Wright** has been named minister to families, First Baptist Church, Memphis. He will be responsible for the organization and planning of church programs for children, youth, and families. Wright is a native of Mississippi and graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and

Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.

◆ **Gists Creek Baptist Church**, Sevierville, has called **Danny Murr**, bivocational pastor, as full-time pastor. Previously Murr was pastor of Second Baptist Church, Sevierville.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Jamestown, called **Gale Ray Hartley**, pastor, Lynn Garden Baptist Church, Kingsport, as pastor Oct. 26. Prior to his ministry in Kingsport, Hartley was a Southern Baptist missionary for seven years in East Europe. He also has



HARTLEY

pastored churches in Elizabethton and Pensacola, Fla. He will begin serving by Dec. 1.

◆ **Chris Headley** has been called as minister of worship, First Baptist Church, Hunter, Elizabethton, effective Oct. 1. He is from Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

◆ **Bethlehem Baptist Church**, West Point, has called **Kyle Wishert** as pastor.

◆ **Susan Meek** was honored Oct. 19 by First Baptist Church, Adamsville, for serv-



ELECTED AS OFFICERS of Haywood Baptist Association, based in Brownsville, at its Oct. annual meeting were, from left, Dewey Jones, Holly Grove Baptist Church, assistant treasurer; Presley, association secretary, clerk-treasurer; Darrel Joyner, pastor, Stanton Baptist Church, assistant moderator; Fred Campbell, pastor, Holly Grove Church, moderator; and Roger Briggs, director of missions.

ing as church secretary for 25 years.

◆ **Mike Calvert**, pastor, Lutts Baptist Church, Lutts, recently celebrated his 20th anniversary of service there.

Churches

◆ **Westwood Baptist Church**, Nashville, hosted Dwight Fraser, a pastor in Jamaica, Oct. 9-30. Fraser ministered in churches in Middle and East Tennessee. He is pastor of the Morant Bay Circuit of Baptist Churches, Morant Bay, Jamaica, which includes four churches. Kerry Smith, pastor of Westwood Church, has ministered in Jamaica for many years.

◆ **Bordeaux Baptist Church**, Nashville, will hold a gospel singing Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. Born Again will perform.

◆ **Hickory Hills Baptist Church**, Mt. Juliet, will hold a Harvest Day Revival Nov. 16 with services at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jimmy Furr, director of missions, Carroll-Benton Baptist Association, based in Huntingdon, will speak. Furr lived in Mt. Juliet before assuming the DOM role. John Lemonis, Christian music recording artist and interim music director, Dickerson Road Baptist Church, Nashville, will lead the worship. A pancake breakfast will kick off the day at 8:15 a.m. For more information, call (615) 754-2575.



SUE LONGWORTH, left, president, Woman's Missionary First Baptist Church, Wartrace, and **Shirley Forbus**, WMLC, stand with school supplies collected by Women's Mission for needy children in the community.



ELECTED OFFICERS of Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, based in Harrogate, at the annual meeting held Oct. 25 at Chapel Baptist Church in Speedwell were, from left, Ziegler of First Baptist Church, Harrogate, treasurer; Cecil, retired pastor and member, Tazewell Baptist Church, moderator; John Gibbons, pastor, Shawanee Baptist Church, vice moderator; Shannon Johnson of Fairview Baptist Church, music director; and Phyllis Hurst of Blairs Creek Baptist Church, clerk. After the meeting the association's Disaster Relief feeding program prepared and served lunch.



RALPH CORDELL, center, retired director of missions, Campbell County Baptist Association, based in LaFollette, receives a plaque at the Oct. 20 annual meeting of the association. It is in recognition of the Ralph Cordell Mission Scholarship begun in his honor. Presenting it is **Danny King**, pastor, East LaFollette Baptist Church, and moderator as **Mrs. Helen Cordell** watches. The scholarship will be funded by an offering taken in the association each October. The meeting was the 95th annual meeting of the association.



CHOIR MEMBERS of Hopewell Baptist Church, Savannah, perform led by Billy Joe Kennedy, minister of music, during a recent missions tour of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The 45-member team sang in churches and nursing homes and conducted Backyard Bible Clubs.



FRANK HICKMAN, left, director of missions for Stone Baptist Association, stands with new church leaders. From left are **Earl Dirkson**, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, vice moderator; **Anna Lee Wilkerson**, pastor of Trinity Heights Baptist Church, clerk; and **Damon Corley**, First Baptist Church, Gainesboro, pastor.