

Baptist & Reflector

statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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Journ passing of Adrian Rogers

TBC messengers delay action on Belmont; elect Phil Jett

Lonnie Wilkey & Connie Davis Bushey
pastor and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — No one can blame the 1,473 messengers to the 131st annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention if their minds wandered at times, especially on the first day.

In spite of a meeting where plenty of action took place, including the election of a president by 18 votes and a decision to delay action on a proposed fraternal relationship with Belmont University, several matters weighed heavily on the minds of messengers.

Meeting Nov. 15-16 at First Baptist Church here, messengers learned during the opening session on Tuesday that long-time Tennessee Baptist pastor and long-time Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers had died during the night.

Rogers was scheduled to be honored by messengers during the convention with a video presentation and resolution.

The opening session was dedicated in memory of Rogers and a time of prayer and reflection on his life was held (see story below).

Then later that day, a series of tornadoes that struck West and Middle Tennessee arrived in Clarksville around 4 p.m. Messengers were viewing a video presentation from Belmont University when TBC President Roger Freeman stopped the video and instructed messengers to go to the basement, where



KEVIN PEACOCK, second from right, of the Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary, signs a partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Convention as James Porch, TBC executive director, watches. Roger Freeman, center, TBC president, thanks D.K. Hale of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention, who just thanked the TBC for 10 years of partnership. Kim Margrave of the TBC staff looks on.

they remained for more than an hour.

After messengers reconvened to finish the afternoon business, a decision was made to cancel the evening service when weather reports predicted another round of severe weather was headed toward the city.

Before adjourning for the day, messengers elected Phil Jett, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson, as convention president by 18 votes over Roger "Sing" Oldham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Martin. Jett received 468 (50.98 percent) votes to 450 for Oldham.

During the two-day annual meeting,

messengers delayed action on a proposed relationship with Belmont University when discovery of a contract signed in 1951 with a possible reverter clause was announced (see separate story on page 3), adopted a substitute budget which reallocated funds originally intended for Belmont University, after rejecting an amendment that would have taken \$500,000 from Carson-Newman College, and acted on several other motions and recommendations from committees.

Election of officers

In nominating Phil Jett for the TBC presidency, Walter Taylor, director of



PHIL JETT, left, pastor, Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson, was elected as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Larry Reagan, pastor, Adam's Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden, was elected second vice president. Ron Stewart, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, who was elected vice president, is not pictured.

missions for Knox County Baptist Association, described him as a "conservative, Bible-believing, Bible-preaching ... man of God."

He has served as pastor of Englewood Church for 22 years and seen the church grow from 400 in Sunday morning worship to 1,700.

Last year Englewood gave \$160,000 to the Cooperative Program and \$600,000 to missions. Jett has led 20 — See TBC messengers, page 4

this week's news

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TBC Executive Director James Porch delivers annual address. — Page 15

Adrian Rogers dies; remembered by TBC messengers

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Adrian Rogers, long-time pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and leader in the conservative movement of the SBC, died Nov. 15. He was 74.

He died following a battle with cancer and double pneumonia.

In his 33 years at Bellevue, Rogers saw it grow from 9,000 members to 29,000. He retired this year. His face and voice were known to millions worldwide thanks to his Love Worth Finding television and radio ministry, which is carried in more than 150 countries.

But Rogers may be best remembered for his leadership in the conservative movement of the SBC. His election as SBC president in 1979 marked the beginning of the movement and was the first of many close elections between conservatives and moderates. Rogers, and the other conservative presidents who followed, promised to use their nominating powers to name only those who believed in the inerrancy and

infallibility of the Bible.

He also served as SBC president in 1986 and 1987.

He was chairman of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee that reviewed and revised Southern Baptists' confession of faith.

Rogers was the author of 18 books. He was a graduate of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rogers is survived by his wife, Joyce, as well as four children, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

In an October interview with the *Florida Baptist Witness* newspaper, Rogers discussed his role in the SBC conservative movement.

"I think the part (of my life) that God allowed me to have in the turning of the SBC may have the longest-lasting effect and be the most significant," Rogers said. "[The conservative movement] is part of church history."



ROGERS

During the Tuesday morning session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting, TBC president Roger Freeman asked two pastors who served near Rogers to speak of him and lead prayer for his family and friends. The pastors were Ray Newcomb, First Baptist Church, Millington, and Ken Story, pastor, First Baptist Church, Counce, and retired pastor, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown. Both are former TBC presidents.

Newcomb said, "Dr. Rogers was the friendliest, kindest preacher I have ever known."

Two weeks ago he received a note from Rogers thanking him for being his friend. Rogers was a "pastors' pastor and friend," added Newcomb.

His sermons were "so simple yet so profound." They resulted in thousands of people making professions of faith.

"Thank God for his influence around the world," concluded Newcomb.

Ken Story said Rogers "stood very tall among Southern Baptists but he knelt very low before God."

Story recalled that Rogers would call him and drop him notes to encourage him. — See Adrian Rogers, page 7

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Recovery vols still needed

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are continuing their recovery team efforts out of Pearl River (La.) Baptist Church, according to David Acres, state disaster relief director.

Trained volunteers who are able to work in recovery are needed, Acres added. Volunteers should call the state disaster relief mobilization center to volunteer at (615) 371-2007.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief also is accepting donations to help serve victims of Hurricanes 2005. Donations may be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. Please designate your check to: Hurricane 2005 Relief Fund. Donations also may be given online at the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site, www.tnbaptist.org. □

Henry to step down as co-pastor at FBC, Orlando

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Nashville native and former pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church Jim Henry will step down as co-pastor of First Baptist Church here, effective March 31, 2006.

Henry announced his decision to church members in October in a letter later released to the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

Henry, 67, has been pastor of the Orlando congregation since 1977. He was elected twice as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In May, First Baptist called David Uth as co-pastor, with Henry telling the congregation that the two would serve together and "after a while" Uth would "take the ball and run with it" as senior pastor.

"The Holy Spirit sent Pastor David Uth to walk with us," Henry wrote in the letter. "He has walked into your warm embrace and our hearts in a magnificent way. The time has come for me to move over and let him take the reins of pastoral leadership."

Rather than calling it retirement, Henry said that he considers the transition in his ministry to be a "redeployment."

Concerning his future plans, Henry wrote, "With continued health and God's providence, we're looking at several things, primarily mentoring and cheer-leading for younger pastors; also encouraging churches and writ-

ing. Several exciting possibilities are in the works and will hopefully be fleshed out in the near future." □

Kentucky Baptists approve proposal with Georgetown

Baptist Press

FRANKFURT, Ky. — In a historic, relationship-altering move, Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers voted overwhelmingly to approve a new ministry partnership with Georgetown College.

In other action, messengers meeting here Nov. 15-16 elected conservative pastors to the KBC's top three posts, including KBC President Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. The new officers defeated three moderate pastors endorsed by Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky.

The Georgetown agreement, which will be implemented over four years, came in response to Georgetown's decision in September to establish a self-perpetuating board. A detailed "memorandum of understanding" about the new relationship was produced by a 14-member joint workgroup of KBC and Georgetown representatives.

Major provisions of the agreement specify that Georgetown will begin electing its own trustees beginning in 2006 and that the KBC will phase out Georgetown's \$1.3 million Cooperative Program allocation over the next four years.

The plan also specifies that 75 percent of Georgetown's trustees will be Kentucky Baptists, that Georgetown students will remain eligible for KBC-funded scholarships, and that the KBC and Georgetown will continue to jointly fund a campus minister position.

The action comes one year after KBC messengers rejected a proposal to allow all four Kentucky Baptist college boards to include up to 25 percent of trustees who are not affiliated KBC churches. That was among recent decisions that prompted Georgetown's board to revert to its pre-1942 status of naming its own trustees.

The proposal was adopted on a show-of-ballots vote with only scattered opposition.

Messengers adopted a 2006-2007 Cooperative Program budget of \$23,562,000, a 2 percent increase over the current budget. Allocations include 64 percent for Kentucky Baptist ministries and 36 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes, unchanged from the current allocation percentages.

The two-day meeting, which attracted 1,815 registered messengers, highlighted the theme, "Strengthening Every Church," part of the KBC's five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis. □

AFA calls for Target boycott after Thanksgiving

AFA news service

TUPELO, Miss. — American Family Association (AFA) is asking its supporters to boycott Target stores during the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend — the busiest shopping weekend of the year.

Within three days of the launching of an online boycott campaign against Target Nov. 18, nearly 300,000 people have signed the online petition at www.afa.net, promising to avoid Target stores during Thanksgiving, according to a news release.

The organization says its action against Target, that began Oct. 7, is beginning to affect Target's bottom line.

"According to *USA Today*, Target told investors that projected sales at stores open a year in November would miss the estimated 4 percent to 6 percent growth," said Donald E. Wildmon, chairman of AFA.

AFA is asking supporters to boycott the company because it banned Salvation Army kettles and the use of "Merry Christmas" in their in-store promotions and retail advertising.

Wildmon said his organization agrees with Bill O'Reilly of Fox News Channel who said, "There is an anti-Christian bias in this country, and it is more on display at Christmas season than any other time."

American Family Association is a pro-family advocacy organization with over two million online supporters. □

N.C. messengers keep CP budget options available

Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Despite several attempted amendments, messengers attending the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved the proposed 2006-07 budget as presented by the BSCNC's board of directors at the convention's Nov. 14-16 annual meeting here.

Messengers also approved, by an overwhelming majority by raised ballots, a motion directing the BSCNC's board of directors to develop and implement a policy relative to any BSCNC affiliated church that "knowingly affirms, approves, or endorses homosexual behavior."

Messengers defeated a motion by Ted Stone, a Durham-based evangelist who sought to abolish three of the state's four optional giving plans, one of which sends no money to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Both Stone's motion and the proposed budget garnered the most time for discussion during the meeting.

Presenting his motion on

Tuesday, Nov. 16, Stone said he didn't feel like a "lone ranger" anymore because several notable conservatives have voiced their support for his motion. Such support notwithstanding, Stone's motion failed on a ballot vote by a 12 percent margin (56-44), whereas last year it failed by nearly a two-to-one margin.

Stone told Baptist Press the defeat was only a "temporary setback" and that his motion failed because too many conservatives stayed home, saying, "We cannot allow this tragic mistake to happen again."

"I will not give up until this goal is realized," he said.

Messengers also elected new convention officers. Stan Welch, pastor of Blackwelder Baptist Church in Kannapolis, was elected president in a contested race. Also nominated for president was Blythe Taylor, associate pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. According to the Internet, Taylor is a leader for the North Carolina chapter of the CBF. She garnered about 3 percent of the vote. □

Georgia Baptists sever Mercer ties

Baptist Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. — The Georgia Baptist Convention by an overwhelming majority vote Nov. 15 to sever its 172-year-old relationship with Mercer University.

The vote was based on years of mistrust between the GBC and Mercer and was inflamed by the discovery in October of a student-led gay/lesbian/bisexual transgender organization that had existed since 2002. It was later disbanded, according to Mercer President Kirby Godsey.

The group's "coming out day" on Oct. 11, sponsored by the Mercer Triangle Symposium galvanized Georgia Baptists to cast a vote of no confidence in the ongoing relationship.

Just hours prior to the convention's first session in Columbus, the GBC executive committee went into an executive session and agreed to present motion to the messengers to sever ties with Mercer, one of the most prestigious academic institutions in the South.

Mercer, the second-largest Baptist-affiliated educational institution in the world with 7,300 students, traces its roots with Georgia Baptists to its 183 founding by Jesse Mercer in Perfield, Ga. Mercer relocated to its current Macon campus in 1871.

The motion included three actions: (1) that the relationship of the Georgia convention and Mercer be discontinued; (2) that the matter be brought before the GBC for approval at the 200 meeting; and (3) that the GBC executive director and Mercer president confer and take action as necessary to provide for an orderly discontinuance of the relationship. □

Messengers delay Belmont action pending study of contract

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Messengers arrived at First Baptist Church here on Nov. 15 thinking they would decide one way or another what relationship the Tennessee Baptist Convention would have with Belmont University.

It didn't happen. Messengers voted to delay action on a fraternal relationship with Belmont pending a study of a document that contains a possible "reverter clause."

In October Belmont University informed TBC leadership that the school will elect its own trustees, which will include up to 40 percent non-Baptist trustees, and does not anticipate receiving Cooperative Program funds from the convention as of Nov. 1.

Belmont leaders indicated a desire to continue a "fraternal" relationship with the convention and had presented a "resolution of relationship" for messengers to consider at their annual meeting.

Possible reverter clause

On Nov. 9, however, TBC Executive Director James Porch received a telephone call about the possible existence of a reverter clause in the Belmont College and convention documents approved in 1951.

Porch immediately began research for the document utilizing Executive Board staff and legal counsel.

Porch informed members of the TBC Executive Board at their meeting on Nov. 14 that the following was found in minutes from a meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Executive Board on July 31, 1951:

"It was discussed that the attorney for the Executive Board be directed to draw up a contract that the property of Belmont College must be returned to the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, in the event Belmont College fails.

"Motion was made that tender of Ward-Belmont property to Belmont College by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention be on the condition that a proper document be drawn up by the attorney of the Executive Board guaranteeing that, in the event Belmont College should fail or pass from Baptist control, its property shall revert to the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Motion carried."

Porch told board members that following extensive research through documents of 1951 and following, no contract had been discovered which would verify the actions of the Administrative Committee.

Porch noted Belmont University legal counsel was notified of the possible existence of the document and their only response to Executive Board legal counsel was "Thanks for the notification; keep me updated."

Near the end of the board meeting on Monday, after board members had been told about

the possible contract, Belmont University President Robert Fisher disclosed that Belmont University had the document in question and had reviewed it.

Fisher said legal counsel had advised the university that the document is "irrelevant and would go nowhere in a court of law."

Fisher told board members his "integrity would not allow you to think we didn't know this. We did our homework."

He described it again as an "irrelevant contract superceded by about five different actions."

Board member William Seale of First Baptist Church, Morristown, urged the board to stay focused on the issue of whether or not to continue a relationship with Belmont.

Seale, who is an attorney, said that he does not want to see the matter end up in a protracted legal fight.

There would be no winners and the name of Christ would be harmed, he said.

TBC attorney Randle Davis reminded board members they would not be "approving" the resolution of relationship. Voting for it meant they would send it on to the convention messengers.

"You do not have the authority to terminate a relationship with an institution," Davis said.

He gave board members several options including recommending approval or rejection of the document in hand, recommending approval of some modified version, or even tabling the resolution which was given to them by the board's Education Committee.

Davis advised against the final option. "This has to come to the convention floor from the Executive Board," he said. Tabling the matter would "preclude messengers from being able to act," he added.

Messengers given options

During the convention's opening session, the proposed resolution of relationship and a report about the entire process, including disclosure of the possible reverter clause, was made to messengers.

Davis informed messengers they could approve, reject, or modify the resolution. They could also approve a resolution which would dissolve the convention's relationship with Belmont on their own terms or modify the relationship without terminating it, Davis continued.

He also noted they could postpone action concerning Belmont to allow time for further investigation due to the latest information that had been presented.

Davis stressed the Executive Board did not know about the possible existence of a contract with a reverter clause until the week before and that as of that day had not seen the contract which is in the possession of Belmont University.

He noted that if the convention passed a resolution that includes convention approval or

permission for Belmont to elect its own trustees, all legal issues are resolved. "There would be no lawsuits. It's done."

Fisher was invited to address the messengers. He stressed to the messengers Belmont did not know about the document until they were informed by the TBC Executive Board of its possible existence. He said Belmont began to research it and that on Friday (Nov. 11) Belmont staff member and legal counsel Jason Rogers found a two-page contract. "We examined it and feel it has no impact whatsoever."

He said no one from the TBC had "asked to see" the contract as of that moment. Fisher later said he thought the TBC Executive Board had a copy and he did not know until Sunday (Nov. 13) that they did not.

He urged messengers not to make it a legal issue. "There will be no winners," he said.

As Fisher was leaving the microphone, Executive Board President Lynn King of Dyersburg said, "I would like for us to see the document."

As of Nov. 16, convention leadership still had not received a copy of the document.

Motion to postpone action

Tim McGehee, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Tullahoma, introduced a motion to "postpone any action on a potential change in our relationship with Belmont (including the resolution referred by the Executive Board) until the Executive Board has conducted a further investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the 1951 contract by the Administrative Committee (which is now known as the TBC Executive Committee) in its meeting on July 31, 1951, and any related matters."

McGehee also moved that "the Executive Board report back to the convention at the earliest possible time, including via the possibility of a special called meeting."

His motion also stipulated that \$30,000 be set aside to fund "any costs associated with this action." He later introduced that portion of the motion as an amendment to the budget which was approved.

McGehee, an alumnus of Belmont, said he didn't "want to prolong the inevitable," but noted that both TBC leaders and Belmont officials need to look at the document together. "It may or may not make a difference, but it is the right thing to do."

Rogers, legal counsel for Belmont and member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, urged messengers to vote against postponement and to vote for the resolution of relationship.

He described the fraternal relationship as "win-win" for both the school and the convention. Rogers also said he felt the contract, while historical, was no longer valid because it had been modified several times.

David Thompson, pastor of North Pointe Community Church, Old Hickory, called on

Proposed resolution of relationship

Following are the nine points in the proposed resolution of relationship with Belmont University. Action on the resolution was postponed by messengers at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on Nov. 15, pending study of a 1951 contract that has been discovered.

Be it resolved by Belmont University and the Tennessee Baptist Convention:

(1) That Belmont and the Convention affirm their mutual desire to have a fraternal relationship of respect, cordiality, and Christian fellowship as they each continue to serve the Lord through their respective missions;

(2) That the convention affirms the unique role Belmont serves in educating students to discover the gifts that God has given them and to use those gifts in service to meet the needs of the world while Belmont also presents Jesus as the Christ and as the model for personal behavior;

(3) That Belmont affirms the vital importance of the financial resources, individual talent, and organizational support, made available to it by the convention over the past 54 years;

(4) That Belmont affirms its intent to strengthen its spiritual character and Christian mission by working cooperatively with the Convention and other Christian organizations to identify and implement joint educational and mission service programs;

(5) That the Convention acknowledges Belmont's intent to elect to its board of trustees Christians from other denominations who shall comprise up to 40 percent of the membership of Belmont's board. The remaining 60 percent being composed of Tennessee Baptists;

(6) That Belmont acknowledges that effective Nov. 1, 2005 there will be no further commitment by the Convention to make a contribution from Cooperative Program receipts to the operations of the university;

(7) That Belmont provided financial aid to Tennessee Baptist students in the academic year ending May 2005, in excess of \$1.3 million. Belmont will establish an endowed fund to continue to provide scholarships and other financial aid to students who are Tennessee Baptists. Contributions to such fund are welcome;

(8) That as a part of our fraternal relationship with the TBC, Belmont affirms its intent to include as ex officio, voting members of its board of trustees the president of the TBC, the executive director-treasurer of the Convention, and the chair of the Education Committee of the Executive Board of the Convention;

(9) That as brothers and sisters in Christ, the trustees and officers of the Convention and Belmont affirm their intent to pray for God's richest blessing on the work of each institution in the days ahead. □

messengers to postpone action.

"We have a great fiduciary responsibility," he said. "Our responsibility is to the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its constituents."

Mickey Basham, pastor of Eastanallee Baptist Church, Riceville, told messengers he was one of the three dissenting votes on the Executive Board the day before. "I believe the fundamental problem is a violation of the sacred trust of trustees of Belmont."

"I am not at the point to sign divorce papers with Belmont. I affirm the motion to postpone."

Fisher addressed messengers again and cautioned that if the matter "is not resolved it becomes a legal fight and I am confident we will win."

The Belmont president also tried to counteract any implication "we tried to hide anything."

After additional discussion the motion to postpone action was passed overwhelmingly.

Fisher responds

Fisher responded to the convention action the following day during an interview with the *Baptist and Reflector*.

He noted he was "obviously disappointed" by the convention's decision to postpone action.

"We had worked hard to craft a resolution that had our board's full support," he said.

"And though it was modified (by the TBC Education Committee primarily to spell out that 60

percent of the trustees would be Baptist), the board still felt good about it," Fisher continued.

Regarding the contract which had been discovered, Fisher said it was reviewed by both external and internal attorneys.

"Both dismissed it as a historical artifact that has long been made mute by action of both the TBC and Belmont."

Fisher described the fact that the TBC did not know Belmont had the contract as a "lack of communication. Until Sunday (Nov. 13) we thought TBC had a copy."

"I wasn't clear on the status until the Executive Board on Monday. We did the right thing."

Fisher stressed that Belmont "is not contemplating any legal action. We have absolutely no grounds for taking anything to court."

He observed "threats (of legal action) are coming from the other side," but he qualified that no threats have come from TBC leadership.

The Belmont president stressed that the fraternal relationship proposed by the university was an attempt to forge a new partnership. "We have offered our hand and so far it has not been accepted. We will keep the hand out," he said.

While surprised by what transpired during the Tuesday session, Fisher said he saw the messengers' action to postpone as a "delay," not a "rejection." □

TBC messengers delay action on Belmont; elect Phil ...

— Continued from page 1

missions teams and the church has helped develop 250 chapels in Brazil. Englewood sends out about 75 missions volunteers each year, said Taylor.

Jett has served on the Union University board of trustees and received the Robert E. Craig Award of the university for his service to the school. He is a Union graduate.

Jett also has served on the board of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes and on the TBC Committee on Boards.

Roger "Sing" Oldham was nominated by Bob Pitman, pastor, Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis. Pitman described him as a scholar who has taught at Mid-Continent Bible College, Mayfield, Ky.; an extension center of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; University of Tennessee - Martin; and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He holds a doctor of theology from Mid-America.

Oldham has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Martin, for 20 years, said Pitman. Oldham has seen 50 young men surrender to the ministry during his ministry.

Oldham is fair, studies hard, and looks at issues from many different perspectives, said Pitman.

He is chairman of the board of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, a member of the TBC Relationship Study Committee, a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a former vice president of the TBC.

Other officers elected were Ron Stewart, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, as first vice president over Joey Rosas, pastor, Crieveewood Baptist Church, Nashville. Stewart was nominated by Hollie Miller, pastor, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville. Rosas was nominated by Marvin Cameron, pastor, First Baptist Church, Kingsport. The vote was 427 (55.53 percent) to 342.

Elected as second vice president was Larry Reagan, pastor, Adam's Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden, over Steve Durham, pastor, Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville. Reagan was nominated by Ronnie Wilburn, pastor, Meridian Baptist Church, Jackson. Durham was nominated by Ron Murray, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Johnson City. The vote was 390 (50.3 percent) to 385.

Wm. Fletcher Allen, retired editor, *Baptist and Reflector*, was elected recording/statistical secretary. Elected as registration secretary for the 15th year was Dan Ferrell of the TBC staff.

Budget adopted

TBC messengers approved a substitute budget of \$36,708,341, an increase of 3.2 percent over the 2004-05 budget.

The substitute budget was

necessitated when Belmont University informed TBC officials in October that they were proceeding with their plan to elect their own trustees, including up to 40 percent non-Baptists. In their proposed resolution of relationship (see page 3), Belmont acknowledged that effective Nov. 1 "there will be no further commitment by the convention to make a contribution from Cooperative Program receipts to the operations of the university."

The Budget and Program Committee of the Executive Board revised the budget to reallocate the \$2,330,304 that would have gone to Belmont.

Under the substitute budget, the SBC Cooperative Program received an additional \$825,940, meaning the SBC CP now receives 40 percent of monies received while 60 percent is kept for missions and ministries in Tennessee.

Union University and Carson-Newman College each received an additional \$500,000 from the Belmont funds. The remaining monies will go to Tennessee missions and ministries (\$300,000), Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy (\$47,044), Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes (\$26,028), Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes (\$126,292), and Tennessee Baptist Foundation (\$5,000).

Three amendments were made during the opening session to amend the budget.

Greg McFadden, pastor of First Baptist Church, Humboldt, moved that the Belmont University line, less the addition to the Southern Baptist Convention, be maintained in the Christian higher education line in escrow until the resolution of the Belmont relationship.

Todd Stinnett, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Morristown, moved that the additional \$500,000 allocated for Carson-Newman be forwarded directly to the SBC International Mission Board.

A third amendment was made by Tim McGehee, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Tullahoma, that \$30,000 be set aside to fund the investigation of the 1951 contract between the TBC and Belmont (see page 3). His motion directed the money should "be taken from budget reserves or a current budget line item" at the discretion of the committee.

The committee discussed the three amendments and chose to approve only McGehee's amendment which did not affect the budget. The \$30,000 will be taken from Executive Board operating funds.

During discussion, Stinnett said he is concerned about matters at Carson-Newman and that he had two options — full defunding or partial defunding. "I do believe there is an opportunity for us to re-establish a relationship of trust (at Carson-Newman)," Stinnett said.



TBC MESSENGERS lift their ballots in response to an action at the annual meeting held Nov. 15-16 at First Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville, spoke against taking funds from Carson-Newman, noting he had talked with several students from his church who had gone to Carson-Newman. Every one of them said their faith in God was deepened while they were a student at the college, Markham said.

"Carson-Newman is our family. We need to vote for our family," he affirmed.

Both amendments by McFadden and Stinnett were defeated in a show of hands vote. McGehee's motion was approved by messengers.

Reports received

In response to questions regarding matters of institutional identity, mission, and doctrinal commitments raised at the 2004 annual meeting in Sevierville, Union and Carson-Newman provided written reports to messengers.

The Education Committee, which had been asked to study the matter, referred it to the trustees of the educational institutions because bylaws state a convention committee cannot interfere with the work of trustees.

Messenger Brady Tarr of Manley Baptist Church, Morristown, who questioned doctrinal positions at Carson-Newman last year, was given a "point of personal privilege."

Tarr, who graduated from C-N last year, said he had firsthand knowledge about "damaging" things that are taught at the school. He said that while at the school he was confronted by the teaching of evolution and the teaching that the Bible "is full of errors and contradictions."

Tarr said he was not before the convention out of "hate," but because he was concerned about the "spiritual welfare" of Carson-Newman College.

Tarr questioned the report from the trustees and asked that "each teacher in the religion and biology departments be asked the following questions by the board of trustees with the Education Committee present and for the direct answers from each professor in each department to be recorded with their names beside their answers so that they can be presented to

the TBC body as a whole."

The questions include whether the professors believe the original autographs of the Bible to be the "truthful, inerrant Word of God without any mixture of historical, scientific, or doctrinal error," whether they believe the "biblical account of creation, the fall of man, and the worldwide flood found in the first 11 chapters of Genesis to be a truthful, literal, historical, inerrant, and accurate record of events that took place on earth," and if they would sign a statement saying they support the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message in its entirety.

Freeman said the matter would be sent to the trustees and told Tarr he would be given a studied response.

In the report from the trustees of Carson-Newman that was given to messengers, the report noted, "We find the faculty of the religion and biology departments to be faithful and committed Christian servants who approach the practice of teaching as a high calling of God."

The report also noted that "the religion faculty of Carson-Newman College affirms the full inspiration, trustworthiness, and authority of Scripture."

The report also said the faculty affirms that Scripture "has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter," a statement found in the 1925, 1963, and 2000 versions of the Baptist Faith and Message.

The report also stated that the biology faculty "readily affirms that the God of the Bible is also the Creator."

Several messengers cited pros and cons of C-N's report. Reed Dixon, a messenger from First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, and a C-N trustee, said he resented the implications that the trustees' report was not true. "That report is true," he asserted. He also noted that he felt statements on the floor should have been ruled out of order because they attacked the character of godly men and women who served on the committee that drafted the report.

A challenge to overrule President Roger Freeman's ruling that the reports simply be

received by the convention and not be affirmed or rejected by messengers failed.

Constitution & Bylaws

Messengers approved for the second year changes in the TBC's Constitution and Bylaws. The first one makes the TBC president an ex officio member of all committees, boards, and institutions of the convention with a voice and vote on committees, but no vote in the proceedings of such boards and institutions, except he shall have a vote as a member of the Executive Board."

The other two changes clarified that amendments must be considered for vote on the second day of the convention.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee reported out two amendments that were sent in prior to the annual meeting (see Nov. 2 issue) and introduced during the opening session. The committee recommended both changes be defeated.

The first one, introduced by Carl Creasman, a convention parliamentarian and member of First Baptist Church Athens, would have changed language to allow for "additional nominations" for the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards.

Creasman noted the current system makes adding additional nominees an adversarial one. He observed the current system [is] not necessarily wrong, but I believe this one is better."

Randy Adkisson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, disagreed, noting the convention has "a workable, amicable" system now.

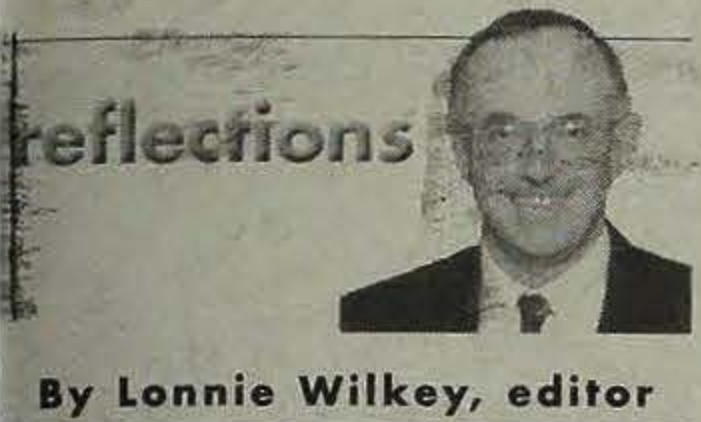
The amendment failed.

The second amendment, proposed by Larry Reagan, a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, dealt with membership on standing TBC committees and boards of institutions. It would prevent an individual serving on a standing committee or board if someone from their church was serving on a standing committee or board.

Reagan cited statistics to indicate his changes would broaden representation.

Several messengers argued against the motion. Steve Durham, pastor of Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville, observed — See TBC, page 12

Convention acted prudently in postponing action



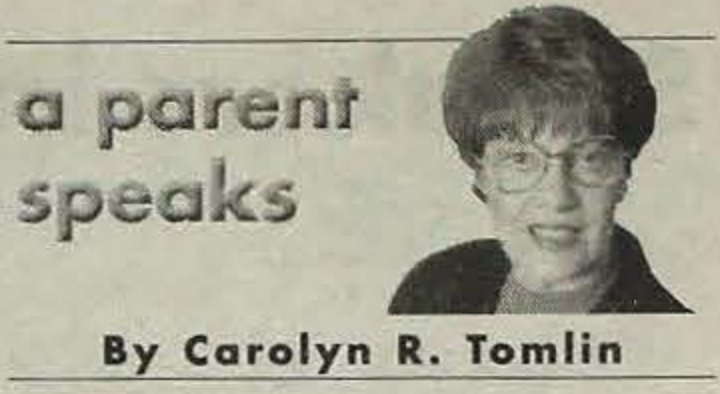
By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Prior to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention I voiced my opinion that TBC messengers should approve a new fraternal relationship with Belmont University. I still believe that is the only alternative we have if we want any semblance of a relationship with the school we birthed and have nourished since 1951. With that said, however, I agree totally with the motion made at the meeting to postpone action until a study can be made on a contract that apparently was signed in 1951 between Belmont and TBC leadership. The contract reportedly carries a "reverter clause" that would give Belmont property back to the convention should it cease to be a Baptist school. I use the words "reportedly" and "apparently" because as of the last day of the convention last week, TBC officials had not been given a copy of the document. Hopefully, by the time this editorial comes out in print, TBC attorney Randle Davis will have a copy in hand for review.

Messengers acted prudently by postponing the action. Will anything change because of the contract? Let's wait and see. If messengers had approved the resolution of relationship at the annual meeting, it would have eliminated any future possibilities should something need to be done. I commend James Porch and TBC Executive Board leadership. After learning that a document existed they conducted an exhaustive search trying to find the document. Belmont, when notified, also searched for the document and found it on Friday morning, Nov. 11. Here is where I think the "ball was dropped." Belmont President Robert Fisher told me that he thought the TBC had an actual copy of the contract instead of just a copy of old minutes that said a contract was to be drafted. Fisher blamed the misunderstanding on a lack of communication. A simple phone call by Belmont to let Davis know they had found the contract and to inquire if he had a copy might have prevented the action from being postponed during the opening session. If Davis could have reviewed the contract prior to the Executive Board meeting on Monday then he could have agreed or disagreed with Belmont's assertion that it is just "a historical arti-

fact" with no legal implications. The convention would then have had more information on which to make a decision. It didn't happen that way, so we are now in a "wait and see" mode. Belmont is proceeding on the path it has chosen. Whether or not the TBC chooses to have a fraternal relationship remains to be seen. In the meantime I adhere to the words I wrote before the convention, "pray that the majority of Baptist trustees will keep the institution grounded in its Christian and Tennessee Baptist roots." **Other convention thoughts** The remainder of the annual meeting proceeded without any major hitches. There were some who disagreed with how the reports from the institutions on their theological positions were handled. Some felt the Education Committee of the TBC Executive Board should have conducted the investigation instead of referring the matter to the respective trustee board. The committee did the right thing according to our legal documents. They also followed the example of the Southern Baptist Convention which almost always refers matters dealing with a specific institution to the respective board of trustees. The reallocation of funds orig-

inally intended for Belmont helped several causes. The convention will now forward 40 percent of Cooperative Program funds to SBC causes. This has been a desire of many within our convention for some time. At the same time Union and Carson-Newman also received an additional \$500,000 each and other TBC entities also benefited. We owe a debt of gratitude to outgoing TBC President Roger Freeman and First Baptist Church, Clarksville. They did an outstanding job in hosting the annual meeting. Freeman presided fairly and effectively during the annual meeting. He allowed voices from differing views to be heard on all the issues while at the same time keeping order and not allowing disruptions. Freeman did an excellent job this year as our convention president. As to next year, TBC messengers were placed in a good position when it came to electing a new president. Both candidates (Phil Jett, who won the election by 18 votes, and Roger "Sing" Oldham) are good men and either would have been a good choice. I have no doubt Jett will lead us well in 2006. Continue to pray for our convention and our leaders as Tennessee Baptists continue to make Christ known in Tennessee and around the world. □



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

Teach attitude of thanksgiving

As we celebrate this fall holiday, think of ways you can help your child develop an attitude of thanksgiving throughout the year. Could some of the following work for your family?

- Children model what they see. You can not expect your child to be any better than the example you set.
- Honor family traditions of the past. Relate family stories that show grandparents honoring God.
- Establish new traditions with your family. As you continue with past customs, develop new one especially for your family. Could you attend a Thanksgiving worship service as a family? Could you invite a lonely person in your community or church to join you for a meal?
- Accommodate and make allowances for in-laws. When adult children marry and have another set of relatives to consider, make adjustments for sharing children and grandchildren with the other side of the family.
- Delegate responsibilities. Small children can set the table and chop vegetables. Older children can prepare some of the food. Get all family members involved in cleaning the house and decorations for the meal. Express thanks freely.
- Look for teachable moments. In I Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Parents have many opportunities to teach children an attitude of joy. Joy comes naturally to children who live in a home where they receive love and guidance. But the second half of the verse - to give thanks in all circumstances is often more difficult.

We must teach our children that life is not always fair, and bad things happen to God's people. God does not promise to keep our lives free from stress and pain, but He does promise to go with us through the difficult times in life. If we teach nothing else: This fact is vital to maturing as a Christian. And in those times of disappointment, we often learn our most valuable lessons.

We learn to depend on God and to trust Him. And we learn to be grateful for just knowing a personal God. This is the greatest gift, we as parents can leave our children. □ — Tomlin, writes for numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

GuideStone official offers 2005 year-end tax tips



By Sheree Stephens

It's that time of year; holidays followed by tax time. Did you know that nearly 94 percent of us wait until the eleventh hour to prepare our tax return and ante up what we owe to Uncle Sam? Perhaps the following tax tips will help you be among the 6 percent who are not caught unprepared.

- Be aware of tax changes that affect your 2005 return. The IRS includes a "What's New for 2005" section in its Form 1040 Instructions.
- Make a checklist. A checklist helps you gather required documentation (e.g., W-2(s), 1099s, supporting documents for deductions). Just check the internet as many tax preparers provide checklists at no cost.
- Maximize deferrals to your employer's retirement plan. When you defer the maximum amount, you decrease federal income tax withholding and enhance retirement savings. If you are younger than age 50, the maximum deferral is \$14,000; age 50 or older, the limit increases by \$4,000.
- Fund a Traditional IRA. You have until April 15, 2006, to open an IRA and contribute up

to \$4,000 deductible for 2005 (age 50 or older, the limit increases by \$500). Remember, your spouse may be able to contribute up to \$4,000 to separate Traditional IRA — even if your spouse has little or no income.

- Use up your flex dollars. The IRS relaxed the "use it or lose it" rule this year. If your employer took advantage of this change, you have up to two and a half months after Dec. 31 to spend your 2005 flex dollars. Don't forget that you can get tax-free reimbursements for over-the-counter drugs such as aspirin and antacids.
- Make the most of eligible deductions. Charitable contributions can help reduce your tax liability. The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 allows 100 percent deduction of cash charitable contributions made by individuals between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2005, to any public charity including churches, ministries of a state Baptist convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention. Therefore, an individual can make cash gifts to his church up to 100 percent of Adjusted Gross Income and pay no federal income taxes for 2005. Gifts of appreciated property are still limited to 30 percent of Adjusted Gross Income. Gifts from corpo-

rations are limited to Hurricane Katrina relief.

- Defer income. If you are self-employed, you may have more latitude to defer income into 2006. Nevertheless, if you expect to receive a year-end bonus, ask your employer to hold the bonus and pay it to you in January.
- Consider gifting. Take advantage of the annual gift tax exclusion which allows you and your spouse to save gift and estate taxes by making gifts up to \$11,000 to an unlimited number of individuals.
- Change your income tax withholding before year-end. Since the IRS treats withheld taxes as paid in equal amounts throughout the year, regardless of when withholding occurs in 2005, this can help you avoid underpayment penalties. □ — This article is intended to provide general information and is not to be relied upon as tax or legal advice. Stephens is a certified executive benefits specialist and director of executive and institutional benefit design for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Speakers interpret theme, 'Tennessee Baptists Boldly Going'

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Four speakers interpreted the theme of the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting — "Tennessee Baptists Boldly Going." The theme supported the celebration of the 25th anniversary of involvement by the convention in partnership missions and first state to participate in a project which helped develop partnership missions.

Paul Scott

Paul Scott, missionary to Venezuela, said a lot of Christians are scared of God like non-Christians are.

They think if they commit their whole lives to God He will send them to a far away country where they will live in a grass hut and eat snakes and grasshoppers.

Scott said he had those fears but they didn't come true, even when he had reason to be afraid while serving in Venezuela.

Scott said he was working to begin a church although people would begin meeting near a house where people gathered to buy and use drugs.

He and his family arrived at the building to hold the first service and found a street party underway. It included many people drinking alcohol.

Scott said he drove right past the church and prayed. His family asked him where he was going. Finally, he felt God telling him to go back to the church.

He turned around and returned to the church to find nothing changed. He stopped the car and got out. A man with tattoos came up to him and shook his hand. The man

told Scott he was looking forward to hearing him preach that night.

Scott challenged the messengers and guests to leave their comfort zones, lead their churches on a mission trip, and pray that others, even their children, will do the same and even become missionaries.

Jerry Vittatoe

Jerry Vittatoe, pastor, Clear Springs Baptist Church, Coryton, said he became involved in overseas missions after Kim Margrave of the TBC staff spoke to him about it in the exhibit area of the 1997 TBC annual meeting.

The next year he joined a TBC group serving in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership.

The following year 15 members of his church joined him in overseas missions work and the next year 25.

Each year "God just continued to get people excited about missions," said Vittatoe. It was like "a sleeping giant was awakened."

The members are becoming "emboldened as they see the gospel working."

"Giving to the Cooperative Program increased and spilled over into all aspects of our church," he added.

Today members of Clear Springs also have served in Africa and Taiwan.

"The gospel still works. It is the power of God unto salvation when we boldly go to share the gospel," said Vittatoe.

Betty Wiseman

Betty Wiseman, assistant athletic director, Belmont University, Nashville, and former women's basketball coach, also spoke on her involvement in overseas missions.

She said she did a lot of ministry and missions before she became involved in over-

seas missions 15 years ago. But when she did, she came to truly understand the command of Jesus to go into all the world and be witnesses.

"I wasted so many years," said Wiseman.

Since then she has led 150 student athletes in missions efforts in other countries.

She told of meeting an older woman in Poland in 1996. The woman was reverently taking the Lord's Supper. Wiseman later learned she had endured two wars, a concentration camp, and the loss of all of her family. She told Wiseman Jesus was the only way she survived.

Wiseman said she has seen so many students resist the invitation to participate. They feel unprepared, as most volunteers do. She encourages them to realize the effort is not about them or any of the rest of the Christians involved.

A young man who served in the Ukraine with her this June came to her afterwards and told her he would never be the same and his whole life has changed. She has heard it many times before, she reported.

Wiseman said she finally realizes she has been entrusted with the gospel and she will be sharing it "at Belmont, on the street, in my community, and around the world."

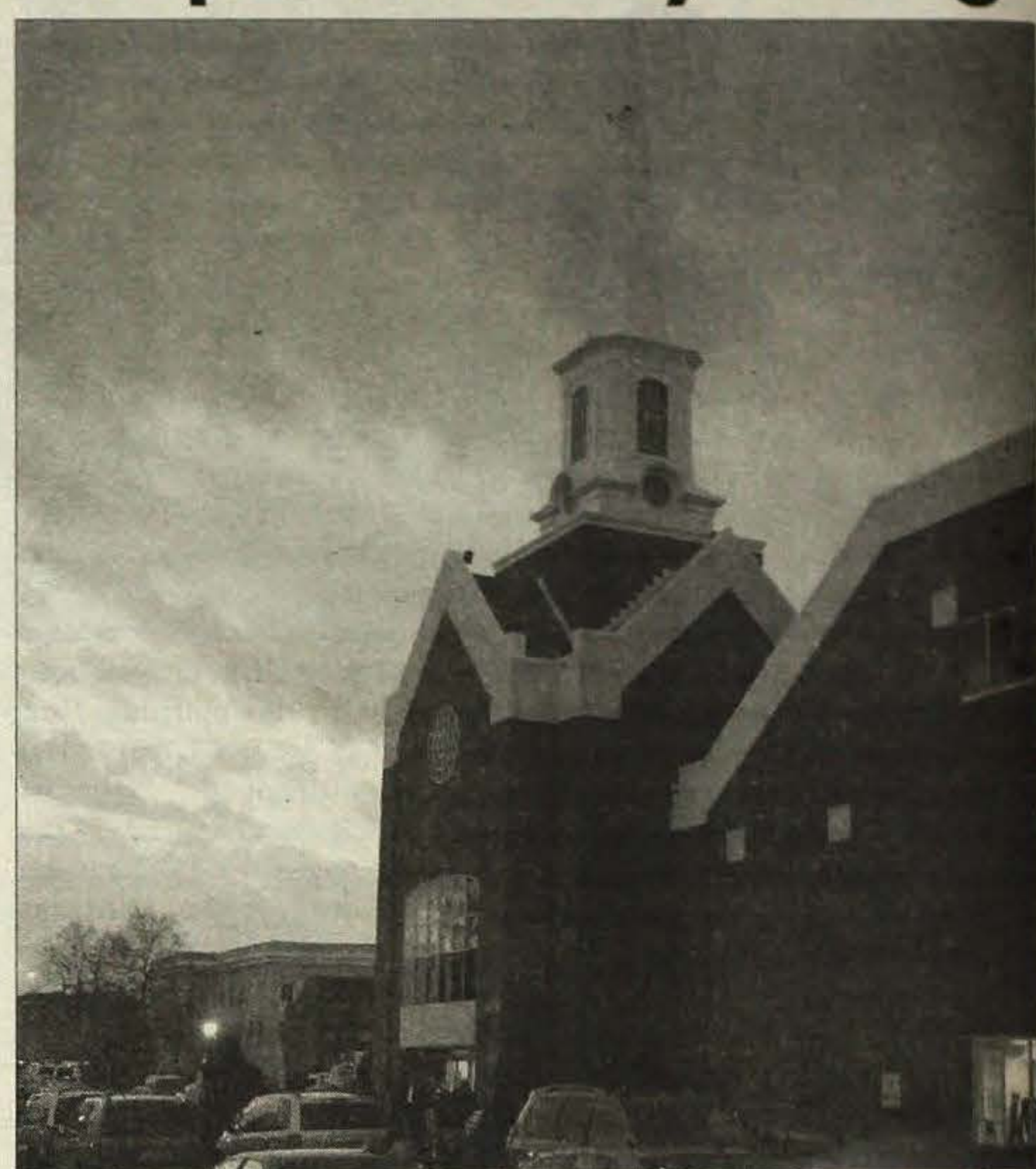
Joe Sorah

The pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Joe Sorah, said his involvement in overseas missions began when he realized his church needed some changes. It was drawing about 96 in Sunday School and the members were mostly senior adults.

Then he heard the co-author of *Experiencing God*, Claude King, speak.

"God began to speak to my heart," said Sorah.

He gathered a group of



STORM CLOUDS roll over First Baptist Church, Clarksville, on Tuesday afternoon which caused the sky to darken and messengers to be moved to the church's basement for more than an hour.



SITTING AT A CHILDREN'S table in a classroom while they wait for the storm to blow over are, from left, Gary Burnham, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Kingston; Tom Avera, Cedar Grove; Mike Miller, Cedar Grove; Diane Goins, Rechoboth Baptist Church, Soddy-Daisy; and Jan Miller, Cedar Grove.



JOE CHANDLER, who retired this year after serving 15 years as associate director of missions, Knox County Baptist Association, Knoxville, is honored by James Porch, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, for his service.



WILLIAM MAXWELL, left, administrative director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, and Gary Rickman, second from left, ministry coordinator, present the TBC Executive Board report. Helping them were the new ministry strategists, from left, Jerry Essary, Steve Holt, Archer Thorpe, and Mark Miller.

men at 7 a.m. on Tuesday mornings to pray for the church. From *Experiencing God* Sorah had learned Calvary could become a world missions strategy center and touch the world.

It seemed impossible until

members did short-term missions work in Venezuela. Then they served in Canada and Kenya. Members of Calvary helped build a church in a week. They did medical missions. They helped build two more churches.

"God so increased our faith," said Sorah.

God began to send new people to the church.

Today Calvary has doubled in size. It has seen two men surrender to the ministry, for the first time in 51 years.

Members have gone to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Costa Rica. The church has become not only a missions strategy center but it has touched the world, Sorah reported.

Missions grows and matures members "so much faster" than other ways, said Sorah.

Many small churches wonder "if God can use our church to reach the world," he stated.

"The answer is absolutely yes," he concluded. □

President's address

Freeman calls Tennessee Baptists to consider legacy

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Christians can drop the baton and a generation can lose its vision, said Roger Freeman, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, during the President's message at the TBC annual meeting Nov. 15-16 here.

Instead, pass the torch, he encouraged. Freeman is pastor of First Baptist Church here, the site of the annual meeting.

He referred to Psalm 84:6, 10 and Revelation 2:5.

Of the seven churches cited in Revelation, none have any evangelical churches today, he said. Most of the cities are Muslim. "Somebody dropped the baton," stated Freeman.

"If we don't stay on fire for Jesus Christ we become lukewarm," he declared.

"Leave something for the next generation." Leave some-

thing "worth fighting for."

People should consider that life is short and they are "just passing through," he added.

He noted that missions or beginning churches "always grow faster," because their members are "hungry," and they have to work to exist.

He wants to leave a legacy as the investment of his life, something that will speak after he is gone.

Freeman noted Adrian Rogers, who had just died hours before, left a legacy. "All of us were touched by his life."

As described in the Psalm, Christians can relate to the Valley of Baca which means Valley of Tears.

"This world is a world of sorrow," said Freeman.

We can use the metaphor in this Scripture of digging a well as a guide, he said. Even though

the person described in Scripture is sad, he leaves "something for the next generation."

As TBC president, he has a voice and feels called to ask Tennessee Baptists to consider their legacy in several areas although he knows everyone doesn't agree

n't make you a Southern Baptist. Being conservative and cooperative makes you a Southern Baptist," declared Freeman.

Also giving to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is not "the Southern Baptist way," he stated. Instead it is a sign the

purchased at so great a price?" he asked. The crowd applauded.

If using the name is doubtful in one generation, it will be discarded in another generation, he predicted. Instead he called for "full-hearted Baptist churches."

Partnership missions

Freeman referred to the 25th anniversary of TBC partnership missions and praised the work.

"This is what being a Southern Baptist means to me," he said. "God did a work in my life through partnership missions."

He described efforts of his church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership. Members saw many people making professions of faith and two churches started despite the influence of drug lords.

Conclusion

Referring to Psalm 84:9-11, Freeman said we must focus on Jesus, the lamb of God.

The Scripture refers to the sight, sacrifice, service, and shining of the lamb, he said.

Freeman told a story of the people in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1989 after the fall of communism. Residents opened a church there for the first time in 40 years. They hung a banner out the window of the church which read, "The Lamb wins!"

"When we have a longing to do the will of God we will ... leave a legacy for God."

Go back to your churches, communities, and pulpits and "light up our world for Jesus Christ and be a shining light for our world," appealed Freeman. □

Just being conservative doesn't make you a Southern Baptist. Being conservative and cooperative makes you a Southern Baptist. — Roger Freeman

with him.

First he said he is a conservative who believes in the inerrant Word of God.

"We shouldn't even have to talk about that. It's a given, but that's who I am."

Cooperative Program

Freeman asked Tennessee Baptists not to designate their gifts of money but instead give to Baptist causes through the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention funding plan for entities and agencies.

He suggested designated giving to entities within the SBC is like churches allowing members to give to the music ministry and not the youth ministry.

"Just being conservative does-

church is "dually aligned because they're (the CBF) competing" with the SBC.

He is glad the TBC plans to increase CP funding to the SBC from 37.5 to 40 percent (which was adopted) and eventually he hopes the split by the TBC of CP gifts is 50 percent held by the TBC and 50 percent sent on to the SBC.

Churches should tithe to the CP, said Freeman, although some Baptists don't agree with him. Thirty years ago SBC churches gave an average of 9 percent to the CP. Today they give 7 percent.

The name Baptist

Freeman also called all SBC churches to include Baptist in their name, even new churches. He asked that the TBC not fund churches choosing not to use the name Baptist.

He described the deaths of martyrs who died because they would not denounce the name Baptist.

"How can we abandon the good name of Baptist that was



MEMBERS OF Freeman family pause during the convention. They are, from left, Priscilla, Sarah, Roger, and Sarah Freeman, the mother of Roger Freeman. Mrs. Freeman, 92, still teaches Sunday School to children at Whitehaven Baptist Church, Memphis, after 53 years of doing so.

Adrian Rogers dies; remembered by TBC ...

— Continued from page 1

He was a "powerful, powerful preacher of the gospel," said Story.

When asked how he was able to lead ministry to such a large number of members, Rogers said not to sweat the small stuff, recalled Story.

"He always had his mind on Christ," concluded Story.

Other West Tennessee pastors comment

Bellevue's new pastor, Steve Gaines, noted Rogers epitomized humility.

"He was never impressed with himself. He never was one to brag about himself," Gaines said.

"The Bible says, 'Let another person's lips praise you and not your own.' He never, ever brought attention to himself in any way. I believe that one of the reasons that God exalted him is because he humbled himself. That's just the way he lived.

"He was aware, obviously, that God had done great things through him. But he always gave Jesus the glory."

Bob Pitman, pastor, Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, and Rogers served in Memphis for the past 17 years.

"He loved the Bible and the God of

the Bible. No other man has had a greater impact on the historic Christian faith in this generation.

"Our entire community was blessed by him and will miss him greatly," said Pitman.

Ronnie Wilburn, pastor, Meridian Baptist Church, Jackson, and former director of missions, Shelby Baptist Association, Memphis, (now Mid-South Baptist Association), said he first heard Rogers preach in 1972 at the annual SBC Pastors Conference. From that time, "he has been one of my spiritual heroes," said Wilburn.

Rogers often attended the pastors conference of the association and "took time to visit and fellowship with pastors," said Wilburn. He often took time to pray for a pastor he learned had a need or was hurting. "It might be in a hallway or on a parking lot," said Wilburn.

Rogers encouraged him as a DOM and when he was TBC president.

On one occasion, Wilburn was hosting Paige Patterson, SBC president, who spoke in the association. Wilburn also transported Patterson to a meeting with Rogers and Bailey Smith, who was in town. Rogers invited Wilburn to stay

and visit with the SBC president and two former SBC presidents. The gesture was "so gracious," said Wilburn.

"Only eternity will reveal the impact the life and ministry of Adrian Rogers has had on preachers across the SBC," said Wilburn.

TBC leaders reflect

Roger Freeman, TBC president and pastor, First Baptist Church, Clarksville, said Adrian Rogers was "the greatest preacher of our generation," but also "a Christian gentleman."

"Though he was mighty in the pulpit, he still reached down to put his arm around every person he met."

James Porch, TBC executive director, said, "During the memorial service for Adrian Rogers, a true worship experience, I was reminded of his likeness to Joshua who maintained through his commitment a disciplined life of service to the living God.

"Dr. Rogers' singular plea 'Come to Jesus' is a reminder to me of a life focused on Christ," he concluded.

Mike Day, director of missions, Mid-South Baptist Association, said, "I will remember him as a leader who made a strong contribution to his association by helping us dream a new dream and see

a new vision for the work of an association of churches."

Day also noted, "Heaven alone will give full accounting of the impact, influence, and ministry of Adrian Rogers in our association of churches and around the world. We rejoice at his home-going, but he will be missed and remembered in so many ways."

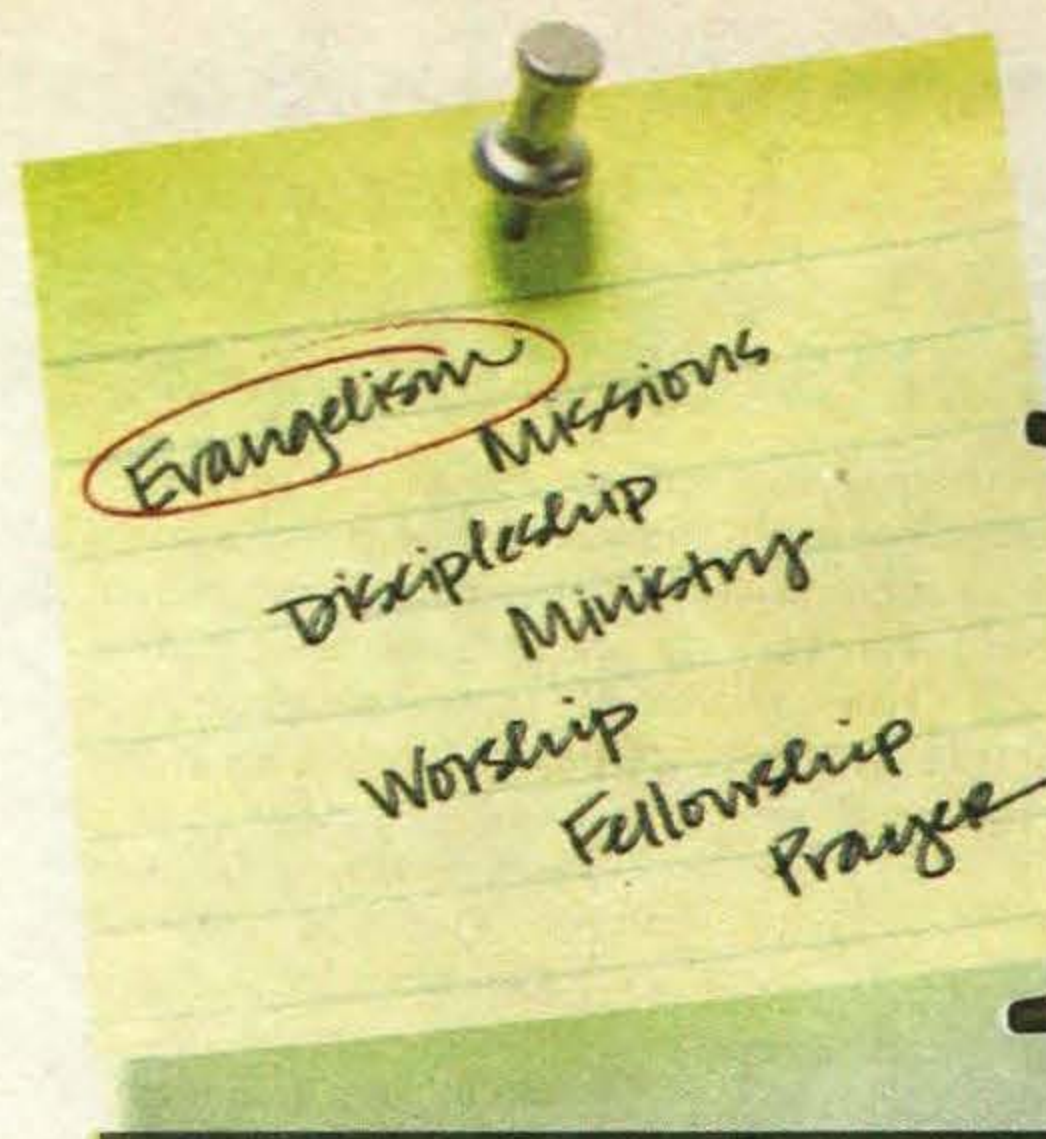
B&R Editor Lonnie Wilkey said, "Adrian Rogers was always kind and very courteous to me even though we didn't always agree on every issue.

"I can recall that he only wrote me twice in the years I have been editor, disagreeing with an editorial. He never wanted the letter to be printed," said Wilkey.

"When he had a problem with a brother, he went to the person, which follows Scripture. I respected him for that."

Wilkey also noted that Rogers never turned down a request for an interview. "Dr. Rogers was a giant among Southern Baptists and I was privileged to have known him," he added.

The family asks that memorials be sent to the Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute, c/o Love Worth Finding, 2941 Kate Bond Road, Memphis, TN 38133. □



Church Health Matters

"Building healthy churches empowered by the presence of God."



EVANGELISM Matters

Evangelism is a primary function of the church and it is the responsibility of every member to be actively engaged in evangelism in some way. The function of Evangelism permeates the work of your state missionary staff. In this issue we focus on Healthy Evangelism.

Included below is the contact information for members of your state missionary staff that are available to help you and your church in any area related to evangelism.

Your state missionary staff is committed to the vision of "Making Christ Known By Serving Churches." Visit www.tnbaptist.org for information about how the Tennessee Baptist Convention can serve your church.

Larry Gilmore, State Evangelism director ... (615) 371-7915
Evangelism Planning, Conferences, Revival Preparation, Witness Training, etc.

Church Planting

Bill George, Church Planting, West TN.....(615) 371-2043
Wayne Terry, Church Planting, Middle TN ..(615) 355-7905
Fred Davis, Church Planting, East TN.....(865) 988-7783
Tim Hill, Ethnic Church Planting.....(615) 371-2032
Chuy Avila, Hispanic Church Planting.....(615) 371-7913
New Church Starts, Interfaith Evangelism, ESL training classes, etc.

Youth Evangelism

Kent Shingleton.....(615) 371-2077
Youth Evangelism Conference, Connect Rallies, Youth Evangelism Strategies for local churches, etc.

Evangelistic Sunday School

Ken Marler.....(615) 371-7934

Vacation Bible School

Kathy Trundle.....(865) 805-9946
Barbara Owens.....(615) 371-7905

Ministry Evangelism

Beverly Smothers.....(615) 371-2044



What is Healthy Evangelism

by Larry Gilmore

It has been said that "there are two groups of people who do not like evangelism: the saved and the unsaved!" If that is true, the reason is because neither group clearly understands what evangelism is all about.

Healthy evangelism should be neither a burden to the child of God nor should it be a fear in the heart of the pre-Christian. The burden and the fear are introduced, because of misguided teaching about evangelism and abusive approaches by well intentioned Christians.

Healthy church evangelism is built on healthy personal evangelism. The phrase "healthy evangelism" implies that there is an approach to evangelism that is unhealthy. In reality, there are probably many approaches that are unhealthy. While these must be weeded out, there is the realization that many have come to a saving relationship with God through some poor presentations of the gospel even from people whose motives have not always been the most pure.

The recipients appreciate those who attempt to share Christ and do it poorly more than those who are so apathetic that they never share at all. In fact, those who aren't doing evangelism should not try to tell those who are doing it how it should be done!

Evangelism is often a burden to the Christian because of some preconceived idea of what evangelism is. If evangelism is something you do at a scheduled time with a memorized script, it may become a burden. If evangelism is sharing the joy of your relationship with God with someone who needs to know His expression of love

found in Jesus Christ, then evangelism can be a natural part of your life. It involves focusing on others, asking questions, listening to their hearts, and praying for them. It involves letting others know that you care about them.

When you give yourself away to minister and meet needs in their lives, they will be open to you and to what you have to share. You are in relationships with others who are looking for what you have found. Don't make evangelism more difficult than it really is. If we know the good news, the intentionally relating this good news to everyday living can become a joy.

It is always good to study new ways to communicate the gospel. However, fear has often been born in the hearts of pre-Christians, because believers have used these methods in manipulative ways to get desired results. Evangelism is not the browbeating of an unbeliever until they say prescribed words or express a decision that violates their will. No one wants to feel like a statistic.

It has been said that "successful witnessing is sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God." The Holy Spirit is the one who stills an individual's heart.

We can demonstrate His love through service. We can ask: do you understand His love for you? Do you feel that you need God's forgiveness? Do you see that life can take on new meaning when you have Christ in your life? You are special and God has a purpose for your life. Would you like to know God's purpose?

Then lead this searching soul to begin life's greatest adventure by receiving Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. You have just witnessed a divine appointment. This is healthy personal evangelism, born out of genuine love and an honest heart that is searching.



Parents and Youth Need Revolution

By Kent Shingleton

Help! I'm the parent of two teenagers and one pre-teen! I'm the only person struggling here? I was in a conference recently and was gently reminded that for the most part: I'm missing it raising my kids.

My priorities are way out of line, I'm settling for good when God desires best, and I'm failing to be intentional in disciplining my own children. Wow, it was a wake up call.

So now what?

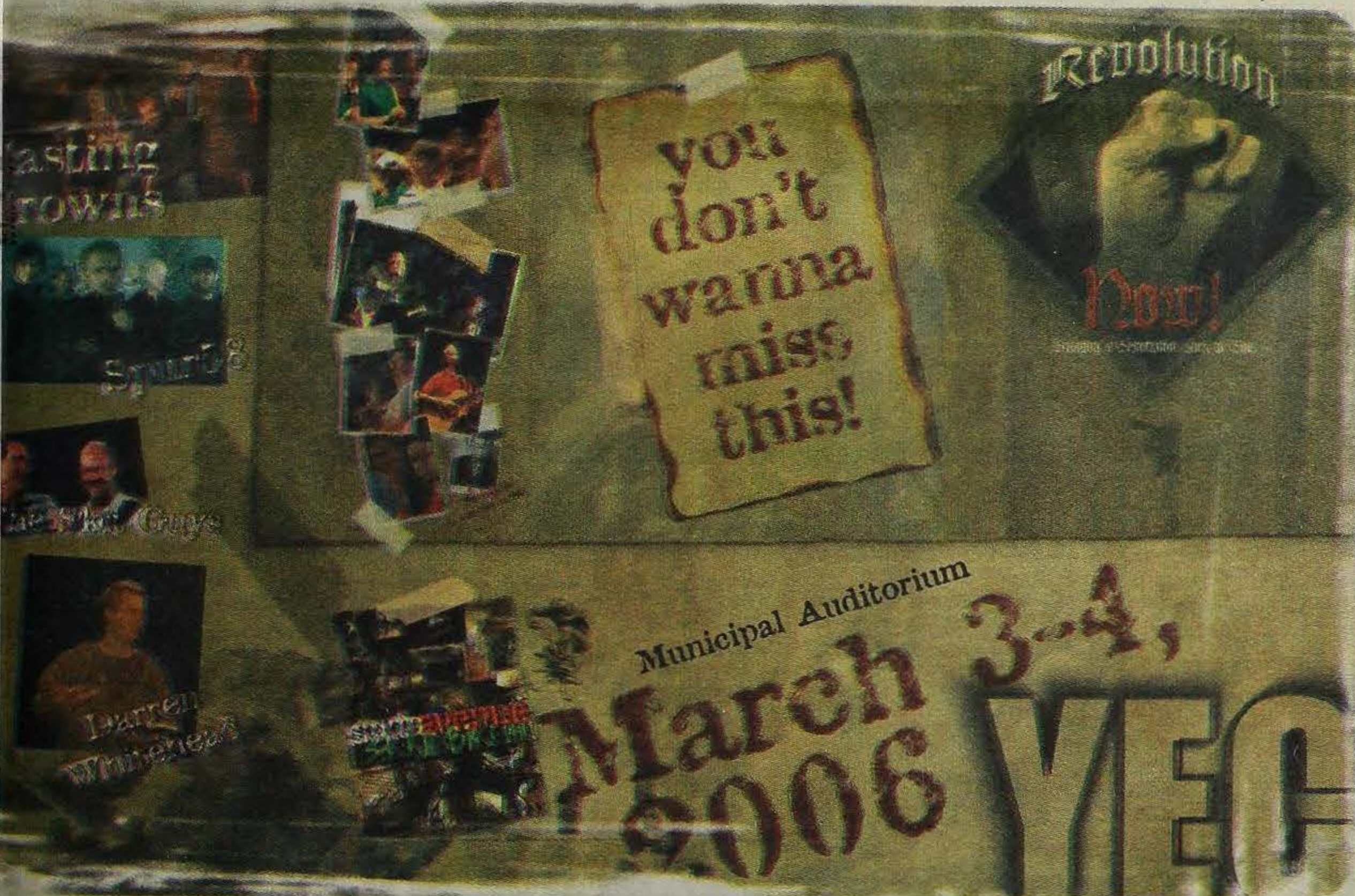
I am convinced that as a parent several things must change in order to go to honor God. Not just temporary change, but revolutionary change. After all, this is what God desires, right? I work on making some revolutionary changes as a dad, I desire to partner with pastors and churches so that teenagers can be challenged to live revolutionary lives honor God. This revolutionary theme will be carried out this year at our annual Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC). If you decide you already know what YEC is all about, I would encourage you to read on in this article.

This year's YEC will take students to a crossroads challenge them to step out and surrender to the unmistakable message of hope and life found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Because:

- YEC is a premiere youth conference that has stood the test of time.
- After attending YEC just once, you can't help but become a fan. Just ask any student who has recently attended.
- YEC consistently exposes students to some of the most refreshing and challenging speakers in the nation. Imagine an arena full of thousands of teenagers on the edge of their seats listening intently to God's Word. This is the YEC experience.
- YEC worship is authentic, awesome, and almost indescribable. You and your students will be led into an unforgettable weekend with your favorite worship choruses as well as classic "caffeinated" hymns. YEC worship is real.
- YEC is out of the box fun! It's the anticipation in the arena as the clock counts down for the launch of the 2006 YEC Revolution. It's the crazy humor of the Skit Guys that make us all laugh out loud. It's the excitement of being in downtown Nashville (Music City USA). YEE-HAW!
- Most important YEC is changed lives. Pure and simple, this is why YEC exists.

On March 3-4, 2006 the revolution begins.
I hope you and your teenagers will be there!



Info You Need About the New Approach to Evangelism Conferences

The State Evangelism Conference historically has been a conference of heart-stirring preaching and music that has rallied the troops to be about the work of winning souls to Christ.

Many of us can remember when preachers from across the state looked forward to attending the conference not just for the inspiring preaching, but for the fellowship and interaction with others that resulted in new outreach strategies and the swapping of a few sermon ideas.

The approaches to both personal and church evangelism had basic common denominators for the majority of preachers across the state.

Today, we have awakened to a diversified culture where one size does not fit all. Some are aware that if the three million plus lost people in Tennessee are going to be won to Christ, we must expand our strategies to reach this diversified crowd. The gospel message does not change, but our methodologies must or we will never have an entrance into the lives of most Tennesseans.

Until this year, the conference has been hosted in the middle Tennessee area. Jackson and Knoxville hosted meetings in 2005. It is evident from recent involvement that some new approaches must be taken.

Conferences and personal training must be taken to the lay people. If Tennessee is to be won to Christ, it will not be because of the preachers (though the role of preaching is paramount in the New Testament), but because the lay people shine as lights in their world and intentionally communicate the hope found in Christ to those they relate to every day.

The structure of our State Missions Ministry Team has been changed to a "field driven" model that will allow the staff to respond to and resource you who are on the cutting edge of ministry.

In 2006, instead of offering an evangelism conference in only one or two regions of the state, we will be capitalizing on the new associational cluster concept and partnering with associations to offer support, resources, and training that address the expressed needs of each area.

It is our prayer that by having conferences where local lay people can receive training and look at new models for communicating the gospel to their friends and neighbors, that we can more effectively accomplish the task given us by our Lord of making disciples.

Your State Missions Evangelism staff, at the invitation of directors of missions and associational evangelism directors, will work together to address the approaches needed in each area to fulfill the assigned task from our Lord.

Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

n. 12 - Tennessee Men's Chorale Local Church Concert, Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Maryville

n. 20-21 - Hispanic Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church Hispanic, Lebanon

n. 27-29 - International Student Retreat, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville

n. 27-28 - The Youth Project for Youth Choirs, Carson-Newman College and First Baptist Church, Jefferson City

For information on upcoming events, see the TBC web site at www.tnbaptist.org.

Crossover Clarksville draws 300-plus volunteers; decisions recorded

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Crossover Clarksville 2005 was successful here with over 300 volunteers working four venues throughout the city from prayer walking to a block party, and servant evangelism to a connect youth rally, according to Dennis Pulley, Cumberland Baptist Association director of missions.

"This is the first year that the whole Crossover event was locally driven by the association," said Pulley. "It was a partnership between the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Cumberland Association with TBC funding 70 percent and the association funding 30 percent."

The Crossover Clarksville event was held prior to the beginning of the 131st annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which was held Nov. 15-16 at First Baptist Church of Clarksville.

A similar Crossover event has been held in various cities for the past 15 years prior to the beginning of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The Crossover Clarksville event came about when Mike Madewell, pastor of Little Hope Baptist Church, Clarksville, was impressed during a quiet time at the November 2004 TBC annual meeting in Sevierville that God was laying a Crossover on his heart for the state meeting. Madewell shared his idea with Pulley, TBC Evangelism director Larry Gilmore, and Roger Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clarksville.

After Freeman was elected TBC president during the 2004 convention, the idea of the Tennessee Crossover was launched with Pulley and Madewell chairing the steering committee.

"Over 300 Crossover volunteers touched the lives of 2,000 people in the Clarksville area," said Madewell, who chaired the state Crossover Committee for all venues. "There were also 35 decisions for Christ."

According to Madewell,



ONE OF several prayer walk teams that participated in Crossover Clarksville in the Church Hill subdivision were, from left, Paul Eaves, pastor of Northeast Baptist Church, Clarksville; Donna Parrott, member of Excell Baptist Church, Clarksville; and Robert Tyson, director of missions, Robertson County Baptist Association.

around 85 people attended the prayer walk and several hundred homes and families were reached. Other Crossover estimates ranged to over 500 people at the block party, at least nine teams totaling 50 people from several churches reached out with the servant evangelism projects, and at least 900 at the youth connect.

The Clarksville prayer walk kicked off with a training session, led by TBC Prayer specialist Don Pierson, Saturday morning at Little Hope Church. After registration, volunteers broke into five large teams to canvass targeted areas of Clarksville.

Four Clarksville host churches led the teams near their neighborhoods including Northeast Baptist Church, New Light Missionary Baptist Church, Greater Saint James Baptist Church, Parkview Baptist Church.

"These churches were identified as churches with great potential to reach people and are smaller churches with under 100 members," added Pulley.

"Northeast and Parkview churches are Anglo American churches. New Light and Greater Saint James churches

are African American churches. The teams also prayer walked a select area that was predominantly Hispanic in New Providence. Our hope is to start another Hispanic church and a Hispanic Resource Center in the area."

The prayer walk volunteers were trained in house to house prayer walking, which is considered non-confrontational with volunteers greeting or leaving a bag of evangelism materials on the porch, in the driveway, or on the door step. The bags included a Hope DVD, a pamphlet on the local church, and other items. The prayer walkers prayed with people who they met at the



RECEIVING A STICKER from clown Pat Neal, a member of Baptist Church, Clarksville, is Michael Ruiz, a soldier stationed at Fort Campbell, and his sons, Gian, 4, left, and Michael Jr. The Ruizes were at a block party held during Crossover Clarksville. They attend Little West Fork Baptist Church, located near the base. — Photos by Marcia Knox

homes, in the yards, or on the streets.

More than 1,100 packets were given out by the volunteers who were divided up into smaller teams of 3-4 people to canvass the neighborhoods, which included several new subdivisions near the Fort Campbell Army Base.

Of the 85 prayer walkers at least 10 were TBC staff people and their spouses along with five additional Clarksville churches participating.

Fourteen volunteers from Bethel Baptist Church in Oneida led by their pastor Lon Chenoweth, traveled the greatest distance, noted Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Harmony Baptist

Church, Adams, who served as Crossover prayer walk subcommittee chairman.

"Crossover allows the association churches to be united in prayer, to reach out to those in the community that may have special needs, and have an evangelistic impact through the prayer walk," Jackson said.

Connect 2005 was held Sunday, Nov. 13, at Hilldale Church, which featured a pizza party and youth rally for unsaved friends to attend. TBC Youth Evangelism specialist, J. Shingleton was the event leader. At least 900 youth attended Connect 2005 and 26 decisions for Christ were made. □

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Overcoming failure, last days addressed at Pastors Conference

inda Lawson
ist and Reflector

KARLSVILLE — "You me a church that's making ference in our culture and how you a church that has a led knee," D. L. Lowrie told icipants in the Tennessee ist Convention Pastors ference Nov. 14 at First ist Church, here. Watchmen on the Wall" was heme of the conference that ded six messages and ic by Chosen Few of Bran-Mo., and the Hillcrest Bap-Church choir of Lebanon.

Lowrie, former TBC executive director now serving as a pastor, professor, and writer in Lubbock, Texas, led off the conference with a message on

to overcome failure to ne strong and effective in ord's service."

aking from Mark 9 where apostles had failed to heal non-possessed boy, Lowrie they failed because they become so busy serving God they neglected their prayer

here is a connection een your prayer life and faith life," he said. "And e is a connection between faith life and the power in ministry. You can't skip

prayer and have faith and you can't skip faith and have power."

Steve Hensley, pastor of Chiquapin Grove Baptist Church, Bluff City, who was elected 2006 conference president, said, "I believe with all my heart we're living in the last days."

He called on pastors and churches to recognize the significance of ministry "at the end of the church age. The fourth quarter is no time to let up or let down." He urged pastors to recognize God's priorities for their personal walk and collective work.

"God wants us to be His lights in darkness so that we can be effective in our collective work," Hensley said. "It's a privilege to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ in these last days."

Glenn Denton, 2005 pastors conference president and pastor of Hillcrest, Lebanon, said, "This is the midnight hour. I challenge you Tennessee pastors to climb back on the wall."

Denton preached in the place of Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, who was ministering to the critically ill former pastor of the church, Adrian Rogers, and his family.

Rogers died the next morning. Speaking from Acts 16 when an earthquake shook the prison where the Apostle Paul and Silas were incarcerated, Denton noted that the two had been singing at midnight when the quake opened the doors of the prison.

"Anyone can sing in the light," he said, "but it takes a midnight miracle to sing in the dark." Denton attributed their ability to sing amid hard circumstances to knowing they were in the right place for the right purpose with the right promises.

"God has shaking power to bring us to the Lord Jesus Christ or sometimes to bring us back," Denton said. "Folks, we need some shaking in our Baptist churches, in the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and in our communities."

Junior Hill, nationally known evangelist from Hartsville, Ala., said a minister can be most effective only when acknowledging his own weakness and his utter dependence on God.

Speaking from II Corinthians 12 when Paul talked about his God-given thorn in the flesh, Hill said that changed Paul's "exaltation into humiliation." Even though Paul had an outstanding education and a dramatic salvation experience, the thorn caused him to rely more on God than on his personal strengths.

"The very best you are is by



ELECTED AS OFFICERS of Tennessee Baptist Convention Pastors Conference were, from left, pastors John Rushing, Northside Baptist Church, Columbia, treasurer; Steve Hensley, Chiquapin Grove Baptist Church, Bluff City, president; and Randy Davis, First Baptist Church, Sevierville, vice president and president-elect.

the grace of God," Hill said. He noted that, at 69, "I'm seeing more people saved than at anytime in my ministry. Whatever the devil says bad about me may be God's gift to make me effective."

Jerry Chaddick, an evangelist from Lake Charles, La., challenged the pretense evident in the lives of many Christians and churches. He spoke from Acts 5, "where we see sin creeping into the local church." The passage outlines the story of Ananias and Sapphira who were struck dead when they sought to deceive God about their gift to the church.

"Their real sin was that of pretending," Chaddick said. "They wanted to give a little to God, but they wanted to get credit for giving a lot."

Chaddick posed the question, "Why is there such a flippant attitude toward sin in the church of America?" He cited a need for revival in churches throughout the nation but warned it will happen only as

Christians allow God to eliminate pretense from their lives.

Bob Pitman, pastor of Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, spoke about Shamgar, a little-known man who was one of 13 judges referenced in the book of Judges.

He praised the contributions of Shamgar as a "man who did what he could with what he had, where he was, for the glory of God." "God's not interested in your agenda or mine. He's not interested in your strengths or your weaknesses, in your creativity or ingenuity," Pitman said.

"All God says is do what you can with what you have, where you are, for my glory. And if you do that, one day you'll hear, 'Well done.'"

In addition to Hensley, Randy Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sevierville, was elected vice president and president-elect for the 2006 conference. John Rushing, pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Columbia, was elected treasurer. □



DENTON

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My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

Psalms 57:7, 9

Music Evangelist • Soloist
• Worship Leader

Leaders

◆ **Riddleton Baptist Church**, located in Riddleton, has called **Marty Dodge** as pastor. He previously served the church as the interim.

◆ **Union Grove Baptist Church**, Beech Bluff, has called **Eric Martin** of Lexington, as pastor. Martin previously served as pastor of Wildersville Baptist Church, Wildersville. A 1998 graduate of Union University, Jackson, he is studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

◆ **Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church**, Bluff City, has called **Rhonda Graybeal** as children's ministry assistant.

◆ **Terry Howell** recently resigned as pastor at Green Pine Baptist Church, Johnson City.

TBC messengers delay action ...

— Continued from page 4
a change could actually limit leadership. "We have a good process in place. It serves us well."

Howard Jewell, a layman from Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, questioned whether such an amendment would limit the number of laypeople who could serve.

Reagan acknowledged it was a valid issue, but he said he did not think it would affect the actual number of laypeople who served. They would come from other churches, he said.

After other discussion, pro and con, the amendment was defeated.

Resolutions

Messengers adopted three resolutions — the traditional resolution of gratitude for the convention, one expressing sympathy to the Adrian Rogers family along with a pledge to pray for the family and the congregation of Bellevue Baptist Church, and one on educating children.

That resolution, presented by Reggie Weems of Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City, resolved that TBC messengers "in the spirit and letter of the resolution on educating children that was passed overwhelmingly by the messengers of the 2005 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, do hereby urge parents and churches to research and monitor the educational influences on children."

It also called for parents to investigate the textbooks used

Associations

◆ **The Judson Baptist Association** will hold its seventh annual Christmas banquet Friday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. at Camp Lake Benson in Lyles. The event is sponsored by the Judson Association Woman's Missionary Union. The East Side Baptist Church, Burns, choir will perform along with a devotion and drawing by their pastor Bob Hammer. Nathan Wilkerson, pastor of Parkers Creek Baptist Church, Burns, will be the mission speaker. For reservations call associational WMU director Harriette Sensing by Nov. 27 at (615) 446-7948.

Churches

◆ **Edgefield Baptist Church**, Nashville, will present the Greening of the

by their children and for Christian parents "to fully embrace their responsibility to make prayerful and informed decisions regarding where and how they educate their children, whether they choose public, private, or home-schooling ..."

Other actions

Messengers also:

- Approved covenant statements for TBC entities, replacing previous program statements.

- Extended the Relationship Study Committee appointed last year by then TBC President Mike Boyd for one year with a report due to the convention in 2006.

- Approved a motion dedicating the 2006 *TBC Journal* in honor of Betty Williams, who will retire Dec. 31 after 46 years of service with the *Baptist and Reflector*.

- Selected Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, to deliver the 2006 convention sermon, with Fred Ward, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huntingdon, as alternate.

- Witnessed the signing of partnerships with the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and Montana Southern Baptist Convention.

- Approved First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, as the site of the 2008 convention on Nov. 11-12 of that year.

- Heard reports on the 25th anniversary of the TBC's involvement in partnership missions, other missions and ministries in the state, and reports from TBC institutions and entities. □

Church, Sunday, Nov. 27, at 6 p.m. A musical, worshiping celebration with traditional decorations, and reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall. For information, contact the church at (615) 255-0468.

◆ **New Salem Baptist Church, Soddy Daisy**, will present Donnie Sumner in concert Sunday, Dec. 4, at 10:45 a.m. Sumner is a Gaither Homecoming artist, Grammy nominee, Dove Award winner, and former Elvis aide. The church is located at 9806 Dallas Hollow Road in Soddy Daisy.

◆ **Brush Creek Baptist Church, Brush Creek**, will present "The Life of Jesus: A Live Drive Thru" Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 10-11, from 6-9

p.m. The church is located at 26 School House Circle, Brush Creek.

◆ **ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin**, will sponsor a mother/daughter retreat Friday-Saturday, Jan. 13-14 at Lake Barkley State Resort in Cadiz, Ky. Special guests include Kerri Pomaroli, Christian comedian, actress, and author; Carmen Wood, fashion and image consultant; and Leigh Capileno, a member of Point of Grace. For registration call Andrea at (615) 791-3790 by Dec. 11.

◆ **Pine Grove Baptist Church, Wildersville**, recently had 12 people make professions of faith and sever-

al others make rededication during a revival, led by "Lammie" Lammersfeld McKenzie.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Greeneville**, will present Living Christmas Tree Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. each evening Thursday-Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

◆ The adult choir of **Baptist Church, Bluff** will perform their Christmas musical, "Celebrate Life" Friday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. evening.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Kingsport, TN 37663, is seeking an associate pastor who is energetic, dynamic, and a team player to provide leadership in the areas of education, evangelism, and discipleship. Must have supervisory responsibility for administrative and financial maintenance staff. Requires 5 years experience in the listed above. Leadership teamwork skills required. Resumes to the church, attention Wayne Strong.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Mission-minded, Southern Baptist, country church seeking a full-time pastor; be a great opportunity for God's work; 50 miles from Nashville. Send resume to Pinewood, c/o Deborah well, 6794 Piney River Road, Bon Aqua, TN 37025 or e-mail boutwell_d@bellsouth.net.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
West Shiloh Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 9881 Hwy. 142, Tonville, TN 38379.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Associate pastor of worship. Full-time, must be able to lead both contemporary and traditional styles of worship music. Must be able to work with youth. Be a big plus. Send resume to Gum Springs Baptist Church, Attn. Search Committee, Marion Rd., Cunningham, TN 37052.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Valley View Baptist Church, East Nashville is seeking a full-time minister of music. View is a congregation with 80 in attendance with Sunday morning and evening worship services and Wednesday evening activities and choir. The minister of music must be responsible for directing the sanctuary choir and piano and leading worship services with the pastor. To inquire call (615) 262-3950 or e-mail leyviewbc@bellsouth.net.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

First Baptist Church, Hayti, Mo., is seeking a full-time youth director. Please send resume to Youth Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 201 East Lincoln, Hayti, MO 63851.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Snyder Memorial Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister to youth. The position requires at least 5 years experience in student ministry and a seminary/divinity school degree. Snyder Memorial, a CBF/SBC church, is located in Fayetteville, NC. Please send resume to Youth Search, SMBC, 701 Westmont Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28305 or e-mail resume to larry@snydermbc.com. Check out www.snydermbc.com for more information about the church.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Growing church of 800+ in Orlando area seeking minister of students, high school ministry focus. Desiring leader in biblical discipleship and sanctification. Send resume to Youth Ministry Search, 2354 Winter Woods Blvd., Winter Park, FL 32792.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Clinch River Baptist Church of Lake City, Tenn., is seeking a dynamic, Christian leader of young people to fill the full-time position of minister of youth. Please mail resume to Kenny Clotfelter, 108 Redwood Rd., Clinton, TN 37716 or e-mail clotfelter@wmconnect.com.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Aloma Baptist Church is searching for a minister to families with children to facilitate ministry to children from birth through age 12, and to equip families as centers of spiritual nurture. Please send resume to Families/Children Ministry, 1815 SR 436, Winter Park, FL 32792 or e-mail valerie@alomachurch.org.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Full-time director weekday preschool ministries. Send or e-mail resume to Carla Kidd, ckidd@cbcsite.org, Central Baptist Church, 300 N Roan, Johnson City, TN 37601 by Jan. 8, 2006.

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Southwest Baptist Church is looking for a used or "repo" modular building for their young congregation. If you know of such, please call or e-mail Central Baptist Church, Crossville, Attn. Missions, phone (931) 484-8426, e-mail billy@cbccrossville.org.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
For sale: 1989 Bluebird School Bus, 72-passenger, excellent condition. Gath Baptist Church, (931) 934-2655 or e-mail: gathbaptist@blmond.net.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Jefferson Street Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music and education. This candidate will primarily be responsible for music while assisting the staff in the promotion of Sunday School and developing an ongoing discipleship ministry. For more information please call (478) 272-7750 or send resume to Search Committee, 209 N. Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Secretary/bookkeeper. 25 hours per week. Job entails handling phone calls, mail, filing, bookkeeping for a retirement facility, preparation for and follow-up of board of directors meetings, and a two-week camping program. Send letter of introduction and resume to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728, Attn. C. Kenny Cooper.



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Convention sermon

God's people must be humble, holy, hungry, says McCoy

Ellsworth
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — God's people must be humble, holy, and hungry if they want God to do His greatest work in their life church, Tom McCoy told congregants to the Tennessee Baptist Convention Nov. 16.

McCoy, pastor of Thompson Station Baptist Church in Thompson Station, preached the annual convention sermon for the TBC meeting at First Baptist Church here.

McCoy subbed for Glenn H. Hays, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, who was selected to bring the convention sermon last year. However, he is recovering from a kidney transplant.

McCoy asked his listeners if they were ready for a great moment of God, and said the thing necessary for that to happen was for God's people to be hungry for God.

"You have to want God, and you have to know Him intimately," McCoy said. "You have to long to know Him intimately."

McCoy said many Christians are hungry for money, prestige, position, and popularity, but they are not hungry for the Lord.



TOM MCCOY, pastor of Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station, delivers the 2005 convention sermon.

McCoy said, and the church needs to recover its desire for its first love, as well as a desire for growth in their churches.

"We must use any and every means necessary to bring people to Christ," McCoy said. "Jesus loves lost souls. Not just middle income white Americans. He loves everybody — red, yellow, black, and white."

McCoy said there's a problem with a church if it's not growing,

because God designed the church to grow. "When it's not growing it's not His fault, it's my fault," he said.

Holiness is another requirement for God to move among His people, McCoy told TBC messengers.

"It's against God's nature to do His greatest work in people who continually live unholy lives," he said.

Holiness requires Christians to hate what is evil and love what is good, and they can't do that by singing "Oh, how I love Jesus" on Sunday and dancing with the devil on Monday. "The problem is many Christians claim Christ as Savior but refuse to lay down the very sins that nailed Jesus to the cross," McCoy said.

Finally, Christians who want to see God work in their midst must be humble, McCoy said. Christians must bow before God if they expect Him to bless.

He used an example from his early years at Thompson Station Baptist Church, when he took a 10-day sabbatical and said God told him he would do an incredible work at the church, but only when God would get all the glory.

Shortly after his return from

that retreat in 1996, McCoy said everything fell apart. Church members were at odds with him, and he said it was the most difficult time of his ministry. Seventy people ended up leaving the church in a month. He said he was completely humbled.

But from that, McCoy said God turned things around, and the church had the greatest year

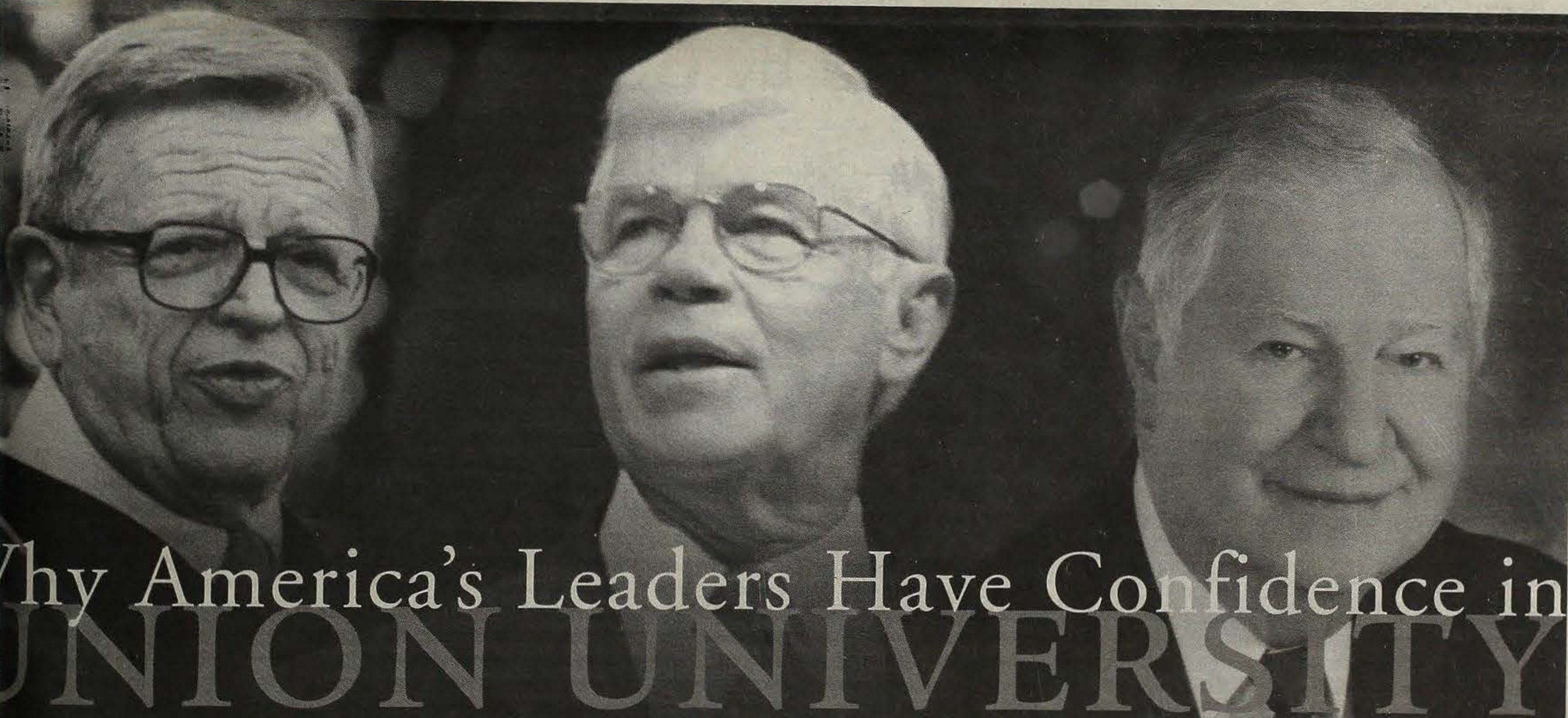
in its history to that point. Since 1997, more than 800 people have been baptized at the church, with attendance going from 250 to more than 1,650.

"The world says strut your stuff, but God says to serve in silence," McCoy said. "The world says to stand tall and stick out your chest, but God says bend your knee and cover your head." □



Signing book

Wm. Fletcher Allen, right, signs a copy of *Telling the Truth in Love: A Brief History of the Baptist and Reflector from 1835* for David Fletcher of Trace Creek Baptist Church, New Johnsonville. The book was distributed at the paper's booth in the exhibit area at First Baptist Church, Clarksville. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the book can call (615) 371-2003.



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minister's corner

Can Christians be thankful in all things?

By Randall Pressnell

Does it not just get to you sometimes when a Christian makes some perceivably pious statement in the midst of tragic circumstances? You know what I am talking about! Sally Super Christian has just lost her husband suddenly to a heart attack and all she can say is "the Lord knows best." Or Billy Great Saint is told that he will not survive a pancreatic malignancy that he did not know anything about the day before and he simply responds, "Well, I guess I will go to heaven sooner than I anticipated." Do you ever wonder if these people are for real?

Now, lest you misunderstand what I am trying to say, let me clarify. I know that it is a very human response to tragedy for us to weep and even grieve. Yet, the Apostle Paul writes clearly to the Philippian community of faith that believers are not to allow troubles to distract them by taking Christ's place as the center of one's universe.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Most of us would have no problem with Philippians 4:4 if the great apostle had just left off one word! The word "always" has been a problem not only to me at times in my pilgrimage but also to many others who will honestly acknowledge that it is at least difficult to rejoice in the Lord during certain circumstances of life. Rejoice in the Lord? No problem. Rejoice in the Lord always? With most of us, this could prove problematic at times.

However, Paul's words become even more unsettling in the sixth verse of this passage. This time the apostle uses a similar word to throw a wrench into our wheel! *Do not be anxious about anything* we are told. That is a pretty tall order that covers a lot of life. That means that Sally Super Christian and Billy Great Saint are responding to their circumstances in a manner that Paul the Apostle sees as not only quite possible but as obligatory for a believer.

Debbi and I were blessed at the first of October to travel to Sulphur, La., to work one week with the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief "state kitchen unit" positioned there to feed residents of the area devastated by Hurricane Rita. While there, we were blessed to work alongside of and become friends with Sulphur residents Jim and Sherrie. Their home was almost a total loss and they were living in a camper but every morning at 4:30 AM they were on the job helping Tennessee Baptists help their own community. In Sherrie's words, the Lord gave them peace to do so because all of the things they lost were just "things."

As we worked with them and prayed for them they became dear friends and it was quite evident that the peace exhibited on the outside radiated from a peace that sustained them on the inside.

That is what Paul meant when he continued in 4:6b with the following admonition, *but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God*. That is what Jim and Sherrie were doing! In the midst of a very difficult circumstance they prayed and petitioned God giving thanks for their blessings even as they trusted God for the needs of their own lives. This resulted in the peace of God going beyond human understanding as He guarded their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

This Thanksgiving season, I give thanks for new friends in Sulphur and the wonderful living illustration of Philippians 4:4-7 exhibited by their daily walk of faith.

Can Christians be thankful in all things? As I watched Jim and Sherrie work tirelessly to feed fellow Sulphurites and the volunteers from Tennessee assembled to help, I know that the answer to that question is absolutely and unequivocally YES!

This Thanksgiving, may all of us with thanksgiving, present our requests to God! □ — Pressnell is pastor of First Baptist Church, New Tazewell.

Honor the sovereign Lord

By Mark Brown

Focal Passage: Job 42:1-13, 16-17

Before you read the last five chapters of Job, read a King James Version of Psalm 8 and give particular attention to the fourth verse: *What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him?*

Now read the background passage of this week's lesson. As you finish each chapter from Job 38 through 41, reread Psalm 8 and you will see an incredible hymn of faith develop right before your eyes. Each chapter defines the magnitude of the Lord and the chorus serves as our human affirmation of what God says about Himself.

Better yet, let's allow the closing chapters of this book to speak to the impertinent human voice we all harbor — the little voice that cries "Why me" when life gets hard; that voice that occasionally asks of God, "Lord, do you know what you are doing?"

By way of Job, God demonstrates to us that He does in fact know what He is doing. Did we lay out the globe? Can we spread clouds across the sky? I am particularly taken with Job 38:12, which asks (in the NIV), *Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?*

Well, have you? Even once? Of course not.

God is God. He is our Creator,

our Redeemer, and our Sustainer. And yet, in recent years the sovereignty of God has become a theological catch-point. Now, I can only speak for myself, but the sovereignty of God is not in question, and it hasn't been since I figured out that my parents weren't sovereign. (But I was raised as a preacher's kid in Alabama, where I thought the Bible Belt was what they used when you got in trouble — so I was maybe 10 or 11 before I fully realized that my folks reported to the Almighty and didn't sit with Him on some church committee that met every third Monday of the month.)

Job 38:1, certainly one of the best phrases employed in the book of Job, speaks to God's entrance on the earthly stage. It says, *Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm*.

Wow! That's powerful no matter how you read it. It serves as an incredible play on words. You can take it to mean that He spoke from a meteorological event, like His voice thundered above the storm, or, you can interpret that Job's suffering had gotten his full attention and God took advantage of Job's willingness to listen. I'm okay with either of those ideas, but I really like a third image that I think bears consideration. "Answered" is an action verb that means responded to, but there also seems to me an idea that God lifted or carried Job as He answered him, which is to say that He delivered the faithful servant through the ordeal.

**Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Nov. 27**

Job is not the story of a conversion. Rather, it's an account of a faithful man whose circumstances confirmed his faithfulness. God does not require penance of Job, the righteous man who questioned Him, but rather He required it from Job's three self-righteous friends who found themselves familiar with God that they stayed in His place.

The book closes with God's revelation of Himself to Job. In the man Christian Standard Bible, 42:6 reads, *I had heard run about you, but now my eyes have seen you*.

It's as if Job is the embodiment of Paul's I Corinthians 13:12 prophecy. Job had initially seen things as through a glass darkly, but, having demonstrated faithfulness and integrity throughout life, he ultimately saw God face to face.

The experience did not embolden him or puff him up spiritually; the contrary, it humbled him and led to his repentance. Which, of course, exactly what an encounter with the Almighty should do. Mark Brown is director of news and publications at Carson-Newman College, a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

Loved by God

By Kevin Shrum

Focal Passage: Romans 8:28-39

Romans 8:28-39 might be the most significant passage in Scripture. The depth and breadth of its meaning has comforted, baffled, mystified, and encouraged the church throughout its history. What does this text say? And what does it mean?

God's loving work in all things (even the bad), v. 28

Verse 28 is often quoted and sometimes misunderstood. It does not say that all things are good. It does not say that all things are pleasing to us. It does not say that all things work for the good of all people. What it does say is: *We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose*.

The implications are profound. Verse 28 argues that: (1) God is at work (2) for the good of (3) those who love Him, (4) who have been called according to God's divine plan. That is, while all people benefit from God's general care (Matthew 5:45), God's providential care for those who are His is evident. God's good work is going on all the time on behalf of His children, even when times are bad.

God's loving work in saving sinners (vv. 29-30)

Many Baptists flinch at the words in these two verses. While we acknowledge that we are saved by God/grace alone, it is a dreadful thing to see it in print. A dead man cannot save himself or raise himself

from the dead (Ephesians 2:1). Thus, salvation is the gracious action of God in giving dead men life. How does this happen?

God knows His people because the text states, *For those He foreknew*. This doesn't mean that God looked down through time and chose us on the basis of our choice for Him. Though well intentioned, this thought leaves the power of salvation in our hands.

Rather, it means that God knows all of time, the beginning from the end. Before time He determined who would be saved because "He predestined (us) to be conformed to the image of His Son." Amazingly, we were chosen prior to and predestined before the foundation of the world was ever laid (Ephesians 1:3-14). Salvation is all of God.

If salvation is God's prerogative, then how does He actualize in time and space what He determined before time began? Verse 30 answers this question. If He predestined us, then *He also called (us); and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified*. That is, God has not only determined who will be saved, but He has also determined the means of grace. That is, God has determined the necessary tools used so that God's plan might be actualized in history.

And what are these means of grace? i.e. evangelism, missions, preaching, praying, witnessing, etc. But Kevin, you sound like a Calvinist! How can a Calvinist be evangelistic? Why preach and witness if God chose us in Him, before the founda-

**Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Nov. 27**

tion of the world (Ephesians 1:4)

I like to say that I am a Bible who allows the text to say what it says without fear. I also know that though we Baptists love saying we are saved by grace, yet when reality of what that means explained it reminds us of how we are in our sin. And nobody likes to be told that they are a dead, helpless, hopeless, and with eternal life.

The reason I preach is because I am commanded to preach. The son I witness is because God's glory must be proclaimed to all men that God can call out His people. The reason I preach is because I know who His children are, I do. It is my business to be obedient; God's business to save.

God's loving work is secure (vv. 31-39)

If God is at work on our behalf and if we are saved by Him, then we are secure in Him. No charge can be brought against us and no power can overcome us because we are assured that *neither death nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will have power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord*. Chosen, saved, and secure! Praise to His name! □ — Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

Executive director's message

Porch challenges messengers to move to 'other side of mountain'

Donnie Wilkey
List and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — Tennessee Baptists were challenged to move to "the other side of the mountain" by the executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, James Porch, told messengers about three "Baptist bears": Singing Bear, Worried Bear, and Duh Bear.

Singing Bear always sang the same song, "The bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain to see what he could see."

Worried Bear traveled through life constantly asking "What's on the other side of the mountain?" and imploring others to "tell me what's on the other side of the mountain."

Duh Bear was so out of it, he just asked, "Do we live on a mountain?"

Porch noted that he could easily identify with each of the bears at different stages of his life.

"I would like to continually be Singing Bear. Instead, sometimes I lapse into the Worried

or Duh Bear lifestyle.

"My prevailing question has been, 'Why can't I always be like Singing Bear?'"

Porch reflected that he recently has begun to understand why and his source is God's Word.

Porch exhorted messengers to listen to God's Word to Moses as recorded in Deuteronomy 1:6: *Moses, you have stayed long enough at this mountain.*

Porch noted that the purpose for the encampment on Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai) had been completed because the "law and the ordinances and all matters to fulfill the covenant had been delivered to Moses and the children of Israel. They could now move on."

Yet, Porch observed Moses had to be "nudged" by God and he and his people had to be willing to respond and move on.

They thought they had all they needed on that mountain, but they had not finished God's trip for them, Porch continued.

"When a Christian's pilgrimage rejects the nudge of God to move on, the Christian defies the will of God."

Porch suggested another



TBC EXECUTIVE Director James Porch delivers his annual address to messengers at the annual meeting held at First Baptist Church, Clarksville.

reason for leaving the mountain, noting that Israel's tendency and inclination was to be static, something with which he could relate. "You see my song of living is always vulnerable to my tendency toward giving in to the static lifestyle and staying where I am."

Porch exhorted Tennessee Baptists to "leave where we are and go see what's on the other

side of the mountain that God has for us."

Reading from Genesis 12, Porch told of God's call to Abraham to take a trip.

"This is also God's beckon to Tennessee Baptists to go see what's on the other side of the mountain that you've never seen before."

Porch cited two requirements in order to journey along with one result for those who dare go to the other side of the mountain.

First, Porch said, "listen for God to speak to you."

He noted Abraham was "old and set in his ways" before God "interrupted his life as never before."

"But somehow, even settled in and set in his ways, Abraham listened. The process to travel to the other side of the mountain begins right here by listening to God," Porch observed.

He noted this annual meeting could be an occasion for "a fresh experience from God if we give Him our attention."

Porch challenged messengers to clear any agendas at the "throne of grace."

"Each of us exercises indi-

vidual Baptist rights, but we each have a kingdom responsibility and that begins by listening to what God wants us to say or do as we participate in this convention."

The second requirement, Porch continued, is "to leave upon God's instructions."

Put simply, God told Abraham to leave, Porch said. Another way to put it, he noted, is "Turn loose, let go, cut your ties, sacrifice your comfort zone."

The result of moving to the other side of the mountain, Porch reminded messengers, is "life will change."

The TBC leader noted that Hebrews 11 recounts that Abraham obeyed and went out, not knowing where he was going.

"He lived as an alien, dwelling in tents, looking for a city. And how? He did so by faith."

Porch challenged TBC messengers to get out of their static lifestyle and to discover "a new spirit of evangelism, missions, spiritual growth, fellowship, and Christian education."

"Tennessee Baptists, it's time to go to the other side of the mountain." □

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BETH MOORE, right, former International Mission Board journeyman to Costa Rica and member of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, visits with Brent Moore of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., at the Missions Extravaganza of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.



VISITING ABOUT the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership are, from left, Chad Franklin of OK Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg; and Jon and Mindy Jamison of Des Moines, Iowa.



MISSIONARY JOHN ROBINSON of Wales visits with Ann Richardson, left, and Sheila Hall of First Baptist Church, Maynardville, during the Missions Extravaganza of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union. It is held each year on Monday evening prior to the annual meeting.



MISSIONARY DALE HOOKER, left, of Chile visits with Phyllis Cobb, center, and Pat Adams of Grace Baptist Church, Springfield, during the Missions Extravaganza.

Views of the guests and 1,473 messengers to the annual meeting



VISITING WITH HIS former professor and his wife is Craig Clayton, missionary to Mexico. Clayton visits with George Clark, retired English professor of Union University, and his wife, Mildred. Clark is currently pastor, Village Baptist Church, Cloverport.



JEFF CLARK, right, executive director, Montana Baptist Convention, visits with members of Rutledge Falls Baptist Church, Tullahoma, from left, Mike Morris, pastor; Billy Leveno; and Bill Inzer.



PARTICIPANTS OF the Call to Prayer held prior to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting are shown here. Participants are encouraged to reach out and touch a fellow participant as requested during a prayertime.



CHARLIE KING, chief warrant officer of the U.S. Army and member of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, sings during a recognition of veterans held at the annual meeting.



TAMMY AND JAMIE BONE attended the annual meeting with daughters, Hope, left, and Faith. Jamie Bone is pastor, Unity Baptist Church, Summertown.