

Section 3:

***Convention
Proceedings
(175th Annual Session)***

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Proceedings

*175th Annual Meeting of the
Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware
Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel
Towson, Maryland*

November 14-16, 2010

Theme: “Connect 2010: Celebrating 175 years of Great Commission Partnership”

FIRST SESSION – Sunday Evening – November 14, 2010
Session Theme: “Celebrate”

- 1.** The session began promptly at 6:30 p.m. with the showing of a video, *Together We Are There*, emphasizing a number of the ways that the Gospel is shared and that needs are met through our cooperating for ministry in Jesus’ name.
- 2. Call to Order** – President Byron Day (Emmanuel, Prince George’s) officially called the 175th Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware to order. He used a gavel made of wood from the original staircase of the Eutaw Place Baptist Church, Baltimore, known as “Annie Armstrong’s Church.” He briefly welcomed all to this historic meeting, stating that he was looking forward to a “wonderful time together.”
- 3. Order of Business Committee** – Steve Poole (Oak Grove, Susquehanna), chair of the Committee on Order of Business, on behalf of the committee, moved “that the agenda, as printed in the program, be adopted as the official order of business for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.” No second was needed. [*Note: Official action on the motion was taken a little later in that session. (See Item # 5 below.)*]
- 4. Enrollment of Messengers** – Fred Dyer (White Marsh, Baltimore), chair of the Committee on Credentials and Enrollment, reported that the enrollment, as of 6:30 p.m. that evening, was 126 messengers and 18 guests, for a total of 144. On behalf of the committee, Dyer moved “that those messengers who have already registered and those who will subsequently register constitute the 175th Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, meeting here in Towson, Maryland.” No second was required. [*Note: Official action on the motion was taken a little later. (See Item #5 below.)*]

5. President Day noted that Item #3 and Item #4 above both needed to be voted upon officially by the body. This had not been done at the time each was presented. First, Day asked for a vote on the motion from the Committee on Order of Business Committee (*Item #3 above*). It passed on a show-of-hands vote of the messengers. Second, Day, asked for a vote on the motion from the Committee on Credentials and Enrollment (*Item #4 above*). It passed on a show-of-hands vote of the messengers.

6. **Introductions** – President Day briefly introduced Dr. David Uth, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, FL, who would be delivering the main message for Session I. Day also briefly introduced Denver and the Mile High Orchestra, a band of highly talented Christian musicians from Nashville, TN, led by Denver Bierman, which would minister during the first session, as well as several subsequent sessions, of the Convention. The group presented Christian music with a “Big Band” sound.

7. **Music/Worship** – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra led the congregation in singing *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* and *Open the Eyes of My Heart*.

8. **Special Music** – The Chinese Baptist Mission Choir, a combined choir representing four BCM/D Chinese congregations, shared two special selections of worship in song: *Oh, the Deep Love of Jesus* and *Following the Spirit’s Leading*. (Both were sung in Chinese.)

9. **Message** – David Uth, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, FL, brought the message for the session. He first expressed thanks to the members of the Chinese Baptist Mission Choir for their beautiful, inspiring music. Next, he read from Revelation 7:9-10, which described a great multitude in heaven – from every nation, tribe, people and language – standing before the throne of God and in front of the Lamb, giving adoration and praise. He stated that at First Baptist Church, Orlando, thirty-one different languages were spoken by people there. He spoke of once having desired to have all of those languages sing *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* together. It was a truly wonderful experience. He declared that the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware resembled that, and he praised God for it! Uth said that he had a deep love for the BCM/D, because of his long-time friendship with Freddy and Gayla Parker. (He and Gayla once had been classmates in school.) He added that he prayed for the Convention.

Uth proceeded to speak to the Convention on his chosen subject, Celebrate the Goodness of God. He said that we had a lot to celebrate in worship. He declared that we did not celebrate worship because life was good and/or because things were good, but, “because God is good!” We are to celebrate the goodness of God. Uth shared several reasons why celebration was important for Christians. **(1.) We need it for a change of focus.** We need to get our eyes on God who loves and off of “us.” **(2.) We need it for a witness.** Many people are looking for something real and authentic. Surveys revealed that the vast majority of unchurched people would visit a church, if someone invited them. When those people did attend, they watched other worshipers. If, however, they saw that we, believers, did not really worship and that nothing real took place within us, Uth said, “They feel that this God is not too big a thing.” God is worthy of worship. **(3.) When we worship, we engage in spiritual warfare.** Uth referred to two specific examples of that which were recorded in Scripture. One was taken from II Chronicles 20, where King Jehoshaphat

had gone into battle against the Ammonites and the Moabites. He put the singers and the musicians in front of the rest of the troops! The forces of the enemy were routed. The other was drawn from I Samuel 16, where young David played his harp/lyre, when evil spirits had come upon Saul and had tormented him. When David played the instrument, the evil spirits departed. Uth also shared two illustrations of the power of worship, from his personal ministry experience. The first was about a woman who had been beaten savagely by an abusive husband, requiring seven surgeries. Even after her outward scars had healed, deep scars remained which were not visible. She had begun attending worship at FBC Orlando, genuinely experiencing worship, and God's presence had transformed her and had brought healing to her life. The second was about a time he had ministered in Zambia. He had witnessed an exorcism conducted for three very troubled women. The pastor said that they were troubled with demons. The spiritual leaders of the church had encircled the three, playing drums and singing praises to God. After about thirty minutes, the women fell to the floor, writing and rolling, then finally going limp. When the time concluded, they sat relaxed and smiling. Uth declared, "There is power in praise!" He added, "I've never looked at worship the same way again." We have to celebrate, because it is a weapon against the enemy.

Why is it that when things were tough that we quit singing? Uth referred to Psalm 137:1-6, which described the anguish of the Jews at being in exile in Babylon, and he read those verses. The people were downcast and despondent; furthermore, they had hung up their harps on the branches of trees and had quit singing the Lord's songs. Uth asked, "What's a foreign land look like?" We do not have to leave town to be in one. We will all be there sooner or later: in a foreign land. All that it takes is one call from a doctor that a biopsy was positive for cancer, one call from a police officer that a child had been in a serious accident, one conversation at church, etc. We all go through those times, and the question was, "Are we going to sing? Would we still sing the Lord's song, in spite of being in a foreign land?" Uth shared about his having had the opportunity to minister in Haiti the past September. He had the privilege of baptizing ten new believers who had come to Christ out of voodoo practices. In the midst of all of the destruction that was everywhere around them, people worshiped. People were worshiping and singing praise songs to God. They had even done that on the night of the very day (January 12, 2010) that the devastating earthquake had struck! Uth posed a question to ponder: Suppose we had just lost everything that we had; would we sing out and praise God? How did/could we do that? The answer was found in Psalm 137:4-6. The people remembered Jerusalem. It was the epicenter of faith for them, where they had met God. Asked Uth, "Do we remember our 'Jerusalems'?" Did we remember those places where God has saved us, called us, nourished us and sustained us? When we are in the dark, dark places, would we remember? Uth mentioned the time when David had gone to visit his brothers who were soldiers in Saul's army. All were terrified of Goliath. When David remembered the God he worshiped and served, he could face and defeat Goliath by God's power. Uth challenged, "Remember the goodness of God!" If we remembered the goodness of God, we would sing again. Songs did stop at times. Declared Uth, "When we remember the goodness of God, we'll sing!" As he closed his message, he shared a personal illustration about a young Christian woman who had belonged to the church he had served previously. At age seventeen, she was diagnosed with cancer; and she had died from the disease three years later. He had been asked to visit with her, because her condition was deteriorating rapidly, and she did not have long to live. It was not long after that visit that he had received the news that she had passed away.

The young woman's mother told him that, even though her daughter had great difficulty breathing, she spent her final day of life, singing hymns and choruses of praise to God. She had done that all day long. She had sung right up to the moment that she had gone home. Uth challenged, "You got that much breath, your last day on this earth? Are you going to sing the songs of Zion? Are you going to sing praise to our God? Well, you will, if you remember. Remember, God is good – all the time. He's worthy of our praise!"

10. 175th Feature: Annie Armstrong profile – Ellen Udovich, BCM/D missionary, disaster relief, lay mobilization, senior adults, and team strategist for Acts 1:8 mission involvement, introduced the presentation, by sharing a brief profile of Annie Armstrong that emphasized her deep love for Baltimore. She was baptized into the membership of Seventh Baptist Church. Later, she had taught Sunday School there. She had worked with immigrants and had pioneered other ministries in Baltimore. She had been a part of the founding of Eutaw Place Baptist Church. Annie Armstrong, furthermore, had been the driving force in the beginning of the auxiliary which later became Woman's Missionary Union and had served as its first leader/director. She had emphasized ministry to meet the needs of others and not just one's own. Since Annie Armstrong had died (in 1938), Baltimore had changed greatly; however, the needs there were the same. Her influence in Baltimore is still felt strongly, as the Baptist churches of the city are still reaching out, ministering and touching lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

Following Udovich's remarks, a video was shown that featured a number of ministries, especially to the heart of the inner city of Baltimore: Salem Baptist Church, Open Door Baltimore, The Gallery Church, The Church on Warren Avenue, and Riverside Baptist Church.

Next, Lindsey Shaffer, BCM/D associate missionary, English as a second language (ESL), lay mobilization (including summer missionaries and other church missions opportunities), ministry and servant evangelism, and poverty issues and ministries, shared comments about some the significant needs found in Baltimore. The overall poverty rate of the entire city was seventeen percent, with that of some sections of the inner city exceeding seventy percent. In East Baltimore, a considerable amount of food was distributed to the community through food banks. Twenty-two percent of the city's children lived in poverty. Other needs and problems were there too, including drugs and human trafficking. A reference was made to Matthew 25:40: "The King will reply 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" The presentation concluded with the question, "What will you do with what the Lord has given you?"

11. Worship Celebration – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra shared an inspirational worship celebration concert (set of songs), in the band's unique style, interspersed with personal testimony and challenges by the group's leader, Denver Bierman. The musical selections presented were as follows: *You Move Me*, *Victory in Jesus*, *Let Freedom Ring*, *That's Got Soul*, *The Solid Rock*, *Stand*, *Oh How He Loves You and Me*, *Sanctuary* and *Get Down*. During the presentation, two things were worthy of special mention. **(1.) Along with the musical number *Let Freedom Sing*, veterans of our military were recognized and thanked for their service. (2.) The song *Stand* shared the testimony of Stephen, the first Christian martyr.** It presented Stephen declaring to Jesus, "Because You died for me, I will stand for You." As Stephen died, Jesus

responded, “Because you died for Me, I will stand for you.” In the song’s concluding section, the challenge was issued for us today, as Jesus’ followers, to stand for Him because He died for us. As the final note of the song was heard, everyone in the congregation was standing!

12. Closing Remarks – First, President Day asked all those in the congregation to show their appreciation to Denver and the Mile High Orchestra with a round of applause for the wonderful time of worship. Next, Cindy Stewart, manager, LifeWay Christian Store, Baltimore, made a special presentation to President Byron Day of a copy of the Holman Christian Study Bible, just published the past September by LifeWay Christian Resources. Finally, President Day made several announcements about the following day’s brunches and breakout sessions.

13. Preview of Courageous – A video preview of the upcoming Christian film “Courageous” was shown. The movie was being produced by Sherwood Pictures, affiliated with Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany, GA. This was the same company that had made the acclaimed film “Fireproof” in 2008. The theme of Courageous is “Honor Begins at Home,” based on Joshua 24:15, which says, “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” The motion picture sought to present a message that would challenge and inspire Christian men to step up their commitment and truly to be men for Christ in their homes, in their families and in the world. Courageous was set for nationwide release in theaters in September 2011.

14. President Day led in a closing prayer for the session, thanking God for the blessings experienced and asking Him to prepare us for the following day’s sessions and activities.

SECOND SESSION – Monday Morning – November 15, 2010
Denver and the Mile High Orchestra – Music/Worship Leaders
Session Theme: “Celebrate Yesterday”

15. At 8:32 a.m., the BCM/D video, *Make It Count: through the Cooperative Program*, was shown. It featured special training for deacons, led by Dr. David Lee and available to BCM/D congregations at no cost.

Business Session

16. President Day called the session to order officially at 8:35 a.m. He led in prayer for that session. Then, he recognized Ken Moss (Faith, Glen Burnie, Arundel), whom he had appointed to serve as the parliamentarian for the Convention.

17. President’s Committee Appointments – President Day introduced the following presidential appointed committees: the Committee on Credentials and Enrollment, the Committee on Resolutions and the Committee on Committees. A complete list of the members of each had been included in the messenger’s packet.

2010 Special Committee Appointments By The President

Committee On Credentials And Enrollment

Fred Dyer, Chair, White Marsh, Baltimore

Doris Burch, Middle River, Baltimore

Barbara High, Mars Hill, Baltimore

Sheila Jessup, Colonial, Baltimore

Theresa Sassard, Middle River, Baltimore

Committee On Resolutions

Aaron Stewart, Chair, Towne, Susquehanna

Rick Cash, Valley, Baltimore

Samuel Cho, Nepal, Baltimore

Jack Mackall, CrossLife, Mid-Maryland

Ronnie Stanley, Jr., FBC, Suitland, Prince George's

Committee On Committees

Thom Smith, Chair, FBC, Hagerstown, Blue Ridge

Paul Andrews, Faith Family, Mid-Maryland

Dow Wood, FBC, Fruitland, Eastern

Keith Corrick, Hughesville, Potomac

Paul Mathenia, Faith, Laurel, Prince George's

Ellis Moore, Georgia Avenue, Montgomery

Oscar Ohler, Graceland, Western

Robert Parsley, FBC, Crofton, Arundel

VACANT, Delaware

Ward Holland, Riverside, Baltimore

Rick Humphreys, Faith Southern, Susquehanna

18. Report of the Nominating Committee – Richard Beacham (Hope, Prince George's), chair of the Nominating Committee presented the report. He called attention to the copy of the report, 2010-2011 Report of the Committee to Nominate Members of the General Mission Board & Trustees of Institutions and Agencies of the Convention, included in the messenger's packet. On behalf of the committee, he moved that the report be approved. No second was required. No messengers asked questions or requested any discussion. It passed on a show-of-hands vote of the messengers.

2010-2011 Report of the Committee to Nominate Members or the General Mission Board & Trustees of Institutions and Agencies of the Convention

General Mission Board Nominations

Term expiring 2011

Name	Church	Association
Steve Fehrman [filling unexpired term of David Brown]	Southern Calvert	Potomac

Term expiring 2013

Name	Church	Association
Mark Garrett [filling unexpired term of Gary Willett]	Lexington Park	Potomac
Ed Davis [filling unexpired term of Bob Brown]	Oak Grove	Susquehanna

Term expiring 2014 (Full Term – four-year term)

Name	Church	Association
Pete Holt	Faith, Glen Burnie	Arundel
Carol Cullison	FBC, Dundalk	Baltimore
Ed Jordan	Faith, Knoxville	Blue Ridge
George Tavenner	Seaside	Delaware
Randall Blackmon	Faith	Eastern
Stan Beall	FBC, Laurel	Prince George's
Andy Bell	Towne	Susquehanna
John Gauger	FBC, Perryville	Susquehanna
Steve Hokuf	FBC, North East	Susquehanna
Jim Jeffries	LaVale	Western

Trustees Baptist Foundation Of Maryland/Delaware**Term expiring 2011**

Name	Church	Association
Tim Girdler [Filling Unexpired Term Of Charlie Jones]	Real Life	Blue Ridge

Term expiring 2012

Name	Church	Association
Hilton Wade [Filling Unexpired Term Of John Sadowski]	Hope	Mid-Maryland

Term expiring 2013

Name	Church	Association
Ken White [Filling Unexpired Term Of Matt Steen]	Beacon	Baltimore
Fred Delp [Filling Unexpired Term Of Kendall Miller]	Severna Park	Arundel

Term expiring 2014 (Full Term – four-year term)

Name	Church	Association
Cary Sove	Allen Memorial	Eastern
Don Sweeney	Ashton	Montgomery

Trustees Baptist Family & Children's Services**Term expiring 2012**

Name	Church	Association
VACANT [Filling Unexpired Term Of Don Satterwhite]		

Term expiring 2013

Name	Church	Association
Paul Ciswasam [Filling Unexpired Term Of Judy Myers]	Bethel	Mid-Maryland

Term expiring 2014

Name	Church	Association
Lou Redd	South Columbia	Mid-Maryland
Gary Scarborough	Ashton	Montgomery
Boyce Flora	Glen Burnie	Arundel
Connie Brantner	Second	Western

19. Report of the Committee on Committees – Thom Smith (First, Hagerstown, Blue Ridge), chair of the Committee on Committees, presented the report. He called attention to the copy of the report, Report of the Committee on Committees 2010-2011, included in the messenger's packet. He verbally gave the names of several additional nominees which had been received and approved by the committee after the report had been printed. He also noted those who had been designated to serve as the chairpersons respectively for several of the committees. The committee wanted to be able to present nominees for any remaining vacancies for approval at the December meeting of the General Mission Board. On behalf of the committee, he then moved that the report, as he had amended it, be approved. No second was required. No messengers had questions or requested any discussion. It passed on a show-of-hand vote of the messengers.

Report of the Committee on Committees 2010-2011

Committee on Order of Business

Term expiring 2011

Name	Church	Association
Mark Adams, Chair	Redland	Montgomery
Fred Dyer	White Marsh	Baltimore
Larry Eubanks	FBC, Frederick	Blue Ridge

Term expiring 2012

Name	Church	Association
Reynold Carr	Kettering	Prince George's
Bruce Glisson	Immanuel	Eastern
Jim Chevalier	Friendship	Delaware
John Mackall	CrossLife Community	Mid-Maryland

Term expiring 2013

Name	Church	Association
David Brown	Severna Park	Arundel
Kevin Cullins	Hughesville	Potomac
Larry Malizzi	Faith Southern	Susquehanna
VACANT		Western

Ex-Officio Members

Music Coordinator: Jason Brown

Ministers' Conference President: Ralph Green, III

20. Introduction of Business and Resolutions – President Day reminded the messengers that all business items must be submitted to the recording secretary in writing by the end of that session; otherwise, the approval by a two-thirds vote of the body would be needed for consideration. Next, he reported that no resolutions had been submitted, thus far, for possible consideration by the body; therefore, there were none to present at that time. Any that might be received yet would be presented, when ready and appropriate to do so. Then, he noted that the two proposed 2010 budgets, for the BCM/D and for Skycroft, would be considered in the session on Tuesday morning. Finally, he announced a change in the location for one of the scheduled brunches that would be held later as a part of that session. That one, 25 Practical & Priority Suggestions for Today’s Church Lay Leaders, led by Dr. David Lee, would now meet in the Burke Room of the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel.

21. Music/Worship – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra led the congregation in singing *Trading My Sorrows*.

22. Special Music – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra presented a special selection of worship in song, *He Knows My Name*. This was an original composition by Denver Bierman, the group’s leader. Prior to the number, Bierman shared a personal testimony about what it had meant in his life to grasp the truth that God loved him unconditionally.

23. Message – David Uth, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, FL, brought the message for Session II. He began by sharing about his spiritual background, emphasizing that he had grown up in Baptist churches. He had grown up around the “holy things” of God and also handling them. He stated that there was a danger in that kind of familiarity. The holy could become the “common” to us. We might lose the wonder of the things of God. We could lose the wonder of God’s grace and the wonder of what God had done in our life. Uth challenged, “May you forever be drawn to something higher. May you never lose the sense of wonder.” He said that the Scriptures contained no single pattern for “how to do worship.” It could be experienced authentically, genuinely in many different forms, with the result being that one met God personally. The same was true of evangelism and ministry. There was not one set form of how to share Jesus. Just do it! Share Jesus everywhere and in every way possible.

Uth referred to Acts 27. That chapter recorded an account of the Apostle Paul’s journey to Rome. Paul had a fervent desire in his heart, planted by the Holy Spirit, to go to Rome. He might even go beyond that great city to preach the Gospel in some of the farthest reaches of the Roman Empire. Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem. In his hearing before the Roman official, Festus, he had appealed to appear before Caesar, to have his case heard. As a result, the door had been opened for Paul to go to Rome, even though he was in chains. Uth stated that limitations in ministry did not matter. To do big things, it did not take big things. It took a big God. He declared, “And you know Him!” He said that Rome was a metaphor of two things. **(1.) Rome represents a place you have never been before.** Uth asked everyone to look within and to consider the following question: Was there something that God had placed on our hearts to do, and we had put it away somewhere in our hearts and had not acted upon it? Uth challenged all, “Do it! Go there!” He said that he had concluded that the richest places on earth were the cemeteries. Why? How so? In those places were buried so many dreams that had never been lived out, so many ideas that

had never been acted upon, so many words that had never been spoken, so many deeds that had never been done, and so much more. The challenge was to step out and to go where we had never been. It was not a call to be safe. “Rome” was dangerous; it was not playing it safe. Uth declared, “Playing it safe will not get you to Rome! The ship’s safest place is in the harbor.” Rome was living on the edge and taking risks. The call to follow Jesus was a call to die. To get to our “Rome”, we needed to go there and to be willing to risk, in order to get it done! **(2.) Rome also represents people with whom we need to share about Jesus.** Who were those groups that we knew which we needed to impact with the Gospel of Jesus Christ? We sent missionaries overseas, but we needed to reach out to those who lived within the shadows of our particular church as well. In reaching out for Christ to people, we always would discover two things: resistance and resources. Uth read Acts 27:1-8, asking all to listen for words in the passage that showed resistance and also resources. The passage contained a number of names of places and a lot of nautical terms; but, those communicated some beautiful truths. Some examples of resistance were these: “the wind was against us”; “great difficulty”; “we could go no farther.” We were always more comfortable with where we were and with what we knew. It was easier to do what we had always done where we had always done it; but, God called us to new things. Sometimes we encountered great difficulty. We could not go directly from “Point A” to “Point B.” To reach our desired objective, we might have to go both to and through other places. The journey was not as easy; however, we still could get to our desired objective. It just took time and effort. And, the cost was more than worth it. Resistance could be great, but our resources were greater. Uth named several resources which were ours. **(a.) The call on your life** – God was calling us to be more and to do more for Christ. In Acts 27, Paul’s ship first turned north and then to the west, traveling along the land’s coast. A westward current was found there which took the ship into the wind, and it was stronger than the wind. Uth declared, “The farther from the current you are, the harder it is to go into the wind.” He shared an illustration about firefighters who were dropped in by air to combat a large forest fire. Occasionally, “blow-ups” would occur. These were large bursts of flame driven by powerful winds. It was impossible to outrun a blow-up; neither could one outmaneuver it. To survive, firefighters knew there was only one thing to do: drop to their knees, to start a fire beside/around them and to hug the ground. The fire would go racing right by them. He said that, because of God’s resources for us, we could let the blow-ups that rock us in our service for Christ blow right by us, leaving us unharmed by them. Uth declared that his prayer for us was that the fire that burned within us would be greater than the fire that burned at us. **(b.) People** – Uth said that when we took steps of obedience to God, He would grant us favor with people, sometimes even with those outside of the faith. He mentioned a few examples from Acts 27, of those whom God had caused to be resources for Paul. One was Julius, a Roman centurion, who had treated Paul kindly and had let the apostle go off of the ship at Sidon, in order for some of his friends to provide for his needs. Another was Aristarchus, a Macedonian man from Thessalonica, who had accompanied Paul; furthermore, there was indication that he had chained himself to Paul. (He is mentioned also in two of the epistles, Colossians and Philemon.) Aristarchus would not leave Paul’s side. Uth declared, “God has an ‘Aristarchus’ in your life. The greatest one is your wife!” He added that ministers must have their wife as a vital part of their ministry. He noted the results of a survey which he had seen, indicating that eighty-five percent of ministers’ wives wished that their husband did something else. **(c.) Shelter** – Paul’s ship sailed under Cyprus to Cnidus, but the wind did not allow them to hold their course; so, they went to the lee of Crete. The “lee-side” was the downwind side of an island. It was a place for the boat to get out of the wind. Uth

stressed that we must have those places spiritually. We must be able to get out of the wind and to have our times with God. He said that we would go and run and do, all of the time thinking that we had validated our ministry. He joked, “The most active chicken in the yard is the one that’s lost its head!” If we stayed in the wind all of the time, we would never survive. God wanted to shower His love on us, but we were too busy. We had things to do, etc. For God to do what He wanted to do in our lives, we must get out of the wind and into the shelter for those blessed times with Him. Uth shared about a time in his life when he had reached desperation spiritually. The great, old hymn, *Love Lifted Me*, was being sung. He said that in those moments he felt God’s arms around him, and he declared that he was still in those great arms of love today! As he closed his message, Uth said that the very last word of the Book of Acts in the Greek text was very important. It was an adverb which read: “unhinderedly.” The word actually meant “unstoppable.” He concluded by saying, “Those who want to go to Rome will get there. Go to Rome! I’ll see you there!”

24. 175 Years of Church Multiplication Efforts – David Jackson, BCM/D missionary, church multiplication, and team strategist for church multiplication, began the presentation by giving some historical information about church planting in the Convention. The Maryland Baptist Union Association had been formed in 1836, as more and more people were immigrating into the territory. The MBUA consisted of six churches. Prior to the forming of a state convention, most church planting had been done through congregational splits. Afterward, most new churches had been missions of existing congregations. Gunpowder Baptist Church and Bethany Baptist Church (Delaware) were the MBUA’s first church plants, with both having been sponsored by Ogletown Baptist Church, Newark, DE. Today, the Convention had 530 churches scattered across our two-state region. In the past ten years, over 250 new churches had been started, making that the most prolific decade in the Convention’s history. Then, Robert Kim, BCM/D missionary, Asian church planting/evangelism, Asian church development and language churches, spoke briefly about language church planting in the Convention. He asked all language church planters who were in attendance to come to the platform, to be recognized by the Convention for their ministries. In 1865, the First German Baptist Church became the first immigrant/international work. In 1975, the First Korean Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD, had been started. That congregation, now Global Mission Church, currently was the largest in the BCM/D. Next, Rolando Castro, BCM/D missionary, church planting/evangelism, language churches and Hispanic church development shared about the efforts to reach out to other people groups. Viers Mill Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD, had the first Spanish mission work in the Convention. Now there were congregations among many ethnic/language people groups: for example, Spanish, Haitian, Russian, Portuguese, Nepalese, French African, Bhutanese, Chinese, Cambodian, Filipino, Liberian, Arabic, Ukrainian, Asian Indian, Ethiopian and Japanese. Language congregations now represented one out of every five BCM/D churches. Castro asked all the pastors and leaders of our language churches who were in attendance to stand and to be recognized by the Convention by a round of applause. The world had come to us. We now were joined with these congregations in taking the Gospel to the world. Finally, David Jackson concluded the presentation with a challenge. He declared, “Your Cooperative Program giving and State Missions Offering translates to more churches, more people being saved, and more saved will lead to more baptized and discipled. Folks, that’s the bottom line. That’s what church planting is all about!” He closed by showing a video in which several of our language church planters expressed thanks to the Con-

vention for the prayer and for the resources and for the support given to their work.

25. President Day reported that the enrollment for the Convention, as of 9:00 a.m. that morning, was as follows: 229 messengers and 47 guests, for a total of 276. Then, he reminded the messengers that no new business could be introduced in the last two sessions of the Convention, without the approval of two-thirds of the body. Last of all, he noted that the third session would begin at 12:50 p.m. that afternoon.

26. Brunches – At 9:44 a.m., President Day prepared to dismiss the congregation to attend one of the brunches that would be held for the remainder of that session, concluding at 11:45 a.m. Before adjourning, a video was shown that asked several questions. “*Are you hungry? Are you thirsty? What have you given up, so that someone might find Christ?*” It focused on the BCM/D’s Amped Student Ministry. The following brunches were held:

- The Care of a Minister’s Heart – David Uth and Donald Whitney, leaders; Randy Millwood and Mike Karmann, facilitators
- Ministers Wives – Wanda Lee, leader
- 25 Practical & Priority Suggestions for Today’s Church Lay Leaders – David Lee, leader

THIRD SESSION – Monday Afternoon – November 15, 2010
Denver and the Mile High Orchestra – Music/Worship Leaders
Session Theme: “Celebrate Today”

27. The session began at 12:49 p.m. with the showing of a video about the Cooperative Program. Although begun in 1925, it still was as important and as relevant today as it had ever been. CP had proven itself to be a great system not just for giving and funding, but also one for encouraging and supporting missions and ministry together. Indeed, the very heart of CP was to do missions, with the desire of reaching the nations for Christ.

28. Music/Worship – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra led the congregation in singing *Lord, You Are Good* and *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*.

29. Celebrate the Story · Annie Armstrong – Abby Ackerman, a member of First Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD, presented a dramatic monologue, in costume, portraying Annie Armstrong herself paying a personal visit to the 175th Annual Meeting. From a “first-person perspective” as Annie Armstrong, Ackerman shared many of the things about which Ellen Udovich had spoken in the “175th Feature · Annie Armstrong profile” on the previous Sunday evening. (See Item #10 above.) Armstrong truly had left a long, profound legacy in the BCM/D of encouraging gifts for missions and of participating in the work of missions. In her closing words “Armstrong” said, “I am a part of your past, a part of your present, and I celebrate your future.”

30. 175 Years of Church Strengthening – Randy Millwood, BCM/D team strategist for leadership development and support, and BCM/D coach of leadership, small groups and spiritual transformation, and June Holland, BCM/D missionary, preschool/children, Vacation Bible School and weekday education, shared the presentation as a kind of dialogue. They focused upon “then” and “now” for the work of church strengthening in the BCM/D. Things were a bit easier, “back then,” in a time when we all looked alike from Ocean City to Oakland and from Wilmington to Waldorf. Because our churches were either the same or quite similar, standard models could be used with a “one-size-fits-all” approach. Many remembered the “Five-Star Church” and the “Six-Point Record System.” Today, we looked very different. Throughout the BCM/D, churches could be found with different languages, traditions, styles, meeting times for worship, tempos, models, etc. One-size no longer fit all. The Horizons Leadership Training Conference, once held on a weekend at Skycroft Conference Center, now had been condensed into a one-day, multi-language event and was “on the move,” being conducted in several locations around the Convention. The online training resource, e-quip.net, was available both to individuals and to entire churches and could be accessed twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. Customized resources and training could be fitted to meet the ministry needs of anyone and everyone. For 175 years, the BCM/D had been strengthening churches. Millwood and Holland declared together, “And we still are!” Today, it just was being done in a multitude of different ways.

31. President Day briefly introduced Donald Whitney, associate professor of biblical spirituality, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, who would deliver the main message for Session III.

32. Special Music – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra shared a special selection of worship in song, All You Desire.

33. Message – Donald Whitney, professor of biblical spirituality, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, spoke to the Convention on the subject, Should We Have Christian Heroes? He called attention to the Scripture text for the message, Hebrews 13:7. He took a moment to express greetings and thanks to the Convention from Dr. Albert Mohler, president, SBTS, and from Dr. Russell Moore, dean, School of Theology, SBTS. They especially gave thanks for the support given to the seminary through prayers, financial gifts and students sent to prepare for ministry there.

Whitney began his message by sharing about his first purchase of a “bobblehead” doll, the mascot for the St. Louis Cardinals professional baseball team, when he was a young boy. Forty years later, he had procured a bobblehead of Charles H. Spurgeon. He also had a picture portrait of the great preacher. Whitney asked, “Is that wrong? Is that sinful?” He stated that he had attended conferences about a number of the great “heroes” of the faith of the past. He also had visited many actual sites that were related to their lives and to their ministries. He asked, “Can we do that and it not be distracting to our devotion to Christ?” Then, he read the text verse, Hebrews 13: 7: “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word

of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” Whitney stated that the BCM/D had its “heroes” throughout the 175 years of its history. He asked to whom the writer of Hebrews referred? It was to the Christian leaders who had spoken the Word of God to these believers. The fact that the epistle’s writer spoke of those leaders by using a verb in the past tense could mean that some of them had died. Maybe the author was thinking about those whom he mentioned in Hebrews 11, that great chapter on those who had lived by faith. Whitney declared that Christians indeed could have faith heroes who had died long before they lived. He affirmed, “We can have Christian heroes – godly, truth-speaking, Bible-speaking heroes.” Whitney proceeded to draw several truths from Hebrews 13:7, about heroes of the faith, which he believed were relevant to our lives today.

(1) Remember them. In the text Scripture verse, the word “remember” was a command. Readers were commanded to “remember them.” How could we do that? Whitney gave several practical suggestions. Go to conferences on spiritual heroes. Collect souvenirs/mementos relating to them. Preach biblical sermons on them. Deliver biographical sermons on them. Read about them. Remember and reflect on what they said, preached and did. Remember their words, passion, preaching, doctrines, etc. How did they handle the routine “load” of ministry? Examine what they did with real life struggles and how they overcame them.

(2.) Consider them. Consider how they lived their lives. Reflect upon the way that they lived. What drove them, motivated them, to do what they did and to act the way that they did? Read biographies about Christian leaders of the past, because these works will inspire, encourage, renew and stimulate us to grow in faith. Read and reread them many times. Whitney noted that Charles Spurgeon had read John Bunyan’s classic *Pilgrim’s Progress* over 100 times!

(3.) Imitate them. Being commanded to do that, Whitney stated that we likely would respond, “Thanks a lot!” We looked at the lives of those great people of faith, and we were told, “Go be like them!” They often were so much “bigger than life” to us that it was intimidating to think that we could be like them. We could not copy their lives, point by point and detail by detail, but we could discover the things that made them the people of faith whom they were. Whitney said that we needed to read their biographies. We would see things about them that we could not possibly imitate; however, we also would see things that we could imitate. For example, Charles Spurgeon preached Christ like no one else. In every sermon, he exalted Jesus Christ above all.

To carry out the exhortations about faith heroes found in Hebrews 13:7, Whitney shared four practical suggestions.

(1.) The safest heroes are dead ones. – Remember the lives of those who had completed their journeys and had passed on. They could not embarrass us later. Their faith stories had been written and could not change.

(2.) We need to know the difference between hero admiration, idolatry and foolishness. – Whitney emphasized, “Don’t think more of them than Jesus.” They (heroes) were not perfect. All of them had flaws. They were not right about everything. Do not follow them blindly.

(3.) Only one is perfect. – Whitney noted Hebrews 13:8, which declared that Jesus Christ alone was the same “yesterday, today and forever.” He added, “The best of men are men at best. Pick heroes who make the most of Christ.”

(4.) Having right heroes will protect you from error. – Whitney referred to Hebrews 13:9a, which admonished, “Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.” Right heroes were right most of the time. They would guard us from far more error than they would ever lead us into. Find those (heroes) who would

speak the Word of God to us. Whitney declared, “The man or woman who has no heroes probably will never be one.” Whitney read his Scripture text verse, Hebrews 13: 7 once again. “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” He concluded his message by saying, “Remember. Consider. Imitate. In such a way that magnifies Christ.”

34. A video, Make It Count, was shown. It featured the International Student Ministry of Ocean City Baptist Church, Ocean City, MD, coordinated by Lynn Davis. In the past year, over 1,700 students from forty-seven countries had come to Ocean City to work, especially during the summer months. The International Student Ministry sought to reach out to as many of them as possible with Christ’s love and with the Good News about Him. By reaching these students who literally had come from throughout the world, the world could be reached, in turn, through them.

35. Closing Remarks – President Day reported that the enrollment for the Convention, as of 11:00 a.m. that morning, was as follows: 288 messengers and 65 guests, for a total of 353. Next, he gave a brief overview of the two breakout sessions that would take place for the rest of that session, adjourning at 5:10 p.m. Finally, he reminded the congregation that the evening session would begin at 6:40 p.m.

36. Penetrating Lostness: Breakout Session I [2:00 p.m.-3:25 p.m.]

- Effective Discipling Strategies in the Mid-Atlantic – Panel: David Jackson; Wayne Kempson; Randy Millwood; Tally Wilgis, III; John Wood; David Lee
- A Workshop for Student Ministers – Leader: Jeremy Lee
- Women: An Evangelism Force – Leader: Wanda Lee
- Touching Missions Firsthand: Praying Where Annie Prayed – (a tour that covered both breakout sessions)
- A Workshop for Worship Leaders – Leaders: Denver and the Mile High Orchestra

37. Break [3:25-3:45 p.m.]

38. Penetrating Lostness: Breakout Session II [3:45 p.m.-5:10 p.m.]

- Reaching People with the Gospel Across the Pond – Leader: Andy Scarville (from Scotland)
- Our Largest Unreached People Group: Reaching and Loving the Poor and Neglected in your Church Field – Panel: Beth Crow, Doug DuBois, Bernard Fuller, Melissa Mazeski, Rob Prestowitz, Lindsey Shaffer
- Social Networking and Technology: Connecting for Evangelism and Ministry – Leader: Larry Miles
- A Workshop for Worship Leaders (continued from Breakout Session I) – Leaders: Denver and the Mile High Orchestra

FOURTH SESSION – Monday Evening – November 15, 2010
Denver and the Mile High Orchestra – Music/Worship Leaders
Session Theme: “Celebrate Today” (continued)

39. The session actually began at 6:45 p.m. with the showing of a video, *Together We Can*. It presented the scope of hunger that existed all around us, which often went unnoticed, and its impact on multitudes of lives. Through the Cooperative Program and through our cooperative ministry together, we could help meet the physical needs of those impacted by hunger; and we could meet their spiritual needs by sharing with them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

40. Music/Worship – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra led the congregation in singing *Everlasting God, Blessed Be Your Name* and *We Exalt Thee*.

41. Celebrate the Story: Noah Davis – P. J. Foster, a member of First Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD, presented a dramatic monologue, in costume, portraying Noah Davis himself paying a personal visit to the 175th Annual Meeting. Davis had been born a slave in Manassas, VA. His parents belonged to a Baptist church. He saw the way that his parents lived out their Christian faith; consequently, he resolved that he would be as good as they were. When he grew to adulthood, he obtained an apprenticeship with a shoe cobbler, so that he might learn that trade. In time, God convicted his heart that he needed to receive the gift of God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ, which he did personally. He was baptized September 19, 1831. Some time afterward, he was called to preach and then licensed to preach the Gospel. In order to be able to follow his call to ministry, Davis told his master that he wanted to be free. The price for his freedom was set at \$500.00, and he began to earn the money. He received an appointment from Baptists in Baltimore to come to minister to the “colored” of that city. To enable Davis to do that, Baltimore Baptists helped to pay the balance of what he owed for his freedom. He became a missionary to the colored of Baltimore and made a significant impact on Baptist work there. In his closing words “Davis” declared, “I am a part of you past, a part of your present, and I celebrate your future.”

42. President Day reported that the enrollment for the Convention, as of 4:00 p.m. that afternoon, was as follows: 326 messengers and 81 guests, for a total of 407.

43. First Election of Officers – President Day opened the floor to receive nominations for the office of President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Bruce Conley (Cresthill, Prince George’s) nominated Ken Stalls, pastor of South End Baptist Church, Frederick, MD.

President Day asked if there were any other nominations for that office. None were made. As a result, he instructed Gayle Clifton (Upper Seneca, Montgomery), recording secretary, to cast the unanimous ballot of the Convention for the election of Ken Stalls, as President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

44. President Day recognized First Vice President Harold Phillips, who would preside for the remainder of that session. Phillips then briefly introduced Wanda Lee, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL, who would give the next special presentation to mark the BCM/D's 175th Anniversary, emphasizing our mission heritage.

45. 175th Feature: Our Mission Heritage Lives – Wanda Lee, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, AL, shared this special 175th Anniversary feature. She began by expressing thanks for the opportunity to be a part of that special celebration for the BCM/D. She read Philippians 1:3-4, declaring that Paul's words to the Philippians in those verses truly were expressive of the partnership between the Convention and WMU. She stated that Woman's Missionary Union was now 125 years old. From its beginning, the purpose of that auxiliary was to aid missions. WMU had been born out of the pleadings of Lottie Moon in a letter in 1877 to the Baptist women of Baltimore for encouragement and for support of missions. In 1887, the WMU Missions Room was created in Baltimore. One who worked tirelessly for the cause of missions was Annie Walker Armstrong, who became the first executive director of what was known today as WMU, the largest force for missions support in the world. In all, WMU had only had seven executive directors in its history. Armstrong served in that capacity from 1888-1906. Lee called attention to several photos being shown on the large screen on the platform and explained them. Seen were the WMU Headquarters building in Birmingham, AL, and several historical artifacts housed there: the Joshua Levering Desk, at which Annie Armstrong had written over 215,000 letters on behalf of missions; the Annie Armstrong Bed, donated by the Maryland WMU; and several actual pages from the first mission magazine published by WMU. The next two Maryland Baptist women who succeeded Annie Armstrong as executive director were Edith Campbell (1907-1912) and Kathleen Moore Mallory (1912-1948). After thirty-three years in Baltimore, WMU relocated to Birmingham, AL, because free property had been offered to house its publishing work. Lee spoke appreciatively of the BCM/D's great partnership of support to WMU. She asked Dr. David Lee, executive director, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, and Gayla Parker, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union of Maryland/Delaware, to come to the platform, so that she could make a special presentation to the Convention, on behalf of the national WMU. Wanda Lee gave them a very special, historical artifact, one of the two copies in existence of the first prayer calendar published in 1915 by WMU. (The other was in the WMU's archives in Birmingham, AL.) She also presented special gloves which must be used in handling the object, due to its very delicate nature. Lee concluded her remarks by saying, "So, happy birthday from national WMU!"

46. Music/Worship – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra shared a special message in song, *Way Back Home*, based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

47. Offertory Prayer – It had become the custom, during the BCM/D Annual Meeting, to receive an offering to go to an endeavor that was very much on our hearts; currently, that was the work of Embrace Wilmington. Blake Hardcastle, collegiate minister, Newark, DE, led in prayer, asking that God would bless the offering that would be received and that we might have a burning passion for the ministry needed there. [The total amount of the offering for Embrace Wilmington was \$1,077.00.]

48. While the offering was being collected, a video about Embrace Wilmington was shown. The piece shared a visual depiction of the needs there and gave a challenge to respond, so that the city and its people might be impacted with the love of Jesus Christ. Following the video, First Vice President Phillips shared a personal word of challenge in support of Embrace Wilmington. He spoke of the great blessings that had come through the ministry of Embrace Baltimore, which had been completed recently. The major difference with the endeavor in Wilmington, DE, was that no outside resources, such as had come from NAMB for Baltimore would be available to the Convention. As Phillips expressed it, MD/DE Baptists were now “on our own.” He challenged us to be sacrificial and selfless in our approach to Wilmington, even giving up something that we might want for our own ministries locally for the sake of those in need there. God would honor our sacrifices and our selflessness.

49. First Vice President Phillips briefly introduced Byron Day, senior pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Laurel, MD, who shortly would deliver his final message as President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

50. Message (President’s Address) – Byron Day, senior pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Laurel, MD, spoke to the Convention on the subject, *The Battle Is Not Ours But God’s*. He began by expressing thanks to the messengers for the privilege and for the honor of having served the Convention as president for the past two years. Day called attention to the text for his message, II Chronicles 20:1-15. He emphasized the last part of verse 15 of the text, “This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.’” Then he led in prayer for the message.

Day said that he loved western movies and that his all-time favorite one was *The Magnificent Seven*. In that film, peasant farmers had hired seven mercenaries to come to their aid and to fight their battles for them. Day asked rhetorically, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful to be able to hire someone to come to fight our battles for us?” But, he confessed, we could not do that. The Convention was celebrating its 175th Anniversary. We had a great past; however, we faced great challenges in the future. Many opposing forces and many dangers were before us. There was much darkness out there. We had been called to penetrate that darkness. Day declared, “I’ve come to tell you the battle is not ours, but God’s! It is not ours, but His! I am so glad of that.” Jehoshaphat was one of the good kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He had instituted many reforms and had led the people back to God. Day exhorted, “We need some ‘Jehoshaphats’ today!” The nation had experienced a revival. But then something happened, calling attention to verse 1 of his text: “After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat.” Right after the reforms and the revival, the attack had come. Right after we had set a course for God, the devil would come knocking. Jehoshaphat faced an incredible situation, a great multitude which vastly outnumbered him and his forces. He faced something that he could not handle. It was too big for him. Day challenged that we have got to watch our pride. “We’ve got to be very careful that we don’t, in our own ingenuity, miss what God wants to do. We’ve got to be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit of God.” Jehoshaphat was attacked by the peoples of his cousins. His initial response (verse 3) was great fear. His fear was a natural response, but God still told him to go forward into the battle. Faced with these kinds of situations in our service for God, we too would be afraid, but God still commanded us to go forward. Day noted the example

of the Israelites (Exodus 14-15), when they had left Egypt and had come to the Red Sea. The sea was before them, and Pharaoh's chariots were behind them; however, God commanded them to go forward. Day declared, "We need to move forward and see what God will do!" He said that Jehoshaphat had three armies coming against him, and that we did too: the world, the flesh and the devil. We were told in Scripture (Romans 12:1-2) not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. The devil (I Peter 5:8) continually was "seeking whom he will devour." Day said that a lion's easiest prey was the one that got separated from the rest. He urged, "Stay with the herd! Don't separate from the church and the church family! Separate and he will take you out!" Division and separation were of the devil. The flesh was our selfish pride. We needed to watch ourselves, to examine ourselves and to guard ourselves, so that we do not get caught up in the world's "stuff." All of that was temporary. It was not permanent. The world was not our home; we were just passing through. So, how did Jehoshaphat handle the incredible, overwhelming situation that he faced? Day proceeded to share several things. **(1.) Jehoshaphat turned his attention to seek the Lord. (verse 3)** – He sought the Lord. Day declared, "That's the Good News!" Jehoshaphat called a fast and took time to seek God's face. He and all the people gave their wholehearted attention to God and sought His face. We needed to do that too. **(2.) Jehoshaphat prayed. (verses 6-9)** – In those verses, we could see his beautiful prayers. Day said that he did not know how prayer worked; but, we pray and call upon God, and He answers! There was power in prayer. Jehoshaphat prayed with adoration. He recognized who God is. He recognized the covenant relationship that God had established with the nation and its people, and he drew upon that. He recognized that God was in charge and that He could do what they needed in that situation. Jehoshaphat prayed in faith. He believed in God. He believed that God would be there. He knew that God was there and could be counted upon to deliver them. Day asked, "What is it in your life that is too big? What ministry that seems like it's too much? What ministry is God calling you to? What ministry is God challenging you to? ...God can do it!" Jehoshaphat prayed with humility. We were powerless by ourselves. Day declared that this was where he believed that we missed the mark. We depended on our thinking and on our strategies and not on the power and wisdom of God. How could we do God's business without the Holy Spirit, without His leading and without His power? God had to take us to that point, where we recognized our desperation, so that we would look up to Him. It was not about us and about our will, but about Him. It was not about our glory, but about God's glory. **(3.) Jehoshaphat listened for God's answer. (verses 14-15)** – God's Spirit came upon Jehaziel, a Levite, "as he stood in the assembly" (verse 14), and he was given a message for the king. It was a personal word, calling King Jehoshaphat and all the people to listen for God. He would speak, and He would answer. God had a message for Jehoshaphat, "This battle is not yours! It's Mine!" When Jehoshaphat went into battle, he put the singers and the musicians in front of the army. Day declared that it was an amazing thing recorded in the Scripture text: "You start praising God, before you get the victory!" When they went out praising and glorifying God, He brought the victory in a way that demonstrated that it was He alone who had done it. As he concluded his message, Day spoke about another battle, one that Jesus had fought and won on the cross. He did not have to do it; but, instead, He decided to suffer and to die there "for you and for me." Because He died for us, we have been set free. And, early on that following Sunday morning, He arose victorious from the grave, with all power and all the glory in His hands. "And now, we have the victory in Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! Praise His Holy Name!"

51. A video, *Make It Count*, was shown about two special programs of the BCM/D's Amped Student Ministry. One: *reCHARGE*, a Christ-centered, energy-packed youth camp for students who have completed grades seven through twelve (7-12). It focused on intentional, relational ministry and missions, to connect students with the Gospel in real ways and to encourage them to re-energize their lives for Christ. The other, *Uncharted: Crazy Love*, is a conference all about students who are willing to risk forging into uncharted areas of ministry and witnessing in order to bring people to Jesus. *Uncharted* equips students to minister to other people in areas outside the students' "norm" and challenges them to express the "crazy love" of Christ.

52. Music/Worship – Denver and the Mile High Orchestra led the congregation in singing *Mighty to Save and Victory in Jesus*.

53. Message (Executive Director's) Address – Dr. David Lee, executive director of the Baptist Convention of MD/DE, spoke to the Convention on the subject, *Our Quandary*. He began by sharing the "Miriam-Webster" definition of the word "quandary": "A quandary is a situation in which one has to choose between two or more equally hard, and sometimes, even unsatisfactory choices." Lee stated that where he had grown up people would not have used the word quandary, but simply would have said that one was "between a rock and a hard place." He asserted that a contemporary application of that idea would be to say that our nation presently was in a quandary over how to reduce the deficit without raising taxes or touching Social Security and Medicare. While disagreeing about the way to accomplish that, politicians did agree on one thing: neither of the choices was satisfactory to all. It was speculated that the earliest use of the word quandary was in 1579, when William Shakespeare would have been a teenager. Moses would not have had the word at his disposal; however, it certainly would have made a good subtitle to describe the Exodus story of his leading the Hebrews out of Egypt and going to the Promised Land. Lee shared three examples from Scripture, illustrating how the word quandary applied in those situations. **Example 1** – Soon after leaving Egypt, the Children of Israel faced a quandary. Pharaoh's army was approaching rapidly from behind them, with orders to return them to slavery, and the Red Sea was in front of them, with no way to cross. Declared Lee, "Now that is a quandary, a 'situation in which one has to choose between two or more equally hard, and sometimes, even unsatisfactory choices.' (Or so it seemed at the time!)" **Example 2** – The Hebrews were hungry and complained to Moses. They had forgotten the pain and the humiliation of slavery, but wistfully remembered the "good-old-days" in Egypt, when they had plenty to eat. God provided manna from heaven, with specific instructions that they gather only enough for the day and trust God to show up the next day with more. The only exception was that on the day before the Sabbath they could gather two portions. Lee stated, "But here's the quandary. What if God doesn't show up tomorrow? What if I wake up and there is no manna? Should I trust Moses, or should I get a little extra, just in case? After all, I do have mouths to feed, including my own." **Example 3** – God had led the Hebrews on a roundabout journey to the land He had promised to give them, teaching them many important lessons along the way. Before they entered, Moses sent twelve spies to check out the land. The spies brought back their report, but among them were two very different perspectives about what they had seen. All agreed that the land was what God had told them it was, "flowing with milk and honey," Ten talked about heavily-fortified cities and giants, next to whom they had seemed like grasshoppers. The best course of action was not to go there. Two said the best course of action was to go into the land immediately and to trust God to

show up. Lee stated, “You respect both groups – the ten and the two. You’ve witnessed God do some pretty miraculous things. You’ve seen Him show up. But, what if you get over there and the BIG guys win? A decision has to be made. How are you going to vote? Therein lies the quandary. A quandary is a situation in which one has to choose between two or more equally hard, and sometimes, even unsatisfactory choices.”

Lee emphasized that for more than a decade the BCM/D had been driven by a call of God to accomplish a specifically stated mission: “The Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware exists to intentionally assist the starting and strengthening of congregations, so that together we can accomplish the Great Commission as outlined for us in Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:19-20.” A five-core strategy, based on the model of the Apostle Paul, had been implemented. At the heart of that approach were the Cooperative Program and partnership, providing the means to enable us to reach the lost from the local church to the BCM/D to the ends of the earth. Our primary focus as a Convention was to penetrate the lostness in Maryland/Delaware. Lee declared, “Our largest lost people group is the poor, hurting and abused. That group has our priority attention. We have also sought to take steps to tackle a companion issue – racism. Racism not only creates barriers to our loving one another as Jesus commanded us, it also hinders and sometimes blocks us from sharing the Gospel to all people.” Despite the economic downturn, the past year had been another excellent year for ministry and for kingdom impact in practically every area. Our church planting numbers for the year might surpass the previous year’s totals. Exciting growth had been seen among current language groups, and inroads had been made in sharing the Gospel in the language of new people groups. Our cooperative ministry together was touching the lives of more and more college and university students; while the resort ministry with international students in Ocean City, MD, was doing the same. Lee said that he could take the entire evening to talk about the great things that God was doing among us.

But, Lee proceeded to state, “Yet, despite our progress, we find ourselves in a quandary. Actually, we face multiple quandaries. Remember, a quandary is a situation in which one has to choose between two or more hard and sometimes ‘unsatisfactory’ choices.” Different people thought differently about different things. Lee declared, “We are caught in the crossfire and at times in the collateral damage of these present cultural, generational, and denominational debates.” He gave several examples of what he meant by that. “Some younger folks think that older folks don’t know how to do ministry effectively any more.” He said that had always been the case, even when he was a much younger pastor just beginning his ministry. Lee said that he was so very grateful for those who were much older who had mentored and encouraged him. “Some national convention leaders think that they know how to better reach our area than those of us who live here.” Some even had stated publicly that state conventions and associations were no longer needed. At the same time, others adamantly believed that those state and local entities were needed more today than ever before. They were vital to what it meant to be “Southern Baptist.” If they were to be shut down, Southern Baptists would lose some of their primary champions who consistently “flew the flag” of Southern Baptist mission work. “Some Baptists think that we ought to move dollars away from infrastructure and send more to the international field.” Lee emphasized that no one was against international missions. The world desperately needed the Gospel, and our missionaries were more than worthy of our support. While recognizing the urgent need to reach the world, others raised the call for balance and for caution, so that we did

not overlook the role that infrastructure played “in providing voice and vehicles and resourcing to get the Gospel from Jerusalem to the uttermost parts.” Still others, who agreed that more needed to be done internationally and that our systems needed to be improved, said, “We know the world is waiting, but they are also watching how we achieve this!” Lee put that thought this way, “In other words, how we do what we do can sometimes outweigh what we do.” Added to the concerns he had shared already, Lee stated, “Some large membership churches think they can do Great Commission better than smaller membership churches.” The argument was, “Bigger is always better.” Among some smaller congregations, there was a fear and even a resistance of larger congregations. Some Baptists struggled with a frustration that not enough was being done to reach the inner cities, where there was so much need; while at the same time, rural Baptists often felt left out of the discussion, because the conversation and the resources seemed to be shifting to the cities and away from the heartland. Some wanted to “pick and choose” what ministries to support, but others saw that as a return to the methods of an older era, which had led to the birth of the Cooperative Program. Some, who reflected post-modern thinking, wanted to deconstruct all denominational infrastructures and to reassemble them as something new and different. But, said others, that would run the risk of simply “throwing the baby out with the bathwater.” Lee stated that we were seeing our churches and our denominational systems increasingly reflect what was happening in the political world around us. There was a general discomfort and dissatisfaction with the status quo. Change was wanted, and it was wanted NOW; however, full consideration was not given to all the implications/ramifications.

Lee next talked about what he saw as a major part of our present quandary. “In a year that we have seen some of our state convention’s most impacting ministry, we stand to potentially lose significant funding from our long-time partner, the North American Mission Board.” Lee affirmed that NAMB had been a good partner with the BCM/D and that without them we would not be where we were today. He, further, asserted that the BCM/D had been a good partner with NAMB. His prayer was that our partnership would continue to survive and to thrive. The future shape of that partnership, though, was uncertain. Some things needed to change; however, the decision about the partnership appeared “to fall in the decision-making lap of one individual – the new president of the North American Mission Board.” Lee urged that we pray for Dr. Kevin Ezell, for he truly had monumental choices and challenges before him. He proceeded to emphasize that, regardless of the decision made by NAMB regarding our cooperative agreement, the primary responsibility and accountability for reaching Maryland/Delaware rested with those of us who lived, worked and worshiped here. “It is our responsibility. If NAMB dollars for staff and ministry resourcing go away, we must still find a way to cooperatively impact this most strategic region for Jesus Christ.” The economy was forcing everyone to make hard, difficult choices. Lee said that he believed that we eventually would have made our way to the present quandary, as we already were headed toward that debate. The economic recession simply had accelerated the timetable and had forced it much sooner. The diversity of ideas and opinions that existed in SBC culture added to the challenges of choosing the best path of stewardship.

Lee declared, “Put all of this together and you see that we as Maryland/Delaware Baptists face a quandary – hard choices, where the alternatives at times seem unsatisfactory. And the greatest aspect of the quandary is the concern as to whether or not those of us who get to make choices and lead change will choose the direction that best fits what God is telling us to do and where

He is telling us to go. I pray that none of us will seek to move forward based on a selfish motive or driven by personal kingdom or institutional building.” The choices were hard. In light of our quandary, Lee proceeded to make some observations and to present a challenge.

Lee’s observations:

- **“God is bigger than the boogie man.”** (Lee gave due credit to Veggie Tales!) – To the Hebrews as slaves in Egypt, Pharaoh was big, considered in that culture to be larger than life. When they had departed from Egypt and had arrived at the Red Sea, what lay before them seemed insurmountable. But, neither Pharaoh nor the Red Sea was bigger than God! Both the current economy and the present money challenges were tough. But, God was bigger than they were. God also was bigger than the challenges of the SBC, the BCM/D, the associations or even our particular church. Lee declared, “God is bigger than all we know and face” He added this, “I have spent a considerable amount of time trying to figure how much of what we are facing is from God and how much of it is from the devil. Whatever is of God, I want to join up! Count me in! I’m there! Where humans are involved, you can be assured that Satan and selfishness are somewhere in the mix.” Satan’s goal was to divide, to weaken and to neutralize our message and our influence. At every step of the process, we needed to remember that God was bigger than the boogie man!

- **“God is going to take care of His faithful children.”** – Lee proclaimed, “You can take it to the bank! I can assure you that He will do it in a way that teaches us, just like He taught Israel with the manna, to trust Him daily.” It was not the time to panic, but to check our “obedience quotient” and to reassess our motives and to dream bold, new dreams.

- **“You and I will be called upon to make choices and changes as we go.”** – Said Lee, “From Genesis to Revelation, it is all about God revealing Himself to us and allowing us to make choices. With choices come consequences. Some of those can be disastrous. Good choices at the right time can lead us into the path of realizing God’s promises.” It seemed that all of the easy choices already had been made. We were left with the quandary, because the choices faced now were the harder ones. We needed God’s wisdom and guidance in the decisions that would be made.

“Here is my challenge to MD/DE Baptists as we approach 2011”:

- **“We are going to have to make these hard choices and face the tough changes in our churches and ‘as churches working together.’”** – Lee stated, “If we don’t make choices, then choices will be made for us. Failure to choose is in itself making a choice.” Change was never easy, with most not liking having to do it; however, dealing with changes that might be forced upon us was even worse. Change was coming fast. Lee stated, “State Convention leaders are already in conversation about the way to process what we know and to try to find out what we don’t know. We are developing a plan to seek God’s face, to pray together, to listen to the hearts of MD/DE Baptists, and hopefully out of that process arrive at a direction. Ultimately, you, the messengers, will decide if and where we go together.”

- **“As we journey forward to a decision and a plan, I plead with us to do it in unity.”** – Lee shared that, just like the Children of Israel, we did not always handle our quandaries well.

We were prone to divide and to take sides, even though we knew full well that Satan won if he could divide us. In reviewing the 175-year history of Maryland/Delaware Baptists, many debates, struggles and battles had occurred. No matter the end result, there had been accompanying casualties. Lee challenged, “In one sense, you and I get to write the next chapter in the history of this Convention. Would to God that it would be a chapter about the coming together of Maryland and Delaware Baptists, as we together in unity seek the face of God and make the hard quandary decisions with a spirit of love and Christlikeness! And I pray the Christlikeness will exist with such intensity that it will cause the world to take notice. It is unrealistic to seek full agreement. That will not happen among Baptists. The truth is full agreement is not required for unity. But, if we lose our unity, we lose the game.”

- **“I remind all of us. There are serious consequences to the choices and the changes that we make.”** – Lee asserted, “This is not a political exercise. This should not be a matter of one party trying to ‘one-up’ another party. This is not an intellectual or an institutional debate with a trophy going to the winner. It is more than just a decision as to how we give and spend God’s money. It is even more than whether or not the Southern Baptist Convention, or the State Convention, or the local association survives. At the end of the day, souls of men and women, boys and girls are at stake. I believe you will agree with me. The journey forward will require our best praying and our best thinking.”

Lee concluded his message with the following words of challenge: “I do not do this often, but I felt the need to read the sermon to my wife. After listening to what I said, she made one of those profound statements out of the heart of who she is in Christ. She said, ‘David, you know God has a solution for all quandaries don’t you?’ God’s word reminds us that ‘with man this may seem impossible, but with God all things are possible.’ If we stay connected to the Holy Spirit, get it right, and stay the course, we will arrive at a pinnacle from which (unlike ever before) we can see the power of God at work through his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. To him and him alone be the glory forever and forever. Amen? Amen!” (The congregation responded by sustained applause, with many standing.)

54. 175th Anniversary Celebration: Food and Fellowship for All – First Vice President Phillips invited all to attend the fellowship that would be held immediately after that session in the Warfields Room of the hotel. Then he led in a closing prayer for that session and also for God to bless the food and the time of fellowship that would be shared together.

FIFTH SESSION – Tuesday Morning – November 16, 2010
Jason Brown and Mike Rogers – Music/Worship Leaders
Session Theme: “Celebrate Tomorrow”

55. Celebrate the Story – The session began at 8:40 a.m. with the showing of another of the BCM/D videos with the title of *Make It Count*. This one “visited” Western Maryland and focused on the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD, which was led by Ron Yost, pastor, Cumberland Community Church, Cumberland, MD.

56. Music/Worship – Jason Brown, music/worship director, First Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD, and Mike Rogers, worship leader, First Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD, led the congregation in singing *Everlasting God, Your Grace Is Enough* and *All the Earth*.

Business Session

57. President Day presided over that business session. He expressed his praise to God and thanks to the Convention for the opportunity to have served as president for the past two years.

58. Report of the General Mission Board – David Sandvick (First English, Western), president of the General Mission Board, presented the report. He first called attention to the “Highlights from the General Mission Board,” found on pages 11-13 of the booklet, Reports and Recommendations to the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, included in the messenger’s packet. This item presented a summary of the GMB’s work over the past year.

Highlights from the General Mission Board

INTRODUCTION: The following actions are highlights of General Mission Board and Administrative Committee meetings December 2009–September 2010. Complete minutes of all meetings are on file in the Executive Director’s office.

DECEMBER 8, 2009

- Approved the 2010 Staff Housing Allowances (copy on file).
- Approved Kevin Marsico (Pastor, North Star) to serve as the interim Missionary for Evangelism (adult and student).
- Approved adding interim Director for Collegiate Evangelism to Blake Hardcastle’s role as missionary for collegiate evangelism in Delaware.
- Authorized the use of unspent 2009 dollars to repair the campus ministry house in Frostburg (approximate cost \$750.00).

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

- Approved calling Justin L. Woods as the Campus Minister for the U.S. Naval Academy. This position is jointly funded through the NAMB.
- Discussed a request from Ron Malatak (Skycroft neighbor) to purchase approximately three to five acres of land on Frostown Road.
- Approved a contract position (one-day \$8000) for Paul Mulani to serve as the Language Church Missionary.

- Approved hiring William Peacock as the BCM/D Development & Planned Giving Specialist. This position is funded through the Baptist Foundation.
- Approved hiring Lindsey J. Shaffer as the Associate Missionary for Ministry Evangelism. This position is jointly funded through the NAMB.
- Moved to approve the following financial reallocations:

Unspent Embrace Dollars Returned	\$29,627	
Open Door CDC		12,627
Baptist Family Children’s Services	3,000	
Embrace Wilmington		14,000
End of Year Unspent Dollars	\$73,514	
Cover Skycroft Loss		32,624
Haiti Relief		10,000
IMB to reach nations		10,000
Reserves to aid hurting churches/pastors		20,890

- Approved allocating \$36,984 from the New Strategic Initiatives line item in the 2010 budget to the Open Door CDC.
- Heard a report from the Executive Director on Next Steps as We Look Forward.

APRIL 8, 2010

- Approved the Capture the Vision fee structure and travel expenses as proposed by consultants Dr. Stan Beall (FBC, Laurel) and Rev. Larry Steen (Westminster).
- Reviewed the financial details (through March 31) from the sale of a portion of the Baptist Mission Resource Center. One million dollars has been remitted to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to establish an endowment fund.
- Approved the following criteria for building the 2011 budget: Target 4.3 million for CP, no salary increases for staff, try to avoid staff layoffs.
- Heard an update from the Executive Director regarding the GCR report.
- Heard an update on Connect 2010, Celebrating 175 years of Great Commission Partnership.
- Heard a report from the Executive Director regarding the Our New Day meeting at Skycroft.

MAY 4, 2010

- Accepted the offer of Skycroft neighbor Ron Malatak to purchase three to five acres of land on Frostown Road at a price of \$750.00 per acre.
- Accepted the invitation from the Church on Warren Avenue (Lee Street Memorial) to host the September 14 meeting of the General Mission Board.
- Approved the request of the Iglesia Biblica Jehova Nisi congregation (Silver Spring, MD) to affiliate with the BCM/D.

AUGUST 12, 2010

- Received and discussed the Budget Impact Study provided by the Leadership Team.
- Heard an update from the Executive Director regarding the Great Commission Resurgence.
- Received financial statements ending July 31, 2010, from CFO Tom Stolle.
- Referred a request from the Eastern Baptist Association to the Baptist Foundation of Maryland/Delaware to waive the reverter clause attached to their deed.

AUGUST 26, 2010

- Approved adding Iris White as an additional check signer for the BCM/D.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

- Approved the proposed 2011 BCM/D budget and referred it to messengers attending the Annual Meeting in November.
- Approved the proposed 2011 Skycroft budget and referred it to messengers attending the Annual Meeting in November.
- Approved the request from the Calvary Independent Baptist Church (Mount Airy) to remove the reverter clause from their deed.
- Approved a called meeting of the General Mission Board at Skycroft on February 4, 2011. The agenda will be the Budget Impact Study.

The General Mission Board presented one recommendation to the Convention for approval: **General Mission Board Recommendation – That the proposed 2011 budgets for BCM/D and Skycroft be approved.** (The detailed budgets for both were found on pages 4-10 of the booklet, Reports and Recommendations to the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, included in the messenger’s packet. Pages 1-3 of that same booklet also contained the “Baptist

Convention of Maryland/Delaware 2011 Operating Budget Comparison” and the “Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware 2011 State Missions Offering Budget Comparison.”) On behalf of the General Mission Board, Sandvick moved that the proposed 2011 budgets be approved. No second was required. No messenger had a question or requested any discussion. The motion passed on a show-of-hands vote.

Baptist Convention of Maryland/ Delaware 2011 Operation Budget Comparison

Receipts	2011 Proposed	2010 Budget	
Cooperative Program	4,300,000	4,600,000	See Note 1
North American Mission Board	1,002,000	1,002,000	
LifeWay Christian Resources	60,000	60,000	
BCM/D Cooperative Gifts	112,000	88,000	
BCM/D Endowment Income	108,000	96,000	
Strategic Resources	100,000	100,000	See Note 2
Interest Income	8,393	15,000	
Skycroft Conference Center	150,000	125,000	
BaptistLIFE	8,000	8,000	
Baptist Foundation of MD/DE	28,000	28,000	
Church Services	-	8,000	
Church Multiplication	31,250	31,250	
National WMU	30,000	30,000	
Baltimore Baptist Association	50,692	22,785	See Note 3
Delaware and Eastern Associations	-	30,000	
Mid-Maryland Association Lease	-	-	
Reserves	35,000	25,000	
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<i>6,023,335</i>	<i>6,269,035</i>	

Disbursements	2011 Proposed	2010 Budget	
Cooperative Missions	1,922,968	2,043,968	
Convention Operations	68,200	66,200	
Convention Staff Benefits	683,000	681,000	
Baptist Mission Resource Center Operations	292,000	269,000	See Note 4
Administration	219,656	164,115	
Communications	340,685	396,879	
Leadership Development and Support	290,137	287,240	
Church Services	605,125	668,161	
Church Multiplication	830,692	920,069	
Acts 1:8 Missions Involvement	574,958	557,779	See Note 5
Resource Development	195,914	177,640	
New Strategic Initiatives	-	36,984	See Note 6
Total Disbursements	6,023,335	6,269,035	

2011 Budget Notes:

Note 1: Cooperative Program currently approximating calendar year 2003-2004 giving level.

Note 2: Sale of a portion of the Baptist Mission Resource Center generated approximately \$1,000,000. From invested sale proceeds, a distribution of up to \$100,000 supports the operating budget.

Note 3: Baltimore Baptist Association reimbursing cost of ministry assistant serving in that association's office full-time.

Note 4: In 2010, with the pending sale of a portion of the building, we could only estimate costs for the new configuration. Adjustments have been made to more accurately reflect costs in 2011.

Note 5: Former part-time Communications employee reclassified to administration reflecting expanded role as full-time office administrator.

Note 6: Further reduction on **BaptistLIFE** production cost combined with employee reclassification referenced in Note 5.

Note 7: Church Minister Relations missionary position eliminated. Responsibilities assigned to the BCM/D Executive Director and Associate Executive Director.

Note 8: Church Multiplication Strategist position for the Eastern/Delaware region eliminated.

Other Notes:

3% proposed cost of living adjustment

Baptist Convention of Maryland/ Delaware 2011 State Missions Offering Budget Comparison

Receipts	2011 Proposed	2010 Budget	
State Missions Offering	215,000	250,000	
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<i>215,000</i>	<i>250,000</i>	

Disbursements	2011 Proposed	2010 Budget	
Leadership Development and Support	9,000	7,600	
Church Services	81,000	81,000	See Note 1
Church Multiplication	20,000	30,000	
Acts 1:8 Missions Involvement	105,000	96,400	See Note 2
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<i>215,000</i>	<i>215,000</i>	

2011 Budget Notes:

Note 1: Includes \$70,000 to support Collegiate ministry

Note 2: Includes \$70,000 designated for Embrace Wilmington

Baptist Convention of Maryland/ Delaware 2011 Approved Budget

Receipts	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
Cooperative Program	4,300,000	-	4,300,000
North American Mission Board	1,002,000	-	1,002,000
LifeWay Christian Resources	60,000	-	60,000
State Missions Offering	-	215,000	215,000
BCM/D Cooperative Gifts	112,000	-	112,000
BCM/D Endowment Income	108,000	-	108,000
Strategic Resources	100,000	-	100,000
Interest Income	8,393	-	8,393
Skycroft Conference Center	150,000	-	150,000
BaptistLIFE	8,000	-	8,000
Baptist Foundation of MD/DE	28,000	-	28,000
Church Multiplication	31,250	-	31,250
National WMU	30,000	-	30,000
Baltimore Baptist Association	50,692	-	50,692
Reserves	35,000	-	35,000
Total Receipts	6,023,335	215,000	6,238,335

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Cooperative Missions</i>			
SBC Cooperative Program	1,717,900	-	1,717,900
Church Staff Matching Annuity	110,000	-	110,000
Baptist Family & Children's Services	22,000	-	22,000
Associations-Directors of Missions	73,068	-	73,068
<i>Total Cooperative Missions</i>	<i>1,922,968</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1,922,968</i>
<i>Convention Operations</i>			
History Committee	1,000	-	1,000
Christian Life & Public Affairs Committee	2,000	-	2,000
General Mission Board Expense	10,000	-	10,000
Annual Meeting Expense	28,000	-	28,000
Annual Church Profile	1,000	-	1,000
BCM/D Calendar	200	-	200
Convention President's Expense	1,000	-	1,000
Attorney Fees	8,000	-	8,000
Accounting Fees	5,000	-	5,000
Operations-Strategic Teams	2,000	-	2,000
Contingencies	10,000	-	10,000
<i>Total Convention Operations</i>	<i>68,200</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>68,200</i>
<i>Convention Missionary Benefits</i>			
Missionary Social Security	143,000	-	143,000
Missionary Annuity	185,000	-	185,000
Missionary Insurance	340,000	-	340,000
Missionary Development/Affirmation	15,000	-	15,000
<i>Total Convention Missionary Benefits</i>	<i>683,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>683,000</i>

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Baptist Mission Resource Center (BMRC)Operations</i>			
BMRC Maintenance	80,000	-	80,000
BMRC Insurance	25,000	-	25,000
Telephone/Internet	60,000	-	60,000
IT Management Contract	50,000	-	50,000
Copies/Postage Reimbursables	2,000	-	2,000
Offsite Storage	15,000	-	15,000
BMRC Equipment Maintenance	40,000	-	40,000
BMRC Equipment	20,000	-	20,000
<i>Total BMRC Operations</i>	<i>292,000</i>	-	<i>292,000</i>
<i>Administration</i>			
Executive Director	113,006	-	113,006
Travel/Business Expense	9,000	-	9,000
Executive Directors Meeting	1,400	-	1,400
Office Expense	6,000	-	6,000
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Office Administrator	46,350	-	46,350
Office Expense	5,000	-	5,000
Foundation Directors Meeting	1,000	-	1,000
Missionary Support Staff	30,900	-	30,900
<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>219,656</i>	-	<i>219,656</i>
<i>Communications</i>			
Associate Executive Director/ BaptistLIFE Editor	88,661	-	88,661
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	5,000	-	5,000
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Editors Meeting	1,000	-	1,000
Communications Support Staff (3)	99,000	-	99,000
Website Maintenance	5,000	-	5,000
BaptistLIFE Production	85,000	-	85,000
BaptistLIFE Staff PT (2)	42,024	-	42,024
<i>Total Communications</i>	<i>340,685</i>	-	<i>340,685</i>

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Leadership Development & Support</i>			
Leadership Team Strategist	65,137	-	65,137
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	2,000	-	2,000
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Ministers' Wives/Families Travel	4,000	-	4,000
Ministers' Wives/Families Office	1,000	-	1,000
Ministers' Wives/Families Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Conflict Management Missionary (Contract)	8,000	-	8,000
Missionary Support Staff (2)	49,500	-	49,500
Counseling Services (CentrePointe)	36,000	-	36,000
African-American Pastoral Leadership	-	6,000	6,000
Hispanic Pastoral Leadership	-	3,000	3,000
Ministers Counseling Service	21,000	-	21,000
Church Conflict and Refuge	7,500	-	7,500
Ministers' Wives	22,000	-	22,000
Ministers Family Getaway	4,000	-	4,000
Ministers/Mates Retreat	7,500	-	7,500
Church Minister Relations	4,000	-	4,000
EQUIP.net	9,000	-	9,000
Next Level	2,500	-	2,500
Acts 2 Centre - Shepherd Net	25,000	-	25,000
<i>Total Leadership Development & Support</i>	<i>290,137</i>	<i>9,000</i>	<i>299,137</i>

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Church Services</i>			
Team Strategist Church Services	65,000	-	65,000
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	2,000	-	2,000
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
African-American Church Development Missionary (PT)	25,214	-	25,214
Travel/Business Expense	4,000	-	4,000
Office Expense	1,000	-	1,000
Field Service	3,500	-	3,500
Women's Ministry Missionary (Contract)	8,000	-	8,000
Women's Ministry Travel	1,000	-	1,000
Women's Ministry Field Service	500	-	500
Music and Worship Missionary	31,518	-	31,518
Travel/Business Expense	3,500	-	3,500
Field Service	2,000	-	2,000
Preschool/Children/VBS Missionary (Contract)	18,000	-	18,000
Travel/Business Expense	5,000	-	5,000
Office Expense	1,000	-	1,000
Field Service	3,500	-	3,500
Associate Ministry Evangelism Missionary	49,440	-	49,440
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	1,500	-	1,500
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Missionary Support Staff (2)	46,000	-	46,000
Annapolis Collegiate Missionary	46,350	-	46,350
Morgan State Collegiate Missionary	39,140	-	39,140
UMCP Collegiate Missionary	24,000	-	24,000
Eastern Shore Collegiate Missionary	24,000	-	24,000
Delaware Collegiate Missionary	47,463	-	47,463
Field Service	1,500	-	1,500
Collegiate Evangelism	18,000	-	18,000
Collegiate Evangelism	-	70,000	70,000

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Church Services (continued)</i>			
Vacation Bible School	-	6,000	6,000
Youth Evangelism	-	5,000	5,000
African-American Church Development	2,000		2,000
Horizons	5,000		5,000
Bible Teaching	4,500		4,500
Vacation Bible School	500	-	500
Adult Evangelism	17,000		17,000
Youth Creative Arts Weekend	3,000		3,000
Preschool and Children Ministries	6,000	-	6,000
All About Kids Productions	12,000	-	12,000
Youth Evangelism	25,000	-	25,000
Teaching Church Network	2,500	-	2,500
Small Groups	3,000	-	3,000
Discipleship Ministry	2,500	-	2,500
Deacon Ministry	2,500	-	2,500
BCM/D Chorale	2,500	-	2,500
Jubilation Orchestra	1,000	-	1,000
Spiritual Formation	1,500	-	1,500
Women's Ministry	4,000	-	4,000
Worship Project/Hymnal Resources	500		500
M/E Church Consultation	8,000		8,000
Total Church Services	605,125	81,000	686,125

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Church Multiplication</i>			
Church Multiplication Team Strategist	71,583	-	71,583
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	2,000	-	2,000
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Language/Hispanic Church Planting/Evangelism Missionary	60,765	-	60,765
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	1,500	-	1,500
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Baltimore/Church Planting Missionary	56,732	-	56,732
Asian Church Planting/Evangelism Missionary	62,763	-	62,763
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	1,500	-	1,500
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
African-American Church Planting/Evangelism Missionary	57,680	-	57,680
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	1,500	-	1,500
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Missionary Support Staff (1)	29,417	-	29,417
Church Multiplication Strategist Montgomery	36,000	-	36,000
Church Multiplication Strategist Mid-Maryland	30,600	-	30,600
Congregational Assistance	345,652	-	345,652
Church Multiplication	-	12,000	12,000
Language Conferences/Projects	-	8,000	8,000
Church Planting Spouse Coordinator	8,000	-	8,000
Language Projects and Conferences	5,000	-	5,000
<i>Total Church Multiplication</i>	<i>830,692</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>850,692</i>

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Acts 1:8 Missions Involvement</i>			
Missions Involvement Team Strategist	65,137	-	65,137
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	2,000	-	2,000
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Acts 1:8/Partnership Missionary	62,026	-	62,026
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	1,500	-	1,500
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Missions Education/WMU Missionary	60,765	-	60,765
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	1,500	-	1,500
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Urban Evangelism Missionary	62,211	-	62,211
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Resort Ministries Missionary	57,707	-	57,707
Travel/Business Expense	2,000	-	2,000
Field Service	1,500	-	1,500
Ministry Assistants Office	2,000	-	2,000
Missionary Support Staff (2)	80,500	-	80,500
New Day Initiatives	12,000	-	12,000
Delaware Assoc. Community Missions	-	1,000	1,000
Girls Missions Camp	-	3,000	3,000
Boys Missions Camp	-	3,000	3,000
Christian Women's Job Corps	-	5,000	5,000
Ocean City Resort Ministry	-	7,500	7,500
International Student Ministries	-	1,000	1,000
Inner Harbor Ministry	-	1,500	1,500
English as a Second Language	-	1,000	1,000
Baltimore Port Ministry	-	1,000	1,000
Western Association Fair Ministry	-	1,000	1,000
Disaster Relief Ministries	-	4,000	4,000

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
Baptist Builders	-	1,000	1,000
Deep Creek Resort Ministry	-	5,000	5,000
Embrace Wilmington	-	70,000	70,000
Girls Mission Camp	1,000		1,000
WMU State Events and Training	12,000	-	12,000
Breathless	3,000	-	3,000
Central Atlantic Leisure Ministries (CALM)	5,800		5,800
International Student Ministries	3,200		3,200
Baltimore Port Ministry	2,804	-	2,804
Disaster Relief Ministries	4,000	-	4,000
Ministry Projects	11,800	-	11,800
Summer Missions	4,000	-	4,000
Deep Creek Resort Ministry	5,000		5,000
Missions Web Portal	5,000		5,000
Appalachian Regional Ministry	1,500		1,500
Ministry Conferences	7,008		7,008
Men's Ministry	2,500		2,500
Acts 1:8 Evangelism	6,000	-	6,000
Partnership Missions	25,000	-	25,000
Delaware Assoc. Community Missions	3,500	-	3,500
State Missions Offering Promotion	9,000	-	9,000
Total Acts 1:8 Missions Involvement	574,958	105,000	679,958

Disbursements	Operating	State Missions Offering	Combined
<i>Resource Development</i>			
Resource Development Team Strategist/CFO	75,643	-	75,643
Travel/Business Expense	8,000	-	8,000
Office Expense	2,000	-	2,000
Field Service	7,000	-	7,000
Foundation Director	12,000	-	12,000
Development Missionary	16,000	-	16,000
Travel/Business Expense	2,000	-	2,000
Field Service	1,500	-	1,500
Missionary Support (1)	36,771	-	36,771
Finance Operations	12,000	-	12,000
Stewardship Development	4,000	-	4,000
Cooperative Program Development	12,000	-	12,000
Capture the Vision	2,000	-	2,000
Planned Giving	4,000	-	4,000
Ministers Taxes	1,000	-	1,000
<i>Total Resource Development</i>	<i>195,914</i>	-	<i>195,914</i>
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<i>6,023,335</i>	<i>215,000</i>	<i>6,238,335</i>
<i>Over/(Under)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Skycroft Conference Center 2011 Approved Budget

Receipts	
General User Fees	1,409,740
Snack Bar	20,000
Gift Shop	45,000
Camp Receipts	420,500
Interest Income	25,000
Total Receipts	1,920,240

Disbursements	
Staff Benefits	
Social Security	46,520
Annuity	32,520
Insurance	132,000
Development	1,000
Subtotal	212,040
Administration	
Director	56,650
Associate Director	46,350
Travel/Conferences	1,500
Accounting/Payroll	15,500
Subtotal	120,000
Skycroft Center Operations	
Utilities	210,000
Permits/Fees	2,500
Baptist Convention of MD/DE	150,000
Advertising/Promotion	3,500

Disbursements	
Property Taxes	7,200
Equipment	28,000
Property Insurance	46,000
Capital Repair/Replacement	30,000
Transportation	12,000
<i>Food Service</i>	
Food Service Staff	200,000
Food	314,000
Equipment	5,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>519,000</i>
<i>Facility Maintenance</i>	
Maintenance Staff	125,500
Maintenance Supplies	70,000
Housekeeping Staff	73,000
Housekeeping Supplies	16,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>284,500</i>
<i>Guests Relations</i>	
Guests Relations Staff	83,000
Camp Expenses	161,000
Hebrews Coffee Shop	35,000
Office Supplies	10,000
Equipment	6,500
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>295,500</i>
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<i>1,920,240</i>
<i>Over/(Under)</i>	<i>0</i>

59. Second Election of Officers – President Day opened the floor to receive nominations for the office of First Vice President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. None were made at that time.

60. President Day then proceeded to open the floor to receive nominations for the office of Second Vice President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Ken Moss, parliamentarian, raised a point of order that, according to proper parliamentary procedure, the second vice president could not be elected before the first vice president had been elected.

61. President Day temporarily bypassed the election of the two vice presidents, to allow time for those who wished to make nominations for those offices to be prepared to do so. He, therefore, opened the floor to receive nominations for the office of Recording Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Randy Gilliam (Barnesville, Montgomery) nominated Gayle Clifton, pastor of Upper Seneca Baptist Church, Germantown, MD, for reelection to that office.

Day asked if there were other nominations for that office. None were made. He then instructed William George (Kensington, Montgomery), assistant recording secretary, to cast the unanimous ballot of the Convention for the reelection of Gayle Clifton as Recording Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

62. President Day opened the floor to receive nominations for the office of Assistant Recording Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Randy Gilliam (Barnesville, Montgomery) nominated William George, pastor of Kensington Baptist Church, Kensington, MD, for reelection to that office.

Day asked if there were other nominations for that office. None were made. He then instructed Gayle Clifton (Upper Seneca, Montgomery), recording secretary, to cast the unanimous ballot of the Convention for the reelection of William George as Assistant Recording Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

63. President Day opened the floor again to receive nominations for the office of First Vice President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

John Manry (North Harford, Susquehanna) nominated Harold Phillips, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church, Port Deposit, MD, to be reelected as first vice president.

Day asked if there were other nominations for that office. None were made. He then instructed Gayle Clifton (Upper Seneca, Montgomery), recording secretary, to cast the unanimous ballot of the Convention for the reelection of Harold Phillips as First Vice President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

64. President Day opened the floor to receive nominations for the office of Second Vice President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

John Manry (North Harford, Susquehanna) nominated James Burcham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD, to be reelected as second vice president.

Day asked if there were other nominations for that office. None were made. He then instructed Gayle Clifton (Upper Seneca, Montgomery), recording secretary, to cast the unanimous ballot of the Convention for the reelection of James Burcham as Second Vice President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Prior to the ballot being cast officially, Ken Moss, Parliamentarian, raised the point of order that it be affirmed that the two vice presidents had only served one term in office and, consequently, would be serving two consecutive terms. (More than that was prohibited by the Convention's bylaws.) It was confirmed that the two nominees could be reelected to their respective positions. [Note: The official casting of the unanimous ballot of the Convention by the recording secretary for the election of James Burcham as second vice president failed to be done at that time. This oversight was corrected later in that session's proceedings. (See Item #68 below.)]

65. President Day briefly introduced the two speakers who would deliver the messages for that session: Andy Ehlers, senior pastor, High Tide Church, Dagsboro, DE, and Al B. Sutton, Jr., pastor, Living Stones Temple Church, Birmingham, AL.

66. Music/Worship – Jason Brown and Mike Rogers led the congregation in singing Blessed Is the One and Praise to the Lord the Almighty.

67. Message (Annual Sermon) – Andy Ehlers, senior pastor, High Tide Church, Dagsboro, DE, spoke to the Convention on the subject, Head Wind. The text for his message was Mark 6:45-51. High Tide Church had begun as a new church plant, led by Ehlers, and was now eight years old. He expressed thanks to the Convention for the help the congregation had received through Cooperative Program giving, as well as the support that had come in a number of other ways. Ehlers noted that Scripture told us to take care of the widows and the orphans. His wife had been a widow, and they had been married now for nine years. They now cared for a foster child, four months old. He stated that he had struggled with the same things with which other pastors had to deal. Some had said that that church planters did not have the same challenges and issues of “regular churches,” but they did. They also had other ones in reaching the lost and the unchurched. Ehlers shared that he had developed a hobby, bike riding. He finally had worked himself up to the point where he had undertaken a 100 mile ride in an event sponsored by Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD. For the first fifty miles of his trip, he had a strong tail wind, which had helped him greatly. He was told by his coach to be sure to save some of his energy for the fifty mile trip back, because the tail wind would become a head wind. The going then would get very hard. Said Ehlers, “The way you do long distance; you don't think about the end, but about the next leg, the next light, the next block, the next stage in the journey. You lean into the wind, so it doesn't knock you over.” During the course of the ride, he had to keep reminding himself that he had volunteered to do that! In ministry, there were struggles, but we had been called and had volunteered to do it!

Ehlers called attention to his Scripture text, Mark 6:45-51, and then read that passage. When he had been called to ministry, two older pastors had told him, “Don’t lose the passion you have for the ministry.” He was cautioned not to lose his passion for God and for His call on his life. The first two years of the High Tide Church plant were extremely hard. Ehlers said that some days he wanted to resign; however, that was a problem, because in a church plant, there was no one to whom he could resign! Serving in ministry was like the situation of Jesus’ disciples in the text passage. He proceeded to emphasize several lessons which could be drawn from their experience. **(1.) Jesus has placed us in our position of ministry.** – Jesus had told his disciples to get into the boat (verse 45). Jesus had placed them there. Likewise, Ehlers declared, Jesus, and no one else, had placed us where we were too. We needed to remember that. He also would sustain us and would carry us through. It could be tough in ministry. Sometimes, it was very hard. It even could get personal. We needed to be able to respond with Jesus’ love, grace and forgiveness. **(2.) Even in obedience, we face difficulties.** – Ehlers declared, “Even when you are doing what God has called you to do, you’re going to face difficulties.” Jesus not only had placed them in the boat, He knew that the storm was coming. He had to get them (the disciples) out there. Difficulties were coming, which they could not face alone and in their own power. Ehlers shared that, as a church planter, he had needed the counsel and the advice of other Christian leaders on how to face the difficulties in ministry. Storms were coming, and they would be difficult. He commented that athletes who wanted to get to the “pro” level, at times, had to play hurt. In ministry, one had to play hurt; that was, one had to serve hurt. All who were in ministry had been hurt sometime. Even though we experienced hurt, it could not be expressed and shown. As churches, we had said that we wanted to do evangelism and missions, but, charged Ehlers, “All the while, we were “eating those dollars elsewhere, on us!” The current financial struggles of the times had caused High Tide Church, as well as many others, to focus resources on reaching the lost and the unchurched. If our focus in ministry was primarily upon us and upon our wants that was not what the New Testament said it meant to follow Jesus. Ehlers declared, “If you’re more concerned about a raise that you haven’t got over the last seven years, or five years, or two years, than you are about reaching the lost in your community, maybe you’ve become a ‘professional’ and not a servant of the Lord. We’re not doing this for us. We’re not doing this to satisfy ourselves. We’re doing this to follow in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.” **(3.) We learn and worship more through times of struggle.** – As the disciples in the boat paddled and fought the wind, Jesus came to them, walking on the water. When they saw Him, they were terrified. Jesus said to them, “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid!” Then, Jesus climbed into the boat with them, and immediately the wind died down. Said Ehlers, “Sometimes, God uses struggles and problems to get our attention. Sometimes, God uses a lack of resources or a lack of funds to remind us how reliant we are on Him. But, we cannot forget what it is we are called to do. We’re called to reach the lost.” He showed a video clip, which shared the story of a lady, who belonged to High Tide Church, for whom God had used suffering and struggles to create in her a heart to worship more. Her life had been shattered totally, several years ago, when she had gone home after work and had found a gentleman friend of ten years, for whom she cared very much, dead in the back of his pickup truck in her driveway. She had many questions about her faith, about God and about even if there were a God. Why did God not help her, when she had needed it, and why was her friend allowed to die? Had she somehow brought it all on herself? Her son, previous to that, had started to attend High Tide Church, and his life had been transformed. He had invited his mother

to attend the church too. When she began to do that, she said that the people of the congregation and the ministries of the church touched her heart and changed her life. She now grew in Christ as a part of the church and served actively in its ministries. She said that it was truly amazing to see the difference that Jesus Christ could make in the lives of people, just like her. She served in any way that she could to help others come to know the love of Jesus Christ. She concluded by saying, “The church has definitely saved my life and God saved my life; and I know He can do it for everyone else.”

Ehlers said that in the storm it got hard and that it got difficult; but, we had to be reminded that was what it was all about. “We’re left here to share and to model the love of Christ with the dying and the lost. To take those who are far from God and to bring them near to God. To take those who are dead and to make them alive through the power of Christ.” He spoke of his finally getting to do that 100 mile bike ride. At the eighty mile point, a rider would always “hit a wall,” and did not know if he/she could continue and finish the last twenty miles. When he had come to that point, Ehlers said that he had encountered another rider, a friend of his from a local gym, with whom he had been trying to share the Gospel. The friend asked Ehlers, if he would like to ride those last twenty miles together. They did the last twenty miles, straight into the head wind, taking turns with one being in the lead and then being “drafted,” assisted by being pulled some by the other. Ehlers declared that in ministry, we tried too often to do it all by ourselves. Instead, we needed to do it by staying with Jesus and near to Jesus in the boat and by staying in the boat with each other. No matter what we went through, remember that Jesus was with us. He concluded his message with the challenge, “Stay close to Him!”

68. President Day noted that the official order of business for the Annual Meeting called for the presentation, “175th Feature: Our Universities and Campuses: Mission Tomorrow,” to be next; however, that session had run significantly ahead of schedule. Blake Hardcastle, who was to be person to do that, was unavailable at that time, due to his responsibilities in the exhibit area. By “common consent,” it was agreed that the “175th Feature” would be inserted at a later time in that session. (*See Item #76 below.*)

Business Session

68. Final Election of Officers – Since the official vote on the election of the second vice president had not occurred earlier, that needed to be done. (*See Item #64 above.*) President Day first asked if there were any other nominations for that office. None were presented. He then instructed Gayle Clifton (Upper Seneca, Montgomery), recording secretary, to cast the unanimous ballot of the Convention for the reelection of James Burcham as Second Vice President of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

The New Officers

President – Ken Stalls (South End, Blue Ridge)

First Vice President – Harold Phillips (Pleasant View, Susquehanna)

Second Vice President – James Burcham (First, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's)

Recording Secretary – Gayle Clifton (Upper Seneca, Montgomery)

Assistant Recording Secretary – William George (Kensington, Montgomery)

69. Introduction of New Pastors/Staff – President Day asked Dr. David Lee, executive director, BCM/D, to preside over that time. Dr. Lee's wife, Sherry Lee, assisted him. Lee first took time to make one special introduction and also to make four special recognitions of BCM/D staff.

Special Introduction – Lee introduced Dave Moyer, the new executive director of the Maryland Bible Society. He had begun to serve in that capacity in the past July. Moyer shared a few brief remarks, emphasizing the society's partnership with the BCM/D.

Special BCM/D Staff Recognitions – Dr. David Lee recognized four BCM/D staff members who had reached significant milestones in their service with the Convention. **Theresa Sassard**, was honored for her twenty-five years of faithful service. For the past five years, she had served as ministry assistant with Embrace Baltimore and its efforts in that city. Prior to that, she had served for twenty years, in various capacities, with the Baptist Mission Resource Center. In recognition, she previously had been presented with a very special gift. **Ellen Udovich**, BCM/D missionary, disaster relief, lay mobilization, senior adults and team strategist for Acts 1:8 mission involvement, was honored for her ten years of faithful service. Lee referred to Udovich as a modern-day "Annie Armstrong," saying that no one carried the City of Baltimore in their heart more than she. Lee presented her with a special plaque in recognition. Adam Holland, maintenance department, Skycroft Conference Center, who could not be present, was recognized for his ten years of faithful service. He would be presented with a special plaque in recognition at a separate time. **Bob Simpson**, BCM/D associate executive director/chief operating officer and editor of BaptistLIFE, was honored for his ten years of faithful service. Lee spoke of those whom God had given to Moses and to Paul to assist and to support their labors. He said that Simpson had filled that role for him. Even more, Simpson had been his friend. Lee presented him with a special plaque in recognition.

New Pastor/Staff – Dr. Lee asked that all new pastors and staff of our churches and all new associational staff come to the platform and to introduce themselves and their spouse, if present, to the Convention. As they did so, Dr. and Mrs. Lee personally greeted and welcomed them, on behalf of the Convention. As they left the platform, Linda Waggoner presented gifts to them from the BCM/D.

71. Report of BCM/D Agencies – The following two reports were shared:

Baptist Family and Children's Services – Robert Gerstmyer, executive director, Baptist Family and Children's Services, presented the report. He stated that BFCS was an agency of BCM/D,

founded in 1920 by the Maryland Baptist Union Association. Its purpose was to break the cycle of poverty, child abuse, neglect and domestic violence. Gerstmyer noted that James 1:27 served as the Biblical mandate for the work of BFCS: “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” The agency was dedicated to giving new starts to children and to families. In the past year, the **CHOSEN Treatment Foster Care Program** had sheltered sixty-seven abused and neglected children. Declared Gerstmyer, “In cooperation with our Treatment Foster Parents, this program works wonders in the lives of kids who have experienced severe trauma very early on in life.” (He showed photos on the large screen of some of the children for who had received care.) Gerstmyer spoke about the ministry of the **Good Samaritan Network (GSN)**, which reached out to help families dealing with problems brought on by poverty, during the past year. Because of the GSN, he stated, “Two otherwise homeless families with young children are currently sheltered in the agency’s Transitional Homes.” BFCS also had provided what was termed “wrap-around-care” for those families. The agency’s newest ministry, **Safe Families for Children**, worked to support children before they became involved with governmental Social Service programs. “Safe Families” recruited volunteer families to open their homes on a short-term basis to kids from troubled families; while at the same time, the service gave biological families a chance to work on their issues, knowing that their children were safe and secure. It, furthermore, gave host families an opportunity to demonstrate true Christian hospitality in action. Gerstmyer asked, “How can you help?” He listed several things in response to his question. **(1.) Pray for BFCS.** Results were seen when people supported their work with prayer. **(2.) Attend one of the BFCS “Breaking the Cycle” informational events.** Every month, the agency gathered a group of people, who were interested in its work, at the office in Columbia, MD. A one-hour presentation was shared that was both “enlightening and moving.” It helped to spread the word about the good work of BFCS. **(3.) Volunteer to participate in a ministry/program of BFCS.** There were many possible opportunities to become involved. **(4.) Support BFCS financially.** Only one percent of the agency’s funds came from “State Convention dollars.” The rest came from donations and from fees for some services that were rendered. Having a large number of faithful donors would help to provide a reliable financial base for the agency’s future work. Gerstmyer closed with a challenge to commit with BFCS to the work expressed in James 1:27, “to look after orphans and widows in their distress,” so that families and children in crisis might have a new start.

Baptist Foundation of Maryland/Delaware – Tim Lee, president, Baptist Foundation of Maryland/Delaware, had been unable to be present that morning; therefore, in his place, the report was shared by Tom Stolle, BCM/D missionary, minister’s compensation, church treasurers and stewardship, chief financial officer, and team strategist for resource development. (Stolle served as the BCM/D staff liaison with the foundation.) He called attention to page 17 of the booklet, Reports and Recommendations to the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, included in the messenger’s packet, where the “Annual Report of the Baptist Foundation to the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware” could be found. Encouraging that all read the printed report, Stolle noted a few things contained in it. The Foundation currently managed assets of over \$9,600,000.00, with \$6,200,000.00 of that in the Endowment Funds and the other \$3,400,000.00 in the Church Loan Funds. For the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2010, the Foundation distributed over \$227,000.00, from earnings from the Endowment Funds, to both Southern Baptist and Baptist

Convention of Maryland/Delaware mission causes. John Manry, one of the Foundation's trustees, and Dr. David Lee, BCM/D executive director, were asked to come to the platform. On behalf of the trustees of the Baptist Foundation of Maryland/Delaware, Manry presented Lee with check in the amount of \$140,037.37, in interest earned on church loans, to be used to start new churches and to strengthen existing churches.

72. Report of the Resolutions Committee – Aaron Stewart (Towne, Baltimore), chair of the Committee on Resolutions, brought the report. He stated that the committee had not received any resolutions for possible consideration by the body. No further action, therefore, was needed.

73. Miscellaneous Business – Steve Poole (Oak Grove, Susquehanna), chair of the Committee on Order of Business, on behalf of the committee, recommended that the **2011 BCM/D Annual Meeting be held November 13-15, 2011, at the Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD.** The preacher would be Larry Eubanks, pastor, First Baptist Church, Frederick, MD. The music/worship leader would be Jason Brown, music/worship director, First Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD. [Note: The official vote on the recommendation was taken just a little later in that session. (*See Item #75 below.*)

74. President Day permitted Dr. David Lee come to make an introduction of a new member of the BCM/D staff, which had not been able to be done at the earlier time for that. Lee proceeded to have Paul Mulani, pastor, Disciples Fellowship International Church, Silver Spring, MD, and his wife, Anne, to come to the platform. He had been approved to serve part-time as missionary for language churches. After the introduction by Lee, Mulani shared a few brief remarks about the congregation he served and about the work that he would be doing with the Convention.

75. Noting that an official vote had not been taken previously on the recommendation from the Committee on Order of Business for the arrangements for the 2011 BCM/D Annual Meeting, President Day called for that to be done. It passed on a show-of-hands vote of the messengers. (*See Item #73 above.*)

76. President Day reported that the enrollment for the Convention, as of 10:00 a.m. that morning, was as follows: 335 messengers and 109 guests, for a total of 444.

77. President Day recognized the Convention's new officers and asked them to come to the platform, where James Dixon, pastor, El Bethel Baptist Church, Fort Washington, MD, and BCMD missionary for African-American church development, led in a prayer of dedication for them and of blessing upon their service during the coming year.

78. 175th Anniversary Celebration: Our Universities and Campuses: Mission Tomorrow – Blake Hardcastle, BCM/D missionary, evangelism/collegiate evangelism, and collegiate minister, Newark, DE, shared that presentation. Currently, eight collegiate ministers served on college and university campuses throughout the Convention. He shared that in his personal campus ministry he was "shepherding" 334 students. The Convention's collegiate ministers wanted to be the churches' access to college students, doing things to minister to them that the congre-

gations could not do themselves. The objectives of collegiate ministry were the following: **(1.) To lead students to faith in Jesus Christ; (2.) To disciple students to maturity in Christian faith; and (3.) To connect students with local churches in relationships that were meaningful for both.** (Hardcastle gave a specific example for each to illustrate ways those objectives were being accomplished.) He encouraged all in the congregation to join with the collegiate ministers in the wonderful opportunity to touch the lives of college and university students with the love of Christ. He challenged all to connect with the collegiate ministers in their respective area. In doing so, we could rejoice with the collegiate ministers in seeing how the reaching and the discipling of students would begin to blossom and to flourish through that connection.

79. Music/Worship – Jason Brown and Mike Rogers led the congregation in singing *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, His Name Is Jesus* and *How Great Thou Art*.

80. Message – Al B. Sutton, Jr., pastor, Living Stones Temple Church, Birmingham, AL, spoke to the Convention from the Scripture text of Mark 3:13-20. He began by asking that every head be bowed and every heart be humbled, as he prayed that God might speak through him, “Your servant.” Sutton expressed his deep thanks for having had the opportunity to speak at the African-American Fellowship Dinner the previous evening and then to be able to address the Convention in that session. He shared a story about a preacher who had gone once to lead revival services at a church. Every evening, following the service, a lady would come to the preacher and say, “You’re something else.” On the first night, he had thought that he was being given a very high honor. After she had made that same remark to him every night, he decided, after the final night’s service, to ask her what she had meant by that comment: “You’re something else.” She replied, “That’s what I meant. I’ve been trying to figure out all week what you are. You’re not a preacher. You are obviously something else!” Sutton said, humorously, that he hoped that would not be how the congregation felt after his message. His desire was to encourage all in meeting the challenges they faced.

Sutton called attention to the Scripture text for his message, Mark 3:13-20 and then read that passage. The topic on which he would speak to the Convention was A Divine Strategy. It had been said, “Timing is everything.” He stated that was never truer than it was in the text passage. Jesus was about halfway through His three-year ministry. Earlier in that chapter, Jesus had healed a man on the Sabbath. That act had greatly angered the Pharisees and the Herodians; furthermore, it had set them on a course determined to put an end to His ministry. They were determined to do that, even if it meant having to put an end to His life. While those religious leaders were conspiring and wanting to put an end, so to speak, to the church, Jesus employed a deliberate strategy to secure the future of the church. Sutton noted that it must not be taken lightly that the Scripture passage recorded that Jesus had prayed all night. Following that (verse 14), He appointed twelve (disciples), “designating them apostles.” That was the “third phase” of their call. Phase one: Jesus called them; then He converted them. Conversion was making a faith decision to follow Jesus Christ. Sutton said “This is entry-level stuff.” Jesus put the future of the church into the hands of the converted. He declared, “Messed-up stuff happens, if given to the unconverted.” People in leadership in the church must be converted, those who had made a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Phase one began with their conversion. Phase two: Jesus called them; then He made them His disciples. That phase was about keeping them. The call to follow Jesus

was a call to discipleship. In the Gospels, the model of evangelism was fishing. We needed “to catch them.” We struggled, though, with the “revolving door” in our churches and lost far too many of those reached too soon after their initial professions of faith. We must retain/keep those whom God had entrusted into our care. Sutton referred to an incident recorded in Luke 5, where Jesus had been preaching, teaching and ministering to a crowd of people. He got into Simon Peter’s boat and, after going a little way out from the shore, told him (Luke 5:4), “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Peter responded that they had worked hard all night and had caught nothing; but, because Jesus had commanded it, he would let down the nets. When he did, there was such an abundant catch that nets began to break and boats got so full that they were in danger of sinking. Peter was so convicted that he was a sinful man in the presence of Jesus. Jesus told him (Luke 5:10), “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” Luke 5:11 stated, “So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.” Jesus committed and entrusted the future of the church into the hands of learners. As disciples, we always must be learning and preparing. Disciples also needed to be able to articulate what they believed. Sutton declared that “phase two stuff” was what encouraged us and built relevant, articulate churches. Phase three: Jesus called them; then He designated them as His apostles. Apostles were “Those who spoke on His behalf.” Sutton stated that Jesus would only do that (give that responsibility) to people who had “shown Him something” and had proven themselves. These were the ones to whom Jesus entrusted the future of the church. Sutton described them as a “motley crew.” He had entrusted the church’s future to them! Jesus had no “back-up plan.” There was no “second string” that he could call in. He had entrusted the church to them.

In what he had outlined and shared, Sutton said that there was evident, a definite strategy given by Jesus to ensure success. First – Jesus called them to be a committed company. He called them to come and to be with Him. He must have first priority for us. Our calling to follow Him must be our first priority. Nothing was ever more important than that. Sutton declared, “Christ was not ‘crowd-crazy’.” Not all who were in the crowd had good objectives. Not all were there for the right reasons. Sometimes, Jesus shared those hard, difficult truths to weed out the insincere. He was entrusting the responsibility for the future of the church to people who had been with Him from the beginning. He called them to be a committed company. Second – Jesus called them to be crucial communicators. We preach Christ and Him crucified. If we wanted transformation of our communities and of our homes, declared Sutton, “It begins and ends with the Gospel! We have to get back to preaching the Gospel! Preach the Gospel! Preach Christ and Him crucified.” We were concerned too often with “packing the pew,” preaching what people wanted to hear and keeping the crowd in place. Sutton challenged all to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; and, we would see lives changed. We would see converts made and not merely have “church hoppers.” We must be concerned about that crucial communication. Third – Jesus called them to be a capable cast. In the Gospel of Mark, the apostles were given the power to cast out demons in the name of Jesus. Matthew’s Gospel stated that they were given the power to heal the sick, to raise the dead, to cleanse lepers and to cast out demons. In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter and John were going to the temple one day at the time of prayer. They came upon a man, crippled from birth, whose friends carried him to the temple gate, called Beautiful, so that he might beg for alms. He asked the two apostles for money; however, they replied that they had no silver or gold. They did, however, have something that money could not buy. They declared, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!” The man went from lying at the gate, to standing, to walk-

ing, to leaping and praising God. Sutton said, “When you see transformation happen in your life, you can’t help but express it with that ‘Jesus-kind’ of joy.” We must not forget who we were and whom we represented. It was not about us, but about the One who worked in us and through us. Proclaimed Sutton, “Last time I checked, He can do all things!” The Apostle Paul had said that because He (God) could do all things that he (Paul) could do all things “through Christ who strengthens me.” He called them to be with Him, to preach the Gospel and to cast out demons. These apostles were the ones whom Jesus selected (Mark 3:16-19). Then, noting verse 20 of the text passage, Sutton said, “He went home.” He closed his message with a challenge: “Brothers and sisters. No matter how wonderfully well we live our lives or how responsible we are in ministry, at some point our lives will end, our ministries will be over, the evening shade will be pulled. But, the hope is that when that day comes, we’ll hear Him say, ‘Come, and go home with Me.’ ” We could do a number things to delay the end of our lives; however, the inevitable was the inevitable. Evening would come. When that day came, and it surely would come, Sutton exclaimed, “I want to hear Him say, ‘Come, come, come, and go home with Me!’ ”

81. The same video which had been shown to open the Annual Meeting, Together We Are There, was shown to drive home the challenge and the need for a renewed focus, energy and passion to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. The prayer was that we might measure up to the enormity of the task and be faithful to the Great Commission. When, together, we gave, went and served, for Jesus’ sake, the message of the video was this: “You are there!”

82. Adjournment of the 175th Annual Meeting – President Day gave praise to God for all that had been experienced and accomplished in the sessions. He asked all to stand and to join hands with someone else. Then, he then led in a closing prayer for the 2010 BCM/D Annual Meeting.

83. The 175th Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware was closed officially at 11:31 a.m., with President Byron Day using the same, historic gavel with which he had called it to order.

84. The final enrollment for the Convention was as follows: 335 messengers and 109 guests, for a total of 444.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Clifton, Recording Secretary
William George, Assistant Recording Secretary*