

2009 RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTED TO THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
Wednesday, November 18 Whitesburg Baptist Church Huntsville, Alabama

RESOLUTION NO. 5 ON APPRECIATION FOR NOXIE “BUSTER” TAYLOR

WHEREAS, In 1979, Noxie “Buster” Taylor began work at Shocco Springs, located in Talladega, Alabama, and on March 1, 1989, was named Interim Director of Shocco Springs in preparation for the retirement of Dr. George Ricker; and

WHEREAS, The year 2009 marks the beginning of a fourth decade of his employment and subsequently his leadership as the Executive Director of Shocco Springs; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the call of God on his life, his unique gifting, love of people, and passion for this position and place; and

WHEREAS, His commitment to Jesus Christ, Shocco Springs, and Alabama Baptists has been clearly demonstrated far beyond the borders of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Under his ever-watchful eye and steady hand Shocco Springs has boldly lived out its mission to “provide a distinctly Christian environment for spiritual transformation and renewal;” and

WHEREAS, The values of people, integrity, and excellence have guided decision making for guests, property, buildings, and endowments; and

WHEREAS, He has led by example in a spirit of cooperation and inclusion with his staff and Alabama Baptists in fulfilling the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, He remains unswerving in his commitment to Christ, Shocco Springs, Alabama Baptists, and Christians around our world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, November 17-18, 2009, first express our gratitude to God for leading us to elect Buster Taylor as the Executive Director of Shocco Springs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all Alabama Baptists to pray for God’s continued blessings and guidance upon Buster Taylor and the ministry of Shocco Springs; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention affirm their support of and appreciation for Buster Taylor as he continues to provide consistent and exemplary leadership to Shocco Springs.

RESOLUTION NO. 6
ON APPRECIATION FOR THOMAS E. CORTS

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas E. Corts was a trusted colleague to all involved in Christian higher education throughout his adult life; and

WHEREAS, He had a distinguished career as executive vice-president of Georgetown College, president of Wingate College and president of Samford University for twenty-three years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corts extended his influence through service as chairman of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and as president of SACS, the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Association of Baptist Colleges; and

WHEREAS, He served honorably in retirement as interim chancellor of the Community College System of the state of Alabama, and then as coordinator of President George W. Bush's "Initiative to Expand Education" and later as coordinator of basic education in the United States State Department's Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance helping to provide aid to four million school children in Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Liberia, Mali and Yemen; and

WHEREAS, He and his wife, Marla, served as faithful Baptist laypeople at the Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham; and

WHEREAS, Christian higher education and all Alabama Baptists lost a good friend at his death on February 3, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Education Commission of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, at its meeting on May 19, 2009, at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, expressed their gratitude for the life and contributions of Thomas Corts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, November 17-18, 2009, affirm the expressions of gratitude by the Education Commission for the life and ministry of Thomas Corts and give thanks for his significant contribution to Samford University and the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7
ON THE BAPTIST HERITAGE**

WHEREAS, The year 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the beginning of the modern Baptist movement at Amsterdam in 1609 when a group of English Separatist refugees, fleeing religious persecution in their home country, created a community of faith whose worship and life together reflected the New Testament pattern of a believers' church; and

WHEREAS, For more than 200 years Baptist believers in Alabama have gathered in local congregations to worship and serve Christ, and have worked together to further the cause of the Gospel through associations and, since 1823, through the work of the Alabama Baptist State Convention; and

WHEREAS, Baptists through the centuries have maintained a distinctive witness on behalf of religious liberty, not only for themselves but for all persons made in the image of God, and have declared, even at the cost of harassment, persecution, and death, that God alone is the Lord of the conscience; and

WHEREAS, Baptist Christians have clearly proclaimed their belief in the Bible, the inspired and totally truthful Word of God, which is the only rule of faith and practice; and

WHEREAS, Baptists, together with all other Bible-believing Christians, confess their faith in the one true God of holiness and love, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the God who created the world and sustains it by his providence, the God who out of love for lost men and women became incarnate in the virgin-born Jesus whose sinless life, substitutionary death on the cross, glorious resurrection, triumphant ascension, and certain return in glory is the hope of the world and who is himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the sole and all-sufficient Savior for all persons everywhere; and

WHEREAS, Baptist congregations have gathered themselves into covenanted congregations of regenerated believers emphasizing the ordinance of baptism set forth in the New Testament, which is the baptism of believers on the basis of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and celebrating the Lord's Supper as an act of love and communion with Christ; and

WHEREAS, Baptists have led the way in sharing the message of Jesus Christ and salvation through him to the uttermost parts of the earth following in the footsteps of the shoemaker-pastor William Carey, "the father of modern missions," and other great heroes of the missionary cause including Adoniram and Anne Judson, Luther Rice, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Bill Wallace, Martha Myers, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Since 1925 Baptists in Alabama, along with many other Baptists throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, have worked together through the Cooperative Program to spread the message of Christ at home and abroad so that lost souls would be saved, the Lordship of Christ extended over all areas of life, and God glorified in ever increasing measure; and

WHEREAS, In recent decades there has been a loss of emphasis on the Baptist heritage leading to a lack of focus or even crisis of Baptist identity within Baptist churches generally and among the rising generation in particular; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, November 17-18, 2009, express our gratitude to God for our Baptist heritage, remembering with thanksgiving those pioneers of the Baptist way, especially those who at great personal cost, stood with courage for religious liberty for all persons, along with others who have given their very lives for the sake of the Gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, We commend the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and Alabama Baptist educational institutions for the important work they do in collecting documents related to the Baptist heritage, sponsoring publications, conferences, and workshops on Baptist history, and for including in their curricular offerings courses that emphasize the history and vitality of Baptist communities of faith large and small; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for the worldwide Baptist family who share with us a like precious faith, and that we stand in solidarity with all Baptists who serve Christ in difficult and dangerous places, and that we seek actively to manifest the unity we share as brothers and sisters in Christ so that the world may see our love for one another and believe the Gospel we proclaim; and be it further

RESOLVED, We call upon Alabama Baptist pastors to lead in recognitions of the Baptist heritage in their congregations, including the observance of a "Baptist Heritage Sunday" and other events where Baptist history, polity, and theology can be taught and learned by all generations in the church; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we rededicate ourselves to the cherished principles of our Baptist heritage, praying for spiritual renewal among our churches and within our denomination, to the end that the Gospel of Christ will continue to go forth from us in all sincerity, integrity, and authenticity, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for generations to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 8
ON APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, The messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention enjoyed a time of encouragement, worship, unity, and the Spirit's direction; and

WHEREAS, The emphasis has been on "Across Alabama," a plan to reach more people for Christ during 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, We thank God for the outstanding leadership of our president, Dr. Jimmy Jackson, vice presidents Dr. Mike Shaw and Dr. John Killian, along with other officers of the Convention; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the Lord's presence and blessings on our Convention; and

WHEREAS, We appreciate the Madison Baptist Association, the area churches, and the ministers of those churches having played a significant role in making this Convention a success; and

WHEREAS, We especially thank the Whitesburg Baptist Church for the use of their facilities, services of every kind, and their support and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, We express gratitude for the various committees, Convention speakers, musicians, and other platform personalities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, November 17-18, 2009, express our profound gratitude to God and to those whom He used to bring about Convention sessions characterized by God's leadership.