

A Glossary of Southern Baptist Lingo

We are Southern Baptists because Southern Baptists believe what we understand the Bible to be teaching. We cooperate on a voluntary basis with the Elmore Baptist Association, The Alabama Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. We are neither owned nor are we a franchise of any of the three. Insofar as is practical in fulfilling our mission and as long as these bodies hold to Biblical truth, we will work with them cooperatively. – Church Principles, First Baptist Church, Tallassee

Acteens: Girls in the age graded program of the Women’s Missionary Union, grades 7-12, are provided missions education and opportunities to be involved in simple missions action projects.

Amillennial: This is a view of the second coming of Christ that basically says, when Jesus comes back, the gig’s up. They do not find a seven-year tribulation or a literal thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth. They do not see two comings (a rapture and a glorious return) nor do they believe that God has future plans for Israel. They do believe in a literal return of Christ, a judgment, and eternity in which people will be in heaven or hell. This was for many, many years the most common view of the Lord’s return among Southern Baptists. Compare and contrast *Pre-millennial, Post-millennial/historic pre-millennial, Mid-tribulational*.

Annie Armstrong Offering: This offering is held at the time of Easter and supports the work of the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Named after Annie Armstrong (1850-1938), an advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world, Annie Armstrong led women to unite in mission endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

Annual Church Profile: The ACP, also known as the annual letter, is the report of baptisms, enrollment, attendance averages, and other information about the church is sent to the state convention of which the church is a part. This information is also shared with their association. This data is published in tables in the book of reports of the association and the state convention.

Annual Letter: See *Annual Church Profile*.

Annual Meeting: This is the meeting, generally held in October, by the Baptist Associations. They hear reports regarding their ministries, conduct business, and hear sermons on doctrine and missions.

Annuity Board: Now know as Guidestone, this is an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention that provides retirement accounts and information on taxes for ministers.

Arminianism: (Not to be confused with the Armenians, a nation and ethnic group originating in the Caucasus and in the Armenian Highlands.) Nicknamed for James Arminius (1560-1609), this body of teachings is embraced today by those in the tradition of John Wesley (Methodists, Nazarenes, Wesleyans, etc.), the Holiness, and the Salvation Army. It is different at some significant points from the school of thought traced from Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Calvin. Their views include: predestination is based on God's advance knowledge of a person's response to Jesus Christ; the atonement is *unlimited* in its benefits, that is, the death of Jesus was for every person; though Christ died *for us*, it was not a matter of Christ taking the *punishment* for our sins (otherwise, since His death was for everyone, everyone would be forgiven); God's "prevenient grace" must be at work in a person's life in order for them to choose to come to Christ (no one wakes up one morning and simply decides to become a Christian); people freely repent and receive the grace of God; and, since God's grace *is* resistible, Christians can lose their salvation so as to be eternally lost.

Associated Baptist Press: This is the news wire service related to the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Association: A Baptist Association is a group of churches that cooperate to provide training, to provide ministries, and to do mission action projects. Generally, in the Deep South an association is associated with a county, though its area may cover a metropolitan area. In other parts of the country the association's territory may cover a much larger area. There is generally an Association office and a Director of Missions. Often, pastors meet at a Monday morning Pastor's Conference once a week or month for continuing education and inspiration.

Associational Missionary: This is the traditional term (and synonym) for Director of Missions.

Autonomous: Every Baptist church is autonomous. That means it owns its own property, chooses its own pastor and staff, determines how much money it will send to denominational causes, and makes decisions without any control from a higher body. In Southern Baptist life there is no higher body than a local congregation.

AWANAS: This is not a Southern Baptist program or a LifeWay product, but many Southern Baptist churches have AWANAS clubs. The acronym stands for "A Workman And Not Ashamed." The organization offers programs for ages 2-18. They are evangelistic and emphasize Scripture memory. In SBC life this means this program generally replaces RA's and GA's.

BCM: An acronym for Baptist Campus Ministries that serve colleges and universities across the United States.

Baptist Campus Ministries: The ministry to college students that serve colleges and universities across the United States.

Baptist Faith and Message: This is the list of beliefs held by Southern Baptists. It is considered to be a confession of beliefs held by Baptists; it is not considered authoritative like the Bible. The most recent Baptist Faith and Message Statement was adopted at the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. The previous Baptist Faith and Message Statements were adopted in 1963 and 1925. The reason for the updates is address doctrinal and ethical issues that arise in society from a biblical perspective. Any church, association, or state convention, etc. is free to adopt its own statement of faith. Generally, in its constitution and bylaws a Southern Baptist Church will include such a statement of their beliefs. However, they have generally used the current Baptist Faith and Message for that statement. Some churches and state convention entities have chosen to continue to use the 1963 statement.

Baptist Foundation: These are entities related to various state conventions – for example, The Baptist Foundation of Alabama. They help people manage, save, and leave their estates to various Baptist causes. Churches often invest savings with the Baptist Foundation.

Baptist Press: The news wire service of the Southern Baptist Convention providing news and commentary to Baptist state newspapers and online at www.bpnews.net.

Beeson Divinity School: A divinity school is a seminary located on a college campus, as a graduate school. Beeson is located on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Beeson is broadly evangelical in doctrine and has faculty members from various evangelical and protestant denominations.

Bishop: The King James translation for the word for overseer. It is understood to refer, not to a higher ranking leader in the denominational hierarchy, but to a local pastor. First Timothy 3 and Titus 1 describe the qualifications for this office.

BP: This is the abbreviation for Baptist Press, the news wire service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Brotherhood: The Baptist men's organization of Southern Baptists. Under the Brotherhood umbrella is RA's for boys.

Brotherhood Breakfast: This is a monthly men's breakfast with a speaker traditional in many Baptist churches. There is a breakfast and a speaker.

BSU: Baptist Student Union, the old term for Baptist Campus Ministries.

Bylaws (See Constitution and Bylaws): In many churches, this document is second in authority only to the Bible (sometimes, in practice, it is considered more authoritative). The Bylaws spell out how a church organizes itself to serve God. Sometimes, a pastor may become frustrated by a silly requirement in the bylaws of the church he serves.

However, properly, parts of the bylaws should be changed or omitted only as the bylaws specify; it is never wise to change the rules by breaking them.

Call, voting to extend: When a congregation votes to accept the recommendation of a search committee and to ask a person to serve as pastor or on their church staff. A super-majority – usually 75% -- is usually required. Baptists understand such a vote as discerning and affirming the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Calling Out the Called: An old missions term that refers to inviting people to consider whether God has called them to missions. We believe that God has already called them, but sometimes people need to be challenged to respond to God's calling in obedience.

Calvinism (to be distinguished from Hypercalvinism): This is a nickname for a set of beliefs articulated by John Calvin (1509-1564). Basically, Calvinists believe in election and predestination. Whether God elects and predestines people to eternal life is a topic of controversy among Southern Baptists, as it is everywhere there exists a high view of Scripture. The *Five Points of Calvinism* is a shorthand way of referring to those beliefs that distinguish Calvinists from other Christians and are summarized in the acronym, TULIP – Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, and Perseverance of the Saints. *Total Depravity* means that people are so completely corrupted by sin the entirety of their person is damaged and they are completely unable to respond to God in repentance and faith. *Unconditional Election* means, not that God predestines believers on the basis of His advance knowledge of their faith, but is like God's choice of Jacob but not of Esau, "though they had not been born yet or done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to election might stand" (Romans 9:10-13). *Limited Atonement* does not mean Christ's sufferings are not adequate to secure the forgiveness of the whole world – it wouldn't take another drop of His blood to save another person – but that His death secured the forgiveness of the definite group of people whom God would save. *Irresistible Grace* doesn't mean people don't resist God's grace (they do) or that Christians may not resist His grace at first, but rather that God's grace will prevail. God always gets his man. *Perseverance*, or the final perseverance of the saints, means that real Christians stick with it. They may stumble along the way, but because of the new birth and because God preserves, they will continue in the faith until the end. While many people who are not knowledgeable assume Calvinists do not believe in evangelism and missions, this is a mistaken conclusion. *Hypercalvinists* do not believe in evangelism and missions; however, Calvinists and Hypercalvinists are to be distinguished. Be careful here: to say a person doesn't believe in evangelism and missions is one of the worst possible things you could say about a person in Southern Baptist life. Before making such a statement, you will want to be sure you have your facts straight and you are not merely assuming this. See and contrast *Arminianism, Hypercalvinism*.

Campus Ministries: This is a short way of saying Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM, formerly BSU). See Baptist Campus Ministries, BCM.

Centrifuge: A camp produced by LifeWay for youth, grades 7-12, and often held across the country on Baptist colleges and universities.

CentriKid: A camp for children produced by LifeWay held throughout the country.

Charismatic Movement: The movement reached its high point in Southern Baptist life during the 1970's. However, it continues to be a topic of discussion today. Charismatics come in various degrees across a fairly broad spectrum, but generally they emphasize the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts, particularly the gift of tongues. Sometimes this gift is referred to as a prayer language. This is of a particular controversy when the charismatic considers tongues to be the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Baptists have had somewhat differing perspectives on tongues, but have been united in strongly rejecting the teaching of initial evidence.

Children: In Southern Baptist life a Sunday School term used in age-grading; children are those in grades 1-6. Younger children are in first and second grade, middle children in third and fourth grade, and older children are in fifth and sixth grade. It comes as a surprise to many that their children younger than first grade are not children, but they are referred to as preschoolers.

Children's Home(s) (and Family Ministries): There was a day when Christians operated orphanages to take care of abandoned and orphaned children. Over the years the homes have gotten smaller and located across wider geographical areas, and other family related ministries, such as counseling services, have been added. However, the legacy of helping those who cannot help themselves continues.

Children's Church: Sometimes churches provide a place for children to go during worship services. This can be a snack and play time, but ideally it is a church for children. Properly done, it has the aim of helping them to worship at their own level and of preparing them for "big church." Sometimes children's church will last as long as the adult worship service and sometimes it will start after the song service.

Children's Sermon: Often in the regular worship service the pastor or a ministerial staff member will have the children come to the front of the worship center for a brief devotional. Sometimes, this involves a story to which the children can relate or perhaps an "object lesson" using an item to make a comparison (that may go a little over the head of children who do not understand that kind of abstract thought until around third or fourth grade). It is not unusual to have church members say they get more out of the children's sermon than the regular sermon – which, depending on the pastor, may be a poor reflection of the quality of the preaching or the discernment of the member.

Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC): This is a Southern Baptist entity that addressed specific moral issues such as abortion, gambling, euthanasia, etc. It also promotes religious liberty. There was a time when this entity was called the Christian Life Commission.

Christian Higher Education: This term refers to Christian colleges and universities. Baptists have historically supported such schools to train ministers and to equip students with a Christian worldview. Since the advent of theological liberalism the Baptist universities have arrived at a diverse array of ways of defining the “Christian” in higher education. Some attempt to represent a biblical worldview throughout all disciplines and departments. Some have strong Christian studies departments, but the other schools and departments would be practically indistinguishable from secular state schools (what has been compared to “A secular car with a cross for a hood ornament”). In the religion departments of some, skepticism and ridicule of orthodox Christian belief would exceed in intolerance some state universities. Let the buyer beware.

Christian Life Commission: The old name for Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Church Clerk: The keeper of the minutes in church business meetings. This person also handles the correspondence when someone move their membership to or from a sister church. The church clerk generally prepares the annual church profile and signs certificates of license and ordination.

Church Council: Some churches use a church council which is composed of the pastor, the Sunday School Director, the Discipleship Training Director, the WMU Director, the Brotherhood Director, and the Chairman of Deacons. There may be other positions represented depending on the church and its bylaws. Generally, this is like a calendar committee to coordinate dates in the church year. Sometimes, they may serve like a clearinghouse for new recommendations and take those they favor to the congregation. In some churches they take care of the business (maybe pretty close to ruling elders) with the goal of freeing the deacons to do Deacon Family Ministry.

Church Covenant: Baptists consider church membership a matter of entering into a covenant with the Lord and with each other. Among Baptists, church covenants (whether informally or formally) in some local church settings have been in existence for centuries. Often you will find such a covenant in the bylaws of the church and, sometimes, especially in rural churches, you can still see hanging a large copy of the following Church Covenant on the wall:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to educate our children religiously, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready to reconciliation and, mindful of the rules of our Savior. to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

The author and date of the above covenant is uncertain. It began to circulate in the late 1800's or early 1900's. By the 1920's it was being distributed by the Baptist Sunday School Board in its current form. In more recent years, the concept of meaningful church membership has been revisited by such authors as Thom S. Rainer in his book High Expectations.

Church Letter: This is the old term for the annual church profile.

Church Training: This is an older term for what is now called Discipleship Training.

Church Treasurer: This person keeps the books, writes the checks, and prepares financial reports for the congregation. This person is also responsible for withholding and sending reports to the IRS and state departments of revenue.

Closed Communion: The Lord's Supper is considered open or closed depending on how many people are allowed to partake. Closed communion is when communion is not offered to those who are not members of that particular congregation. The rationale for this is that non-members are not under the discipline of the church. Oklahoma is an example of an area where many churches practice closed communion.

Communion: Another term for the Lord's Supper.

Committee: A. Sometimes, a group of the unqualified selected by the unwilling to do the unnecessary. B. How Baptist churches distribute the work of the church, delegating various areas of authority. As such, it is unwise to try to show disrespect to a process adopted by the congregation.

Committee on Committees: In many state conventions and in the Southern Baptist Convention, this committee functions as a nominating committee. This committee is named by the president of the Southern Baptist Convention. They nominate some other committees related to conducting the business of the convention and another nominating committee, the Committee on Nominations, to nominate the members of the various boards and commissions of the convention.

Committee on Nominations: This committee of the Southern Baptist Convention nominates members of the boards, trustees, and commissions of the convention including the seminaries, mission boards, LifeWay, etc.

Connectionalism: The inappropriate linking of Southern Baptist churches, associations, or conventions so as to have the net effect of violating the autonomy of one of the other. Since there is no hierarchical form of government in Southern Baptist life, the Southern Baptist Convention cannot tell a State Convention what to do and the State Conventions cannot tell a Baptist Association what to do, and an Association cannot tell a local church what to do. None of these organizations are connected organizationally; they are autonomous. Baptists' rejection of connectionalism has provided sufficient insulation to prevent the spread of false doctrine. It also helps to reduce the opportunities for those who would seek power.

Conservative: In Baptist life, this refers to a person who affirms the inerrancy of Scripture, the virgin conception and birth of Christ, the historicity of the miracles recorded in the Bible, believes in the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ, a real second coming, and understands Jesus Christ to be the only way to the Father.

Conservative Resurgence: In June 1979 Adrian Rogers was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention as part of a concerted effort to address theological concerns. This began the process of obtaining a conservative Committee on Committees who, in turn, nominated conservatives to the Committee on Nominations, who, in turn, nominated conservatives to the various boards and commissions of the convention. Conservatives continued to elect presidents to continue this process. Over time, the seminaries and other entities of the convention adopted policies and selected presidents of the various entities who moved the entity in a more conservative direction.

Constitution and Bylaws: See *bylaws*, above.

Convention: It is often said the Southern Baptist Convention exists only one week in June while the annual meeting is in session. Sometimes, the term is used as a shorthand way of referring to our churches and entities as a whole. See *Southern Baptist Convention*.

Cooperating Southern Baptist (Church): Southern Baptists do not have an organizational hierarchy, but they do place value on working together in voluntary cooperation. They work together because they share a common vision and mission. Sometimes, this term has the effect of generating a form of peer pressure – churches may be referred to as a “Cooperating Southern Baptist church” or, negatively, referred to a non-cooperating church.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship: Not part of the SBC, the CBF began in 1991 as a fellowship for moderates who were unhappy with the conservative resurgence. It does

not promote itself as a denomination, but rather as a fellowship of churches and individual Baptists who cooperate with like-minded institutions in various projects. It gives financial support to “14 theological schools supported by the Fellowship as well as independent agencies like the Baptist Center for Ethics, Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty and the Baptist World Alliance.” They endorse chaplains and send missionaries. They reject belief in inerrancy of Scripture stating, “The Bible neither claims nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching.” They emphasize belief in “soul freedom, Bible freedom, church freedom and religious freedom.” They strongly emphasize “Belief in priesthood of the believer and the affirmation that every person has the freedom and responsibility to relate directly to God without the imposition of creed or control of clergy or government.” Their web site states, “Affirmation of women in ministry was one of the founding principles of the Fellowship.” Regarding homosexuality, “CBF does not issue ‘official’ positions on homosexuality or other social issues because it violates the Fellowship’s mission as a network of individuals and churches. CBF values and respects the autonomy of each individual and local church to evaluate and make their own decision regarding social issues like homosexuality.” Quotes taken from: <http://www.thefellowship.info>

Cooperative Program: Created in 1925, the Cooperative Program was created as a one-stop method to support the various ministries of Southern Baptists. Previously, it was “every entity for itself” with each SBC entity making special offering appeals to the churches. This method was referred to as the “societal” approach and resulted in severe financial deficits, competition among entities, overlapping pledge campaigns, and frequent emergency appeals. Today, the Cooperative Program supports the work of the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board, six seminaries, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. While Cooperative Program gifts could be sent directly to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, almost every church sends their gifts through their state convention. The state conventions take a percentage to support their own work (state office, colleges, children’s homes, etc.), and then send a percentage to the Southern Baptist Convention. This percentage varies from one state convention to another.

Covered Dish Dinner: A church get together and meal to which members bring a favorite dish. They pool their food to have a good meal together. Sometimes a meat, tea, and coffee is provided by a committee. It is considered bad form to bring sour kraut and weenies and, then, get in front of the line.

Crisis Pregnancy Center: Southern Baptists are prolife and often support a crisis pregnancy center to assist girls who wish to make the choice of life. These centers provide training and resources after the child is born. These centers are about sharing the gospel as well as practical assistance.

CrossPoint: These camps are Christian sports camps sponsored by LifeWay.

CWT: Continuing Witness Training. This is a Southern Baptist evangelism training program similar to Evangelism Explosion (EE).

Deacons: New Testament Deacons serve the Lord by conducting the caring ministry of the church — doing the benevolence work, visiting the sick, being alert to the spiritual needs of the congregation — for the purpose of freeing the pastoral staff to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word, thus promoting unity within the church, and facilitating the spread of the gospel.

Deacon Run Church: This is an informal term used to describe churches where the deacons control the committees and decision making process of the church. In many such churches a deacon chairs each committee and the deacons serve as the personnel committee and the finance committee.

Denominational Loyalist: This term was generally used by conservatives during the resurgence and referred to someone who voted with the moderates, not because he agreed with their theology, but because he was a “company man.” Denominational loyalists were the kind of people who would joke, “I’m going with the side that gets the Annuity Board.”

Disaster Relief: When there is a hurricane, tornado, flood, or other disaster, these teams come in to provide practical assistance. There are chain saw crews, mud out crews, child care crews, cooking crews, mobile shower units, etc. Behind the Red Cross, Southern Baptists are the largest group involved in Disaster Relief, and are often recognized by their yellow shirts and caps.

Discipleship Training: This is a training hour to teach church members in practical Christian living, Christian doctrine, church polity, etc. The traditional time for this on the weekly schedule of churches is on Sunday nights, though some churches have moved this to Wednesday nights.

DNow: *DiscipleNow* weekends are events to give youth basic training and motivation in Christian discipleship. These events involve small group times, large group times, recreation, and sometimes Sunday School and/or part of the morning worship service.

DOM: Director of Missions. Not to be confused with a mafia don, this person oversees the ministries of the local Baptist Association and serves like a pastor to the pastors and staff members of the churches.

Doxology, The: In churches with more formal worship styles the Doxology is sung every week. The lyrics are:

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

EE: Evangelism Explosion is an evangelism training program developed by D. James Kennedy and is used by many Southern Baptist churches. It was the model for the Southern Baptist CWT which came later.

Elders: The New Testament terms *elders*, *overseers* (*bishops in the KJV*), *shepherds/pastors* are used synonymously in Scripture (Acts 20, I Peter 5). Elder is a carryover from the leadership in Synagogues. In some denominations churches have ruling elders. In some Southern Baptist congregations deacons function something like ruling elders only with the title of deacons. Some Southern Baptist congregations have elders *and* deacons, the elders functioning like a governing body along with the pastor; however, this is still relatively rare.

Entity: The various colleges, seminaries, ministries with their own boards are referred to as *entities*. It is a generic term for referring to the various separate organizations which may have trustees or board members, or be seminaries, mission boards, or commissions. Each entity is directly responsible to the Convention of church messengers in annual session.

Evangelism: Evangelism is announcing good news to people who need to hear it; in particular, the good news of what Jesus did on the cross and in His resurrection to provide forgiveness, to make us right with God, and to give us eternal life. Evangelism is the main work of the whole church until Jesus returns. The worst thing one could say of a Southern Baptist is that he doesn't believe in evangelism. Evangelism is not to be confused with a style of worship, dress, or preaching.

Evangelism Conference: State conventions and some associations sponsor annual conferences to inspire people to evangelistic efforts. Sometimes there are breakout sessions providing practical instruction in specific kinds of evangelism. The North American Missions Board often contributes an amount toward the expenses with the understanding that one of their staff members will be on the program.

Executive Committee: Many governing boards of Southern Baptist entities have an executive committee. For example, you will hear of a State Board of Missions having an executive committee. Often, motions and policy recommendations originate in the executive committee and are brought to the full board for formal approval.

Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention: This committee acts on behalf of the Convention between annual sessions. Its work is basically fiscal and advisory. To carry out these duties, the Committee employs an executive and professional staff in its Nashville offices where it has been headquartered since 1927. Although the Executive Committee does not control or direct the activities of Convention agencies, it reviews their financial statements and recommends the Convention annual operating budget. In addition, it receives and distributes the monies Southern Baptists give in support of denominational ministries and provides public

relations and news services. The Convention elects the members of this Committee, who come from the forty-one state conventions.

Experiencing God: A book and training material created by Henry Blackaby and published by LifeWay. In brief, the seven realities are:

1. *God is always at work around you.*
2. *God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.*
3. *God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.*
4. *God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.*
5. *God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.*
6. *You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.*
7. *You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.*

FAITH / Faith Evangelism Strategy: An evangelism training and visitation program by Robert Welch and franchised by LifeWay. It is tied into Sunday School as part of its comprehensive strategy. FAITH is an acronym representing the presentation; it stands for: ***Forgiveness*** (No one can have eternal life or enter into heaven without God's forgiveness.), ***Available*** (This forgiveness is available to all, but it's not automatic), ***Impossible*** (It is impossible for God to allow sin into heaven), ***Turn*** (In the Bible, to turn means to repent), and ***Heaven*** (By using the word, F-A-I-T-H the Bible has answered the question of what it takes for a person to go to heaven. We can also use that word to understand how a person can have God's forgiveness, heaven and eternal life. F-A-I-T-H can also mean, *Forsaking All I Trust Him*").

Fifth Sunday Night Singing: Many churches have a special music service on Sunday nights that fall on the fifth Sunday of a month, instead of the regular worship service with preaching. These generally involve things like various soloists, duets, trios, quartets, and ensembles, etc. Sometimes, the minister of music takes requests for favorite hymns and choruses.

Foreign Mission Board: The old name for the International Mission Board, still used sometimes by habit.

Fundamentalist: Originally, this referred to those who believed in five teachings of the Bible: (1) The Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) The Virgin Birth, (3) The Blood Atonement of Christ (substitutionary atonement), (4) The Bodily Resurrection, and (5) The inerrancy of Scripture. Fundamentalism was a movement that arose mainly within British and American Protestantism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was sort of a "back to the basics" movement in reaction to theological liberalism that had encroached into their denominations. There was among some fundamentalists anger -- "We're mad and we're not going to take this anymore!" Thus, fundamentalists developed a reputation more for their anger than their doctrine. It was in this way that

fundamentalist came to be used as a pejorative, a term of insult. Conservatives do not like to be called fundamentalists for this reason. However, strictly speaking, the vast majority of Southern Baptists affirm the five fundamentals of the faith.

GA's: Girls in Action. The age group of the Women's Missionary Union providing missions education and for girls in grades 1-6.

Glorietta: A large Baptist conference center in Glorietta, New Mexico owned by LifeWay. There are training and worship events throughout the year.

Golden Gate: A Southern Baptist Seminary located in San Francisco, California.

Guidestone: An entity of the Southern Baptist Convention providing retirement accounts and information on taxes for ministers. Formerly called the Annuity Board.

Hard Shell Baptist: Refers to a Primitive Baptist (see *Primitive Baptist*). Sometimes used in a folksy way by church members to describe themselves as stubbornly Baptist with a rural worship style.

Homecoming: Many churches have a special day on an annual or once every five years on which they invite former members to attend a special service at their home church. A former pastor is generally invited to preach and, often, former ministers of music are invited to lead the music and sing. This day is considered a very important day on the calendar of such congregations.

Home Missions Board: This is the former name of the North American Missions Board. Sometimes, Baptists who have been around still refer to it by that name. Founded as the Domestic Mission Board in 1845 its original headquarters was in Marion, Alabama. In 1874, the convention renamed the agency the Home Mission Board (HMB) and, in 1882, moved its headquarters to Atlanta.

Hypercalvinism: This is not a Calvinist who is overly enthusiastic about the doctrine of predestination. It refers to a person who goes *beyond* the normal teachings of Calvinism to reject evangelism and missions. Calvinists (without the hyper) *do*, in fact, believe in evangelism and missions. Primitive Baptists would be an example of Hypercalvinists; Southern Baptist Hypercalvinists are virtually unknown.

IMB: Acronym for International Mission Board, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Independent Baptist: This is a Baptist church that does not cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention or any other Baptist denomination. These churches generally accept only the King James Version of the Bible and generally, would pride themselves in being called fundamentalists.

Inerrancy: The view regarding the inspiration of the Bible affirming the Bible is accurate in all that it affirms. It does not involve mechanical dictation (“Paul, take a book of the Bible”), but rather means that God selected the Biblical writers and used their personalities in the process of inspiration, even as the Holy Spirit inspired the exact wording of Scripture. Thus, the entire Bible is accurate, and it is accurate regardless of the classification of knowledge it addresses. While the Bible is primarily a book about God and spiritual truth, when it speaks to history or science, it is fully reliable.

International Mission Board: The missionary sending agency of Southern Baptists that deploys missionaries outside North America. Formed in 1845, its headquarters is located in Richmond, Virginia.

January Bible Study: This is an annual event to dig in and study a book of the Bible. LifeWay provides age-graded material for this event. Usually, churches bring in a guest pastor to teach the book. Typically, services extend from Sunday night through Wednesday night and services last around an hour and a half to two hours each.

Judson College: An entity of the Alabama Baptist Convention, Judson is a women’s college located in Marion, Alabama. Hence, a *Judson girl* is either a student or graduate of the college.

Landmark Movement: Based on the Old Testament prohibition, “Do not remove the ancient landmark.” It emphasizes that the only church is the local church (there is no such thing as a church universal or invisible church) and closed communion. This body of beliefs is still strongly emphasized around Oklahoma.

Letter, by: This is one of the ways by which one can join a Southern Baptist Church. When a family has been a member of one Southern Baptist Church and then wants to join another Southern Baptist congregation, the second church will correspond with their last church to “request their letter.” The church then sends correspondence stating that the people are members in good standing and granting their letters. This is voted on in church business meeting.

Liberalism: The more a person rejects the supernatural the more liberal they would be considered to be. Rejecting the full inspiration of Scripture, the virgin birth, the historicity of the miracles recorded in the Bible, the new birth, etc. are marks of liberalism. This has been shown to have ethical implications, as those who are liberal often (though not always) attempt to redefine Biblical standards of acceptable behavior.

LifeWay: The publishing agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. Formerly known as the Sunday School board, it is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. LifeWay operates Christian book stores throughout the nation in addition to providing curriculum for churches, consultant services, and church architecture services. In many SBC churches, it would be looked upon as akin to heresy to use any other literature.

LifeWay operates as a business LifeWay receiving no Cooperative Program gifts, but gives a portion of its profits to the Cooperative Program.

Licensed to Preach: Licensing is the church's approval for a man to preach. It is not a requirement to preach, but represents a congregation's endorsement. It is often a requirement at Baptist colleges and universities that a man be licensed to preach in order to receive a ministerial scholarship. Licensing is generally considered a tentative step until he has proved himself qualified for ordination. A "Certificate of License" is presented to the minister.

Lord's Supper: In Baptist life, the Lord's Supper is considered a symbolic act. It is a way of re-focusing ourselves of the person of Jesus Christ and of appreciating in a fresh way His sacrificial death on the cross for us. It is a time for self-inspection and, if needed, repentance. Jesus instituted this ordinance at His final Passover observance on earth. It is a time to look forward to the time when we are eternally with the Lord for what the book of Revelation calls, "The marriage supper of the Lamb." Thus, the Lord's Supper looks forward to the Lord's return.

Lottie Moon Offering: This offering to support the work of the International Missions Board is held around Christmas time and is named after missionary, Lottie Moon (1840 - 1912), who died on her way home from China on Christmas Eve. The International Mission Board receives support from the Cooperative Program that pays all the overhead and a portion of the salaries, making it possible for 100% of offering receipts go to missionaries in the field and toward their equipment.

Mainstream Baptists: This is a relatively small group of Southern Baptists who have reacted against the Conservative Resurgence. They are less conservative on such issues as the full inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture, women's ordination, the historicity of biblical miracles, etc. They emphasize social action and opened-mindedness to a far greater degree. In some extreme cases, for example, they are more open to homosexual marriage, ordination, and practice.

Member: Traditionally in Baptist life, church membership meant something. Because of the doctrine of a believer's church, people who presented themselves for membership were examined and admitted to membership only after a good faith effort to ascertain their clarity and the reality of their conversion. People were admitted to the church and joined in covenant with the Lord and with each other. If a person began to demonstrate a lack of repentance, then a process of church discipline began. In more recent years membership has lost its meaning and come to represent nothing more than having one's name on the church roll.

Mid-America: A Baptist seminary located in Memphis, Tennessee that trains many Southern Baptist ministers. The trustees of the school are not elected by the Southern Baptist Convention nor does it receive Cooperative Program funding.

Mid-tribulational: A view of the Lord's return similar to the pre-tribulational view, only with the rapture of the church coming at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation. The idea is that the church will endure persecution, but not the wrath of God which will poured out in the second half of the tribulation. See: *pre-tribulational*. Compare and contrast: *Post-tribulational/Historic Pre-tribulational, Amillennial*.

Midwestern: One of six Southern Baptist Seminaries. This one is located in Kansas City, MO.

Mission Action Project: Missions is evangelism and ministry that crosses cultural, geographical, or language barriers. This is the term used by the WMU for such projects. However, many times a group of GA's will do something like carry flowers to patients at the nursing home and call it a missions action project. This would be a good ministry, but an inappropriate use of the term, as no significant barriers were crossed. Staying at home and ministering to our own is not missions.

MissionFuge (or MFuge): A LifeWay camp that combines elements of small-group Bible study and worship with hands-on mission experiences in cities across the United States.

Missions: Properly, *missions* is evangelism that crosses cultural, language, or geographical boundaries. It is a subset of world evangelization, which begins at home, but doesn't stay at home. It is a term for reaching people unlike ourselves instead of merely staying home and taking care of our own.

Mission Trip: Often congregations will take a group of members to another place to assist the missionaries there in various projects. There are medical mission trips (physicians and nurses will go treat people who often don't receive medical care), trips to build church buildings, to PrayerWalk, to distribute Bibles and literature, to evangelize, to conduct Vacation Bible Schools, etc. These trips may be in North America or international.

Moderate: Someone who is more liberal in his theology than a conservative, but preferred not to be called a liberal. A term from the days of the conservative resurgence. Generally, these people did, in fact, believe in evangelism, were pro-life, and had traditional moral values. They would generally affirm the inspiration of Scripture, but in an approximate kind of way that saw Scripture more as man's understanding of what God had revealed instead of the very word of God. They would reject the inerrancy of the Bible. Thus, they were more neo-orthodox in their views. Compare the terms *Mainstream* and *Denominational loyalist*.

NAMB: Acronym for North American Mission Board. Often used as a word which rhymes with Lamb. See *North American Mission Board*.

New Orleans Seminary: This is, as the name states, a Southern Baptist seminary located in New Orleans.

The NET: The NET is an evangelism training tool to equip believers to share the gospel through their story/testimony. Using weekly lifestyle learning assignments, the goal is to produce a culturally relevant approach for sharing Christ in a post-Christian culture.

North American Mission Board: As their web site states, “The North American Mission Board assists Southern Baptists in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission in the United States, Canada and their territories through a national strategy for sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries, in cooperation with Acts 1:8 Partners.” The Annie Armstrong Offering supports the work of the North American Mission Board. This was formerly called the Home Mission Board.

Once Saved, Always Saved: A very unfortunate way of referring to the doctrine of the final perseverance of the saints. This poor wording implies that a person may make a profession of faith as a child, live like the devil with no repentance for an entire lifetime, and then go to Heaven – as if salvation were a matter of being forgiven and going to heaven only, and did not include the new birth. Alas, this is the wording most church members use. See *Perseverance of the Saints*.

Open Communion: Open communion means that people other than the members of that particular local congregation are allowed to participate in the observance of the Lord’s Supper. There are various degrees of openness. In some churches visitors from other Southern Baptist churches are allowed to participate, others will allow others of “like faith and order” to partake, and others any Christian from any denomination. Likewise, there are various degrees of closed communion. See *closed communion*.

Ordained, ordination: Ordination is when a church formally or officially recognizes the call of God on a man’s life to be a leader among God’s people. While this much is clearly grounded in the Scriptures, the New Testament gives no comprehensive instructions for how to ordain. Usually, a man is ordained with prayer and the laying on of hands, invoking God’s blessing upon the one ordained. A man is usually ordained in Baptist life when he begins serving his first church. In the past, this was when he had received a call to serve as pastor. Now, however, Baptists ordain those serving in non-pulpit staff positions. Prior to the ordination service, there is usually an ordination council composed of the church deacons and guest ministers, to question the candidate regarding his life and doctrine. They will vote to recommend (or not) that the church proceed with the ordination. The service itself, besides the laying on of hands with prayer, often includes Scripture reading, a charge to the minister, and a charge to the church. There is usually the presentation of an ordination certificate and an ordination Bible.

Pastor’s Conference: Associations have pastor’s (or minister’s conferences) on Mondays, generally. State Conventions have a Pastor’s conference the day (or two) preceding the start of the convention. Likewise the Southern Baptist Convention. The Pastors conferences of the state and the Southern Baptist conventions are usually large events with big-name speakers and the pastors elect their own officers.

Pastor Search Committee: When a church is in need of a new pastor, this is the committee the church appoints to seek one and to recommend him to the congregation for approval. This approval usually requires a super-majority vote, like 75%. If a Pastor Search Committee tells you something along the lines of, "We can pay only this much this year, but next year we can give you a raise," ask them to put it in writing and have the congregation approve it when they vote whether to extend a call. Remember, the Pastor Search Committee and the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee are generally different groups of people; the Pastor Search Committee may not be speaking for the Finance Committee. If they tell you the church is ready to grow and to make the necessary changes to do so, verify it. They aren't trying to deceive you, of course. It's just that church members lack training in church health and growth to have clear self-awareness. They have been in only one church for many years and lack perspective. On the other hand, serving on a Pastor Search Committee (or to search for someone to serve in another staff position) is one of the highlights in a person's life and spiritual journey. A congregation usually seeks to put its most committed Christian members on such a committee.

People of the Book: Baptists have long embraced this description of themselves that defines them by their adherence to the Bible as the "only rule for faith and practice."

Post-Tribulational/Historic Pre-millennial: An understanding of the second coming of Christ in which there is a rapture of the church, but it comes *after* a period of tribulation. The Lord's return will precede a literal reign of Christ upon the earth. Then, there is the judgment, followed by heaven or hell for all eternity to come. Post-tribulationists can find only one second coming in the Bible and believe the rapture and glorious return are the same event. This is more of a "broad-brush" understanding of the Lord's return than the more detailed pre-tribulational view. However, those who hold this view generally agree with the pre-tribulationists about many of the events to come in the last days, including Israel and a large number of the Jews turning to Jesus. This view has grown in popularity among Baptists in recent years. Compare and contrast: *amillennial, pre-tribulationa, mid-tribulational*.

Prayer Meeting: From the term, you would expect a meeting where all the people in attendance prayed. And a few churches have prayer meetings like that. However, in most congregations it's a Bible study where medical prayer "concerns" are voiced out loud and then a single person (most of the time the pastor) prays over them all. This is generally followed by a Bible study led by the pastor. It may more appropriately be called a "Medical auditory prayer and Bible study" ("MAP Bible study" for short).

Perseverance of the Saints / Final Perseverance of the Saints: As stated in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, "All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring

reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.”

PrayerWalk: PrayerWalking is to walk and pray over a geographical area – a neighborhood or town – praying “on site with insight.” It is intercessory prayer, but is also an opportunity to discern the spiritual condition of a community and its needs. PrayerWalking is often an early part of the church planting process and is often the focus of mission trips.

Preschool: Preschool is a technical Sunday School term for those who have not yet started first grade. (Thus, for the use of this term, preschoolers are not children; children are in grades 1-6.) Preschoolers break down as follows: *Younger Preschoolers* (Babies to 2-year olds); *Middle Preschoolers* (3-year olds to pre-K); and *Older Preschoolers* (Kindergarten). LifeWay curriculum uses this terminology. Preschool departments (classes) in this age division are arranged in different ways depending on the number of preschoolers. However, a common way of age-grading is as follows: Bed babies, One & two year olds, Three year olds & pre-K, and Kindergarten.

Pretribulational Premillennial, also referred to as pretrib: An understanding of the second coming of Christ in which there is a rapture of the church, a period of tribulation on earth, a restoration of the Jewish temple worship, a turning to Jesus by many Jews, and then a glorious return of Jesus. The glorious return is followed by a thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth. Then, there is the judgment, followed by heaven, and hell for all eternity to come. While this is not the oldest view in Baptist history, or even church history in general, it is the most popular view among Baptists. It has been popularized in fictional form in the *Left Behind* series of novels. Some Baptists today would consider this view to be a test of fellowship. Compare and contrast: *amillennial, posttribulational/historic premillennial, mid-tribulational*.

Priesthood of All Believers: A major emphasis in Baptist life. The teaching that all believers have direct access to God without having to go through a human intermediary other than Jesus, our great high priest. It does not mean that a person is his own priest or can pick and choose his beliefs, in effect, constructing his own religion. It doesn't mean that a believer is free from all accountability to the rest of the church; as a church is a gathered body of believers living in covenant with the Lord and with each other. Such mischaracterizations have resulted in the incorrect phrase, “priesthood of *the* believer” instead of the proper, “priesthood of *all* believers.” The New Testament passages concerning priesthood do not emphasize doctrine, but rather ministry. All believers have a priestly ministry, being involved in the ministry of representing people to God in intercessory prayer, and in representing God to people in evangelism.

Primitive Baptists: Primitive Baptists are not Southern Baptists. While some may consider Southern Baptists to be primitive – and spiritual Neanderthals, and backwoods fundamentalists, etc., the word primitive is used here as a noun, not an adjective. It is used to communicate that these Baptists regard their teachings as the earliest, or

original, Baptist teachings. They hold to hypercalvinism, rejecting the need for evangelism and missions. They believe the Great Commission applied only to the disciples of the first century. They may network informally, but they do not cooperate in a structured way. Primitive Baptists understand foot washing to be a third ordinance for the church to observe. Their pastors are usually called elders.

Profession of Faith: When a person comes to join the church, stating that he or she has come to faith in Christ, and is ready for baptism, we call that a Profession of Faith. While the New Testament speaks of confessing Christ, Southern Baptists speak of professing faith in Christ. Why? Jesus knows who is truly confessing Him, but we can't always know. We can only be sure that the person is professing to have faith in Christ.

Prospect: A person who is not enrolled in Sunday School anywhere or who does not have a relationship with Christ.

Pulpit Committee: Though now formerly known as Pastor Search Committee, this term is still often used by church members. This is a committee selected by the church to find a new pastor after the last one has left. See Pastor Search Committee.

RA's: Royal Ambassadors, a missions education and ministry for boys. This is a ministry of the Brotherhood. RA Racers are small cars the boys build and race. They also have soap box derby type races and events like the Jamborees the Boy Scouts have.

Reformed: Embracing the ideals of the Protestant Reformation and adhering to the doctrines of grace, including election and predestination. In recent years more Southern Baptists have been willing to describe themselves in this way.

Resolution: An expression of an opinion whereby the messengers attending an annual meeting of an association, a state convention or the annual Southern Baptist Convention. Resolutions use formal language and terms (Whereas, Therefore be it resolved, etc.) Resolutions are to be distinguished from motions. They express only the opinion of those gathered and voting in the affirmative. A motion may direct action.

Revival: In Baptist life, revival is usually used to describe a series of worship services in which a visiting preacher, and sometimes a visiting choir director, come to a church to lead special worship services. These services have a special emphasis placed on leading people, who do not yet have a relationship with Him, to Christ. The church members often help out by doing such things as singing in the "revival choir," bringing their friends to "pack a pew night," or serving pizza to teenagers before the service on "youth night." Sometimes the services are preceded by "cottage prayer meetings," where the members go to a member's home to pray together for the services. More biblically, "Revival is a return to spiritual health after a period of decline into sin and broken fellowship with God... Revival is for God's people when they need to be forgiven and restored to life, spiritual health, and vitality" -Blackaby & King (Fresh Encounter, Lifeway, 1993)

Ridgecrest: A large Baptist Assembly (camp) located in the hills of North Carolina and operated by LifeWay. There are training and worship events throughout the year.

Sanctity of Life Sunday: Held on the Sunday before January 22, the anniversary of the Roe versus Wade decision. On this day, Baptists, along with many others, emphasize that life begins at conception and is sacred. Sanctity of Life Sunday is a time to teach members against the sins of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. While there is a difference between prolonging life and prolonging death, life should end only upon divine appointment, not human meddling.

Samford University: A quasi-entity of the Alabama Baptist State Convention (though they receive state convention funding and consider themselves to be “allied with” the state convention, they have a self-perpetuating board and, thus, no actual accountability to the convention). Samford was founded in 1841 by Alabama Baptists and is located on a beautiful campus in Birmingham, Alabama. Unlike many Baptist universities that have completely broken ties with their Christian heritage and Baptist convention, the university continues to provide an education that is friendly to the Christian faith and free enterprise. There was a time when Samford (formerly Howard College) was more representative of grassroots Alabama Baptists. The present model differs at points from the Union University and University of Mobile model (compare www.samford.edu/mission.html to www.uu.edu/about/statement.htm and www.umobile.edu/aboutum/default.asp).

SBC: Acronym for Southern Baptist Convention. Sometimes used as shorthand for any church, state convention entity, association, etc. that would be considered Southern Baptist.

Seminaries: The Cooperative Program helps support six Southern Baptist Seminaries. These schools offer post-graduate degrees (Masters Degree, Doctor of Ministry, PhD) and associate degrees. Some of the seminaries offer bachelor programs (for example, Boyce College at Southern and Leavell College at New Orleans). The task of the seminaries is to prepare ministers to serve in our churches, in our associations, and on the mission field. This includes not only pastors, but ministers of music, students, children, education, discipleship, and more. It should be noted that each of the six seminaries has its own personality and specific academic areas for which they are known.

Shocco: Also known as Shocco Springs. A Baptist Assembly (camp) located outside Talladega, Alabama and operated as an entity of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. There are training and worship events throughout the year. Many churches rent rooms for retreats.

Soul Competency: Soul Competency is the understanding that all people are created in the image of God and, because they are spiritual beings, they have a capacity for God and a conscience. In this sense, every person is *competent* to respond to God and is

accountable to Him. Mankind was created with a capacity for God, but is fallen. In the context of the abiding results of the fall, Timothy George states, “We should speak more accurately of ‘soul incompetence.’ However, as Paul declared in Romans 1 and 2, the awareness of God in every conscience is sufficiently clear to render every human being utterly inexcusable before the bar of divine judgment.” Soul Competency is often referred to in association with the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. Soul Competency pertains to all persons while the priesthood of all believers pertains to believers only. Quote taken from: http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/FJ03/article1_fr.html

Southeastern: A Southern Baptist Seminary located in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Southern (Baptist Theological Seminary): A Southern Baptist Seminary located in Louisville, Kentucky. This was the first of the six SBC seminaries to be founded.

Southern Baptist Convention: See *convention*. Due to their embrace of the autonomy of the local church and Southern Baptists’ rejection of connectionalism, one would not refer to the Southern Baptist Church the same way one would refer to other denominations as a unit, as a whole (“The Roman Catholic Church”). Every seminary and entity of the convention is a separate organizational unit with its own charter, bylaws, and board. These board members are elected at the annual Southern Baptist Convention. Sometimes this phrase is used as a shorthand way of referring to the various churches and entities who cooperate together as a whole. There is from time to time – as there should be – discussion over whether to change the name to remove the word Southern. The word may reflect where we come from, but it does not reflect where we are or where we are going (which is, into all the world). We are not longer just in the South and no longer cling to only the traditional Southern worship styles.

Southwestern: A Southern Baptist Seminary located in Fort Worth, Texas. Abbreviated, SWBTS (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary).

State Board of Missions: The various state conventions have a “state office,” as it is often called by the rank and file, that provides training and consultation services. There is an executive director (formerly called the executive secretary-treasurer) who oversees the state office. This state office is really the State Board of Missions office. However, this is where the terminology gets confusing. The consultants (in Alabama called state missionaries) work at the board office, but they are not on the State Board of Mission. They just work at the State Board of Missions *office*. There is a State Board of Missions – a board of directors. The state board of missions is a board that sets policy and oversees the state office on behalf of the convention as they relate to the various entities of that convention.

State Convention: A state convention is to be distinguished from the local association and the Southern Baptist Convention. They have annual meetings in the fall and sponsor various entities and ministries such as colleges and universities, children’s homes, etc.

State Office: See *State Board of Missions*.

Statement, by: This is one of the ways a person can join a Southern Baptist church. A It means this person was a Baptist, moved his membership to another denomination, and now wants to join First Baptist. The person is stating that he has been saved, that he was baptized after salvation by immersion, and has been a member of a Baptist church or one of "like faith."

Summer Missionaries: The North American Mission Board deploys Baptist students each summer as "summer missionaries." These people are not necessarily interested in a career in missionary work, but *are* interested in serving God.

Sun Beams: The old, old name for Mission Friends.

Sunday School: Sunday School is the primary way a Southern Baptist church organizes for Bible study and ministry. Most churches do not even count their worship attendance, but they keep close tabs on their Sunday School attendance. In spite of the fact that small groups and cell groups and home groups have received more attention lately in some of our seminaries, Sunday School is alive and well in grass-roots Baptist life.

Sunday School Board: The old name for LifeWay.

Training Union: This is an old name for Discipleship Training, the one that came after BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union).

True Love Waits: True Love Waits® challenges teenagers and college students to make a commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage. Created by LifeWay Christian Resources, True Love Waits is designed to encourage moral purity by adhering to biblical principles.

Trustee: In local church usage: Trustees act as legal agents or representatives as directed by the church, signing all legal documents involving the purchase, sale, mortgaging and rental church property. They hold legal title to all church property and maintain an inventory of all legal documents pertaining to the church. In convention usage: It refers to the governing bodies of some convention entities. It was common for nonprofit organizations to be set up as "trusts" (a term with a specific legal meaning) – hence their governing bodies are called, "trustees." In more recent years, non-profit organizations have been set up under nonprofit corporation statutes; in these cases their governing body is called a board of directors.

Union University: An entity of the Tennessee Baptist State Convention, Union is a Baptist University committed to teaching from a biblical worldview in all departments and in all disciplines of study. As their core values state, "...our guiding vision is a call to faith, a call to be Christ centered in all that we are and in all that we do. We will seek to

build a Christian liberal arts based community where men and women can be introduced to an understanding and appreciation of God, His creation and grace, and to humanity's place of privilege and responsibility in this world. We will seek to establish all aspects of life and learning on the Word of God, leading to a firm commitment to Christ and His Kingdom."

University of Mobile: An entity of the Alabama Baptist Convention Founded in 1961, UM is a Baptist University that has a conservative theological stand and which has adopted many of the same ideas in the approach taken by Union University with a "commitment to integrating Christian faith and learning."

Vacation Bible School: The week-long school for children to learn about the Bible, to learn how to become Christians, and to enjoy Christian recreation, crafts, and music (as recently as the 1960's it was two weeks). When done correctly, VBS is regarded by most Southern Baptists as the most effective evangelism tool we have. (When done improperly such child evangelism can be a matter of making the Gospel "simpler than simple" and can often result in "picking the fruit before it is ripe.") The five days of Bible teaching are equal to between one and two months of Sunday School attendance.

Voluntary Cooperation: Baptists work together because we want to, not because someone makes us. While we do not have denominational hierarchy, we work together because we share a common Master, a common message, and a common mission.

WMU: Acronym for the Women's Missionary Union.

Women's Missionary Union: The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) is a missions education, prayer support, and involvement organization. In many local churches, this is the organization that promotes the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings. Mission Friends, GA's, Acteens, and Baptist Women are age-graded groupings of the WMU. It is an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention; that is, its governing board is not elected by the Southern Baptist Convention nor does it receive Cooperative Program funding. Like LifeWay, it derives its operating costs from the sale of literature. Founded in 1888, the Woman's Missionary Union is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. In recent years, they have changed their policies to produce curriculum for other Christian groups.

Youth: In most churches, youth means grades 7-12, though some local churches promote a student into the youth group when entering sixth grade. In LifeWay curriculum it refers to grades 7-12.