



**Good Thursday morning, my friends. I apologize for not sending out my Monday Morning Missive, but I was traveling to the State Convention, and these last three days have been non-stop. It was a great convention. I had several meetings that went very well. I was able to attend a couple of sessions of the Pastor's Conference where I heard some great preaching and music. Then the State Convention kicked off, and everything went as smoothly as you could hope. One of the things that I love about being a part of Alabama Baptists is that we have great leadership and great fellowship. Let me share a few of the highlights:**

- . Alabama Baptists once again was number one in giving to the Cooperative Program. The next highest total was over \$3 million behind us.**

- **We have exceeded our special offering goals for 2020 and 2021 in spite of the pandemic.**
- **We voted to create a Sexual Abuse Task Force to evaluate our current policies and recommend procedures to make sure that we don't get into the same situation as our National Convention.**
- **We passed a resolution (non-binding but states the sentiment of this current state convention) to ask the State Legislature to abolish abortion in Alabama. We then heard that the Legislature has already done this by passing a bill stating that no abortions can take place once the embryo has implanted itself in the womb. However, it hinges on the Supreme Court's action on the case that is before them now.**
- **And we had wonderful fellowship, elected great officers for the future, and approved 7 action steps that encourage our churches to do the work of ministry. More about that later.**

**Now, we are getting focused on the holiday**

**season. What joy fills my heart as I think about the times we will have celebrating the wonderful gifts God has given to us. Last night was a great indication of that. We met for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal prepared lovingly by Mrs. Carolyn Sudberry. It was fantastic, and the fellowship hall was once again full. Then we had a time to look over the proposed budget for 2022 and ask questions. Mrs. Linda McGuirt and her entire committee worked hard to put this “faith” budget together for us. By the way, every budget is a faith budget because we cannot see into the future. We must trust God to provide for our needs, and since He has been so gracious to us in the past, we can trust Him to continue to do so in the future – as long as we are obedient to His will.**

**There are two great ministry opportunities for all of us to be involved with in the coming months.**

- First, you will notice the Angel Tree in the hallway closest to the nursery. Please help us provide Christmas gifts for these needy families. Take however many names you want,**

**purchase the gifts, and bring them back to the church with the card attached.**

- Second, plan to help us with our Christmas FoodFest. We want to provide Christmas dinner to 120 families this year. We will need your help in several ways. If you know of a needy family, take them a copy of the form to complete. Then join us in helping on December 15 and 16. We want people who will joyfully greet each family, be willing to talk to them about their relationship with the Lord, pray with them, write a postcard to them, fill and carry boxes, etc.**

**God has been so good to us. Let's continue to serve Him well.**

**Love you all,  
Bro. Ben**