

2011 RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTED TO THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
Tuesday, November 15 Dauphin Way Baptist Church Mobile, Alabama

RESOLUTION NO. 1 ON DISASTER RELIEF

WHEREAS, On April 27, 2011, Alabama experienced the largest tornado outbreak in recorded history consisting of 62 identified tornadoes impacting communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Weather Service at least 98 tornadoes struck Alabama in April; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 47 of our Southern Baptist churches' facilities were damaged or destroyed; and

WHEREAS, 247 people in Alabama were killed and many injured by the tornadoes that devastated our state; and

WHEREAS, The response effort from disaster relief teams from throughout Alabama was overwhelming; and

WHEREAS, Disaster relief teams from our sister state conventions came to help, including Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Southern Baptists of Texas, Baptist General Convention of Texas, and

WHEREAS, Directors of missions in unaffected areas ministered to directors of missions in affected areas; and

WHEREAS, Disaster Relief teams prepared 256,147 meals, provided showers for 5,253 persons, completed 1,430 chainsaw jobs and our child crisis response teams served 350 children; and

WHEREAS, Churches, pastors and laypeople all over our state showed compassion through numerous forms of ministry; and

WHEREAS, Alabama disaster relief personnel immediately mobilized to mitigate the crisis through mass feeding, chainsaw and cleanup operations, temporary childcare, emergency communication, administration, shower and laundry ministries; and

WHEREAS, All state missionaries and ministry support personnel at the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions immediately prioritized helping with disaster relief operations; and

WHEREAS, Over 365 chaplains from Alabama and other state conventions ministered to victims of the storms and to disaster relief workers, and as they shared the gospel, over 53 people accepted Christ as Savior; and

WHEREAS, *The New York Times* recognized, "Nearly 95,000 [Southern] Baptists across the country are trained to handle disasters like hurricanes and floods." The article added that the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministry are the largest disaster relief organizations in the country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Mobile, Alabama, November 15-16, 2011, express appreciation to those involved in helping minister to persons affected by the tornadoes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express special appreciation to Mel Johnson, associate in the Office of Global Missions for his coordination of the disaster relief efforts; and be it further

(Continued on Page 2)

RESOLUTION NO. 1
ON DISASTER RELIEF (Continued)

RESOLVED, That we thank the employees of the State Board of Missions who prioritized serving disaster victims over and above all other scheduled activities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a special blessing be on all those who wore our famous yellow shirts and worked tirelessly and with distinction to feed people, cut downed trees, remove debris, tarp roofs, and offer survivors a cup of cold water in Jesus' name; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we thank the chaplains for meeting spiritual and emotional needs and for sharing Christ with the people who made professions of faith; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we also thank all Christians who displayed the love of Christ by doing whatever they could to help victims after the tornadoes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we thank the North American Mission Board for sending emergency funds contributed by Southern Baptists to help churches and victims of the tornadoes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we especially thank the churches of Alabama and other states for their sacrificial gifts to assist and meet the needs of people and to help rebuild churches in our state; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we especially thank everyone for their prayers during this major crisis.

RESOLUTION NO. 2
ON PROTECTING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE IN ALABAMA (As Amended)

WHEREAS, Scripture reveals all human life is created in the image of God and therefore sacred to our Creator (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 9:6); and

WHEREAS, The Bible affirms that the unborn baby is a person bearing the image of God from the moment of conception (Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 49:5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44); and

WHEREAS, Scripture commands the people of God to plead for protection of the innocent and justice for the fatherless (Psalm 72:12-14; Psalm 82:3; James 1:27); and

WHEREAS, During the 2011 regular session of the Alabama Legislature, the newly elected Legislature introduced 15 separate legislative bills for the protection of unborn life; and

WHEREAS, The 2011 Alabama Legislature gave significant attention to protecting the unborn human life in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, The Alabama Baptist State Convention is committed to protecting the lives of the unborn and to supporting all legislative and legal efforts to protect the lives of the unborn; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Mobile, Alabama, November 15-16, 2011, reaffirm our commitment to the protection of the lives of the unborn; and be it further

RESOLVED, We thank the 2011 Alabama Legislature and the Governor for their efforts to protect unborn life; and be it further

RESOLVED, We commend the 2011 Alabama Legislature and the Governor for protecting the unborn child by passing the Alabama Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which recognizes that the unborn child can feel pain at about 20 weeks and that abortions after that time would be prohibited; and be it further

RESOLVED, We applaud the 2011 Alabama Legislature and the Governor for their resolution commending crisis pregnancy centers in the State of Alabama for ministering to women in crisis pregnancies, resulting in saving the lives of many unborn children, and for the propagation of the Gospel to those women, their families and friends; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Alabama legislators in the 2012 regular session introduce and pass strong pro-life bills which protect the unborn in a judicious and effective manner; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Legislature pass a proposed amendment to the Alabama Constitution for submission to Alabama voters, which would recognize the life of the unborn child from conception as a person under Alabama law; and be it further

RESOLVED, We support legislation to be introduced in the 2012 regular session of the Alabama Legislature to include, though not necessarily be limited to, bills to protect the rights of conscience of healthcare providers who may be required to participate in an abortion, strengthening of regulations of abortion clinics in the State of Alabama, prohibiting the prescribing of abortifacients over the internet, opting out of federally mandated abortion funding and other legislation which will protect the lives of the unborn; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge our Alabama Baptist churches to remain vigilant in the protection of human life by preaching on the matters of the sanctity of human life and by encouraging and empowering Alabama Baptists to adopt children from unwanted pregnancies; by providing spiritual, emotional and financial support for women in crisis pregnancies; and by calling on our government officials to take action to protect the lives of women and their children; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That all Christians in the State of Alabama commit to continuous prayer and supplication for the divine intervention of God to protect the lives of innocent unborn children.

RESOLUTION NO. 3
ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, Popular movements calling for greater freedom and democracy are afoot in nations such as Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Pakistan, Iran, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia, the governments of which deny their citizens religious liberty; and

WHEREAS, Many others in the Islamic world are denied the right to convert from Islam, because Sharia law makes such conversion a crime subject to penalties as severe as capital punishment; and

WHEREAS, Others around the world suffering under totalitarian regimes are denied the right to worship freely; and

WHEREAS, The diplomatic, economic, and military engagement of the United States of America in some of these countries brings with it a unique responsibility to promote religious liberty; and

WHEREAS, Advocacy for religious liberty is crucial not only abroad but also at home; and

WHEREAS, The rapidly changing religious diversity in the United States makes it important to reassert what Baptists have affirmed historically about complete religious liberty for all persons and a free church in a free state; and

WHEREAS, This conviction is grounded in the teaching of our Lord Jesus who declared that His Kingdom is "not of this world" (John 18:36), and that His followers are to love their enemies (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27); and

WHEREAS, The transformation of the heart comes through the action of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-8), and thus cannot be legislated or forced; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to confront spiritual matters with carnal, coercive means are both morally wrong and counter-productive (2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:12); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Mobile, Alabama, November 15-16, 2011, restate our long-standing view that religious liberty is an inalienable human right, rooted in the image of God and possessed by all human beings; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm that this freedom entails the civil liberty to convert to another religion or to no religion, to seek to persuade others of the claims of one's religion, and to worship without harassment or impediment from the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose the imposition of any system of jurisprudence by which people of different faiths do not enjoy the same legal rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we deny that any government should use any coercive measure to restrict religious speech or worship, based on the theological content of that speech or worship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on the United States government to maintain complete religious liberty for all Americans, as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we petition our political and diplomatic leaders to make religious liberty for all people a priority in decisions of foreign policy and international aid; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are now persecuted, imprisoned, or facing execution for their testimony of faith in Jesus.

2011 RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTED TO THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
Wednesday, November 16 Dauphin Way Baptist Church Mobile, Alabama

RESOLUTION NO. 4 ON DEFENSE OF THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that God has ordained marriage only to be between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6) and it is sin to engage in a homosexual relationship (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-27; I Corinthians 6:9-10); and

WHEREAS, The Alabama Baptist State Convention has consistently defined the marriage relationship to be between one man and one woman, both by its teachings and its resolutions; and

WHEREAS, The Alabama Baptist State Convention supported the "Sanctity of Marriage Amendment," Article I, Section 36.03(e), which was approved by Alabama voters in June 2006 and provides the State of Alabama will not permit same-sex marriages or relationships replicating marriage (civil unions), and specifically states "the State of Alabama shall not recognize as valid any marriage of parties of the same sex that occurred or was alleged to have occurred as a result of the law of any jurisdiction regardless of whether a marriage license was issued;" and

WHEREAS, The 104th United States Congress passed and President William J. Clinton signed into law the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 (DOMA); and

WHEREAS, DOMA defines marriage for federal law as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife;" and

WHEREAS, More and more states, either through legislation or judicial change, are recognizing same-sex marriage; and

WHEREAS, In protecting the rights of individual states, DOMA recognizes Article IV, Section 1, of the United States Constitution, the full faith and credit clause, may require sister states to give full

faith and credit to the laws of other states concerning same-sex marriage or a union replicating marriage (civil union); and

WHEREAS, DOMA protects individual states from having the definition of marriage forced on them by another state; and

WHEREAS, DOMA, the Alabama Sanctity of Marriage Amendment, and the full faith and credit clause of the United States Constitution operate to protect marriage between one man and one woman in the State of Alabama, as well as other states; and

WHEREAS, The President and the Attorney General are refusing to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities to defend DOMA against legal challenges now arising in numerous federal courts; and

WHEREAS, Those who support same-sex marriage and the repeal of all laws against it recognize the President and the Attorney General as allies in repealing DOMA and otherwise seeking judicial precedent to find its unconstitutionality; and

WHEREAS, DOMA is the subject of legislation in the present Congress, the 112th Congress, to repeal DOMA; and

WHEREAS, DOMA was an appropriate enactment by the 104th Congress to provide uniform laws to protect the institution of traditional marriage in the United States and DOMA was a legal and constitutional enactment; and

WHEREAS, Some in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government are seeking

(Continued on Page 2)

RESOLUTION NO. 4
ON DEFENSE OF THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT (Continued)

to redefine marriage to include same-sex marriage and to undermine the biblical foundation of a marriage between one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, The efforts of public officials to legalize same-sex marriage will result in myriad religious liberty and freedom of conscience conflicts, which will not only affect the family itself and its importance to the culture, but will regulate and restrict the ability of ministers of the Gospel to preach the requirements of Scripture; and

WHEREAS, The family is the most important pillar to the strength and safety of the United States as a godly and free nation; and

WHEREAS, the demise of DOMA will be corrosive to the integrity of the family and the strength of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Mobile, Alabama, November 15-16, 2011, affirm our support for DOMA; and be it further

RESOLVED, We request the Alabama Congressional Delegation to actively oppose any repeal or modification of DOMA which would remove the protection that only marriages between a man and a woman shall be permitted in the United States and that no other form of marriage or union replicating marriage will be permitted between persons of the same sex; and be it further

RESOLVED, The President of the United States, the United States Congress and the Office of the United

States Attorney General recognize the right that Alabama has to protect its public policy of the sanctity of marriage against any efforts by the United States government or any other state requiring the State of Alabama to give full faith and credit that would be contrary to Alabama's stated public policy; and be it further

RESOLVED, We call upon Alabama Baptist pastors to encourage their members to communicate with their respective members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States and to the Attorney General of the United States their support for DOMA; and be it further

RESOLVED, We call upon citizens in the State of Alabama to communicate with their respective members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States and to the Attorney General of the United States their support for DOMA; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, and members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, We call upon Alabama Baptists to demonstrate our love for those practicing homosexuality by sharing with them the forgiving and transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 6:9-11); and be it finally

RESOLVED, We call upon Christians everywhere to be in continuing prayer for preservation of the sanctity of marriage.

RESOLUTION NO. 5
ON THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE

WHEREAS, 2 Timothy 3:16 teaches that “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”; and

WHEREAS, Psalm 119:105 declares that God’s Word is “a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”; and

WHEREAS, God’s written word has been revealed in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, which in God’s providence can be translated into other languages so that all nations may hear and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and

WHEREAS, During the sixteenth century William Tyndale and other godly persons produced English versions of the Bible faithful to the original languages, even at the cost of their lives; and

WHEREAS, A team of translators in the Tyndale tradition produced the King James Version of the Bible (1611); and

WHEREAS, The King James Version has been used worldwide by committed servants of God to evangelize lost persons and disciple believers; and

WHEREAS, The churches of the Alabama Baptist State Convention have cherished this translation because God has seen fit to use the King James Version to undergird the preaching, evangelizing, discipleship, and mission efforts of the churches of the Alabama Baptist State Convention since its founding in 1823; and

WHEREAS, Churches around the world, and especially English-speaking peoples, celebrate this year the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible; and

WHEREAS, In recent decades God has raised up numerous Bible-honoring and evangelical translations of God’s Holy Word that have aided evangelism and discipleship among Alabama Baptists; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Mobile, Alabama, November 15-16, 2011, give thanks to God, who in his kind providence raised up William Tyndale and others through whose labors the King James Version of God’s Word came to be; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we preserve the memory and the unique benefits of the King James Version and commend these benefits to succeeding generations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for God to continue to raise up faithful translators of God’s Word in our and succeeding generations of believers, both in the United States and around the world; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we use these translations of God-breathed Scripture in God-honoring ministry as we continue to hold fast to the special treasure that is the King James Version of the Bible.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6
ON APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, The messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention have enjoyed a time of encouragement, cooperation and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the Lord's providence for all those blessings; and

WHEREAS, We have felt the presence of God in all the proceedings of this Convention; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the work of our local Baptist churches, the Mobile Baptist Association, the committees and volunteers of the area for their diligent efforts, services and accommodations to make our stay a pleasant and rewarding one; and

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

WHEREAS, We especially acknowledge the work and leadership of our president, Mike Shaw, vice-presidents, John Killian and Travis Coleman, the other officers, various committees, Convention speakers, musicians, and other platform personnel to conduct the affairs of this Convention with dignity and a Christ-like spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Mobile, Alabama, November 15-16, 2011, express our profound gratitude to the Lord and to those whom He used to bring about a Convention characterized by God's blessings.

RESOLUTION NO. 7
ON APPRECIATION FOR PAUL MILLER

WHEREAS, While on the battlefield in Vietnam, Paul Miller surrendered to God's call to do Christian childcare; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller has faithfully served the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries for thirty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller has touched the lives of thousands of needy children and families through his work with the Children's Homes & Family Ministries; and

WHEREAS, He has consistently shown a great attitude of service for his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, His commitment to Jesus Christ, the Children's Homes & Family Ministries and the Alabama Baptist State Convention has been clearly demonstrated far beyond the borders of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, He has practiced wise stewardship in handling the funds contributed directly from Baptist churches and through the Cooperative Program for the care of children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Mobile, Alabama, November 15-16, 2011, first express our gratitude to God for Paul Miller; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all Alabama Baptists to pray for Paul Miller and the continued ministry of the Children's Homes & Family Ministries; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we wish for Paul Miller and his wife, Diane, a wonderful retirement and special blessings upon his life and family.