

# The Southern Baptist Convention Call to Solemn Assembly

## *Renewing Our Covenant Commitments to Jesus Christ*

### January 2011

The Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 15, 2010, recommended that pastors lead their “church by calling a Solemn Assembly in January 2011 for the purpose of calling Christ’s people to return to God, to repentance, and to humility in service to a renewed commitment to Christ and the Great Commission.” The following are suggestions to assist pastors in leading a time of repentance and renewed commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **I. Prepare for a Solemn Assembly**

- A. Identify and enlist a leadership team of two or more including the pastor.
- B. Study “The Call to Prayer and Solemn Assembly” issued to Southern Baptists in 1989
- C. Pray for the Lord’s specific directions for your church.
- D. Communicate to the entire membership the necessity of participation.
- E. Reproduce or purchase copies of the *Consecrate the People* booklet for all students and adults. You have permission to print your own, print quantities for your church, e-mail the booklet, translate and print, or you may purchase copies in packs of 10 at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

#### **II. Sunday #1: Call a Solemn Assembly**

- A. Using the example of the Ezra/Nehemiah revival (Nehemiah 8–9), call your church to a time of solemn assembly where you renew your covenant commitments to Jesus Christ.
- B. Explain the goals of (1) becoming the people God desires us to be and (2) consecrating ourselves to Him for His divine purposes.
- C. Explain the importance of preparing ourselves individually and corporately to be holy and acceptable, living sacrifices to present to our Lord (Romans 12:1).
- D. Distribute *Consecrate the People* and together agree to faithfully use it to prepare this week.

#### **III. During the Week: Consecrate the People**

- A. Individually work through *Consecrate the People*, renew your first love for Christ, confess and repent of known sin, and prepare to renew your covenant commitments to Christ.
- B. Provide a small-group opportunity for people to share victories, confess sin to one another in same-gender groupings of two or three, and pray for one another in final preparation for the solemn assembly. This could be done in Sunday school classes prior to the solemn assembly.

#### **IV. Sunday #2: Conduct a Solemn Assembly**

- A. Acknowledge God’s presence, holiness, sovereignty, love, and mercy.
- B. Remember Christ’s love by paying for our sins on the cross. Reflect on the difference He has made in your lives because of forgiveness, redemption, and salvation.
- C. Identify Christ’s invitation to consecration and full surrender to Him.
- D. Provide for corporate confession, repentance, and prayer. (For example: invite people to confess sin by standing if they have identified idols of the heart. Then ask a leader to pray for cleansing, forgiveness, and restoration for those standing.)
- E. Guide people to make final preparations in a time of prayer and meditation.
- F. Extend an invitation for people to acknowledge their consecration and full surrender to Christ.
- G. Sing “I Surrender All” (or a similar song of commitment).
- H. Renew your covenant commitments to Jesus Christ. Read Scriptures and guide the congregation in responsive commitment to be the people God asks us to be (*Consecrate*, p. 16).
- I. Celebrate Christ and the New Covenant He has provided by His blood.