

## 7. GAMBRELL AND FROST RECOMMEND SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

At the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1891, Dr. J. M. Frost and Dr. J. B. Gambrell were appointed a special sub-committee to formulate the report for the Convention's Sunday School Committee. In a closed hotel room, the two, representing opposing views, finally reached this agreement. Frost could write the report, provided Gambrell could write the last paragraph, provided further that Frost could add one last sentence. Gambrell's last paragraph made clear that the fullest freedom of choice be accorded to everyone as to what literature he would use or support. Dr. Frost added the last sentence urging brethren to give the Board fair consideration, and in no case to obstruct it in the great work assigned to it.

The artist has Dr. Frost seated at the table in a very pensive mood, with Dr. Gambrell standing presenting his viewpoint. Together, they work out the wording of the report which was adopted, and brought into being the Sunday School Board. Dr. Frost was elected the first executive secretary of the Board, and opened offices in Nashville, Tennessee, July 1, 1891.

### The Artist says:

Two *different personalities*, but both dedicated Christians assigned to a specific task for the Lord's kingdom must be shown along with a touch of the divergent viewpoints.

The more introspective, smaller in stature Frost, with an intense expression of concern and concentration over the report is shown in contrast with the physically larger, more robust Gambrell extrovertively making his will known with the pointed finger to the report.

The open Bible centered on the canvas between the two figures is forever a reminder of the final authority of whatever might be projected by the Sunday School Board through these two Baptist stalwarts.

The wonderful arm of our denomination, the Sunday School Board, strong, and ever-growing stronger, can certainly point to the truth in the Scripture, *Matthew 7:25*.

*And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.*