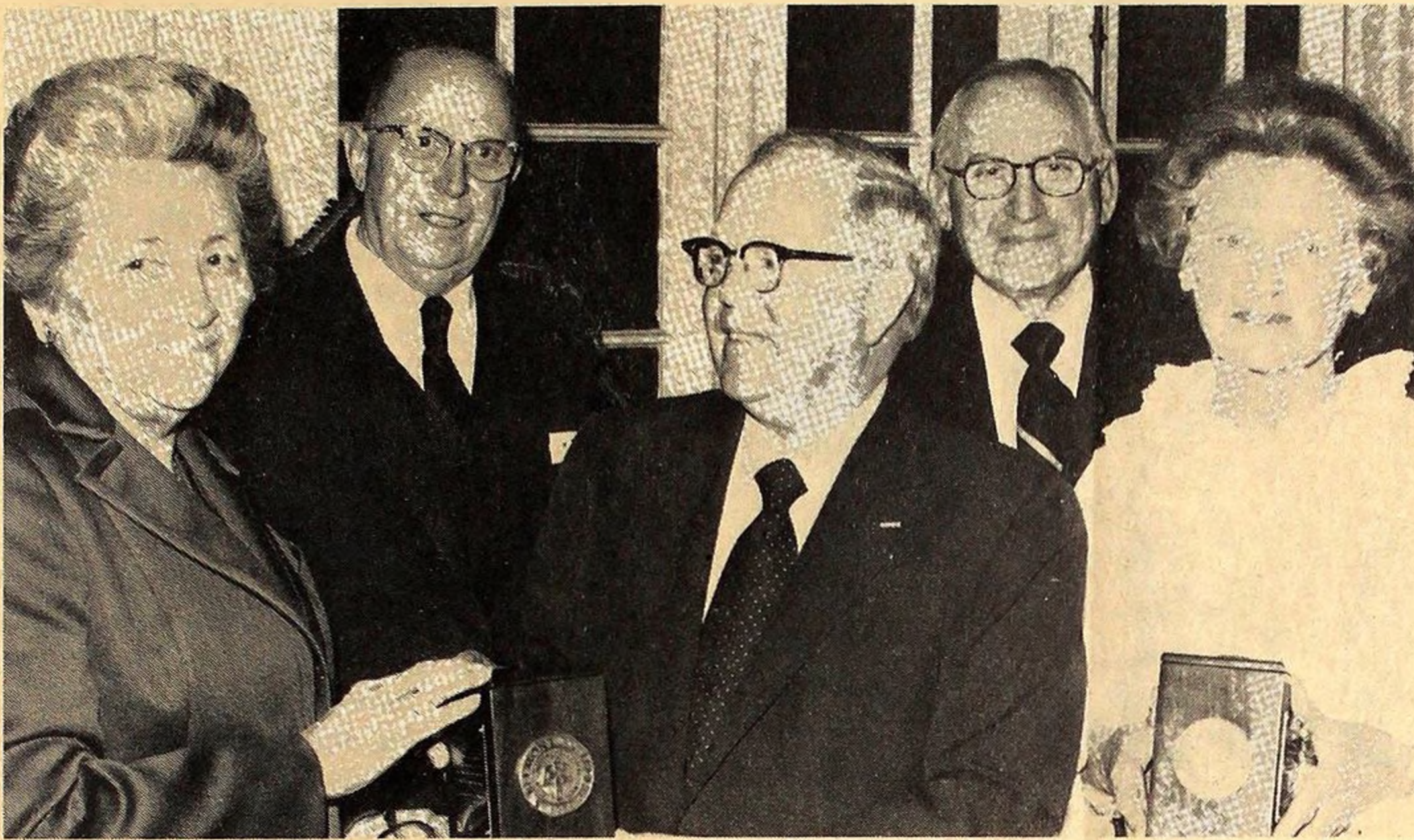


Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 144/No. 13/March 30, 1978

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



FIRST AWARDS—J. Sam Ridley (center) chairman of Belmont College trustees presents a Lemuel B. Stevens Collegiatus award to Mrs. Stirton Oman (left) in honor of her late husband. Also receiving an award was Albert Maloney (second from left). Participating in the inaugural ceremonies were Mrs. Stevens (right) and Herbert Gabhart, president of the college.

Belmont starts Collegiatus award

Belmont College, Nashville, officially inaugurated the Lemuel B. Stevens Collegiatus awards at a banquet March 23 on the Baptist college campus. The award will go annually to individuals "whose support of higher education has been of special relevancy and significant continuity in the life of the college."

First recipients of the Collegiatus were the late Stirton Oman and Albert B. Maloney.

The Collegiatus idea was originated by the Board of Trustees as a way to honor those who have assisted the college. The Lemuel B. Stevens family of Nashville has endowed the award with a gift of stocks valued at approximately \$20,000, according to Herbert C. Gabhart, college president. Stevens, who died in February of 1977, served as chairman of the trustees as well as many other Baptist boards and committees.

One or two Collegiatus awards will be made each year by the trustees at a banquet for present and former trustees.

Before his death on March 19, 1977, Stirton Oman was chairman of the board of Oman Construction Co. He was an active Baptist layman who contributed financially and physically to Belmont College and a number of other Baptist institutions. He served as president of the Southern Baptist

Foundation.

Albert B. Maloney founded an accounting firm, which originally bore his name but now has been merged with Ernst and Ernst. Among his benefits to the college has been the gift of a classroom in the Center for Business Administration.

The first annual Collegiatus awards were presented by Sam Ridley, chairman of the college trustees, to Maloney and to Mrs. Oman in honor of her late husband. Assisting in the award ceremony was Mrs. Lem Stevens, widow of the man for whom the award is named.

The name of the award is derived from the Latin word for "colleague."

Heart attack hits Grady Wilson, listed in serious condition

Grady Wilson, associate evangelist for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team, suffered a massive heart attack Thursday morning, March 23, near his home in Charlotte, N.C.

He was taken to a small country hospital near Charlotte on Thursday where he was listed in serious condition.

No further word was received by **Baptist and Reflector** on the 58-year-old evangelist's condition at press time.

Youth dominate RA Congress

The focal speakers were not pastors or denominational leaders. Nor were they celebrities or athletic superstars. They were, rather, young men in elementary, junior high, and senior high school, who came to Nashville this past weekend to tell other Royal Ambassadors like themselves that it is their mission to be bold witnesses for Christ.

A major part of the 24th Royal Ambassador Congress, which met at Two Rivers Church on Friday and Saturday, was the speakers' tournaments for crusaders (grades 4-6), pioneer adventure (grades 7-9), and ambassador service (grades 10-12).

Placing first in the ambassador service division was Robbie Beam, Inskip Church, Knoxville. Speaking on "We Are Ambassadors for Christ," the east Tennessee student explained that RAs "should show the love of God in every aspect of our life." He compared Christian ambassadors to ambassadors of foreign countries and said, "An ambassador of a certain country does not just tell what the people of that country think. He becomes that country on a small scale." He said that the only way to represent or act in the place of someone, is to act exactly as they would act. "The mission of God is so urgent that if we serve Him and

(Continued on page 5)



TOP SPEAKERS—Speaker tournament winners at last weekend's state Royal Ambassador Congress in Nashville were, from left: Phillip Lane, Newport; Robbie Beam, Knoxville; and Bryan Campbell, Knoxville.

Anita Bryant to speak, sing at SBC Pastors' Conference

ATLANTA—The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which includes an opening night address by singer Anita Bryant, will emphasize the old-fashioned evangelistic spirit when it convenes at the Georgia World Congress Center, June 11-12.

Miss Bryant's address and sermons by Fred W. Sampson, black pastor of Tabernacle Church, Detroit, Mich., and John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., will highlight the conference's opening session, Sunday night, June 11.

Three more sessions on Monday, June 12, will also feature high-powered preaching and a wide array of music, according to Pastors' Conference president, Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

The conference, addressing itself to theme, "The Urgent Need for Christ Today," will close Monday night with a sermon by James Robison, evangelist from Hurst, Tex., "which we hope will send people away with a new excitement about sharing their faith," Smith said. "The world needs Christ, needs renewed emphasis on evangelism if Southern Baptists are to accomplish our Bold Mission Thrust goal to proclaim Christ to the entire world in this century."

Other program participants include Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; Baker J. Cauthen, executive director, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission



ANITA BRYANT
Invited to Atlanta conference

Board, Richmond, Va.; W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; Don Moore, pastor, Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark.; Billy Weber, pastor, Northway Baptist Church, Dallas; Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Sam Cathey, evangelist, Owassa, Okla.; James T. Draper Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; and Tom Eliff, pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Special testimonies will come from David Ring, an evangelist from Liberty, Mo., who suffers from cerebral palsy; Marolyn Ford of Huttig, Ark., pastors' wife and author of *These Blind Eyes See*, who says a miracle returned sight to eyes not medically capable of seeing; and country music performer Wanda Jackson, who will sing, and her husband Wendell Goodman, a lay preacher, both of Del City, Okla. (BP)

Wade Brown returns to pastorate at Mt. Calvary Church, Whitwell

Wade Brown, pastor of Daus Church, Daus, for the past three years, has returned to his former pastorate at Mt. Calvary Church, Whitwell. Both churches are in Sequatchie Valley Association.

Brown also served as a pastor in Georgia and is a native of Trenton, Ga. He has been active in associational work, serving previously on the missions committee for Sequatchie Valley Association.

The new pastor succeeds R. W. Janeway in the Mt. Calvary pulpit.

Stewardship Commission elects new chairman

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Robert H. Botts, a layman from Wichita, Kans., was elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission during its annual meeting here.

The commission also adopted a record \$1,271,700 budget; promoted Jim Powell from associate director to director of Co-operative Program Promotion effective Oct. 1; and elected officers.

David C. (Bill) Bates, a layman from Pineville, La., was re-elected to a one year term as vice chairman and Eugene Fleming, pastor of First Church, Franklin, Ky., was re-elected secretary. Fleming served churches at Cross Plains, Portland, and Fayetteville in Tennessee before going to Kentucky.

A. R. Fagan, the commission's executive director-treasurer, said the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust effort to present the gospel to every person by the year 2000 has "increased demands on staff and material sales considerably as our churches seek assistance in undergirding their own financial base."

Increased demands prompted the addition of seven commission staff members last year, including five for the "Together We Build" program that provides capital needs fund raising consultation services to churches and agencies. Fagan said the program raised \$21.6 million in gifts last year.

Fagan emphasized the money raised was in the form of gifts, not loans that need to be paid back—with interest. He said "Southern Baptists are paying more in interest on church debt than we give in all missions offerings together, on all levels." The interest SBC churches pay annually is close to \$300-million. (BP)

Belmont receives grants from west coast groups

Belmont College, Nashville, has received its second grant from west coast organizations in two months, according to Wayne Robbins, college vice-president.

In February, the Tennessee Baptist college was granted \$7,500 from Getty Oil Co. Another award of \$7,500 was received this month from the Kenneth and Clara Murchison Foundation of Huntington Beach, Cal.

Both grants will go toward a proposed student center.

Robbins said that the two gifts represent the first corporate and foundation contribution ever received by Belmont College from the west coast. "This means that our support is truly national now," he added, "because we are also receiving funds from New York, Florida, and many areas in the central part of our country. Such a scope is essential since Belmont College does not accept federal or state tax support."

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SBC pre-registration to close May 6

ATLANTA—May 6 is the deadline for persons wishing to pre-register as “messengers” to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-15, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The Atlanta convention is the second year of an experimental attempt to shorten registration lines at the convention city by pre-registering persons elected as messengers by Southern Baptist churches.

Pre-registrants may receive an SBC “Book of Reports,” official messenger badge and official computer card ballots for SBC business sessions by sending a filled-out pre-registration form and a check for \$2.50, made out to SBC Executive Committee, to SBC Pre-Registration, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37217. Additional members of the same family may register for only \$1, provided only one “Book of Reports” is desired for the family.

“To protect the integrity of the SBC voting process, both persons who pre-register for the convention or register at the regular time in Atlanta are responsible for taking care of their messenger badges and ballots,” said Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary. “Lost badges and ballots will not be replaced, but additional copies of the ‘Book of Reports’ may be purchased.”

Pre-registration forms are available from the offices of state Baptist executive secretaries or from the March, 1978, issue of the **Baptist Program** magazine, published by the Executive Committee. Each person must fill out a separate pre-registration form and have it signed by the moderator or clerk of the church which elected that person as a messenger to the convention.

Under the SBC constitution, no church may elect more than 10 messengers to the convention. Each church cooperating with the convention is eligible to appoint at least one messenger. One additional messenger, up to the limit of 10, is allowed for each 250 members in the church or for each \$250 paid by the church to the work of the convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting. (BP)

Hermitage pastor, Gary Baker, goes to east Tennessee church

Gary Baker, pastor, New Hope Church, Hermitage, for the past six years, was called as pastor of Central Church, Alcoa. He preached his first sermon in Alcoa Easter Sunday.

A native of Knoxville, Baker is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and earned the M.Div. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was a student pastor in Indiana while attending seminary.

Atlanta WMU session to focus on response to world needs

ATLANTA—Participants in the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will “think on” a variety of world needs and individual responses to those needs when they gather in the Atlanta Civic Center, June 11-12.

Convening under a theme, “Think on These Things,” the SBC woman's auxiliary will devote its Sunday, June 11, session, which begins at 5:30 p.m., to confronting the world needs which precipitated the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goal. During Monday morning, afternoon, and evening sessions, the program will focus on ways individuals have and may respond to those needs. Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC plan to let everyone in the world hear the message of Christ by the year 2000.

Four representatives of the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Boards will lead a Sunday “discovery” feature which will outline world needs. They are Beverly Hammack, assistant director, Christian social ministries, and Dan B. Martin, editor of the news service, both of the Home Mission Board, and William R. Wakefield, secretary for Southeast Asia, and Davis L. Saunders, secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, both of the Foreign Mission Board.

Special features during Monday sessions include interviews with career missionaries, short-term mission volunteers, and church WMU leaders by Mrs. Charles Caldwell, a lecturer, of Houston, Tex., exploring individual responses to need.

Other program features include major addresses by John R. Cheyne of the Foreign Mission Board, on world hunger; Grady C. Cothen, president, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, who will close the meeting with a challenge to respond to Bold Mission; and Mrs. Elizabeth Newby, an author and lecturer from Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Newby, who spent her childhood in a migrant worker's family, will discuss how Christians may move from the receiving to the giving end of missions.

Helen E. Falls, professor of missions at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead worship at each session; Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, national WMU executive director, will deliver her annual report; Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., national WMU president, will lead a special prayer of commitment to world needs during the Sunday session; and Mrs. Robert Calvert, Piedmont, Ala., will lead a feature presentation on “Baptist Women Year in the Church,” a WMU emphasis for 1978-79. (BP)

Jonesboro church calls McCurry

Kingsport native Frank McCurry was called as pastor of Bethany Church, Jonesboro.

He is a former pastor of Long Island Church, Kingsport, and has held other pastorates in Virginia and Tennessee.



NEW ORLEANS LEADERS—James Porch (center) and John Adams (right) discuss New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with President Landrum Leavell during a recent meeting of alumni officers. Porch, pastor of Tullahoma's First Church, is president of Tennessee alumni, while Adams, pastor of McKenzie's First Church, is treasurer of the national alumni association.

Our People and Our Churches . . .

CHURCHES . . .

Cherry Grove Church, Jonesboro, broke ground earlier this month for a sanctuary. The building committee consists of **Jim Stout**, chairman; **Hazen Arnold**, **Clyde Story**, **Ricky Freeman**, and **Bill Broyles**. **C. W. Snodgrass** is pastor.

Memorial Church, Nashville, began a Royal Ambassador chapter last month. Since its initiation, the group has recruited 16 boys. **Verlon W. Moore** is pastor.

The congregation of Howell Hill Church, William Carey Association, moved out of the community center into a renovated building recently. **Ed Blackburn** is pastor.

Construction is scheduled to begin this week on a sanctuary and educational space for Brentwood Church, Brentwood, according to pastor **Bill Wilson**. Ground breaking was held earlier this month. Clarence Shaub Construction Co., Nashville, is the contractor, and **Bill Shelton**, Brentwood, is architect. **Wilson** estimated the construction cost at \$1.5 million. **Joe Brantley** is chairman of the building committee.

First Church, Clinton, organized a Brotherhood. **Sam Dean** is pastor.

Bethel Church, Beulah Association, completed construction on two Sunday School rooms. The church membership also voted to purchase new church furniture. **Clark Brown** is pastor.

Members of Southside Church, New Duck River Association, held 20th anniversary services earlier this month. The church's first pastor, **J. O. Hogan**, Fairfield, Ala., was with the congregation. **Ray Winsett** is pastor.

The Swan's Chapel congregation, Jefferson County Association, is worshipping in their new auditorium. Built at a cost of approximately \$100,000, the structure will seat 350 persons.

PEOPLE . . .

First Church, Manchester, ordained **John R. Gilbert** to the gospel ministry earlier this month. The ordination sermon was preached by **James Barry**. **Gilbert** has accepted the call of a church in Liberty, Mo., where he will serve as minister of education. He also plans to attend Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. **Murphy Martin** is pastor of the Manchester church.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Park, Panama City, Fla., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. **Park** served as pastor of White Oak Church, Chattanooga, from 1948 until 1951. He is now retired.

Lee Paul is scheduled to be ordained to the gospel ministry by East Athens Church, McMinn-Meigs Association, on Sunday, April 2. **Paul** is on the staff of a church in Richmond, Va. **Bob Peek** is pastor of East Athens.

West View Church, Athens, ordained **Phillips Oliver** and **Karl McKeehan** as deacons. **Earl Barnes** is pastor.

William H. Fincannon and **Ken Burnett** were ordained as deacons at Broadway Church, Knoxville, this month. Pastor **Marion C. Barnett** led the service and preached the ordination sermon.

LEADERSHIP . . .

Eric S. Hinson is the new minister of music and youth at Hopewell Church, Cleveland. **Hinson** is a 1975 graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, with a bachelor's degree in music. Before coming to Hopewell, he was part-time minister of music for Madison Heights Church, Madison. He is a native of Nashville and grew up in Eastland Church. **William M. Walker Jr.** is pastor at Hopewell.

Stan Heiser was called as associate minister to Brook Hollow Church, Nashville. He will have major responsibilities in education and youth. **Heiser** comes from First Church, Martinsville, (Va.) where he has served as minister of education and youth for nearly five years. It will be his first opportunity for service in Tennessee. The Pennsylvania native is a graduate of Highpoint College (N.C.) and earned the M.Div. degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. **John B. Daley** is pastor at Brook Hollow.

Woodbury Road Church, Murfreesboro, called **Charles Robbins** as minister of music and youth. He is already on the field. **Lesley McClure** is pastor.

Steve Angus resigned as pastor at Mars Hill Church, New Duck River Association.

Bucky Phillips, music and youth director at Shelbyville Mills Church, Shelbyville, resigned and plans to open a book store in Murfreesboro.

Tommy Webster resigned as assistant to the pastor, minister of music, youth, and education at Speedway Terrace Church, Memphis. He has accepted the call as minister of music and youth at Kensington Church in the same city.

Bill Enoch resigned as pastor at Cedar Grove Church, Wilson County Association, to accept the call of Indian Creek Church in Flippen, Ky.

Charles Houston resigned as pastor of Prospect Church, William Carey Association.

Unity Church, Luray, called **Phil Jones** as youth director. **Jones** is a senior at Union University. **Clyde Tilley**, professor of religion and philosophy at Union, is interim pastor at Unity.

Ronnie Smith resigned as pastor of Bellwood Church, Wilson County Association.

A. Tom Crawford is serving the Fall Creek Church, Kingsport, as interim pastor.

Malesus Church, Malesus, called **Barry Wilson**, a senior at Union University, Jackson, as youth director.

Doug McPherson resigned as pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Chilhowee Association, to accept the call as associate pastor and minister to adults at First Church, Pasadena, Texas. **McPherson** led the Cedar Grove Church for over three years.

James H. Lawhorn resigned as pastor of Ellejoy Church, Seymour. He served the church for two years and plans to do supply work.



PROVIDES CAR—First Church of Alamo has purchased a new car for the exclusive use of the pastor, **Gayle Alexander**, and his family. The automobile is furnished along with all expenses and upkeep. The members said they wanted the church to assume full responsibility for local ministry.

Missionaries injured in Tanzania accident

KIBAHA, Tanzania—Two Southern Baptist missionaries to Tanzania were hospitalized, one in serious condition, after a car accident March 23 in this East African community.

The accident occurred as three missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Jack G. Partain and Mrs. Tom W. McMillan, were en route from Dar Es Salaam, about 20 miles east of Kibaha, to Arusha, where they are stationed. Traveling in an early morning rainstorm, they hit a truck which had stopped in the road.

Mrs. Partain was listed in serious condition in the intensive care unit at Muhimbili Hospital in Dar Es Salaam. She was semi-conscious and suffering from a broken nose and right arm. X-rays showed no skull fracture, but a ruptured spleen was suspected.

Mrs. McMillan has been hospitalized with fractures in the left arm and left side of her pelvis.

Partain, who was driving, suffered lacerations, cuts, and abrasions about the face but was not hospitalized. (BP)

Carter warns Soviet Union during Wake Forest speech

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—President Jimmy Carter issued a clear warning to the Soviet Union when he told a Wake Forest University audience that "we will not allow any other nation to gain military superiority over us."

Carter, the fifth president to speak at the Southern Baptist university, said America must balance the olive branch and the sword to preserve its security. But he said, "Even as we search for agreement on arms control, we will modernize our strategic system and revitalize our conventional forces."

The president said America's defense policies will be carried out by maintaining strategic nuclear balance, strengthening European defenses, and developing forces to counter threats to America's allies and vital interests throughout the world. (BP)

Broadway pastor to speak to West Tennessee pastors

Bobby Moore, pastor of Broadway Church in Memphis, will speak on "The Pastor and His Devotional Life" at the West Tennessee Pastors' Conference April 3. The pastors will meet at 11:15 a.m. on the Union University campus, Jackson.

The Memphis church was recognized recently by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as one of the fastest growing churches in the SBC.

During the April 3 meeting, the conference will elect new officers for next year.

Youth dominate RA Congress

(Continued from page 1)

represent Him, we must also act as He would! We must let God's will be done instead of our own," he concluded.

Ken Brown, Monte Vista Church, Maryville, was awarded second place in the ambassador service division. He spoke on "The Great Person: A Growing Garden."

"Christ's Missionary Command," a speech given by Phillip Lane, Riverview Church, Newport, received top votes in the pioneer adventure division.

Requirements noted

Lane said, succinctly, that for a Royal Ambassador to fulfill the command of Christ to go and teach all nations, he must: be saved, be willing to surrender his life to Jesus, become a well informed responsible follower of Christ, realize that Christ loves everyone, study methods for sharing the gospel, keep himself clean and healthy in mind and body, and be willing to be molding clay for the Master.

Second place pioneer adventure votes went to Jay Mullins, Cumberland Church, Knoxville.

In the youngest division (crusaders), Bryan Campbell, also a member of Cumberland Church in Knox County, earned first place for his speech on "What Makes a Great Person?"

He compared greatness in the eyes of man with greatness in the sight of God. He then explained that RAs fit into both categories because they love the Lord and also try to love their neighbors as themselves. Qualifying for "greatness" requires following the will of God, he reminded his fellow RAs.

SEBTS elects two to faculty, launches new music program

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected two new faculty members, adopted a record budget for 1978-79, and added a church music emphasis to the seminary's basic master of divinity degree during their semi-annual meeting.

G. Thomas Halbrooks, a native of Tupelo, Miss., was elected assistant professor of church history. Elected as professor of church music was James W. Good, a native of Roanoke, Va.

Trustees approved a budget of more than \$2,845,000. The basic funding for the new budget comes from the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, which will provide \$2,084,409.

Responding to a growing need for trained music leadership in the churches, the trustees voted to establish an emphasis in church music within the existing master of divinity degree program. The new three-year program will begin in the fall of 1978 with an initial faculty of three members. (BP)

David Wood, Judson Church, Nashville, was second place winner in the crusader division with his speech "Teaching All Nations."

Thomas named president

New officers elected for 1978-79 were: president Randy Thomas; secretary Barny Danks; interest activities leader Roger Scott; and mission activities leader Dennis Dearing. All are members of Central Church, Chattanooga. Ricky Denton led the RAs as president during 1977-78.

During the presentation of awards, Scenic Hills Church, Memphis, and Central Church, Chattanooga, tied for first place with the largest group present. Both churches brought 38 boys.

Archie King, state Brotherhood director, in a closing message to the group Saturday, said that although we live in a day of spiritual difficulty, it is a day of opportunity for the Christian.

Explaining the concept of Bold Mission Thrust to the boys and young men, King said in order for them to fill the place God has for them, they would need to meet certain requirements.

Have purpose, be available

First, he said, the boys should determine in their heart to have a high and noble purpose. "Don't let the world defile you," he challenged. "You may be one of the over 5,000 missionaries needed by the Southern Baptist Convention by the year 2000." He also told the attenders to be in the center of God's will, learn the lordship of Jesus Christ in their total manhood, and be available to respond to God's call.

Numerous activities throughout the congress included a campcraft rodeo, pinewood derby, track meets, basketball throw, missions fair, films, chapter meetings, and a puppet show. Mission conferences were offered on several phases of work in the convention.

Model airplane enthusiast Jim Lynch, Cherry Road Church, Memphis, displayed his collection during the congress and gave a personal testimony at the Friday night session. Referring to his model planes, Lynch said that when a person turns something over to Jesus Christ, He can do things with it that the person cannot do.

Over \$400 was raised in the congress offering for the purchase of a motorcycle to be used in the disaster relief program of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. King explained to the boys and their counselors that a motorcycle could be used in ministry following tornadoes and similar disasters. The total cost of the motorcycle and equipment needed is \$946, King said.

Music director for the congress was Joe Morgan, a member of Two Rivers. Bill Highsmith, Belmont Heights Church, Nashville, assisted in the arrangement of the program.

Single awareness seminar scheduled at Chattanooga church, April 21-22

A single awareness seminar, for single adults, teachers and workers with singles, and those interested in a singles' ministry, will be held at Red Bank Church in Chattanooga April 21-22, according to Wendell Price, director, Sunday School department, Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Jordan

The seminar is scheduled to begin Friday evening at 6:30 with dinner. Saturday sessions will convene at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

A major address on "The Theology of Singleness/Wholeness" will be delivered Friday evening by Ferris Jordan, associate pastor, Two Rivers Church, Nashville. Two Rivers is noted for its work in singles' programs, with an enrollment of nearly 200

persons. Jordan will also lead conferences in: balancing the tension-toward marriage and beginning a Sunday School ministry with single adults.

Other conferences will focus on: growing in my spiritual life; identifying my spiritual gifts; building positive awareness; single adults: persons; learning to share faith, ministry, witness; and singles specials—activities, projects, programs.

Afternoon sessions will delve into outreach, ministry, and Bible study.

Other conference leaders scheduled include: Frank Butler, minister of education, First Church, Auburn, Ala.; Tim Holcomb, minister to college and single adults at First Church, Jackson, Miss.; Frances Price, special worker, Sunday School department, TBC; Price; Charles E. Wilson, minister of education, Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky.; and Robert H. Wilson, minister of education at Red Bank Church.

Special musical testimony will be brought by members of Red Bank and Brainerd churches in Chattanooga.

Reservations for the seminar should be made through the state Sunday School department, P.O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027, Price said.

Church music clinics offered next month

Two methods and materials clinics, for choir directors and church music teachers, will be offered in Tennessee next month, according to Frank Charton, state church music director.



Bedsole

The first clinic will be held at First Church, Jackson, and at Union University April 10-11. First Church, Athens, will host the second clinic, April 13.

The first session in Jackson will begin at 4 p.m. on Monday, with adjournment scheduled for 9 p.m. Tuesday morning instruction will be at Union University from 9 until 11:00.

Directors and leaders attending training in Athens will begin their study Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and adjourn at 9 p.m.

Personnel scheduled for both clinics include: Richard Ham, older children's director; Betty Bedsole, preschool and younger children's director; Jim Gibson, youth and adult director; and Gerald Armstrong, instrumental director. The faculty members are music consultants in the church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Six more churches add state paper in budgets

Six Tennessee Baptist churches have placed the **Baptist and Reflector** in their budgets.

The churches, pastors, and associations are:

First Church, Hixson, Bobby Douglas, Hamilton Association;

Wolfe Creek Church, Silver Point, Donnie E. Agee, Salem Association;

Central Church, Erwin, Kelter Mullins, Holston Association;

Old Friendship Church, Finger, John W. Lowe, Madison-Chester Association;

Greenlawn Church, Greeneville, William D. Tranbarger, Holston Association;

Pleasant Hill Church, Sparta, Bob Vickers, Union Association.

Three additional churches are participating in the **Baptist and Reflector** through the trial plan.

The churches, pastors, and associations are:

New Home Church, Martin, James O. Green, Beulah Association;

Memorial Church, Crossville, O. M. Dangeau, interim pastor, Cumberland Plateau Association;

Grace Church, Knoxville, E. V. Cullum, Knox Association.

Under the trial plan the **Baptist and Reflector** will be sent to each resident family in a church for two months. During that time, the church is requested to vote in business meeting whether or not to continue the publication at the regular price.

Interpretation

The betrayal of Jesus

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master, and kissed him"—Matthew 26:49

With His prayer vigil in Gethsemane finished, Jesus was now ready to be arrested by His enemies. From the upper room Judas had gone to Caiaphas, the high priest, who furnished him with a group of temple guards. In order to prevent a possible riot a group of Roman soldiers accompanied them. Temple guards did not carry swords but staves or clubs. Note the "swords" (soldiers) and "staves" (police) in Matthew 26:47. They probably went to the upper room. Failing to find Jesus they went to Gethsemane. Since Jesus often went there with His disciples (John 18:2), Judas surmised that he would find Him there.

In all likelihood the temple police knew Jesus. But to prevent any mistake, they had a prearranged sign by which Judas would identify Him. He was to kiss Him. This adds all the more to the heinous nature of his deed.

Jesus was waiting for them, probably near the entrance to the garden. Immediately

Judas went to Him and kissed Him. The Greek word means he "kissed Him much." The usual idea is that he kissed Jesus on the cheek. But since he addressed Him as "master" or "teacher," he possibly kissed His hand. This was the usual way that a pupil greeted his teacher. Note that Judas called Jesus "teacher," not "Lord." He never called Him "Lord." To him Jesus was just another rabbi.

The evil of this deed is seen all the more in the greeting "Hail." The Greek word is **chaire**. It carries the idea of joy and gladness. This word was an expression of good will, like our "Good Morning" or "I am glad to see you." The Greeks used this word in greeting someone. The Jews used **Shalom**, peace. However we take it, it was a gesture of feigned friendship. But it was spoken here in subtle enmity. Judas had done his evil work; he had fulfilled his bargain to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave.

By professing to love Jesus while running with His enemies, do we not also betray Him? For what price are you doing this?

Tenn. pastor completes first course on 'women'

NASHVILLE—Ken Jordan doesn't say that his mind has been changed. But studying a new Seminary Extension course on women in the church, he says, "opened my mind to some things that I had been blind to for a long time."

Jordan, pastor of the First Church, Bruce-ton, is the first person to complete the new-est course of the Seminary Extension De-partment of the Southern Baptist Con-vention's six theological seminaries. That leaves him one course short of the 16 required for Seminary Extension's diploma in pastoral ministries.

"I had taken several courses in church his-tory," Jordan says, "but had never realized the important role women had taken in making our denomination the great denomi-nation it is today. I recommend this course to all pastors, especially to those who think they already know what the Bible says about the woman's role in the church."

The study guide for the course, written by Mrs. Huber L. Drumwright of Fort Worth, Tex., includes separate discussions on wom-en in the Bible, in Southern Baptist history, in contemporary society, and in Baptist churches today.

Since the course was released in January of this year, 205 persons have enrolled to study it by correspondence through Seminary Extension's Home Study Institute. Based on average course enrollments for several re-cent years, "Women in the Church" already has become one of the 10 most popular Seminary Extension courses for 1977-78. (BP)

Construction underway after fire at Cardiff

Cardiff Church, Big Emory Association, began construction on a church building this month, according to pastor Robert Maxwell.

The church's former building was de-stroyed by fire last November after the congregation had completed \$5,000 in im-provements on the facility. The cause of the fire was never determined, Maxwell stated.

Maxwell also said that insurance paid only \$28,000 toward the new building since the old facility, construction in 1899, was only a frame exterior. The congregation has been meeting in the Pond Grove School in Rockwood since the disaster.

The new facility will include a full base-ment, auditorium, 12 Sunday School rooms, baptistry, study, kitchen, and location for a library. Carl East, Rockwood, is serving as architect and contractor.

Maxwell expressed appreciation to churches and groups who had responded to the church's need for funds.

Ft. Worth-Nashville satellite link planned during radio-TV workshop

A satellite demonstration, the first trans-mission from the Fort Worth studios of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Com-mission in Fort Worth, will highlight a three-day "cram course" in religious broad-casting for Baptist pastors.

The satellite demonstration will be held the final day of the Fifth Annual Radio, Television, and Cable Consultation April 24-26. The consultation is sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission.

Paul M. Stevens, commission president, said the demonstration will originate from the television studio in the commission's new production center.

Excerpts from the Radio and Television Commission's newest religious programs will be beamed from Fort Worth to an audience of Southern Baptist leaders gathered at First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Sessions during the three-day consultation will study methods of media advertising for Bold Missions, writing for radio and tele-vision, audience response to the television worship service, a look at the local station, and the church, and a look at the potential of cable television.

Panel discussions during the sessions will explore the possibilities of the local church on cable, methods of marketing, and de-velopment of better station relations.

For information about attending the Fifth Annual Radio, Television and Cable Con-sultation contact James Holcomb, Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76150.

HISTORICALLY FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

C. D. Creasman was moving to Lewisburg where he would serve as pastor. He was a former pastor of Third Church, Nashville, and Island Home Church, Knoxville.

F. R. Barnaby was the new pastor of Bluff City church.

25 YEARS AGO

Ground was broken for the new Madison-East addition to Baptist Me-morial Hospital, Memphis. It would increase the hospital's bed capacity to 750.

About 75 laymen of McLean Church, Memphis, constructed a frame building for their Intermediates on March 21. Beginning at 6 a.m. and working until 7 p.m., the men finished the structure estimated at a cost of \$10,000. It contained an assembly room with a seating capacity of 100 and 12 small classrooms.

10 YEARS AGO

H. S. McKenzie, chairman of the business department of Carson-New-man College, Jefferson City, received an appointment under the Fulbright Program to become a consultant in management to the Government of Cyprus. He and his family expected to leave the states in August.

W. L. Smith Sr. planned to retire from the active pastorate because of health reasons. He had been pastor of Woodland Heights Church, Chatta-nooga, for 25 years.

Devotional

At the feet of Jesus

By Patra Kolwyck

The account of Jesus visiting in the home of Martha and Mary is heart warming. (Luke 10:38-42 KJV)

We are told in other Scripture that Jesus loved Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus. There seemed to be an intimate friendship between them, and their home was one where Jesus was welcomed.

On this occasion Martha was preparing the best meal possible for Jesus while Mary sat at His feet. We would suppose listening to Him. Martha, concerned that her sister was not helping her, asked Jesus to bid her do so. She was chided by His words: "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, that shall not be taken away from her."

Had Jesus come to your house, would you have identified with Martha or Mary? He has come to your house if He has come into your heart. We can sit at His feet and fellowship with Him in prayer and learn from Him in Bible study. Are we often too busy? Home duties, business, social life, and church activities can leave little time for that "good part."

The story should teach us that He is more concerned with doing something for us than what we do for Him. We need to sit at His feet to ask for His guidance, and praise Him for the privilege.

Mrs. Kolwyck is a long-time member of Brainerd Church, Chattanooga.

Anti-obscenity law: a learning experience

Barring an unexpected veto by Gov. Ray Blanton, Tennessee will have one of the strongest anti-obscenity laws of any state in the union. The widely debated bill was passed overwhelmingly by both houses of the General Assembly—94-2 in the House of Representatives on March 15, and 29-4 in the Senate on March 22.

The anti-obscenity bill grew out of a joint Senate-House committee which was authorized by the 1977 General Assembly. The committee held hearings in Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville.

The citizens of the Volunteer State were anxious to see stronger laws enacted which would curtail the growing proliferation of pornography. Large crowds turned up at each hearing. Members of the study committee were bombarded with thousands of letters—the vast majority of which urged extensive changes in the state's weak anti-obscenity laws.

The study committee responded favorably to this public outcry. A proposed bill was drafted by the committee—containing more than 60 pages—which was even stronger than most citizens would have dared to expect.

Encouraged by the proposed legislation, regional organizations sprung up in the state to urge legislators to pass the bill into law.

Additional hearings were held by legislative committees. Amendments were made by these committees and on the floor of both houses prior to passage. In all, more than 150 changes were made in the original proposal drafted by the study committee.

The most unkind charge was that legislators were afraid of

the bill's provisions—but **even more afraid** of voter reaction if they failed to pass the bill. If this is true, it is good news and bad news—**good** that our elected representatives are listening to the desires of the people; **bad** that our representatives do not have the same deep convictions of their constituency!

Even if our new anti-obscenity law is declared unconstitutional by the courts and is never used to convict any obscenity offenders, there are several lessons that must be learned by this experience.

First, the citizens of the state are very concerned about our inept laws dealing with obscenity.

Then, the citizens of Tennessee have become most impatient with recent sessions of the General Assembly which have ignored any attempts to pass stronger anti-obscenity laws.

And, concerned citizens are really the ultimate lobby—not A lobby, but **THE** lobby. They do not profit directly from the passage of such laws, as do the special interest lobbies. Their concern is for a healthy, wholesome environment in which to live and to raise their families.

The passage of the new anti-obscenity law should be a tremendous encouragement to Tennesseans, because we have found that our legislators will listen to average citizens, if we will make our convictions known.

The pastor's car

Perhaps other Tennessee churches have done something similar, but the action taken by First Church of Alamo is unique and is commendable.

The church has purchased a new automobile for the exclusive use of its pastor and his family. The church will also furnish all expenses and upkeep for the new vehicle. The car will be replaced approximately every two years.

The action is a recognition of the excessive demand on a pastor's car in taking him on visitation, to hospitals, to meetings, and to many other activities which his duties require.

Many churches are somewhat aware of this professional expense, and do provide an item in the church budget for travel or automobile expense. However, this amount is usually inadequate when you consider the **miles traveled** on church business and the **rising cost of car expenses**.

And, tragically, most churches consider the budget's automobile allowance as a part of the "pastor's compensation"—lumping it with salary and housing allowance. What salesman would want the reimbursement from his employer for business expense **deducted from his salary**!

Unfortunately, too many pastors wear out their personal automobiles performing their ministries, while their churches provide little more than gasoline costs.

Ask your pastor how many miles he drove last year on church business. Remember that even Internal Revenue Service allows 17 cents a mile for the first 15,000 miles, and 10 cents a mile above that distance!

Make sure your church allows **at least** that IRS provision. Or better yet, seriously consider **providing a car** for your pastor.

God's Invitation for Reunion



Cicero's comment



By the editor

Cicero was chatting with two friends at a Sunday School workers' conference—**Les Word**, a new teacher, and **Philip Thyme**, who has taught a class for 33 years.

Les said that he was enjoying his teaching assignment, but he had one major problem—**how do you fill 50 minutes of class time every Sunday?**

"That's no problem," Philip overflowed. "Let me share with you my time-consuming . . . I mean, time-honored techniques."

He suggested that teachers convince the department director to have an **opening assembly**. "The time it takes to get everybody together, to sing a hymn or two, to make the announcements, and then go to class uses about 15 minutes."

When the class convenes, Thyme said the teacher can wait up to 10 minutes before starting, claiming to have seen other class members in opening assembly.

Class officers are a big help, he added. "Get the most talkative member elected as class president. The longer he talks, the less time you have to talk!" He also encouraged Les Word to elect a lot of officers—and call on each of them to make a report each Sunday. "Even if they don't have reports to make, just asking them for reports can take up to one minute per officer."

Philip Thyme noted the importance of **knowing the class members**. "When you know their hang-ups and pet peeves, it is easy to ask a question or to make a comment which will get them started on a filibuster."

Preparation is important, Thyme intoned. "Go to class with a list of **questions**, such as, 'How did your favorite sports team do this week?' or 'Have you ever seen the weather so cold (or so hot or so average)?' or 'Did anyone make an out-of-town trip this week?'"

Another time-filling technique Phil shared is to get a copy of that Sunday's **church bulletin** and read the announcements and even the order of service to the class."

"Encourage your class members to bring **different translations** of the Bible. You can use a lot of time by having every member to read the Scripture passage from all those translations."

Philip Thyme's last suggestion was to prepare **one good lesson** on any general religious theme. "With just a little initiative and practice, you can bring any lesson around to that subject."

Letters to the Editor . . .

Letters on any religion-related subject are welcomed. Letters of over 300 words will not be used. Other letters may be shortened at the discretion of the editor. No unsigned letters will be printed, but writer's name will be withheld for sufficient reason. Letters must contain complete address.

Waverly says "Thanks"

Dear editor:

On behalf of Baptists of Waverly, I want to thank Tennessee Baptists for the generous support we received following the tragic explosion of Feb. 24. We received calls and letters from churches across our state. The prayers of Tennessee Baptists strengthened our hands for the task thrust upon us.

Being a part of the fellowship of Tennessee Baptists was a lifeline of support in crisis. The **Baptist and Reflector**, missions, and brotherhood departments had representatives here on the scene immediately. Other departments called to express their concern. These were messengers of God embodying the living hope which is in Christ. Our burdens were not lightened, but our shoulders were greatly strengthened by the companionship of these men.

We remain grateful to Ralph Norton and Tom Madden for the \$2,000 check appropriated for disaster relief. Henceforth, the Golden State Missions Offering will be more than a campaign for us.

Other Tennessee Baptist churches have been generous in sending financial help. We "thank God for every remembrance" of these special blessings.

God has reassured us through our Baptist brothers that, "Truly our God is sufficient." We continue to thank God that we were here to minister in Christ's name. We ask for your continuing prayers.

Maurice Coleman, pastor
First Baptist Church
Waverly, TN 37185

Write the trustees

Dear editor:

I loved and respected the majority of the professors that I had in college. I am saying that we need to safeguard our hiring procedures to help weed out the "wolves in sheep's clothing" (Matt. 7:15). The way it is now our college presidents' hands are pretty well tied by legal technicalities.

Lost professors should **not** be able to hold teaching or leadership positions in our Baptist schools. Some liberals would tell me not to judge. I am not judging; I am just telling it like it is! You can not convince me that a person who teaches that Jesus was just a man or refutes the virgin birth is saved (Acts 4:12).

The Bible instructs us not to judge, but to be fruit inspectors (Matt. 7:16-20; I John

4:1-4). We must see that our students are exposed to professors that are **sold out** to Jesus and who help **strengthen** the students' faith in Him, not weaken or destroy it.

I strongly challenge **every** pastor and born-again believer to write the presidents and each trustee of our Tennessee Baptist schools and encourage them to draw up a contract that would prevent us from having a problem like the one the University of Richmond now has. Will you readers get **involved** for the cause of Christ? If we don't stand by our beliefs and let them be known, we shouldn't complain about what is going on! Actions speak louder than words! Just a few minutes of your time to write a few letters could have a great impact for the glory of Christ by preventing false teachers in our schools. I would suggest that the editor print the names and addresses of each of our Tennessee Baptist college presidents and Board of Trustee members.

Jimmy H. Davis
P.O. Box 237
Savannah, TN 38372

The names of trustees and directors of every Tennessee Baptist Convention board and committee were printed in our Oct. 6, 1977, issue with additions in our Dec. 1, 1977, issue. These names are also printed in the TBC "Annual" each year which is sent to every church. To get an up-to-date listing of trustees and directors, as well as addresses, you can write directly to these institutions or agencies.

Drop the matter

Dear editor:

I read Richard Moore's letter (March 16). Before the next person sends a retort to Moore for criticizing W. W. Bass for criticizing Raye Maddox (Feb. 23) for criticizing Cicero (Feb. 9) for criticizing E. Van Gell (Jan. 19)—I would suggest we drop the whole matter.

A. A. Carlton
Rt. 4
Lenoir City, TN 37711

Good idea! (editor)

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR
brings you news first

80-year-old widow from Virginia gives \$50,000 to home missions

ATLANTA—An 80-year-old widow from Virginia has sent a hand-written letter and a \$50,000 personal check to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board designated for the Baptist seminary in Puerto Rico.

The woman, who has a premonition she will not live long, asked to remain anonymous until after her death.

Oscar Romo, director of language missions for the board, said the gift will help secure a large central facility for the seminary's classes. Students have been meeting in extension centers and a small second floor apartment.

Seminary facilities in Puerto Rico allow young pastors to remain there and serve struggling churches while equipping themselves through theological and pastoral training, Romo said.

Having lived a simple life since her husband died 40 years ago, the widow worried about what her church, friends, and family might think about her gift.

Although she always tithed and gave to special offerings, she lived plainly—never owning a car, eating at home, making her

own clothes, fixing her own hair.

She never earned more than \$1.13 an hour, yet managed to save enough for the gift to the Home Mission Board, as well as enough to support herself until she dies.

William G. Tanner, executive director of the Home Mission Board, was amazed when he found the widow's letter and check in the day's mail. He said the gift's coming just before the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions excited him about the possibilities of the future.

Some people have wondered and worried about sources for funding the newly formed Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps which hopes to place 5,000 volunteer short-term missionaries by 1982, Tanner explained.

"Some worry about sponsors to meet the financial challenge of MSC. But if an 80-year-old widow can send a \$50,000 check unannounced, then we don't need to worry about funding for MSC. It will come." Funds will come from the volunteers or from donors who wish to support a volunteer over and above their regular contributions. (BP)

Georgia board affirms trustee responsibility

ATLANTA—The Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Committee meeting in quarterly session, adopted a strong statement reaffirming trustee government of Georgia Baptist schools and refused to require professors to sign articles of faith similar to those Southern Baptist Convention seminary professors must sign.

The Executive Committee reaffirmed its long standing policy that "convention-elected trustees are the responsible group to make policy for employment of personnel and policy for magnification of state convention adopted objectives of the colleges."

It added: "Baptist principles and polity, it appears, would not support the requirement of the signing of creeds by any person, or statement of Baptist beliefs by non-Baptists." The Executive Committee was concerned also that to require signing of a statement of beliefs by the professors would "seriously threaten the accreditation of our colleges."

The issue was raised in November 1977 when the Mallery Association presented the Georgia Baptist Convention with a resolution that would require professors in Georgia's Baptist schools to sign statements of belief. The resolution was referred to committee until the March meeting when it was rejected.

The committee adopted a long set of goals for Georgia churches in Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' effort to present the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000. They include a 10 percent increase in baptisms, Sunday School enrollment, and annual special mission offerings by 1982.

Also approved were goals of 282 new church-type missions by 1982, 300 career missionaries, 300 Mission Service Corps volunteers, 10,000 short-term mission volunteers and an annual 20 percent increase in Cooperative Program giving.

Georgia Baptist Convention leaders gave "enthusiastic" support for Mission Service Corps promotion in Georgia "through normal channels." Mission Service Corps is the SBC program to put 5,000 short term volunteers on the field as missionaries at home and abroad by 1982.

The statement said that the Georgia Baptist Convention will receive and disburse Mission Service Corps funds as designated but will not fund a Mission Service Corps volunteer, solicit funds for a Mission Service Corps volunteer or project, nor promote a special offering for Mission Service Corps volunteers and/or service projects. (BP)

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**BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR
brings you news first**

SWBTS honors Naylor, adopts record budget

FORT WORTH, Texas—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approved a record \$7.3-million budget for 1978-79 and paid special tribute to long-time president Robert E. Naylor in their semi-annual meeting.

Naylor, who is retiring in August after 20 years as president of the world's largest theological seminary, was honored at a special dinner. The trustees presented the Naylor family with a gift trip around the world, a new automobile, and made provision for a supplement to his retirement income.

The board elected John P. Newport as professor of philosophy of religion, bringing him back to the seminary from Rice University. Newport, a noted authority on Christianity and contemporary art forms, had served on the seminary faculty from 1952 until 1976.

The board also voted to continue the contract of long-time professor of church history, Robert Baker. Baker, who has passed the normal retirement age, has been extended a continuing teaching contract for the past several years.

The record budget of \$7,325,991 is a 13 percent increase over the current budget. It includes cost of living salary increases for faculty and staff and designates 73 percent for instruction and the rest for administration and physical plant needs. (BP)

Oklahoma divests ownership of three more hospitals

OKLAHOMA CITY—The board of directors for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma has started necessary action to divest the convention of ownership of hospitals at Enid, Grove, and Miami, Okla., and to transfer ownership to the Oklahoma Health Care Corporation.

Divestiture action is already underway to turn over the Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City to Baptist Medical Center of Oklahoma Inc., a nonprofit, nonstock corporation composed primarily of Baptist laymen and ministers.

Transfer of the three smaller hospitals is subject to certain conditions imposed by the convention and to the approval of the Oklahoma Health Planning Commission. The hospitals will continue to be identified as Baptist hospitals.

The board of directors in their December 1977 meeting said that continued operation of hospitals by Oklahoma Baptists has become "impractical" because of continuing and increasing encroachments "by the federal government and other entities" on the convention's ability to exercise operational control over the hospitals. (BP)

Phoenix church's class of 20 shut-ins 'attends' Sunday School via telephone

PHOENIX, Ariz.—Every Sunday at 9 a.m. a Phoenix telephone operator calls about 20 persons and asks them to stay on the line. At 9:30 a.m., with everyone waiting, the operator dials First Southern Baptist Church and tells Cecil Stewart that his class is ready.

This telephone conference call, designed for shut-ins who cannot attend church, is perhaps the most unusual Sunday School class in Arizona. Stewart, 74, said the idea came from a similar class in another state. The shut-ins "were all for it," he says.

Each class costs 40 cents per person. The

church pays the fee and buys lesson materials, published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Stewart, an ordained minister, begins the class by calling roll and greeting each listener. Then prayer is said, and he gives the lesson.

One of the class listeners will occasionally be asked to pray or read the Scripture, but "I can't encourage class participation because of the time," he says of the half-hour class.

Only twice has the class been interrupted. Once a woman listener became sick and hurriedly hung up, leaving the receiver off its cradle. A loud squawking sound soon drowned out the lesson. The other time was for trouble on the line.

Mrs. Jesse Dodd, confined to her home most of the time because of a heart problem, said that she "lives for it (the class) from Sunday to Sunday."

Another class member recently told Stewart, "I am blind in one eye and can see very little out of the other eye and have a bad heart and can't get around much. I miss going to Sunday School and church. I was a teacher for many, many years up until my health gave way two years ago. Thank you again for the wonderful lesson." (BP)

Billy Graham school to be held in Memphis

A crusade school of evangelism will be held at Bellevue Church in Memphis, May 8-12, in conjunction with the mid-South Billy Graham Crusade, which will be held in that city May 7-14.

Kenneth Chafin, pastor, South Main Church, Houston, will serve as dean for the school. Chafin, a former seminary professor and director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board, spoke to Baptists at the 1978 state evangelism conference in Nashville last January.

Noble W. Scroggins, a member of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team, will direct the school.

Seminars and messages will present ideas for effective evangelism in local churches. Persons attending the school of evangelism will assist during the crusade.

Anyone interested in information should contact Scroggins at the Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism, 1300 Harmon Place, Minneapolis, MN 55403, according to Malcolm McDow, state evangelism director.

New BSSB computer system to eliminate duplications

DALLAS—A computerized system of mailing lists that will save Southern Baptist agencies thousands of dollars by eliminating duplicate lists will be in operation by Aug. 1.

The new system, operated and maintained by the Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., was revealed at a business session of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association in Dallas.

"The system also will enlarge the capacity of the Sunday School Board's services, enabling it to provide more specialized and selective types of mailing lists than were available to our agencies in the past," explained Van Simpson, manager of the board's systems department. (BP)

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Pulpit To Pew

By Jim Griffith

Little in this life is original. As the saying goes: "There is nothing new under the sun." Preachers who "borrow" sermons from other preachers were among the first to realize this.

It was said by one well-known preacher: "When better books of sermons are published, I will preach better sermons."

I read of another preacher who was equally as honest about it. His sermons were so dull and poorly prepared the congregation voted to give him notice.

The young minister pleaded for one more chance. "See what you think of my sermon next Sunday," he asked. "If you're not satisfied, I'll leave."

To everyone's surprise, the sermon was outstanding and so inspired the congregation, the pastor was retained and given a raise.

The chairman of deacons said, "That was the finest sermon I ever heard—but one thing puzzles me. As you began speaking, you raised two fingers of both hands. Why?"

"Those," said the young preacher, "were the quotation marks."

Ruschlikon president faces major problems

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland—Isam E. (Dick) Ballenger faces two major problems as he officially takes over the presidency of Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon in March.

Ballenger, a Southern Baptist missionary, must cope both with a money crisis and with the difficulties imposed by Switzerland's stiff quota system for foreigners, which limits the number of foreign faculty members the seminary can have. Because of the system, used to protect the Swiss labor market, Ballenger had difficulties getting his own visa renewed and recently another Southern Baptist missionary's visa was denied.

As the seminary's interim president since last summer, Ballenger has already become well acquainted with the 28-year-old school's financial problems, too.

"The American dollar is at an all-time low, and the costs of goods and services here are extremely high," he explained in an interview in his Ruschlikon office.

During its February meeting, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted to give the seminary an additional \$48,730 to cover a 1977 deficit in its operating budget. The institution is sponsored by Southern Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board in close cooperation with European Baptist unions.

Ballenger said it has been difficult for the institution, which has 55 full-time students, to collect much in tuition because the students could get instruction free or much cheaper in public institutions.

The other problem, Switzerland's quota system for foreigners, recently led to the denial of a visa for E. Wesley Miller, the Foreign Mission Board's mass media representative for Europe. Miller's office has been at Ruschlikon and he has occasionally taught courses at the institution, which offers bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees and special studies programs. But upon completion of missionary furlough, his visa application was reviewed and denied. (BP)

Alabama pastor named to work at Whitwell

M. J. Buddy Strickland, former Alabama pastor is serving as pastor of South Whitwell Church, Whitwell.

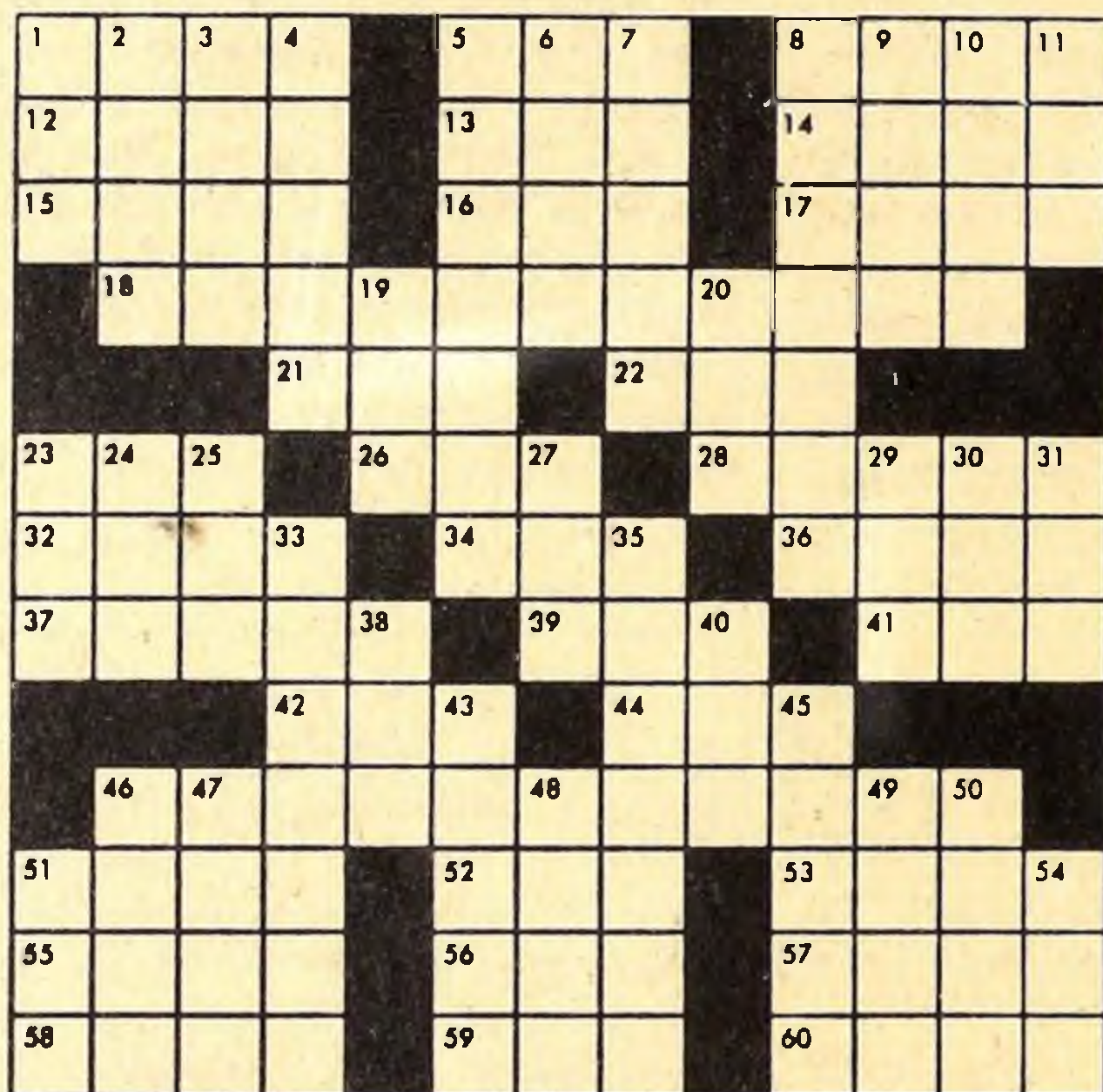
While in Alabama, he was pastor of Bethany Church in Section. He also served other churches in the state. The Whitwell pastorate is his first in Tennessee.

He was a member of the Executive Board of the Alabama Baptist State Convention and served as moderator and vice moderator for Sand Mountain Association in that state.

He is a native of Rossville, Ga.

Bible Puzzle

Answers on page 14



ACROSS

- 1 Stifle
- 5 "under a —"
- (Luke 8)
- 8 Son of Onam
- (1 Chron. 2:28)
- 12 Textile screw pines
- 13 Air: comb. form
- 14 Indonesian island
- 15 Tree of Ceylon
- 16 Most of bride
- 17 "great — Babylon"
- (Rev. 18)
- 18 "For we — —"
- (2 Cor. 5)
- 21 Wire measure
- 22 Metal (Ezek. 27:12)
- 23 An abomination
- (Lev. 11:19)
- 26 Oriental holiday

- 28 Brick material
- (Ex. 5:7)
- 32 Seer (Amos 7:12)
- 34 Thickened fruit juice
- 36 Place (1 Chron. 5:26)
- 37 "— is he" (Rom. 14)
- 39 French island
- 41 Males
- 42 An aeronautical
- engineer: abbr.
- 44 Bravo!
- 46 "of the — —"
- (Heb. 12)
- 51 Burn
- 52 Beret
- 53 Thong in Africa
- 55 Prefix for dynamic
- or drome
- 56 Garden dweller
- 57 Province (Dan. 8:2)

CRYPTOVERSE

W R W F H U N S Z M N Z M N Z M Z M J C M P X W J S
M J U X V F J T J W Z M M J U C W Y T

Today's Cryptoverse clue: F equals R

- 58 European duck
- 59 Color
- 60 Landing place
- (Acts 21:3)

DOWN

- 1 Burmese knife
- 2 In a line
- 3 Naomi's chosen
- name (Ruth 1:20)
- 4 "hath a —"
- (1 Cor. 14)
- 5 "a — is no better"
- (Eccl. 10)
- 6 Uncanny
- 7 Word with wood
- or weed
- 8 The eleventh
- (Rev. 21:20)
- 9 Ignited
- 10 Biblical verb
- 11 Place of: suffix
- 19 Small fox
- 20 Bethel's neighbor
- (Ezra 2:28; poss.)
- 23 Disdainful
- expression
- 24 Candelnut
- 25 Child's toy
- 27 Joram's father
- (2 Sam. 8:10)
- 29 "a — of the flock"
- (Ezra 10)
- 30 Land measure
- 31 Pallid
- 33 He found a house
- (Psa. 84:3)
- 35 "— blossoms"
- (Num. 17:8)
- 38 Yeomanry: abbr.
- 40 Sprite
- 43 Go in
- 45 Heron
- 46 They
- 47 Long-eared mammal
- 48 Roof border
- 49 Greasy
- 50 Costly
- 51 King's home: abbr.
- 54 Madame: abbr.

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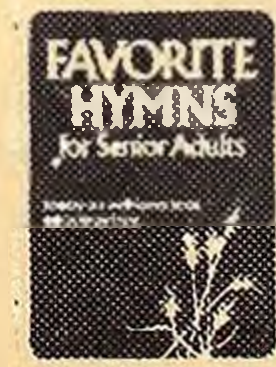
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Life in fellowship

By Paul D. Brewer
Chairman of the Humanities Division
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: Acts 4:32-5:11
Focal Passage: Acts 4:32-35; 5:1-11

Up until this time Luke has shown the young church as it faced hostile opposition from outside forces. Now he turns to share some insights into the internal conditions of the church's life. The first part of the lesson deals with the fellowship which is the basis of the church's strength. The second part tells of how the fellowship is abused. From this presentation it is evident that Luke is writing history, not fiction. He pictures the church with warts as well as greatness. He is brutally honest even when it may not be good press for the church.

Fellowship Acts 4:32

Here is another of Luke's general descriptions of the life of the early church. It is similar to the paragraph in Acts 2:43-47, but here goes further and stresses the spiritual gifts which accompany the preaching of the Apostles. The verb tenses he uses indicate that this fellowship is a continuing thing in the life of the church.

The very mixed "multitude" of believers have a strong center of unity. They have different backgrounds but are bound together as one. The unity is not one in which every person is required to think alike. Neither is it the unity of apathy where no one cares enough to disagree. They are united because they believe that the church belongs to God and what is being accomplished is in response to His grace. There is nothing more fundamental to any church fellowship than the conviction that the church is God's—that its concerns are the concerns of God. This common faith can produce a commitment which makes diverse people into one body. The power of this fellowship is revealed by the descriptive phrase that they were "of one heart and of one soul."

The word which is translated "common"

is the same root word as the New Testament word for fellowship. When a believer has fellowship with God, all the resources of God are available. When the early church has fellowship, then all of its resources are available when needed.

Notice that the verse does not begin with the sharing of possessions. The beginning point is the faith that makes all believers one in Christ. The love of God has moved them from self-seeking to self-giving. When one member has a need, the problem belongs to the whole body. The giving is not governed by rules and regulations but grows out of their own spiritual concern. The basic nature of a God who gives—even His Son—is being realized in the lives of His people.

Witness Acts 4:33

It is evident that the witness to the resurrection power has been made more meaningful by the actions of the church. The preaching of the apostles is marked by "power." This same word is used in the gospels to refer to the miracles of Jesus. The same power which wrought wondrous acts of healing still is available to transform the lives of men.

The loving regard for one another and the power of the preaching appeals to outsiders. The word "grace" seems to be used here to refer to the winsomeness of the church in the eyes of observers. Later, it will be used with more theological overtones. The fellowship of these people fascinates and attracts all whose life does not have meaning.

Sharing Acts 4:34-35

Luke's comment on sharing (vs. 32) is amplified through the rest of this section. He enlarges on the spiritual meaning of the sharing of goods. It is clear that the sharing is not by coercion and is not a prerequisite for church membership. The giving is a result of a deep inner sharing of the Holy Spirit.

When a person is truly in fellowship it affects even the things he possesses. He

counts himself a steward. Luke indicates that this type of fellowship is eventually abused by certain hypocrites. The practice is not referred to anymore after Chapter 6 of Acts.

The Big Lie Acts 5:1-2; 8

The story of Ananias and Saphira is set in contrast to the cheerful sharing of Barnabas. Barnabas is pictured as one who has caught the vision of God who gives and begins to act like the God he worships. He gives, not out of compulsion, but in a considered, purposeful way because he has been given so much. Over against the freedom in giving which Barnabas expresses is the pretense of Ananias and Saphira. They want credit for sacrificial giving without making the sacrifice. Their sin is not that they are so terrible, but that they pretend to be so good. It is a deliberate effort to deceive. They seem to be unaware that to sin against the church fellowship is to sin against God.

Judgment Acts 5:3-6; 9-10

Peter points out that this attempt to deceive is really an effort to "falsify" the Holy Spirit. The account does not suggest that Peter willed their death at all. The terrifying thought that they had lied to God is too much for them. This "respectable" couple cannot bear the strain of really seeing themselves as they are. Peter could face the fact that he had been cowardly and could learn from his failure. Judas looked at himself and committed suicide. When a person honestly faces himself before God, it can be the beginning of a new kind of life or he can turn away and be destroyed. The tragedy of this story is that deception is not necessary. God knows we are weak and sinful, but His love is not less because of it. By being honest we can know forgiveness and strength.

One thing that should fill us with a sense of awe is the purity of the church which compelled such a reaction. When the church is energized by the resurrection power, it creates an environment in which hypocrisy cannot survive. A church which worships a God who gives becomes like that God. When self-centeredness enters this type fellowship it is either transformed or it dies.

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"... every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself" (1 John 3:3).

God's creating work

By H. Eugene Cotey, Pastor
First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro

Basic Passage: Genesis 1:1-2; 4a
Focal Passages: Genesis 1:1-2, 24-28, 31

What Is the Bible Saying?

The opening verses of the book of Genesis tell us some important things about the creation of the world, while leaving some things unsaid. One important question to bear in mind as we study the lesson is, What is the Bible saying to man? A children's Bible Song (*Songs for Primaries*, Broadman Press) says it well:

The Bible is the best book, The book we hold so dear,

A story book, A picture book, A book of songs to cheer;

The Bible tells of Jesus, Who's in His home above,

The Bible brings the message sweet, That God is love.

The Bible tells about God, about ourselves, and about God's love for us, and its opening book Genesis begins the instruction.

The Who of Creation

The first chapter of Genesis tells us quite clearly the **Who** of creation. The Bible was written in a pre-scientific time. Science, as we know it, is a rather recent discipline of study. Copernicus and da Vinci performed their work at the beginning of the 16th century, and modern medical science was only begun 50 to 75 years ago. Science is concerned with the **how** of things. This is a proper area of study, but let us realize that the Scripture writers were interested in more serious matters than how something works; they were interested in **Who** brought it about and **Who** keeps it going.

Stated in a pre-historical and pre-scientific context, the Bible gives supreme religious revelation concerning the author of Creation. The first thing brought out is that God is the One who did the creating. Genesis 1:1 does not say in **the** beginning. It only says "in beginning." There is no **one** beginning in the realm of the divine. There are many beginnings. We earthlings are so self-centered that we can think of only one beginning. Time is man made, and it surrounds us. Time has no meaning for God, for He is Eternal—no beginning, no end. Therefore, in one of the many beginnings, God created the universe as we understand it.

The Bible does not attempt to tell how the earth came into existence. God has left it up to man to unravel the means of creating. Some men of science admit to a First Cause whom we call God. Relatively few admit that He is personal and that He reveals Himself to men in an individual way

for redemptive purposes. But notice how many times in Genesis 1 the thought is repeated, "God said," or "God created." The major message in Genesis 1 is that however the world came into existence, God performed it in His own special way.

The Goodness of Creation

The lesson emphasizes the fact that what God brought into existence was good. Five times in Genesis 1 it is stated that God's creation was good. The world was inherently good when God brought it into existence. He delivered it to man in good shape. What we have done with it since comes under the heading of sin. What was good we have made evil. What was pure has become polluted. What was intended to be a garden has become a garbage dump.

God's intention for the good earth was achieved in creation. When we say we live in an evil world, it must be admitted that it is not evil because of what God has done to it, but it is evil because of what we have become. Murder and rape and war and vandalism came about because man rebelled against the goodness of God. Man chose the way of selfishness, greed, covetousness, and egocentric desires rather than the way of God. Man left to himself becomes evil, but man choosing God is in the channel of good. When man chooses God, then God the Creator can become God the Redeemer.

The Climax of Creation

The account of creation in Genesis 1 speaks of several aspects of creation. There was the separation of light from darkness and the separation of the dry land from the seas. There was the creation of vegetable matter followed by the creation of the luminaries (sun, moon and stars). Next, the living creatures were brought forth, first the creatures of the sea and then the creatures of the land.

The climactic creation was man. Man was made in God's image. We may not know the full meaning of man in God's image, but it surely means that man has an awareness that the rest of creation does not have. It means man thinks and reasons and chooses. He has the ability to live above instinct and the baser desires of life. He is to master the world and at the same time, to be a steward of the world. He is to be accountable to God for all that is in the world. To be made in God's image is to be made responsible. When persons choose to be irresponsible, they go counter to the plan of God.

The Bible does not intend to tell how man

was made, other than that God did it. Theories of how man was created are included in the study of life and of man. If we ever learn the full story of man's beginnings, it will not lessen the fact that man is God's supreme creation. God is still counting on His created persons to be good stewards of His universe and to be agents in His redemptive purposes. No amount of knowledge will release us from our accountability to God.

Business officers offer assistance to churches

DALLAS—Southern Baptist churches and institutions that need help with bookkeeping and tax-related matters can now get assistance through the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference, according to Barry Allen, general chairman of the conference.

The assistance would be available for local churches, institutions or Baptist schools that do not have full-time business administrators and could provide advice on such matters as accounting, record keeping, taxation, stewardship, and financial planning, Allen explained.

Allen, business manager for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said the assistance is free but said travel expenses incurred by members of the conference who help would have to be covered. (BP)

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