

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Board approves special convention

Messengers to gather April 5 on Belmont Plaza's problems

In a called meeting last Thursday in Brentwood, the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention voted to call a special session of the state convention "for the express purpose of dealing with the present problems of Belmont Plaza," a high-rise apartment for senior adults in Nashville.

On Friday, a subcommittee of the TBC Committee on Arrangements set the meeting for April 5 at Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, starting at 11:00 a.m. CST.

The Executive Board also voted to recommend to the April 5 convention that the debt ceiling for the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation be raised an additional \$1.5-million. The current TBSC debt ceiling was set at \$5-million by the messengers to the 1976 state convention.

The construction of Belmont Plaza was completed on Feb. 1, but the 123-unit facility has not opened because of the lack of operating funds. The building was constructed by the issuing of \$5-million in bonds through the Health and Educational Facilities Board of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson Co.

The Board of Directors of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation had understood that funds from the bond sale would provide operating capital for up to 18 months. In November 1978 this was found to be incorrect.

In order to preserve Belmont Plaza until the called convention can act, the board on Thursday also authorized the granting of up to \$180,000 from TBC emergency funds to be used for up to three months. This amount would be used to make payments on principal and interest, utilities, and other emergency needs related to Belmont Plaza.

The Feb. 22 meeting of the Executive Board

Turlingtons leave Iran; now in India

BANGALORE, India—The last Southern Baptist missionaries in Iran, Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Turlington, have arrived at Baptist Hospital in Bangalore after being evacuated from that civil war-torn country.

Apparently the Turlingtons left Iran on Feb. 18 during the five-day airlift of approximately 5,000 American citizens from Tehran to Frankfurt, West Germany. The Turlingtons then proceeded on to Bangalore, India.

Other Southern Baptist missionaries and their families had already left the country during various stages of the escalating civil conflict. Most of them left the country with military or business personnel.

The Turlingtons told a minister in Frankfurt that they were allowed to leave Tehran with only one bag each. Their plans are uncertain at this point. They hope to return to Tehran, where he serves as pastor of an English-language congregation composed of U.S. business and military personnel.

The general evacuation of American citizens was announced earlier this month, following seizure of the American embassy in Tehran.

was called by action of the board's administrative committee. The committee recommended to the board that it authorize a financial campaign for the Service Corporation and appoint a special committee to explore ways to deal with the retirement facility's problems.

The board members declined to authorize the financial campaign, but later in the day-long session did vote to create the special study committee. The committee, which will be named by board president Gerald Stow of Cookeville, is to investigate options which the messengers to the special convention might consider.

The TBSC directors have asked for a \$1.5-million letter of credit which could be used to borrow additional funds and the assurance that the Service Corporation would receive a minimum of \$100,000 per year from the state's Cooperative Program budget, beginning in November 1979.

Wade Darby, TBSC executive director, told the board that both financial provisions would be necessary to save Belmont Plaza from going into default.

Convention leaders had advised, and the Executive Board agreed, that since the \$5-million debt ceiling was set by the state convention in session, only the state convention in session could increase that debt limit.

History observers indicate this will be the first called special convention in the TBC's 105-year history. The Constitution provides for the setting of such special convention.

According to the Constitution, "Notice of any special meeting shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto by publication in the Baptist and Reflector and in such other ways as the Executive Board may direct" (Article V, Section 5).

During Thursday's board meeting, several members noted that the convention and the board had been told that the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation was a separate entity, and the state convention was not legally liable for the indebtedness of TBSC.

Others seemed to feel that the state convention is morally liable, and the courts rule that the TBC is legally liable for the \$5-million debt.

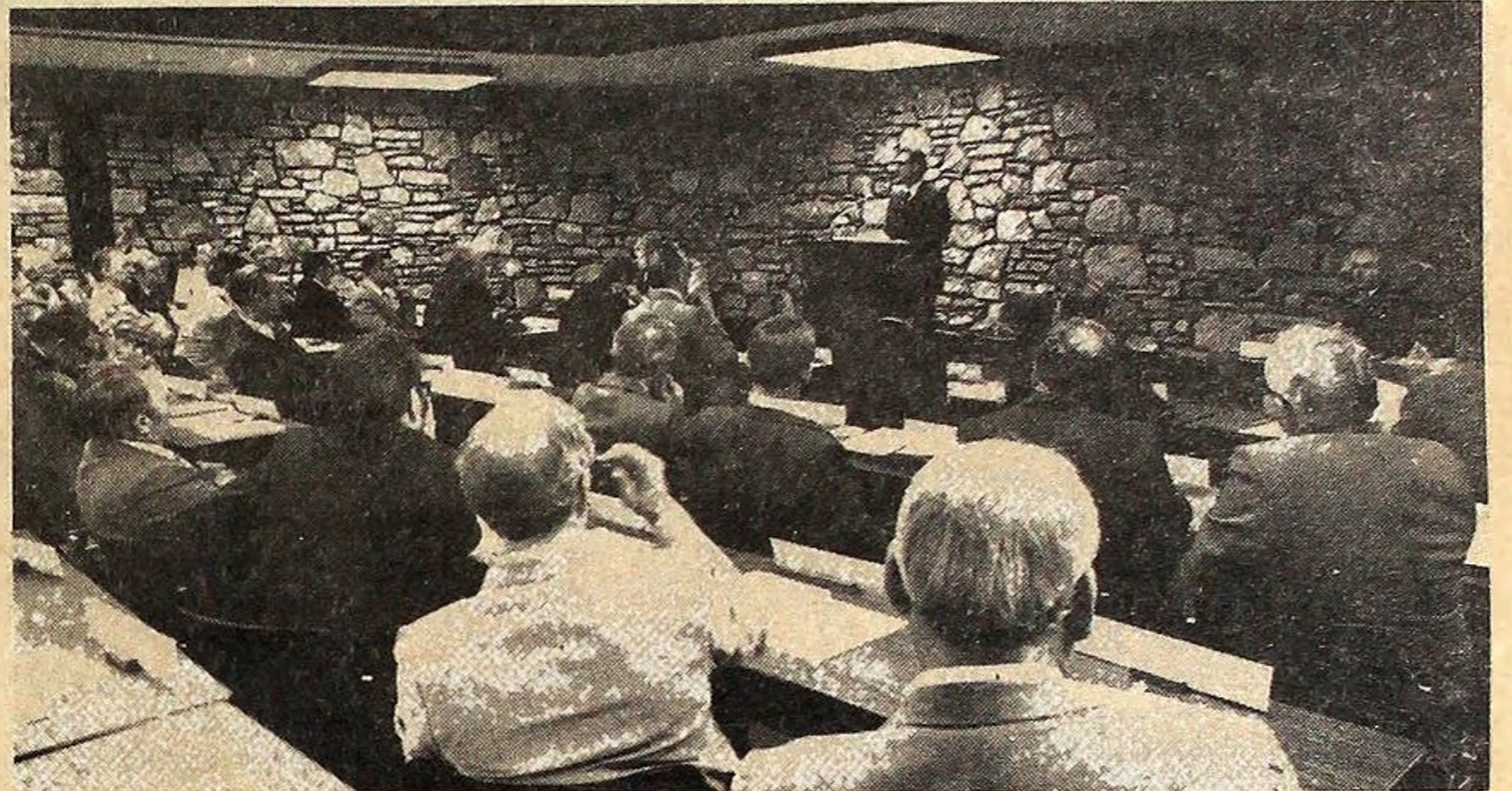
The board was also reminded by several members that the Executive Board had been told on several occasions that no Cooperative Program funds would ever be needed to finance Service Corporation projects.

Other members expressed their opinions that the integrity of Tennessee Baptists—and even the Southern Baptist Convention—is at stake, and therefore the projects needs to be saved, or at least disposed of in such a way that no bond purchaser would lose any of their investment.

In his appearance before the Executive Board, Darby reviewed the history, progress, and problems to the Service Corporation. He noted that the TBSC is managing a nursing home in Lenoir City; and Deer Lake, an independently financed retirement village in Nashville, is selling units as fast as they can be built.

He noted that during an advertising cam-

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DISCUSSION—Wade Darby, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation, answers questions during the called session of the TBC Executive Board last Thursday. The board voted to call a special state convention to consider the plight of Belmont Plaza.

Harold C. Bennett to lead SBC Executive Committee

NASHVILLE (BP)—Harold Clark Bennett was elected unanimously as executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, succeeding Porter W. Routh, who will retire July 31, after 28 years in the post.

Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention since 1967, will begin serving as the Executive Committee's executive secretary-treasurer elect, April 1.

He will be the fourth executive secretary-treasurer in the 52-year history of the Executive Committee, which serves as the Southern Baptist Convention between annual sessions except in areas assigned to national SBC agencies. The Executive Committee disburses the SBC's national Cooperative Program funds.

The action of the Executive Committee came in an evening session, Feb. 20, after Bennett, a veteran denominational executive, appeared before them as the nominee of the Executive Committee's search committee.

Earlier in the day, the Executive Commit-

tee voted 24 to 23 to change the agenda so that they could learn the nominee's name before the evening session to have more time to consider it. After a parliamentary tangle, members heard a two-part report of the search committee, chaired by Brooks Wester, Mississippi pastor and Executive Committee chairman.

First, they gave unanimous approval to a salary package for the executive secretary position, which called for annual compensation of \$45,843 in salary; \$4,584 in retirement contribution (10 percent of salary); and \$1,947 for hospitalization, group life and disability insurance. The package also includes moving expenses and other normal employee benefits.

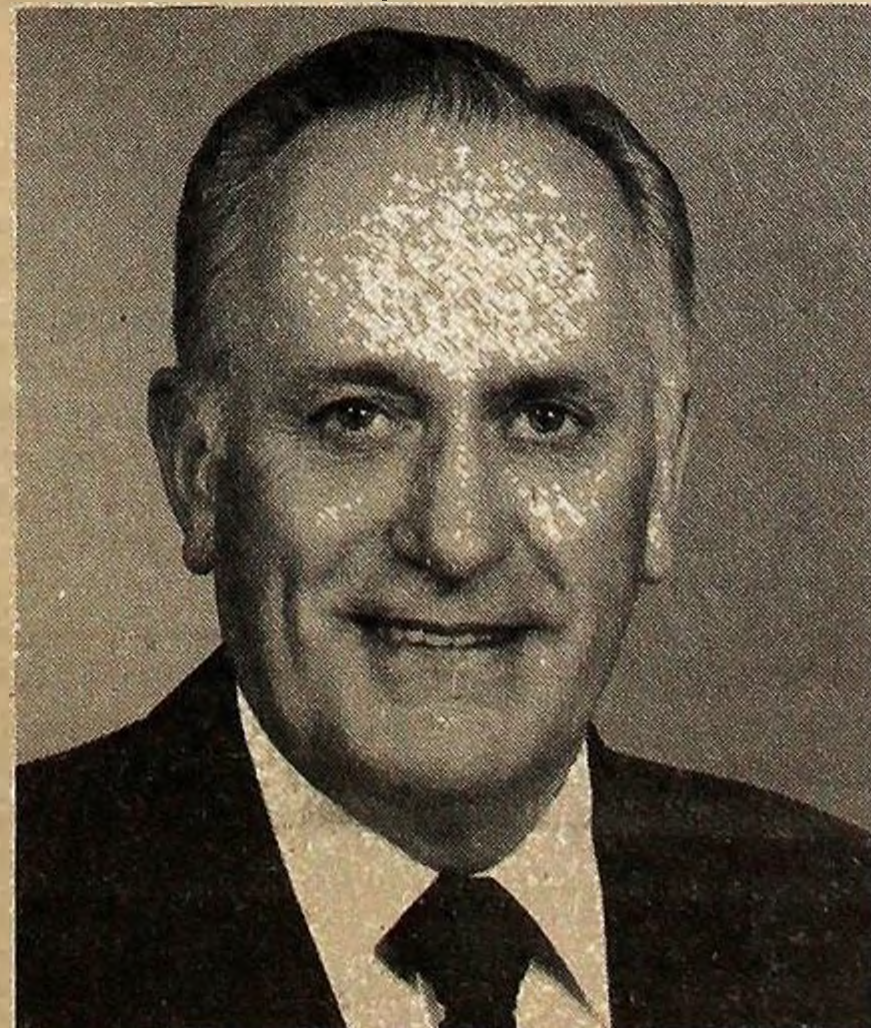
Next, the committee received Bennett's name as the nominee and deliberated at length on the best approach for making their decision. They decided the vote should come after an informal session with Bennett that evening. The unanimous vote followed that session.

Bennett, a native of Asheville, N.C., who was ordained to the ministry in 1948, has spent 30 years in pastoral and denominational work. He was a pastor and chaplain for 11 years before joining the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, in 1960 as superintendent of new work.

After more than two years in that post, he became secretary of the department of metropolitan missions, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, 1962-65, then director of the missions division, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, 1965-67.

His pastoral experience includes churches in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Previously, he was also assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., and served for a period as chaplain of both the Kentucky State Reformatory and the Kentucky Woman's Prison.

He is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



HAROLD C. BENNETT

Westwood builds Honduras school

"Aunque no sabemos antes ahora, yo creo somos hermanos en Cristo! Los hombres de su iglesia son bueno venir y edificar la escuela aqui." ("Although we have never met before, I believe that we are brothers in Christ. The men in your church are very kind to come and help build the school here.")

The young teenage boy from Honduras spoke no English. Yet he wanted so desperately to express his appreciation to the group of men from the United States who had come to his country to help in a seemingly impossible task of building a school for missionaries' children and for several local Spanish children to attend.

Indeed, discouragement had been running high on the part of missionaries serving in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, before the nine-member team from Westwood Baptist Church in Cleveland arrived there to help roof the mission school.

One of the difficulties missionaries on foreign soil face is obtaining adequate teachers and adequate facilities necessary for the education of their children and other children in the country. Such was the case at Tegucigalpa. A local labor force had been contracted by cooperating missionaries to build and roof a school for the children to attend. For weeks, the Spanish laborers had worked at a very slow pace with progress nearly undiscernible. Since the laborers were being paid on an hourly basis, the missionaries were running out of money. Finally, work on the project was cancelled.

A plea went out from the missionaries to the Foreign Mission Board requesting a team of Baptists from anywhere in the United States to come to Honduras to assist with the project.

James Cecil of the board placed a call to Westwood church asking if they would be interested in the project. Pastor Bob Bell encouraged the formation of a team. The Brotherhood responded with Elvis Brandon, Bobby Dantzer, Randy Elmore, T.M. Graham, Ulysses Hester, Glen Leach, Jack Roach, minister of education Bert Jones, and minister of youth Rodney Wilson volunteering to go. Many others responded by giving needed funds, supplies, and objects which had been requested by the missionaries.

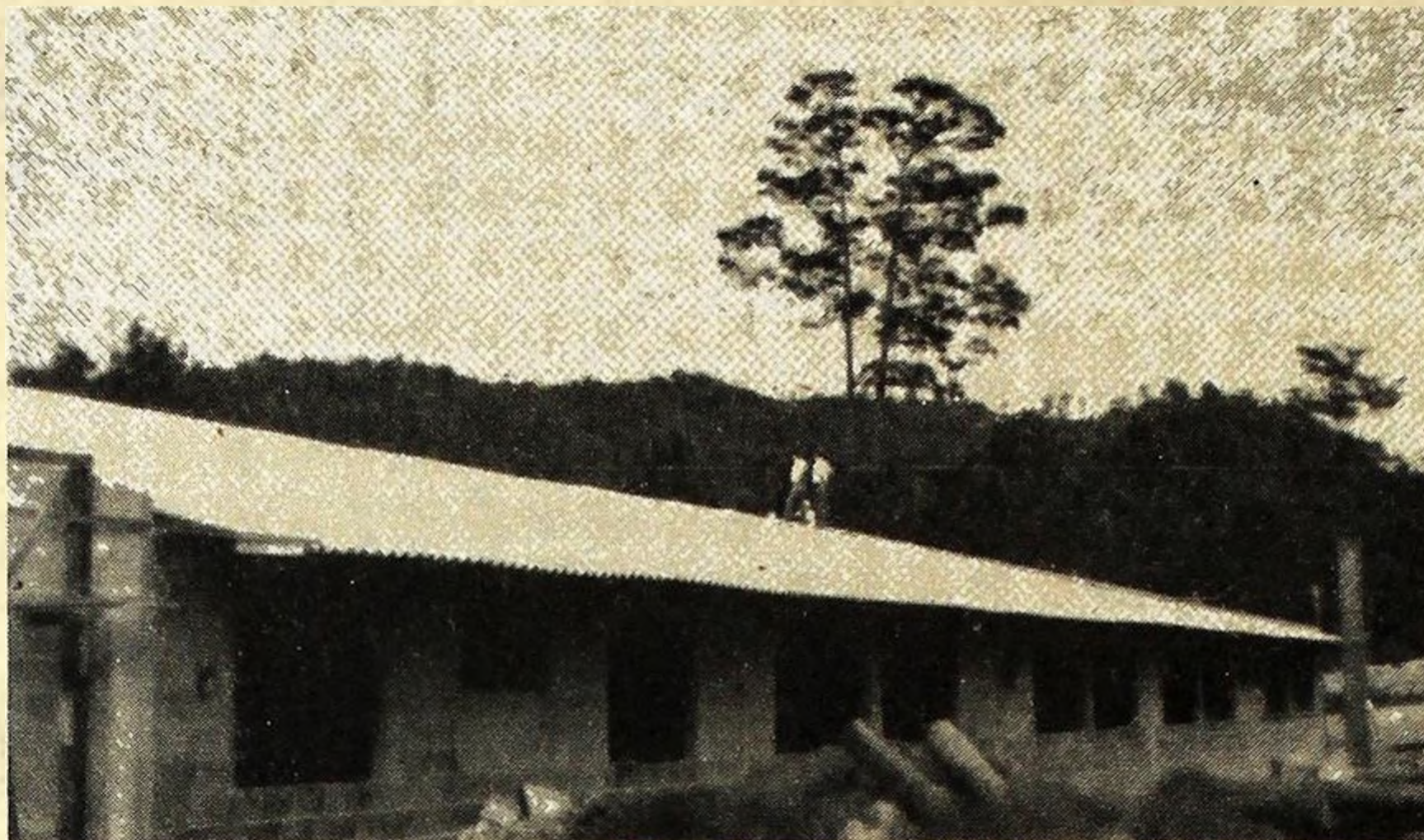
School located on mountain top

After arrival in Tegucigalpa, the 250,000-population capital city of Honduras, the team was taken by pickup truck up a 4,600 ft. mountain where the school was to be built. Jones explained that land is at a premium in the area and that when a small lot can be obtained, it is very expensive. The missionaries had been able to buy land on the mountain cheaper than what could be purchased anywhere around Tegucigalpa.

The teams' home, also on top of the mountain, was a Bible Institute dorm located only a mile from the site of the new school.

Opportunities for presenting a Christian witness came throughout the week.

The first morning nearly 20 sheets of heavy



INSPECTING—Part of the team of workers from Westwood Baptist Church in Cleveland inspect the work they did on the roof of a mission school in Honduras.

four by eight sheets of asbestos and concrete sheeting were carefully fitted into place. After a break for lunch, the team returned to the work site to find that the previous Honduras labor force had torn off all of the roofing which the team had installed that morning.

After a fruitless exchange of Spanish and English, Wilson, who has a limited understanding of Spanish, finally ascertained that the foreman of the group was insisting that the roofing was not square. Unable to help them understand that it was the building that was somewhat out of square, the team called a time of prayer, asking God to grant them patience, wisdom, and understanding. Following their prayer, they noticed that the natives were installing a string line which would help meet the requirements. Confident of God's leadership, the team once again mounted the ladders and scaffolding and began to replace the roofing.

Special prayer requested

Securing building materials in Honduras is an arduous task. Even in the capital city, one must stand in line for hours to secure sheets of roofing. Early in the work week, the Cleveland team knew that much more roofing would be needed, so men were sent on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in an attempt to secure some. Each day, they returned empty-handed. By Wednesday, the men had used all of their available materials, and the roof was less than half finished. With only two days left to work, the group made radio contact with Pastor Bob Bell in Cleveland requesting that during the midweek prayer service the people of Westwood join them in special prayer for more materials. God answered the prayer, and on Thursday morning 50 sheets of roofing arrived and work resumed.

As work progressed during the week, the Honduras workmen observed some of the spirit of the American workers. A part of the origin of that spirit was seen on the final work day when a near tragedy occurred.

Glen Leach, kneeling to mark a chalk line, fell head first through a defective sheet of roofing onto several stacks of marble and concrete floor tiles. The 17 ft. drop could have resulted in severe injury or death, but Leach suffered only minor cuts and bruises. Leach offered a "Praise the Lord" thanksgiving prayer, and this time the Honduran construction engineer joined the team on their knees in gratefulness.

Time, needs committed to God

With one day of work remaining, a tremendous amount of roofing left to be done, and again out of materials, the team was reminded a final time that this was God's project and not theirs. During a time of special prayer, the needs were voiced and the task was turned over to God. The team then departed for bed.

On Friday morning, the group arose to witness the delivery of 180 sheets of roofing.

After working the entire morning, the team took a short lunch break and then invited the 37 Honduras workmen together for a special spiritual sharing time. "We used another precious 30 minutes of daylight to do this," Jones recalled, "but God blessed it." Each Honduran received a New Testament written in Spanish. The team shared with them how they had come to Honduras at their own expense to help build the school because of the love for them and for the children of the school. Each man was led to discover in his own Bible how God offers pardon and eternal life in Jesus.

"After lunch an amazing thing happened," Jones said. "The Nationals, who had been distant and suspicious all week, mounted the roof and began to help the mission team put the heavy roofing panels into place." As the last rays of light faded behind the mountains, Roach cut the last overhang, stood on the completed roof, and gave praise to God.

This month, children of evangelical missionaries and several Honduran children are learning in their new school building because of "the group from Cleveland" and because of the love and protection of a universal God who cares about them and about a team who travelled 2,300 miles to put a roof on their school.

Carroll C. Owen to assume post of convention ministries director

Carroll C. Owen, pastor of First Baptist Church in Paris since 1962, was named as convention ministries director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood last week. The election came during the Executive Board meeting of the TBC, following a recommendation by the administrative committee of the board.

Owen's election was unanimous. He will assume the new post April 1, succeeding Tom Madden who is now executive secretary-treasurer for the convention. Madden was Tennessee's first convention ministries director.

The new convention ministries head will be responsible for leading and coordinating the work of the departments of student work, brotherhood, church training, Sunday School, evangelism, and missions.

In Tennessee, Owen has served on the Executive Board four terms and was a member of the board's education, administrative, and state missions committee. In 1976 he led the convention as state president, and was pastors' conference president in 1968. He has been a member of the board of trustees for Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and serves presently on the board for Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis and the Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

The west Tennessee pastor led congrega-

Pastors, deacon conference set

Pastors and chairmen of deacons in Baptist churches throughout Tennessee will have the opportunity to explore the ministries and functions of their respective positions at the 1979 state pastor/deacon chairmen conference next month. Sessions will be held Mar. 16-17 at Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, according to Johnnie Hall, state church training director.

The conference will begin with registration on Friday night at 5:30, with the first session convening at 6:55. Saturday morning's session will begin at 8:00 and conclude at 12:15.

Small group conferences will be offered on: deacon projects for ministering to families, planning and conducting effective deacons' meetings, planning a year's deacon work, how to visit and really like it, the ministry of the deacon's wife and the pastor's wife, and conducting the family ministry plan.

A. Morgan Brian Jr., a deacon at First Baptist Church in New Orleans, La., is scheduled to bring two keynote addresses to the group.

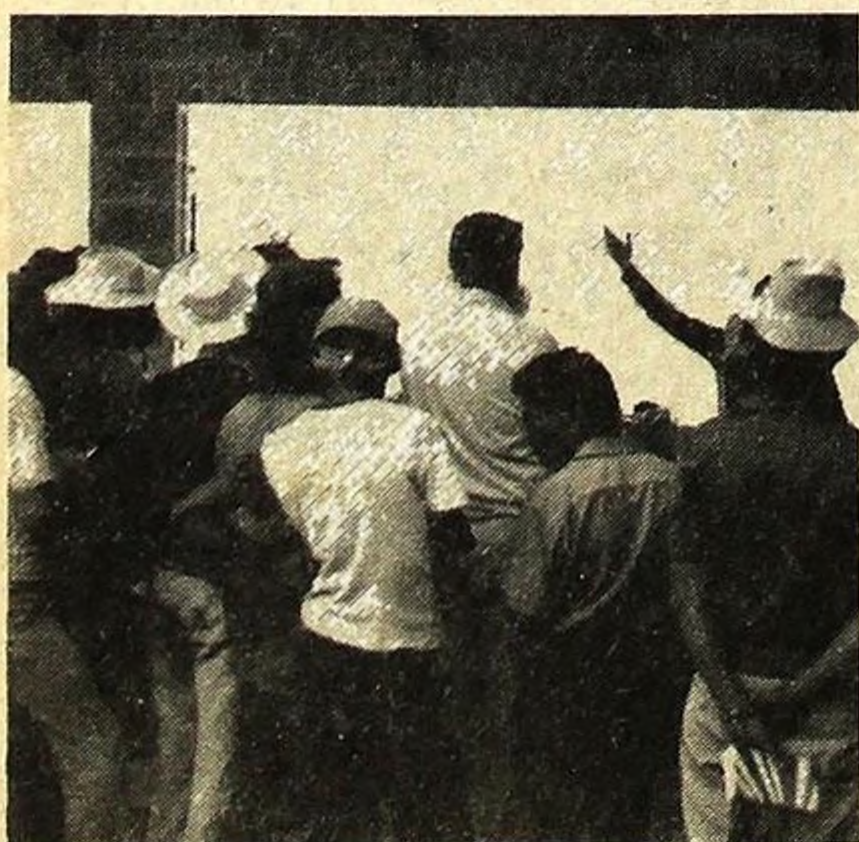
Former seminary professor and pastor, J. Winston Pearce, will lead conferences along with other Southern Baptist leaders. Pearce is a former faculty member of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and serves presently as a conference leader and writer. He is from Buies Creek, N.C. His wife will also serve as a conference leader.

Others scheduled include Roger Abington, pastor of First Baptist Church in Goodlettsville; Jerry A. Songer, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Chattanooga; Henry Webb, Two Rivers Baptist Church member, Nashville; Herman L. King, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville; and Bob Marklein, Two Rivers, Nashville.

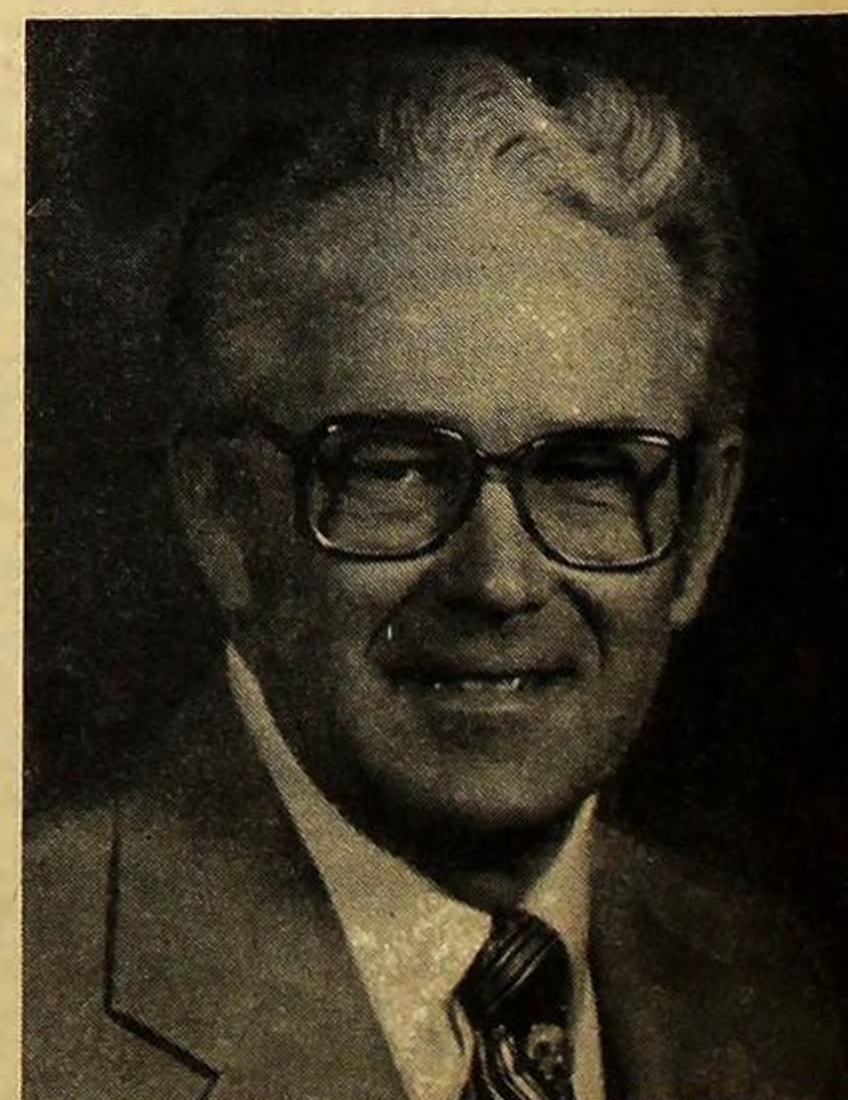
H. Eugene Cotey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, will lead the Bible study at both sessions. Music will be presented by David Stephan, minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church in the host city.



Brian



THANKSGIVING—Laborers from Honduras join with Baptists from Cleveland in a service of praise following the completion of construction on a mission school in that country.



Carroll C. Owen

Special convention...

(Continued from page 1)

paign last fall, between 300 and 400 people visited Belmont Plaza with many of these expressing an interest in the project. He added the adverse publicity about the financial problems and delayed completion of the building had caused many of these to wait before committing themselves.

Residents in Belmont Plaza would be required to pay a "founder's fee" of about \$22,000 average, and a monthly maintenance fee of about \$500, depending on the size of the apartment. Darby said that plans are being studied to make the facility more appealing by increasing the founder's fee and reducing the maintenance fee.

Darby said that the lack of health care facilities has also been a handicap in securing residents. He added that one wing of the facility would be remodeled into a health care center for residents.

The TBSC executive director reported that J.C. Bradford and Co., the bond issuers, would rewrite the bond indenture so that a portion of the income from founder's fees and maintenance fees could be used to pay off the proposed loan. He told the board that he did not feel that the TBSC would need to borrow the total \$1.5-million, but the letter of credit from the convention would indicate to bond holders and lending institutions that the state convention is behind the project.

Darby predicted that probably no more than \$400,000 in indebtedness would ever be needed at any one time.

The amended bond indenture would have to be acceptable to holders of two-thirds of the bonds.

Darby also indicated that \$456,000 of the \$5-million bond issue was unspent in construction of Belmont Plaza. According to the present bond instrument, this is being held as a reserve if the TBSC should default on its payments. Therefore, this amount gives another protection to the bond purchasers.

The action by the Executive Board on Thursday will make it possible for the Service Corporation to make its first monthly principal and interest payment of \$36,000 on March 1. The grant from the convention's emergency fund will also be used to pay utility bills on the empty building, which would be about \$4,400 per month, according to Darby.

The Executive Board approved the grant to avoid default of payments to the bond sinking fund, until the messengers to the special state convention can act on April 5. This will also permit the special committee to complete its study of possible alternatives before the special convention meets.

At the conclusion of the five-hour session, the Executive Board passed by common consent a motion of appreciation to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation and its executive director, Wade Darby.

Blevins to write Uniform lessons

Carolyn Blevins, instructor in the religion department, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, will write the uniform series Sunday school lessons for March, April, and May.

A native of Maryville, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond DeArmond, formerly of Knoxville and now of Seymour, and the wife of William L. Blevins, professor of religion also of C-N.

Mrs. Blevins is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and received the M.R.E. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Since 1977 Mrs. Blevins has served as first vice-president of the League of Women Voters and has been chairman of the financing state government committee of the League of Women Voters since 1976.

She has written articles for publication in the various periodicals for the Baptist Sunday School Board.



Blevins



R. Kelley White

Kelley White dies at age 85

The first president of Belmont College in Nashville, R. Kelley White, died in Franklin, Va. last week after a long illness. He was 85.

The Baptist leader came to the Nashville college in 1952, following 30 years in the pastorate, including 18 years at Belmont Heights Baptist Church in that city. He had also served as a pastor in Marion and Bessemer, Ala., and First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla. from 1946-52.

Herbert Gabhart, president of Belmont, told *Baptist and Reflector* that White's outstanding contribution to Belmont was his ability to develop a positive feeling toward the school on the part of the Nashville community. Before his retirement in 1959, he worked in leading the school toward accreditation, which it received in December of that year. The college also operated debt free under his leadership.

While in the pastorate, White was a member of the executive boards in Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee. He was president of Tennessee's board from 1937-46, and also served on the board of directors for the Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist Sunday School Board, and American Baptist Theological Seminary.

In other service, he was a trustee for Howard College in Birmingham; secretary-treasurer for the education commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; a trustee for Tennessee College and Cumberland University; and was on the board of managers for *Baptist and Reflector* from 1934-37. In 1943 and 1944 he was president of the Tennessee State Convention.

Following his retirement, he served interim pastorates throughout the South. He resided in Conway, N.C. at the time of his death.

Funeral services were held at Conway Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 24. Burial was near Conway in the family burial plot.

He is survived by his wife, Vesta Benthall White, Conway. The couple had no children.

SBC Executive Committee declines seminary, merger

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention elected a new executive secretary-treasurer, declared a proposal for a seventh SBC seminary unfeasible, and recommended that the SBC Sunday School Board and Brotherhood Commission not merge.

In other action, the Executive Committee voted to recommend an \$83-million 1979-80 national Cooperative Program budget and voted to establish a five-member committee to study ways lay people may be more involved in Bold Mission Thrust.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, was elected as the fourth executive secretary-treasurer in the Executive Committee's 52-year history. He succeeds Porter W. Routh, who will retire July 31, after 28 years in the post. Bennett will join the staff for an orientation period beginning April 1.

While the Executive Committee said a seventh seminary was not feasible, it proposed that the current six seminaries be requested to work together with the committee's institutions workgroup to outline possibilities "of extending their ministries for meeting the needs for theological education in the state conventions in the northeast, north central, western, and northwestern areas of the United States."

The Executive Committee studied a seventh seminary following a motion referred to it last year at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. The SBC will take final action at its 1979 meeting in Houston.

Following a joint study by the Brotherhood

Commission and the Sunday School Board, the Executive Committee voted not to recommend to the convention that the two agencies merge. The study grew out of a proposal made to the Executive Committee by George Bagley, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

The \$83-million Cooperative Program budget, which exceeds the 1978-79 goal by \$8-million, includes \$71-million in basic operating and capital needs of SBC agencies and \$12-million in the Bold Mission Thrust challenge section. The basic operating and capital needs amount exceeds the 1978-79 goal by \$7-million. The SBC will take final action on the budget.

Any funds above the basic operating and capital needs total will be divided for Bold Mission Thrust needs among the Foreign Mission Board (40 percent), Home Mission Board (40 percent), Radio and Television Commission (12 percent) and the six seminaries (eight percent). Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC plan to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century.

The action on the lay involvement study committee followed a presentation by C.E. Price of Pittsburg, vice president and general manager of the Industry Services Division of Westinghouse Electric Corp., who spoke on behalf of a group of 15 business and professional executives concerned about involvement of laymen in Bold Mission Thrust.

Price called for a wide range of actions to allow laymen "to use our God-given talents and gifts as we participate as Baptist men in the mainstream of Southern Baptist life through Bold Mission Thrust."

Juliette Mather to speak to BYW/BW house parties

Juliette Mather, Woman's Missionary Union worker for nearly three decades, has accepted the invitation to speak to Baptist women and Baptist young women from across the state at their annual house parties, Mar. 16-18 and Mar. 23-25. First Baptist Church in Pigeon Forge will host the first conference, and Union University, Jackson, will be the site of the second gathering.

After 27 years as young people's secretary and eight years as editorial secretary of the WMU, Southern Baptist Convention, Birmingham, Miss Mather retired in 1956. In 1957, she was invited to teach English in the Orient. Assisting missionaries throughout the area, she served at Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan; Chong Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan; and National University in Taipei. She also taught religious education courses at Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary in Taipei. She returned to the United States just prior to 1970 and has remained active in speaking engagements, writing, and touring.

Tennessean David Coleman, missionary to



Mather



Giles

Salisbury, Rhodesia, will speak on his mission work in that country. A native of Cedar Hill, Tenn., Coleman is on furlough in Chattanooga. Before beginning his work in foreign missions, he was a pastor in Sylvia, Tenn.

Other speakers scheduled include: Beverly Smothers, director of the Marrowbone Baptist mission center in Hellier, Ky.; R. Keith Parks, director of the mission support division of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Wimpy Smith, program consultant for Resource Services Inc., Dallas, Tex.; and Maurine Perryman, missionary to Jordan.

In addition to speakers, both house parties will feature the music ministry of Malvie Giles, Magnolia, Ark. In 1974, Miss Giles was invited to be missionary soloist to an African crusade in Rhodesia where over 4,000 professions of faith were made. She led the music at the North American Baptist Women's Union held in the Bahamas in October 1977. This year, she is scheduled to lead the music for the Texas General State WMU Convention in August and was guest soloist for the SBC Evangelistic conference in Little Rock, Ark.

Mission conferences will be held on work in Ajloun, Indonesia, Rhodesia, Colombia, Argentina, and at the mission center in Kentucky. US-2 work will also be discussed.

Friday evening sessions will begin at 8:00, with the Saturday morning meeting beginning at 8:45.

All Baptist young women, ages 18-29, and Baptist women are urged to attend, according to Mary Jane Nethery, state WMU executive director-treasurer.

2,866 mission volunteers serve in overseas projects in 1978

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A total of 2,866 Southern Baptists served overseas as foreign mission volunteers during 1978, according to the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

That total includes 161 extended-service volunteers for six months to two years and another 31 Mission Service Corps volunteers for one to two years. The extended-service and MSC programs differ in the means of financing.

Medical volunteers accounted for another 184. These nurses, doctors, dentists, and technologists, who worked through the Southern Foreign Mission Board's medical consultant office, served from one to six months.

The remaining 2,490 volunteers were short term—going either individually or in groups for less than six months to participate in special projects.

The board's office of evangelism and church development coordinated the efforts of 341 volunteers. Their work included major city evangelization campaigns, stewardship emphases, and witness training.

Other short-term service, handled through the office for laymen overseas, included a range of projects from construction to sewing, from car maintenance to special musical concerts.

EDITORIAL

Belmont Plaza forces called convention

The decision by the Executive Board last week to call a special session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is indeed a historic one. Long-time Baptists do not recall a special state convention ever being called in our 105-year history.

Special conventions are rarely called in Baptist life—and then only in emergency situations. The financial plight of Belmont Plaza and its influence on the reputation and future of all Tennessee Baptist work would indicate the necessity of the called convention.

The two main issues appear to be: (1) how to save the financial reputation of Tennessee Baptists, and (2) how to save the ministry of Belmont Plaza.

The April 5 convention is a separate convention, not a continuation of last November's session which met in Nashville. Therefore, churches will need to elect their messengers to the special convention. These may or may not be the same ones who attended the 1978 TBC.

Our denomination is correctly emphatic in our belief that members or messengers will make the proper decision under the leadership of God, when they know all the ramifications and consequences of an issue. Your editor is dedicated and completely comfortable with the old Baptist axiom, "Tell the truth, and trust the people."

Prior to the April 5 meeting, the Baptist and Reflector will attempt to present a balanced report of the problems, progress, promises, and potential of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation in general, and Belmont Plaza in particular.

Next week we will begin a three-part news interpretation on the issue to be faced by messengers to the special state convention. The first of these will deal with Tennessee Baptists' interest in a ministry to senior adults which led to the Committee on Aging study and the establishment in 1974 of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation. The second will review the projects—some successful, some unsuccessful—which have been explored by the TBSC. The final article will deal specifically with the Belmont Plaza project.

We will also open our pages to any statements by the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation and to the special committee authorized last week by the Executive Board to study possible alternatives to the requested loan and

Cooperative Program support of Belmont Plaza.

During the period between now and the special called state convention on April 5, we surely will print any "letters to the editor" concerning this controversial subject. We pledge ourselves to be a forum for Tennessee Baptists to explore in depth this critical issue.

Obviously, there is no easy answer to the plight of Belmont Plaza which is detailed in the article on page one. If there were an easy answer that did not demand our financial involvement, the problems would have been solved earlier by the Service Corporation and the Executive Board.

No one at this point can predict which action will be taken at the April 5 convention—but whatever decision is made, it will be the right decision because it will be made by the right people—the messengers from Tennessee Baptist churches.

May we urge you to pray daily for our convention leadership and for the called state convention. We need God's guidance. Hopefully, the problems which beset us will cause us to be drawn closer together and to our commitment to serve God and the people of Tennessee.

Bennett's election

The election of Harold C. Bennett as executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee last week was a heartening event for Tennessee Baptists.

There is no person among us who is better qualified from his background and experience to assume this strategic position. He has served as a pastor, a prison chaplain, a staff member at two SBC agencies, and on the staff of two different state conventions—including executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention since 1967.

Bennett will be returning to Nashville where he lived for over two years when he was superintendent of new work for the Sunday School department at the Baptist Sunday School Board (1960-1962). While here, he was interim pastor at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville (1962).

We join with all Southern Baptists in commending the SBC Executive Committee in their choice of Harold C. Bennett. We welcome him to Tennessee and this position of leadership in our denomination.

Cicero's comment



By the editor

Why would anyone go to Alaska in February?

This question lodged in my mind and on the tongues of my friends as I prepared to visit our largest state in the Union earlier this month.

The overriding answer seems to be that Anchorage was the site of the 34th meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association, an organization of Baptist state paper editors.

The association, which meets each February concurrently with a meeting of the state executive secretaries, usually gathers nearer to the center of Baptist population. However, we occasionally do meet in the West for the benefit of those executive secretaries and editors who have to travel great distances to most Baptist meetings.

So, two years ago the two groups voted to accept the repeated invitation of Alaska Southern Baptists to come to our 49th state and see first-hand what Baptists are doing in that "Great Land."

This is the first time in our 34-year history that we have met in Alaska. I didn't figure I'd still be around when they meet there again.

Another appeal was to see something of the allure of what could be described as the last frontier in our nation.

In 1955 the entire population of the then-called "territory" was only 128,000. Today that figure has grown to about 420,000. During this same period Anchorage, the principle city, has grown from 50,000 to over 200,000—nearly one-half of the state's population.

Because of the sparse population, the great distances, and the severe weather, the citizens of Alaska are an independent, self-reliant lot. Their presence there seems to be characterized by two traits—adventure and greed. Many have migrated to this area to be a part of that final frontier, while others have been attracted by the large salaries paid to certain vocations.

These two characteristics have influenced (and handicapped) religious work in the state. There are now about 65 churches and mission chapels in the state. With over 14,000 members, Southern Baptists constitute the largest evangelical denomination there—growing from 987 members in 1950; to 6,668 in 1960; to 12,500 in 1970; to 14,268 today.

More than 20 of these churches are located in Anchorage; the largest with 1,240 members. The smallest congregation—a recently-started chapel in Willow, the proposed site of the new state capital—has eight members.

The residents of Alaska are comparably young, with the median being 23.3 years.

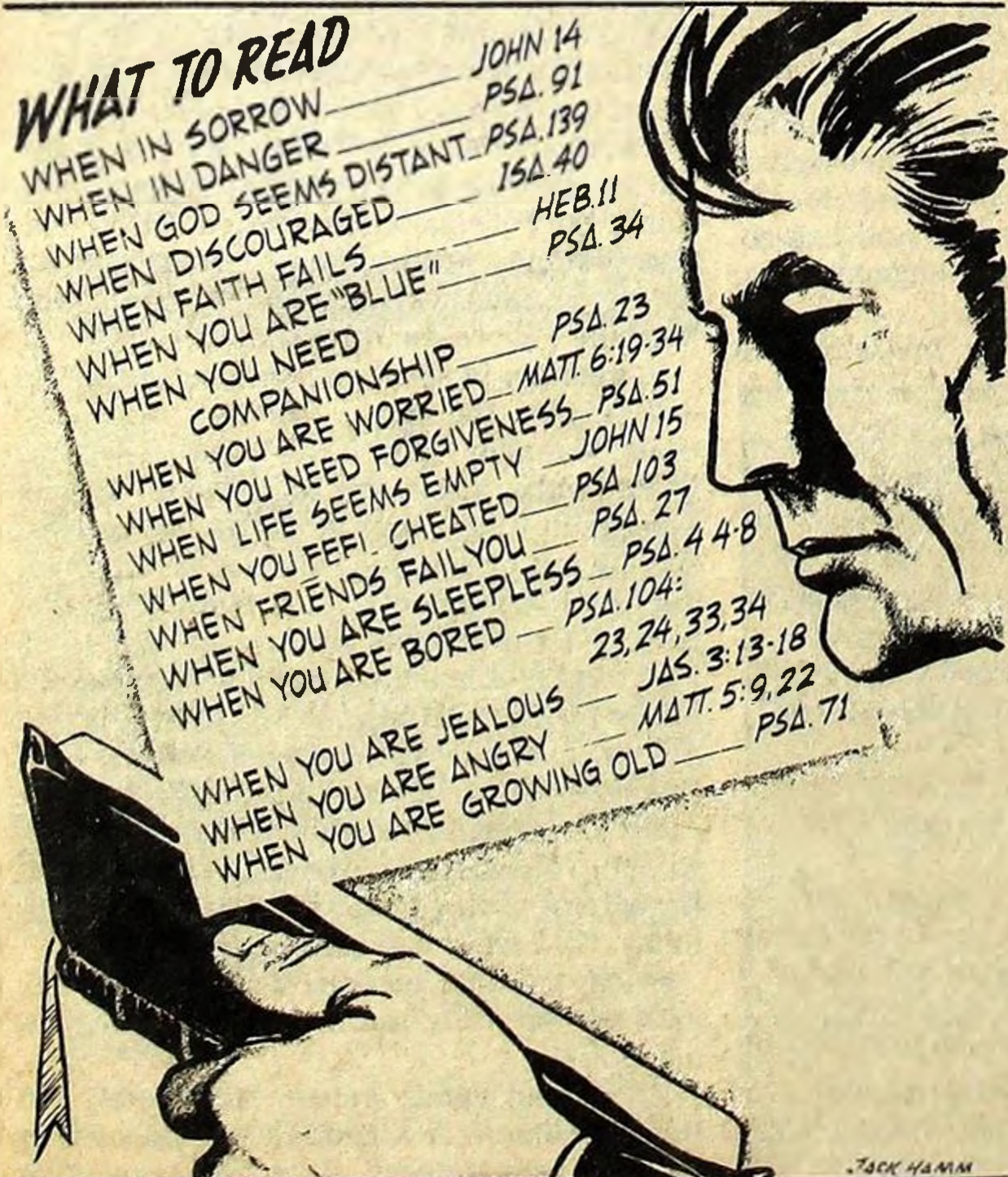
The pressures of Alaskan life have resulted in some serious social problems. The divorce rate is 4.2 as compared to 2.7 for the total United States. Alcoholism and venereal disease are higher than most other states. While I was there, the newspapers focused on the high rate of drug usage in high schools.

In the midst of these problems—plus a somewhat transient population—Alaskan Baptists are dedicated to a complete and sincere proclamation of the gospel.

I came away with a deep appreciation for those scattered pastors and lay people who are in Alaska—not to escape nor to get rich—but to witness for Jesus Christ.

It was easy, I suppose, for our fellow Baptists in Alaska to look at the many difficulties and decide to "cool it." But instead, I sensed dedication to intensify their commitment to reach that vast land with God's message.

GOD'S GREAT ALL-PURPOSE BOOK



CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE—78,332

Baptist and Reflector

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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.

'Sports page' terminology

Dear editor:

The report on baptisms for 1977-78 in *Baptist and Reflector* ("Memphis' Bellevue lead Tennessee in baptisms," Jan. 24) suggested a competitiveness that is most often reserved for the sports page of the local newspaper. Such phrases as "second place again," "moving into third place," "close to the 100-mark," and "in the 80 bracket" seemed inappropriate for describing the work associated with bringing persons into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

There is nothing wrong with recognizing those churches involved. No doubt many Tennessee Baptists are interested—for one reason or another—in what is happening in the churches across our state. However, in my opinion a simple listing would have been sufficient.

There is difficulty with our efforts to measure spiritual decisions. Counting baptisms may be the only way. Nevertheless, it is also important that those persons who are baptized be incorporated into the life of the church for development in Christian discipleship. Failure to do so weakens the effectiveness of our evangelism and negates the accuracy of our count.

I am not implying that the churches listed in the article are not encouraging Christian growth. That is something I don't know. We do need to remember, however, that the profession of faith is the beginning, not the end of life in Christ.

Ronald K. Brown
229 Theodore Road
Nashville, TN 37214

Out of place

Dear editor:

In the Jan. 24 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, I read something which defied my imagination and raised my anger (to borrow a phrase from the editorial, "A week of historic events").

Realizing that an editorial is written to express an opinion, I feel the editorial on the ousting of Ray Blanton and the early swearing in of Lamar Alexander was completely out of place in a publication of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Had I wished to read something on the subject, the problem could easily have been solved by picking up any newspaper in the state.

The *Baptist and Reflector* should be church and religion oriented, and not a sounding board of one's political feelings.

Editorials of this nature appearing in our religious publication are a personal affront to Baptists all over the state of Tennessee.

I sincerely hope that discretion is used in the future to insure that space in the *Baptist and Reflector* is not wasted in such a way.

Ellen Wells
Rt. 1
Morrison, TN 37357

Loss of distinctives

Dear editor:

The late W.R. White, pastor, author, and educator, wrote a study course book in 1946. This book was published by the Sunday School Board and taught in Southern Baptist churches.

The book was entitled *Baptist Distinctives*. What Baptists believe and practice about baptism and the Lord's Supper were two doctrines that distinguish Baptists from other denominations.

Now, if this good man were living today, he would observe some of our Southern Baptist churches accepting baptisms of non-Baptist bodies, throwing the Lord's Supper open to everybody and everything. He would note

these two Baptist distinctives disappearing from Baptist churches. He would further note the denomination losing control over what is taught in some of our colleges and seminaries, even losing some schools altogether.

In the 40 years that I have pastored Southern Baptist churches, what we believed and practiced was not a stumbling block to the Christians who came from other denominations. In some cases, it was what induced them to join in the first place. Southern Baptist churches that accept non-Baptist bodies' baptism do not make Baptists of those who come on their own baptism. If the church isn't careful, these who come will make Pentecostals, Campbellites, etc. out of weak Baptists.

In the preface of his book, White expresses the sentiment of many Baptists, "Whatever may be said about historic distinctives, there are doctrinal differences sufficient to justify the classification Baptist, Protestant, and Catholic." He adds further, "I am deeply concerned that we have spiritual fellowship and unity with others, but without betraying a sacred trust."

I am wondering if others have noticed the trend.

Wendon F. Brooks
611 El Capitan Dr.
Bolivar, TN 38008

Less ancient history

Dear editor:

Thank you for publishing my letter, "Comparing lessons" (Feb. 7).

The thought I was attempting to convey to all who are concerned is that what occurred in the B.C. era is not applicable to the modern man's conception of the immediate now.

The Holy inspired Word of God has not changed since Moses inscribed the book of Genesis by the inspiration of God. However, interpretations have to the extent that modern man in many instances has become confused, rather than enlightened, by some writers and prognosticators.

The average teacher and student could care less whether Nehemiah was a butcher, baker, or candlestick maker. What we are deeply concerned about is how we interpret the lessons in the *Adult Teacher* to coincide with today's need, which is a closer walk with Christ—not what someone did in the B.C. era.

Also, I am reasonably sure that a large percentage of teachers are familiar with ancient, medieval, and modern history. Why the repetition?

Jack W. Goans
1723 Albert Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37917

God-honoring families

Dear editor:

There is much that can be done in every home. "The family that prays together, stays together" in building toward a happier family life.

Apply Bible counsel and there will be good results.

Let each one in the household lovingly seek the welcome and welfare of the others, thus strengthening family ties (Col. 3:14). Above all, we should share unitedly in true worship, so that all of us together will enjoy the rich blessing of Jehovah God. We love God, because He first loved us—the One who can crown your happiness with eternal life (Prov. 3:11-18). With God, all things are possible.

Oscar A. Baer
Rt. 9, Box 360
Elizabethton, TN 37643

House panel airs conflict over IRS school proposal

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)—Participants in three days of hearings before a House Ways and Means subcommittee on proposed Internal Revenue Service guidelines for tax exemption of private schools collided repeatedly.

The IRS issued a proposed revenue procedure last Aug. 22 which would have required all private elementary and secondary schools to prove that they operate on a racially nondiscriminatory basis or risk losing their tax exemption. That proposal generated so much protest from private schools that the IRS announced a revised procedure February 13.

Personal perspective

BY TOM MADDEN
TBC executive secretary

I had a unique experience the second week in February. I met for the first time with the other state secretaries in their annual meeting. The thought occurred to me that you might be interested in some of the topics discussed.

In nearly every session and in the halls between sessions, the decline in the number of baptisms was discussed. Many reasons were offered in explanation, but always we came back to a conviction and a renewed burden for the lost, the need for planting new churches in mission points, and the need for becoming increasingly aware of those that are lost in our own communities—especially in urban areas, and among students and young people.

Bold missions was on the agenda for every session. The great over-reaching objective is to preach the gospel to all the people in the world, increase our foreign mission staff to 5,000 by A.D. 2000 joining those missionaries already at work in at least 125 countries, and to accelerate volunteer lay involvement with up to 3,000 persons per year needed now and up to 10,000 per year needed by A.D. 2000. A tenfold multiplication of overseas churches is needed along with an increased use of mass media in areas not presently open to missionary activities. In addition to all of this, we must have a vigorous response to world hunger and disasters.

I was startled to hear that in reaction to the Jonestown disaster, some within the government are asking that every church should publish an audit of their books and file them with the government. I don't believe this will ever become a reality, but the fact is, the thought of it gives me great concern.

Darold Morgan was present from the Annuity Board and reminded us of the plight of many retired servants of God. Many are drawing less than \$150 per month. He also reminded us that inflation is playing havoc with the best of retirement plans.

There was a great deal of encouragement given as various ones described what God was doing in their state.

They expressed appreciation for the churches in Tennessee. We have a far greater stewardship of influence than any one of us realizes.

Thank you for making it possible for me to attend. I pray that I will be a better servant for God among Tennessee Baptists for having gone.



Madden

Some witnesses at the subcommittee's hearings attacked the revised proposal as an assault on religious liberty while others charged that the revised procedure was a retreat from the earlier, stronger language against racial discrimination in private schools. Still other witnesses said the changes met their objections.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, charged that the proposed procedure has "serious church-state constitutional problems inherent" in it. "The fundamental issue which is raised by the revised proposed revenue procedure is religious liberty and the separation of church and state, rather than the furtherance of an altogether meritorious public policy of abolishing racial discrimination," Wood said.

"It would appear that the only logical response of government would be to cease attempting to regulate bona fide churches and those agencies which they have established as integral to their religious mission," Wood continued. He urged the subcommittee to report out a bill which would oppose the IRS procedure as it relates to church-related, church-operated schools.

W. Wayne Allen, pastor of the East Park Baptist Church, Memphis, and chairman of the board of trustees of Briarcrest Baptist School System, tangled with his congressman, Harold E. Ford, Tenn., over Briarcrest's unsuccessful attempts to recruit black students.

Allen said that since the school's incorporation in 1973 it has welcomed black students but has enrolled only two in regular session and 46 in summer school. Total school enrollment is 3,800. Allen said that black leaders in Memphis, including the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Maxine Smith, have actively opposed blacks enrolling in Briarcrest.

Ford said he had never heard any of the negative comments of black leaders which Allen claimed were highly publicized. "You are either saying that I'm not black or that I don't live in Memphis," Ford told Allen. Allen responded that he had documentation of all Briarcrest's recruiting activities among blacks and the opposition encountered.

Jerome Kurtz, IRS commissioner, defended the proposed revenue procedure as the obligation of IRS in upholding federal policy of desegregation in education.

He also asserted that the procedure does not infringe on the First Amendment. "This proposal has no effect at all on anyone's religious beliefs," Kurtz said. "There is ample case law which says that religious practice cannot be illegal. A religion can operate a school and hold any beliefs but it cannot exclude minorities. That is against federal policy."

Kurtz maintained that the IRS has "historically moved very slowly" in the First Amendment area. "We are very sensitive to the potential for conflict in this area," he said.

Richard Larson of the American Civil Liberties Union supported the responsibility of IRS to deny tax-exempt status to discriminatory schools. He characterized the revised procedure as "watered down" and declared, "It has lost its teeth."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights also objected to the new proposal. "The modified procedures would weaken enforcement by detracting from the objectivity and certainty of the original proposed procedure," said Arthur Flemming, chairman of the commission.

The original proposal would have imposed a "four out of five test" on private schools, requiring them to meet four out of five criteria set by the IRS for determining whether a school was racially discriminatory. The revision establishes a "facts and circumstances test" which allows the IRS to consider each case on the basis of specific circumstances of a given school.

Woman's savings bring prisoners Bible courses

ATLANTA (BP)—Cornelia Vann traded a 14-room home in North Carolina's mountains for a one-room apartment in an Atlanta retirement home.

She also traded \$2,000 in hard-earned cash for correspondence Bible courses for prisoners.

Five years ago—at age 85—Mrs. Vann talked with Carl Hart, director of the chaplaincy division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta about her desire to share some savings.

Somehow, prisoners and prison ministries kept creeping into the conversation. Mrs. Vann saw prisoners for the first time as a

young girl in Texas.

Then in North Carolina, while married, teaching school and rearing a daughter, Mrs. Vann employed a household helper with a young son, John.

John often was picked on by other boys. One day the boys jumped on John. But it was another boy who got hurt. He died the next day.

"John didn't have a lawyer. They sent him to the penitentiary," Mrs. Vann explained. She visited John in prison and finally secured his release. She still keeps in touch with the family.

Their names are among the many listed in the spiral notebook that contains her prayer list...right down the page from Billy Graham and Carl Hart.

Mrs. Vann, who taught at Mars Hill College in North Carolina for 40 years until she retired in 1961 as head of the modern languages department, decided prison ministries—especially scholarships for correspondence Bible courses—was the place to designate her gift.

She put her \$2,000 into a long term investment trust fund. The interest—about \$150 a year—provides courses through Seminary Extension for prisoners recommended by a Southern Baptist chaplain, who cannot otherwise afford them. Courses are \$15 to \$25 each.

Seminary Extension, a department of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, is one of only three religious institutional programs accepted by the Accrediting Commission of the National Home Study Council. It offers courses in numerous subjects on simplified and college levels. Some courses are available in Spanish.

Mrs. Vann admitted the needs of prisoners seem overwhelming. "I only wish my gift was more," she said. "People don't usually care anything about prisoners. Mighty few have any love for them at all."

But with her gift, Mrs. Vann proved here love.

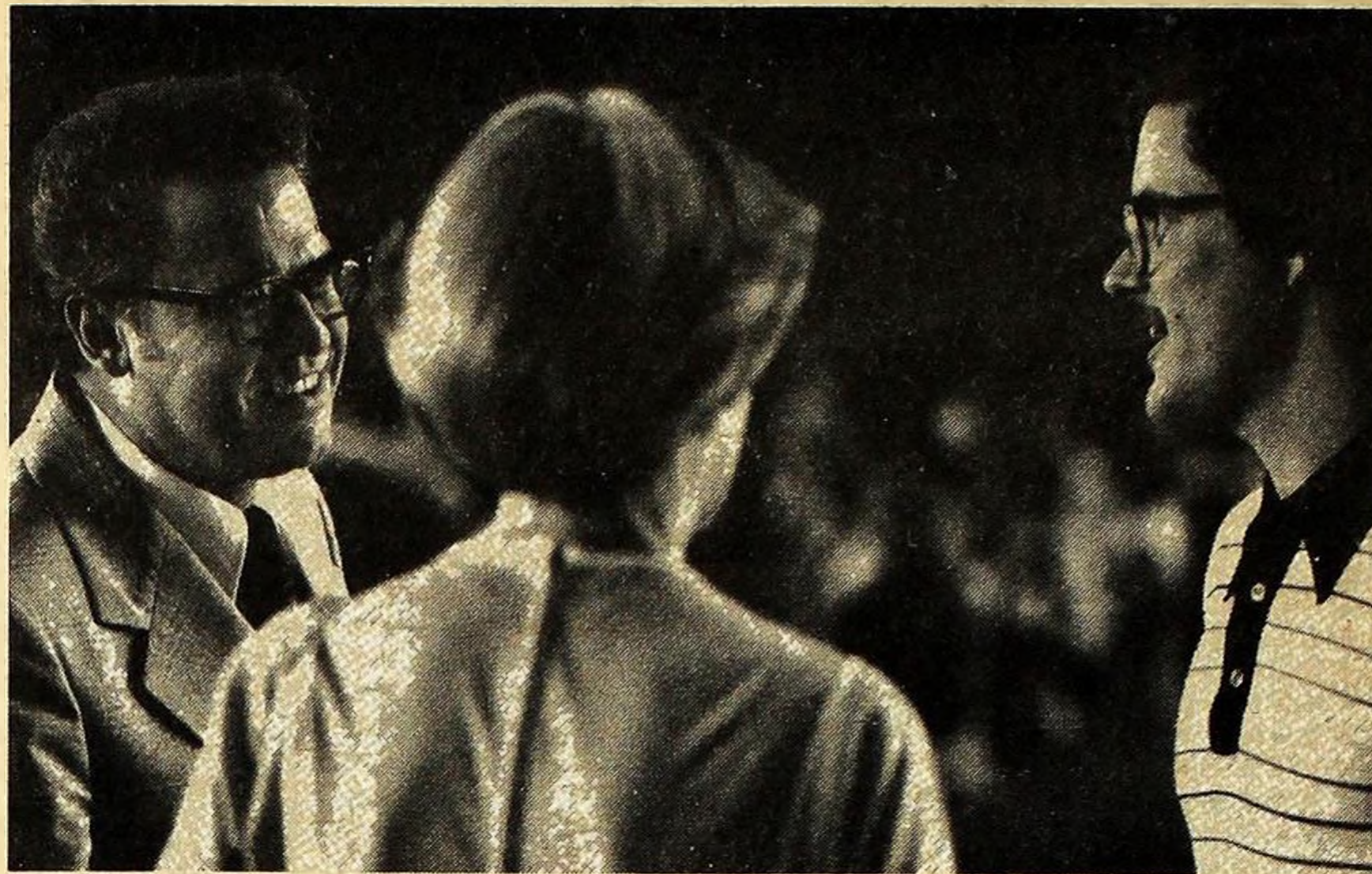
John Harrison returns to Greenfield pastorate

John A. Harrison, pastor of the Oklahoma Avenue Baptist Church in Shawnee, Okla., has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church at Greenfield. He came onto the new field of service on Sunday, Feb. 18.

The Memphis native is returning to Tennessee after a year long absence. Before going to Shawnee, he was pastor of the Greenfield church and also led congregations in Weakley, Dyer, and Lauderdale Counties.

He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and attended the extension center at Shawnee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Active denominationally, he was on the state committee for Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, and served on the credentials committee for the Tennessee Baptist Convention from 1975-77.



CHURCH TRAINING TALK—Roy Edgemon, left, church training director, Baptist Sunday School Board, talks with Jerry Sutton and another student during church training youth week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M. Sutton is a doctoral student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Edgemon expresses optimism for church training future

NASHVILLE—After serving one year as director of the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Roy T. Edgemon is beginning to feel comfortable with his position.

"When I accepted the church training position I did so with guarded optimism, but after one year I am optimistic and enthusiastic about the entire program and staff," Edgemon said.

Edgemon attributes a large portion of his enthusiasm to the cooperation of the state church training directors and Southern Baptist agencies.

"Throughout the year I have received tremendous encouragement from the directors and seen their commitment and excitement grow month by month," he said. "The agencies also have been very helpful lending their full support to several of our projects and enabling the convention to catch the vision of what discipleship training could mean to Southern Baptists."

Edgemon said some of the highpoints of his first year have been attending associational meetings, developing the survival kit for new Christians, and preparing the equipping center modules.

"I spend more than 120 days traveling over the Southern Baptist Convention attending many associational meetings, and M nights," Edgemon said. "The miraculous thing is that throughout the year I never experienced disappointment in any meeting from the rural communities to urban centers."

The survival kit, or new member orientation, has become a reality during Edgemon's first year and will be released this June.

"The orientation includes 50 daily sessions

for a new Christian and should be the greatest contribution to a new Christian's growth of any materials being produced," he said.

This April the equipping center modules will be released, and Edgemon said he counts it a privilege to have had a part in pulling together the modules and seeing them take shape.

"I believe the equipping centers are going to open a new role for church training as we join with other programs in short-term training," he said.

He said that there were four things he wanted for the ongoing curriculum when he came which have been accomplished. They were the curriculum to be Bible-based, person-centered, practical, and sequential.

As Edgemon looks to the coming year, he has set some priorities for himself and the department, the major ones being the growth of existing church training programs and starting new ones.

"Church training is leveling off in its enrollment decline," Edgemon said, "showing only a .1 percent loss this year. 'Hopefully we will go over to the positive side next year with our enrollment program known as 'Build Up.' I believe we are on the upswing."

Editors, executives meet, elect officers

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)—Glen E. Braswell, executive secretary for Colorado Baptists and Alvin C. Shackelford, editor of Tennessee's state Baptist paper, were named to the presidency of their respective groups of Southern Baptist Convention leaders earlier this month at their annual meetings.

Braswell succeeds Harold C. Bennett of Florida as president of the Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors.

Shackelford, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, succeeds John E. Roberts, editor of The Baptist Courier, South Carolina, as president of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Alaska Baptist Convention, led by retiring executive secretary/editor Troy Prince, hosted meetings of the two groups.

Named vice president for the executives was Richard M. Stephenson of Virginia. Robert B. Wilson of Michigan is the group's secretary.

President-elect for the press association is Julian H. Pentecost, editor of The Religious Herald, Virginia. Bobby S. Terry, editor of The Word and Way, Missouri, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

The 1980 annual meeting of the two groups will be in Orlando, Fla., February 12-14.

Citizen's Corner

By Jerry M. Self
Public affairs and Christian life consultant

When and how should you contact your legislator? During the week, Monday through Thursday, he or she is in Nashville, in legislative sessions, committee meetings or in the office. The most effective means of communicating your views there is by letter.

Your letter should treat one issue. Be brief. State what you want done. Ask a question if possible, the most obvious being, "How do you intend to vote on this issue?" If you can inform the legislator on the issue, state your source of information. For example: "Since 18 year



Self

olds have had legal access to alcohol, DUI arrests have increased from 68 to 218. This information comes from the court house records of Carroll county."

When under time pressure, call. Speak to the legislator if possible. If that is not possible, speak to whomever you can; but remember to leave your name. The weakness of a phone call lies in its anonymous nature. Give name, phone number where you can be reached, and your address if they will take that much information.

After the session closes Thursday, everyone goes home. An effective contact can then be made face to face. Use the week-end to press home your concerns.

At present those concerns should include parimutuel gambling bills SB44 and SB50 which are before the Senate state and local government committee and HB373 before the House commerce committee. Also make known your views on SB200 before the same Senate committee and HB371 in the House finance ways and means committee. These bills raise the drinking age from 18 to 21.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OFFICERS—Glen E. Braswell of Colorado (left) is the new president of the Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors. Richard M. Stephenson of Virginia (center) and Robert B. Wilson of Michigan were elected vice-president and secretary of the group at its annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.



EDITOR'S OFFICERS—Alvin C. Shackelford of Tennessee's "Baptist and Reflector" (left) was elected president of the Southern Baptist Press Association during its recent meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Other officers are president-elect, Julian Pentecost of Virginia's "Religious Herald" (center), and secretary, Bob Terry of Missouri's "Word and Way."

Our People and Our Churches . . .

PEOPLE...

An ordination service was conducted at Springdale Baptist Church, Kingsport, to ordain Paul Carpenter as a deacon. James Elkins, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Holston Valley Association, assisted in the service. Dewey R. Ramey is pastor at Springdale.

First Baptist Church in Covington licensed Wayne C. Dorris to the gospel ministry earlier this month. Dorris is assistant pastor/minister of music at that church. He is a native of Springfield, Tenn., and a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville. Baylon Hilliard is pastor of the Covington church.

Gerald Parnell was ordained as a deacon at Willingham Memorial Baptist Church in Beulah Association. David Mitchell is pastor.

Marshal A. Knight, new pastor at Central Heights Baptist Church in Jefferson County Association, was ordained to the gospel ministry by that church recently. Participating in the service were: director of missions Carl Ogle, interim pastor Bob Coutts, and the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dandridge, Bob McCray.

Danny Johnson, pastor at Woodland Baptist Church, Haywood Association, was ordained to the gospel ministry recently. Raymond Boston, Robert Orr, and Bob Agee participated in the service.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon DePriest are scheduled to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Mar. 11 in Jackson. DePriest is director of missions in Haywood Association.

Members of Speedway Terrace Baptist Church, Memphis, were scheduled to honor Mrs. Helen Solomon on Sunday, Feb. 25. Mrs. Solomon has served in the church's office for the past 30 years. Ray Gilder is pastor at Speedway.

Trinity Baptist Church in Memphis ordained Don Palmer as a deacon on Sunday, Feb. 18. Arlis F. Grice is pastor.

Wayne Max was licensed to the gospel ministry by First Baptist Church in Humboldt on Sunday, Feb. 18. W. Darrell Clarke is pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Sisk, First Baptist Church of Huntland, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month. George McGlothlin is their pastor.

Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville ordained W.H. Acuff, Ruth Buhl, and Clarice Smith as deacons on Sunday, Feb. 25. Marion C. Barnett is pastor.

Nance's Grove Baptist Church ordained Floyd Mooney to the gospel ministry. Carl Ogle, director of missions for Jefferson County Association, assisted in the service.

CHURCHES...

Members of Haywood Hills Baptist Church in Nashville have announced that construction will begin in March on a \$300,000 multipurpose activities building. The facility, to be built by George Powell Construction Co., will contain 7,000 sq. ft. for pre-school and nursery work and an additional 8,400 sq. ft. for activities. It is the fourth building the church has constructed. Roger Shelton is pastor.

The executive board of Jefferson County Association voted to purchase three acres in the Northview community near Jefferson City for a future Baptist church. The land is located on Highway 25-70, according to Carl Ogle, director of missions.

East Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson celebrated the church's 15th anniversary this month. Jimmy Scott is pastor.

LEADERSHIP...

Unity Baptist Church, Madison-Chester Association, called W. Clyde Tilley as pastor. Tilley served as interim pastor at the church for the past two years.

William E. Burks resigned as pastor of Bible Grove Baptist Church, Madison-Chester Association, to move to Ridgecrest, N.C. The resignation was effective on Sunday, Feb. 25.

Larry Johnson is serving as interim pastor of Richland Baptist Church in Nashville.

First Baptist Church of Covington called Barry Wilson as pastoral intern recently. A native of Bolivar, Wilson is a recent graduate of Union University in Jackson. The pastoral intern is responsible to the pastor and assists in the overall church program, youth education, and activities. Baylon Hilliard is pastor of the Covington congregation.

Dorian Focks is the new youth pastor at Park Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis. Bill Belva is pastor.

Edgemoor Baptist Church, Clinton Association, called Kerr Wolfenbarger as interim pastor. He resides in Knoxville.

John G. Dyer, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, resigned recently.

Northview Baptist Church, Memphis, called Edward Crawley into full-time service as minister of music and education. He has served in the capacity of interim minister of music for the past 12 months. He began his full-time service this month. Thomas Pirtle is pastor.

Weekend conference slated for singles

NASHVILLE—An Easter weekend conference for single adults will be held at Ridgecrest April 13-15.

"Invitation to Life" is the theme of the conference which will include "inspiration through drama, music, Bible study, and messages," said Ann Smith, conference coordinator.

The A.D. Players, directed by Jeannette Clift George, will present three dramas on the resurrection theme—"The Thief on the Cross," "Paragraph," and "Stet." Theme interpretations at each session will be done by Frank Connelly, a Nashville dramatist.

Phil McCarty, professor of religious education at Mississippi College, will be the featured speaker.

Also, four spiritual growth seminars will be offered—living in confidence, practical theology, spiritual gifts, and prayer as communication.

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The Yearbook-Directory can be designed to meet your church's individual needs based on the following suggested contents:

1. Embossed cover with photograph of the church, name and address.
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3. Group portraits of church officials, deacons, boards and committees, etc.
4. Church history, program, schedule of services, events, reports, etc.
5. Family portrait of congregation members arranged alphabetically.
6. Directory section to contain list with name, address and phone number of every member of the congregation, whether or not photographed.
7. We will be happy to work with any ideas the church has.
8. When the books are delivered, the Pastor will receive a photo of each family photographed.

The size, binding and number of pages of your Directory will be determined by the number of families photographed. All of our activities for completing your Directory are performed in your church. You are invited to supervise the taking of the portraits and the showing of the proofs.

We request that a committee be appointed to work with us to take care of all details to your entire satisfaction.

One Yearbook-Directory for each family photographed will be delivered to the church within sixty days after the last pose is selected. Additional books may be desired for missionary work, new members, gifts, etc. These may be purchased at our cost price.

The program is financially feasible for us because most of the people we will photograph in your church have never had the occasion to sit for a family portrait and will be delighted to obtain copies for themselves and their loved ones. They will have a free sitting with many poses to select from and because we photograph in volume they will have the advantage of comparatively low prices.

IN ANY CASE, NO ONE IS OBLIGATED OR WILL BE PRESSURED IN ANY MANNER to order extra copies. The appeal of the portraits themselves makes "selling" unnecessary. All we require is that an adult member of the family choose the pose for the Directory.

The success of this program is assured if it is adapted as a particular church project and a committee appointed to work with us. Upon approval of the program our representative will meet with your committee to arrange the details. If your church is interested in this program, please fill out form below, and mail to the address above.

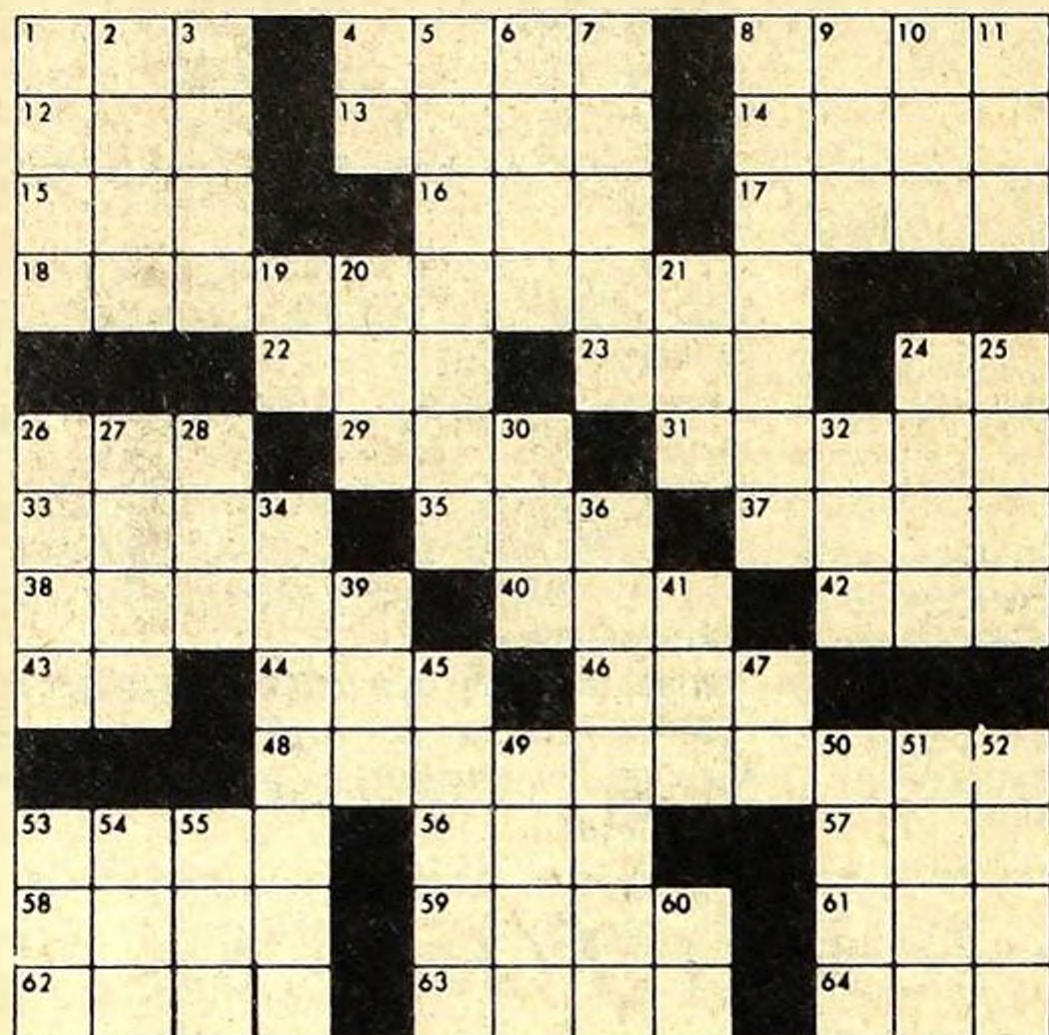
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Bible Puzzle

Answers on page 10



ACROSS

- 1 Three years old (Gen. 15:9)
4 "For this — is" (Gal. 4)
8 In Syria (Acts 21:3)
12 Beverage
13 Any
14 "the — of the corner" (1 Pet. 2:7)
15 O. T. book: abbr.
16 Kind of anchor
17 Famous Italian family
18 "— — — that cup" (1 Cor. 11)
22 Government agency
23 Spanish lady: abbr.
24 Pronoun
26 Poetic word
29 Baseball great
31 Sado's son (Matt. 1:14)

- 33 Vegetable
35 Potato, sometimes
37 Jesus' ancestor (Luke 3:25)
38 Strong (1 Chron. 26:7)
40 Academic degree
42 Part of temple
43 Foreign money: abbr.
44 And so forth
46 — de Cologne
48 "— — — always" (Acts 24)
53 Choir member
56 Bill and —
57 Rights: abbr.
58 "began to — away" (Luke 9:12)
59 Kind of frost
61 South of Canada: abbr.

- 62 "The — give mercy" (2 Tim. 1)
63 Prefix meaning within
64 Corn part

DOWN

- 1 "In — was there a voice" (Matt. 2)
2 Man's name
3 Pinocle term
4 Equally
5 Biblical giant
6 So be it
7 Smells bad
8 "from — — of the serpent" (Rev. 12)
9 Affirmative
10 Rodent
11 Netherlands town
19 Kind of current: abbr.
20 River in Spain
21 Money of account
24 Eight furlongs
25 Biblical giants (Deut. 2:11; sing.)
26 Son of Salah (Gen. 10:24)
27 Slippery ones
28 Man (1 Ki. 1:8)
30 Small child
32 Initials of former U.S. President
34 "and — — was God" (John 1)
36 "and the weight of — —" (1 Sam. 17)
39 American Indian
41 — West
45 Hide
47 Elevator sign
49 Animal
50 "This is the — God" (1 John 5)
51 — — boy!
52 Russian ruler
53 Tool
54 Papal name
55 Sailor
60 Road: abbr.

CRYPTOVERSE

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Union schedules Bible conference

"Who Is This Jesus?" will be explored at the eighth annual spring Bible conference at Union University, Mar. 5-7, according to Robert E. Craig, president of the west Tennessee college.

The conference, designed primarily for lay people, will focus on the deity of Christ and the ministry of Jesus. Craig stated that the conference leaders were selected because of their expertise in the chosen study.

Wayne Ward, professor of New Testament theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will lead studies on the deity of Christ. Researching the various ministries of Jesus will be Huber Drumwright, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex. S.M. Lockridge, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego, Calif., will serve as worship leader.

Anne Criswell Jackson, concert soprano, Dallas, has been invited to bring special music to the conference.

Sessions will be held in the chapel of the Union campus beginning Monday at 10 a.m., Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., and Wednesday at 10 a.m. The conference will close Wednesday night after a worship service at 8:00.



CONVOCATION ON PEACE—Southern Baptists, attending a denominational meeting on peace and nuclear arms in Louisville earlier this month, listened to messages on nuclear power, relations with the Soviet Union, world hunger, and human rights.

SBC peace convocation urges SALT approval

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—More than 400 Southern Baptists attending a denominational meeting on peacemaking and the nuclear arms race endorsed the proposed SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union.

The SALT resolution urged the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty and called on Southern Baptist pastors, laypeople, and denominational leaders to consider declaring themselves for the treaty.

The convocation was convened by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary ethics professor Glen H. Stassen; seminary student government president Robert Parham; and Carman Sharp, pastor of Louisville's Deer Park Baptist Church, in response to a strongly worded resolution on nuclear arms limitation adopted last June by the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Participants at the two-day meeting at Deer Park church also called on the 13-million-member denomination to look beyond SALT II and work for multilateral disarmament.

Another resolution called on the SBC Executive Committee to fund and staff three new positions for persons designated to deal exclusively with peace, world hunger, and human rights.

By implication, the statement chided the two biggest agencies, the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, for failing to engage in political activity on behalf of human rights.

The statement further challenged multinational corporations "to issue impact statements of their policies in regard to world hunger, peace, and human rights."

Several denominational agencies were urged to provide literature and other educational materials to help local pastors and churches in educating Southern Baptists about peace issues.

Local churches should observe Christian Citizenship Sunday on the Sunday before the Fourth of July with a special emphasis on peacemaking, another resolution declared. The Christian Life Commission, which sponsors the special day each year, was urged to provide new information to churches "concerning the nuclear arms race and its implications for Southern Baptist life and mission as peacemakers in our world."

Individually, Baptists were urged to renew their "personal and corporate worship" leading to the development of "lifestyles which lessen motives that lead to violence and war."

David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist

Church, Greenville, S.C., warned conferees that "the awesome amassing of destructive nuclear power is a manifestation of idolatry."

While America claims trust in God, Matthews said, "When it comes to protecting our property and pleasure, we trust in ourselves and our weapons." This, he said, "is one of the most spectacular denials in all time of God's sovereign lordship."

U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford, Ky., told the convocation that he has not decided whether to vote for the proposed SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union.

Ford, a Baptist, commended his denomination for adopting the peace resolution, but said that his eventual decision hinges on the ability of the U.S. to verify the Soviets' willingness to abide by the terms of the treaty.

William Dyess, deputy assistant secretary of state for public affairs, insisted that Soviet concern over details during the lengthy negotiating process of SALT II indicates their real commitment to an agreement. Dyess, also a Baptist, said he does not believe the Russians' aim during the process has been "to get us to let down our guard."

Richard Barnet, director of the Institute of Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., warned that "the political reality that hangs over us...is that the world is drifting toward nuclear war. On both sides, people are planning for war and feel that it is inevitable."

He explained that Christians confronting the arms race are torn between the clear Biblical call to peacemaking and what are popularly considered to be the practical realities.

Convocation participants also heard from several Southern Baptist pastors, educators, and agency representatives on practical approaches to peacemaking.

Walter B. Shurden, associate professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, declared that Southern Baptists have historically recognized the spiritual dimensions of peacemaking.

Reviewing five statements on peace adopted by the SBC in this century, Shurden admitted that "it is true that Southern Baptists have mostly talked, resolved, and urged."

Bill Elder of the SBC Christian Life Commission called on the conferees to narrow their present political activities to the passage of SALT II. He challenged the convocation to help influence the votes of undecided senators from 16 states.

TENNESSEE BAPTIST

Children's Homes

P.O. BOX 347
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/TREASURER
EVANS B. BOWEN

"How is everything going at the Children's Homes?" I am greeted more frequently with that question than any other salutation. Nothing could cause my heart to rejoice more. It is a true joy to be associated with the Children's Homes, and I am happy for any excuse to talk about the Child Care Ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Evans B. Bowen

Just about any answer we give will be partially correct. If we answer, "some of the children are suffering with colds, sore throats, flu or a sprained ankle," that will be true. If we answer, "things are moving unusually well," that will be correct as

related to a particular area. If we answer, "there has never been a time when we worked with more disturbed children," that is correct but not the whole truth. If we answer, "we are very gratified with the splendid results we are experiencing with some of our children," that will tell the story of some. If I say, "we are more frustrated than ever in seeking to find the best way to cope with some of the problems," that, too, will be true.

Every child is an individual. He doesn't fit into a ready-made mold. His hurts, fears, anxieties are a new set of problems to be dealt with. He can't be treated like another child. He must be dealt with on an individual basis. Every staff member needs the wisdom of Solomon, patience of Job, the strength of Sampson, the courage of David, the gentleness and perseverance of Ruth. Yet, our staff suffers from the terrible problem of being clothed in human flesh, and being just average human beings.

We know, too well, how to become discouraged, angry, frustrated, and tired. We can cry, scold, fuss and love. There is one thing that a truly dedicated staffer of Tennessee Baptists Children's Homes finds extremely difficult to do "quit." Sure, our staff wants to quit. There is just one thing that keeps our dedicated staff at the "impossible task" of doing many things for which we were never trained. God has called us to this job of ministering to boys and girls in His name. We don't always see the results that we wish. However, we are comforted in knowing that we never really fail so long as we give our best in the name and love of Jesus Christ.

Campus Needs

An East Tennessee trustee recently asked if we knew what the immediate needs are on the East Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Campus. The answer was quickly given. "We must have an activities building, one more cottage and staff housing." We know just where to locate these buildings on the Campus. We know approximately what the cost would be at this time. The one thing we do not know is where we are going to put our hands on that much money. We are able to carry on a very good program with our operational budget but "new buildings" present another story.

Join with us in praying that the needed funds will be provided to build these additional facilities. We present no argument for the need. The need is very obvious. Many of you who read this article believe very strongly in prayer. We wish to place this need upon your heart that you may make this matter an object of prayer daily.

Any monies received designated for these buildings will be put in a special fund and reserved just for that cause. How much money do you think we can raise for this building program in 1979?

Visiting Off Campus

For many children, visiting for a weekend with relatives or friends may not seem very special. Children in care on the campuses of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes see such an event as much more spectacular.

Feeling that each child should have the opportunity of "getting away from campus," each Home has adopted a policy by which children visit off campus at least one weekend each month. In addition, the children visit with relatives or approved families during holidays.

The visitation program allows the child an opportunity to relax and ventilate feelings and serves several other worthwhile purposes. The modeling aspect is very important as children are able to observe and identify with a "normal" home situation. Making the child feel a part of the community rather than feeling institutionalized is also seen as therapeutic for the child. Weekend visitation is an excellent means of informing the church community, in a personal way, of the needs of the children at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Foster and adoptive homes are often initiated by means of weekend visitation. As families come to personally know and love the children, they become emotionally involved and committed.

With the rapid turnover in campus residents, the need for additional homes in which the children may visit continues to exist. If you are members of a cooperating Baptist Church in Tennessee, you may apply through any of the four campuses to become a visiting family.

Contributed by,
Charlene Ziegler, Social Worker
East Tennessee Baptist Children's Home



Billy Hill Goes Visiting

"No one every listened himself out of a job."

Calvin Coolidge

★ ★ ★

"It is not who is right, but what is right that is of importance."

Thomas Huxley

New Materials Ready

To aid your Church in promoting the Mother's Day Offering for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes we have the following materials:

- (1) Large color posters with picture of one of our children.
- (2) Church bulletins (color).
- (3) Coin cards (quarter and dime).
- (4) "One Which Was Lost"—A 20 minute, 16MM, color and sound film.
- (5) Individual offering envelopes.

These materials are provided without cost to your church.

The Mother's Day Offering goal this year is \$450,000. We need to exceed the goal to enable us to meet some Bold Mission Goals.

Use the other card to place the order for all the materials your church needs. If your order card did not reach you—write or call.

On the Needs of Children

(Excerpts from an address by Jim Parham, deputy assistant secretary for Human Development Services, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Delivered at the conference of National Association of Homes for Children, Atlanta, Georgia).

Some of the children in some parts of the world are without the fundamental survival requirements of food, clothing, and shelter. Others, and I think particularly those in this country, seem to suffer, not from a lack of material things, but rather those things of the spirit—confidence and faith...This organization, National Association of Homes for Children, I think, is performing a solid service by pointing out the positive side of the picture in relation to Children's residential facilities.

Serving children's needs instead of labeling children to be served

No program for children in social distress can be considered well-balanced unless it makes adequate provision for four basic resources; community-based case work, clinical evaluation, foster family care, and residential care. We need to aim for a time when our programs will allow us to appraise a child's family circumstances and provide for him or her what is needed rather than just what is available or fundable, because of some incomplete government policy that favors one form of care over another...

I don't want to do anything to diminish what I think is a necessary drive toward the proper handling of status offenders and children, it doesn't make sense to me, and it never has, to try to distinguish between children on the basis of legal labels. It is not sound to protect one group of children and then unnecessarily stigmatize or condemn other children who may have just had that one unfortunate event that can occur in life that gets them labeled officially delinquent. It just doesn't make sense to anybody who really knows this business, and we need to find a way to get beyond that and get on to the real business, which is the proper protection of all youngsters.

What Children Need Most

Children, as we all know, need the means to live and grow. We must never forget that even more fundamental than the means to live, children need a reason to live. It is important for a child to have adequate food, clothes, shelter, educational and medical care. But it is more important that he have faith and confidence in himself, his family, and his country. The wisest among us know that it is easier to fill an empty belly than to splint a broken spirit. What do children need most? The basic answer; I think is simple. They need adults in their lives who are fit to be loved and fit to be imitated. The most damaging thieves among us are not those who take our property, but those who through cynical and hypocritical actions, rob our children of their faith in us and our basic institutions. I think that those in this audience would agree that with that kind of care, from adults that are fit to be loved and imitated, we can produce the kind of youth that would help produce the caring society that all of us want.



TBCH Meets Needs

All About Adoption

"With all those precious children on the four campuses, surely we could adopt just one." That statement is heard all across the state. The boys and girls living on the campuses of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes are not eligible for adoption. Most of them have living parents. Hopefully, we will be able to see their homes re-established and the children return home. Our hearts rejoice when this goal is achieved.

Adoption!

Yes, Tennessee Baptist Children's Home is a licensed "adoption agency." We place some infants in adoptive homes each year. However, we have many more requests that we can possibly fill. The waiting period at this time is approximately four years. We never know when that period may change. Couples on the waiting list usually grow impatient, and often irritated as the time moves slowly. Many times they lose count of time and feel that they have waited much longer than they really have. The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes staff find themselves writing numerous letters and answering many telephone calls explaining our adoption program.

Communication is often a serious problem. When the facts are told to those desiring to adopt, they think we are only trying to discourage them. The object is simply to let them know that the process is very slow, the waiting time is long, and the couple must meet rather rigid requirements.

Suggestions?

The following suggestions are offered that childless couples might give some consideration to:

(1) Would you like to consider being a "foster home" for a child that needs your love?

(2) Would you consider "a hard to place child?" I refer to a child who is less than "perfect" or "normal." Many such children need a home and the love you can give.

(3) Would you consider a bi-racial child? The Holt Adoption Agency places more such children in the United States than any other agency. If interested, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes can provide you with more information.

(4) Have you explored the possibilities of adoption through the Department of Human Services? Have you asked the Department of Human Services to supply you with a list of all licensed adoption agencies in the state of Tennessee?

(5) Ask the TBCH staffer with whom you speak to make suggestions of any other possible sources.

When all these suggestions have been explored, we then come back to say that "we are sorry that we have no other help to offer."

Almost every day we hurt with some couple who wants so much to adopt a baby and we are compelled to tell them the facts found in this article. We know. We care. We love you.

Tom Madden named to receive degree

Union board adopts record budget, reports gifts up by 52 percent

The board of trustees of Union University, meeting in its annual spring session in Jackson, approved a record \$4.6 million operating budget for the school's 1979-80 academic year.

Going into effect June 1, the budget reflects an increase of \$486,536, or 11.8 percent over the current year, making it the largest in the 154-year history of the institution. Exact

figures of the budget total \$4,614,192.

Robert E. Craig, president of the west Tennessee college, reported that the college had enrolled 1,050 students for the spring term. The president also reported that the number of freshmen class applicants is currently up eight percent for the 1979 fall semester.

Development director Larry Stewart reported unrestricted giving for the college is up 52 percent over the same period last year with three months left in the budget year. In addition, the alumni loyalty fund is running 31.5 percent ahead of last year for the same time period.

Trustees also selected two individuals to receive honorary doctorates in June 2 commencement exercises. Named to receive the honorary doctor of divinity degree was Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Secretary Tom Madden. Marvin Sandidge, Memphis businessman, and a member of Eudora Baptist Church, will be awarded the doctor of humanities degree.

With completion of construction of the single student housing and the near completion of married student apartments, Union is increasing its resident population from 549 to nearly 700 at a cost of nearly \$600,000, according to a report from board member Kenneth Leathers. The project was begun in the spring of 1978.

In other business, trustees accepted a recommendation from Dean of Religious Affairs Bob Agee that the college establish an annual award honoring an associational missions director. Letters of retirement from assistant professors Mea Koger of the nursing department and Nora Smith of the education department were accepted.

UNIFORM SERIES
Lesson for Sunday, March 4

The Corinthian church

By Carolyn D. Blevins
instructor, religion department
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passages: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; 2 Corinthians 1:21 to 2:4; 13:1-14
Focal Passages: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; 2 Corinthians 1:21 to 2:4; 13:10-11

Picture a city where morals are a low priority. Add many busy accountants and executives for this is a center of much commerce. Remember to include the appropriate religious structures. What city do you have in mind?

Many cities fit that description. Whatever city you had in mind, it must be a lot like Corinth. Perhaps, when you think of Corinth you think of a city with lax morals. Certainly, Corinth had that kind of reputation. But there's much more to Corinth.

Corinth was a unique city. Perhaps, her greatest asset was her location. She was located on the narrow strip of land which gave Greece a pinched look.

The isthmus that cradled Corinth provided crucial accesses for both Greece and other nations. Corinth was the city that linked northern Greece to Southern Greece. She was also a strategic harbor between the Adriatic and Aegean Seas. This was the place where the two seas met as Acts 27:41 describes it. The broken coastline of many bays and inlets provided a safe harbor for shipping as well as for the Roman navy.

If ever a city was a crossroads, Corinth was. She was the intersection of north-south routes and east-west routes, of land trade and sea trade. Business, military, and religious leaders appreciated the significance of her location.

Business often spawns business. So many types of commerce sprang up in Corinth to meet the numerous needs and interests of her varied population. Festivals were often held to entertain both local people and visitors.

As you might expect there were prosperous families in the city. The poverty of many Corinthians made the wealthy seem even richer. Corinth was a paradox of wealth and poverty.

Corinth's assets gave her a magnetic appeal. Businessmen from all over the Mediterranean world came to conduct their business there. The activities of the Roman government brought governmental officials as well as military personnel to Corinth. Sailors from many nations frequented the port city. Consequently, many religions had centers of worship in Corinth to serve and attract devotees. Many religious festivals were held in Corinth. The festivals attracted even more people.

One of the persons attracted to Corinth was Paul. Thinking of the impact Christianity could have in Corinth must have boggled Paul's mind. Twice on his journeys, he had lingered in Corinth for many months. A city boy like Paul was probably drawn to the ex-

citement of Corinth.

An urgent need

The tug of the gospel was even stronger than the tug of the city. Paul wanted a strong Christian community in Corinth. He invested a lot of personal effort to get such a Christian witness established. What an impact a Christian witness in Corinth could have!

Understandably, the Corinthian church needed a lot of nurturing. Aside from being new, the Christian group was not exactly in a friendly environment. Undoubtedly, Christianity was a strange religion to other Corinthians. The Christians' jealous one god and their wretchedly strict morals set them apart from Corinthian society. Christians had to continually struggle with old habits and an anything-goes environment.

Paul knew how important it was for the Corinthian Christians to be set apart. He took care to remind them of their distinctiveness. "To those sanctified" and "called to be saints" (1 Cor. 1:2) reminded them even in his greeting they were set apart.

Though the Christians at Corinth may have been materially poor (1 Cor. 1:26), they obviously had discovered spiritual riches. Not only did they have truth, they also had the gifts of proclaiming truth. Paul went so far as to say they had all the spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 1:5). The problem was they didn't yet have a mature understanding of those gifts. Paul, the spiritual sage, wrote this letter to prod their spiritual understanding.

Directing their spiritual development was a rocky road for Paul (2 Cor. 2:1-4). However, a stormy relationship did not dampen his love for his Corinthian brothers and sisters. Paul countered the pain with nurture rather than despair. The strain of the relationship was not easily erased, however. Later in his correspondences with the Corinthians, he was quite firm (2 Cor. 13:1-10). They wanted proof of his authority. Paul wanted them to probe their own faith.

Sound advice

Paul really wanted to be phased out of his role as their spiritual parent. If they were spiritually healthy, then he would have no need to discipline them (2 Cor. 13:9). When they improved in their holiness, their relationships with others, including Paul, would be restored.

So Paul was faithful in his correspondence to the Corinthians because he had a sustained interest in their spiritual development (2 Cor. 13:10). He certainly had no intention of destroying their faith. After assuring them of his motives, he proceeded with sound practical advice in verses 11 and 12 of 2 Cor. 13.

The improvement Paul prayed for in verse 9 was possible if the Corinthians were willing to mend their ways (verse 11). If they dared to replace bad practices with good ones, they would experience the God of love and peace. Paul's instructions were both simple and difficult. But if the Corinthian Christians followed through, their mended fellowship with each other could result in restored fellowship with God.

Corinth was an ancient city. And Paul is no contemporary figure. Yet, the guidance Paul gave the Corinthian church is as relevant as today's newspaper.

Our society has many similarities to Corinthian society. Christians today face many of the same dilemmas the Corinthian church did. How fortunate we are to have Paul's letters to guide us in our spiritual growth.

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

R	A	M	A	G	A	R	T	Y	R	E
A	L	E	S	O	M	E	H	E	A	D
M	A	L	L	E	E	E	S	T	E	
A	N	D	D	R	I	N	K	O	F	
	C	I	A	S	R	A	M	E		
E	E	R	O	T	A	C	H	I	M	
B	E	E	T	H	O	T	E	S	L	I
E	L	I	H	U	T	H	M	T	E	M
R	S	E	T	C	E	A	U			
	W	E	A	C	C	E	P	T	I	T
A	L	T	O	C	O	O	R	T	S	
W	E	A	R	H	O	A	R	U	S	A
L	O	R	D	E	N	T	O	E	A	R

"Keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21).



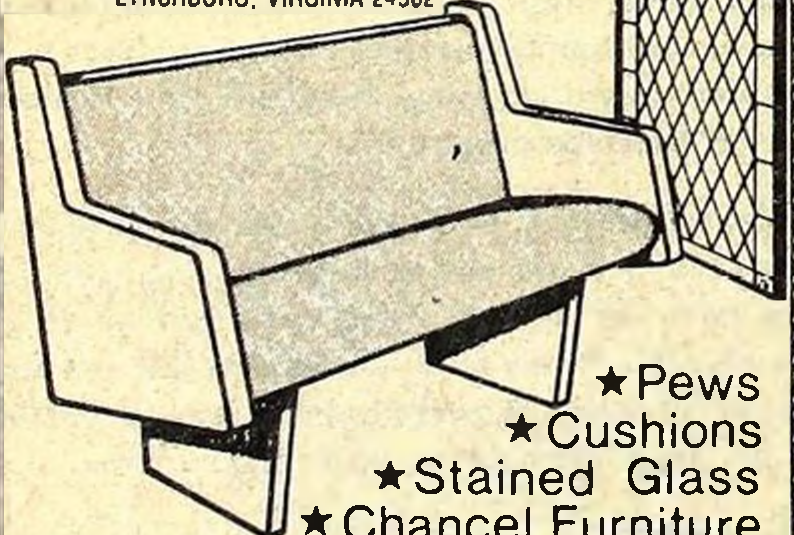
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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Sunday, March 4

How the Spirit helps us

By Bob C. Hardison, pastor
Calvary Baptist Church, Nashville

Basic Passage: Romans 8:1-27
Focal Passage: Romans 8:1-9, 12-13, 26-27

How does the Spirit help us? Paul wrote the great chapter of Romans 8 to tell us how the Holy Spirit helps in the life of the believer. In Romans 7:24 Paul asks, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" In chapter 8 he answers the question by showing how the Holy Spirit is for us and in us to do what we cannot do for ourselves. The key word in chapter 7 is "I." The key word in chapter 8 is "Spirit." In examining the focal verses in this week's lesson, we will learn how motivation and strength for Christian living and praying comes from the indwelling of the Spirit.



Hardison

The Spirit of life (Rom. 8:1-4)

A sound of joy and triumph is felt in Paul's words as he tells of the freedom the regenerated person has in Christ. The "therefore" at the beginning of verse 1 refers back to 7:25 where Paul showed that the victory over the flesh could be achieved only through complete submission to God in Christ. Because of this victory, there is "no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit" (v. 1). When a person believes in Christ, the Holy Spirit bestows justification and life on the believer as opposed to the law of sin and death (6:23).

In verse 2 Paul speaks of "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus." The Christian has a new qualitative life created through Christ. This new life is made possible through the liberating power of the Holy Spirit which delivers the believer from the old power of sin and death.

Paul in verse 3 tells of the law being unable to save because "it was weak through the flesh." A person cannot be righteous before God by keeping the law because in his fleshly nature he could not live up to its demands. Its demands are impossible. It was for this reason that God sent his Son "in the likeness of sinful flesh."

In the context Paul's phrase "in the likeness of sinful flesh," could have been understood to mean that Jesus in the flesh partook of sin. He was careful to say that Jesus had a real body of flesh which was subjected to temptation, but He was without sin (Heb. 4:15). Thus, God's saving act in Christ "condemned sin in the flesh." Jesus' sinless life in the flesh pronounced a sentence upon man's sin and broke its power. Through the incarnate life of the Son, God destroyed the power of sin (3:25, 26).

The Spirit and the Flesh (Rom. 8:5-9, 12-13)

In verse 5 Paul begins speaking of two incompatible ways of life—the flesh and the Spirit. "Minding the things of the flesh" refers to a lifestyle lived apart from God and His will. It is a life focused on the rebellious desires of deprived mankind. But those who are of the "Spirit" set their minds on the things of the Spirit. When a person has received the Spirit, it is his purpose to live for God and His will.

In verses 6-8 Paul continues to contrast between life in the flesh and life in the Spirit. "Carnally" refers to fleshly minded. If a person has a fleshly mind his life will result in death; but if he has the mind of the Spirit he will have life and peace. Paul says the "carnal mind is enmity against God", meaning it is in a state of hostility toward God. The carnal fleshly mind he speaks of is "not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (v. 7). The very nature of the fleshly mind is to rebel against God. A hostile mind toward God can hardly be expected to respond to the will of God. Paul concludes "then they that

are in the flesh cannot please God" (v. 8).

After discussing those who are in the flesh, Paul turns to those who are in the Spirit (vv. 9, 12, 13). The "if so be" in verse 9 in a clause in the Greek text which shows a condition Paul assumed to be true. The "ye" refers to the Christians at Rome, so Paul was correct in making the assumption that "the Spirit of God" dwelt in them. Moreover, Paul emphatically said "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Paul is saying that when a person becomes a Christian the Holy Spirit indwells him, or he is not a Christian.

Furthermore, Paul emphasizes that "we (believers) are debtors" to live according to the Spirit, "not in the flesh" (v. 12). A believer owes everything to God's Spirit. In gratitude they were to live their lives according to His will. Being regenerated they did not owe a debt of obedience to the flesh.

In verse 13 Paul gives reason for his statement in verse 12. If they live after the flesh they will die. If they mortify the deeds of the body, they will live. A Christian is to mortify the fleshly desires and lusts through the Spirit. "Body" here is synonymous in meaning with "flesh." So body does not refer to the physical body but to the rebellious nature of the unregenerated. By "mortify the deeds of the body," Paul does not mean that the Christian is to live a rigid ascetic life. Rather he is calling for a full dedication of ones daily life to God.

The help of the Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27)

The Holy Spirit helps the Christian in many ways. Paul specifically mentions His help in praying (vv. 26-27). In the opening clause of verse 26, Paul refers to "the Spirit helpeth our infirmities." "Helpeth" literally means to take hold over against and together with

someone.

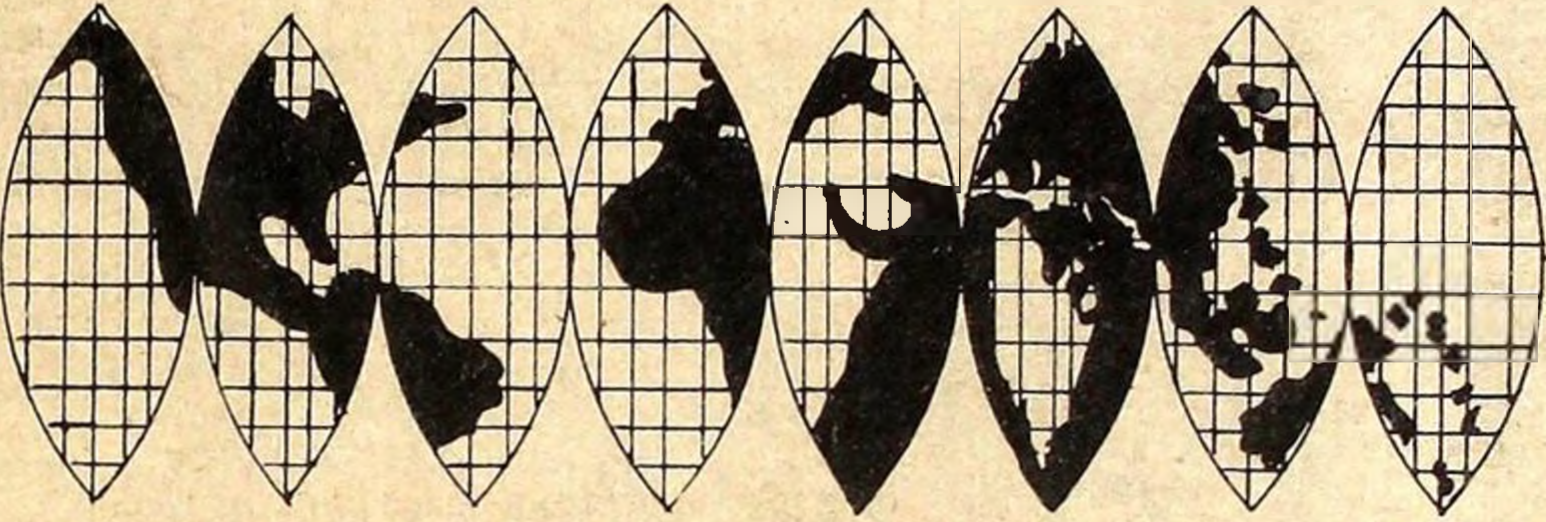
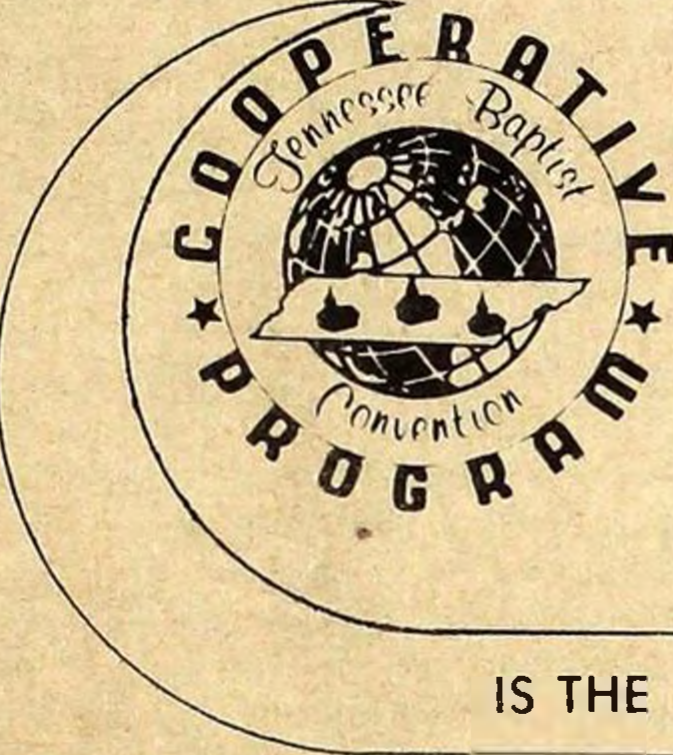
Our "infirmities" are our physical, moral, and spiritual weaknesses. Paul indicates that when we do not know for what to pray, the Spirit will intercess for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. When we are so burdened or confused that we do not know how to pray or for what to pray, the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us.

The Spirit will pray on our behalf. He takes our groanings and feeble attempts to pray and makes them understandable before God. It should be noted that the Spirit does not do it without our participation.

The Spirit's intercession for us is possible because God "searches the hearts and knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit." God understands the intent and inclinations of our innermost thoughts because He searches the hearts of His children and knows the mind of the Spirit that dwells within us.

Through the Spirit, we have victory over the flesh and sin and an aid in bringing our daily needs and problems to our heavenly Father. Just as Jesus cared for His disciples while on earth, the Spirit continues to look after us each day.

Advertisement



IS THE

LIFELINE

It is inspiring to hear how individual Tennessee Baptists feel about the Cooperative Program. The following article expresses the keen awareness of Mission support of one Tennessee Baptist.

The Cooperative Program is a Link

By Joanna C. Moore

As a wife and mother living in a small town in Tennessee, some might say my world is very small. And indeed it may be; but modern communication technology helps us all to broaden our horizons. Each evening news broadcast makes us aware of events in the far corners of the world.

I have discovered another way to link myself with people all over the world...the Cooperative Program. As a member of a Southern Baptist Church which supports the Cooperative Program through its budget, I become a very real participant in helping to carry out Christ's Great Commission to the uttermost parts of the earth. Although giving through the Cooperative Program by no means relieves me of my duty to witness to those with whom I live and work, it does serve as a link to people I otherwise could never influence.



Moore

First, it is a link with the past. From the disciples on a mountain in Galilee, to those brave missionaries from America—the Cooperative Program links me with Christians from the past who have lived the commands of Christ.

Next, the Cooperative Program links me to the present. As I read each issue of our Baptist and Reflector, I feel I am small part of each home and foreign missionary who is commissioned; each Journeyman and the US-2'er. Through our church's gifts to the Cooperative Program, I become an investor in the 2,897 missionaries in 93 countries, 8,533 churches, 10,635 chapels and mission points, hospitals, schools, colleges and seminaries it helps support.

Third, the Cooperative Program links me with the future. As I teach children in

Sunday School and vacation bible school about missions and God's love for all people, and as the discover God's plan for their lives, they will carry on and perpetuate God's work long after I am unable to. And as young people are trained in our colleges and seminaries they are an extension into the future of our love and concern for mankind.

Small world? No. The Cooperative Program links me and countless others to the whole, wide world.

(Joanne Moore is a Sunday School teacher, choir member, wife of a deacon, and fully involved in the total program of First Baptist Church, McKenzie, where she is a member).

We welcome your inquires and questions concerning the work of Tennessee Baptists around the world.

Orvind M. Dangeau, Director
Department of Cooperative
Program and Stewardship
Promotion
Tennessee Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 347
Brentwood, TN 37027



Pictured is Missionary Charles W. Fenner, leading a discussion with students from a University in Fukuoka, Japan. The setting is the Missionary residence. "Near or far, you mold tomorrow's leaders—through the Cooperative Program."

In Any Language

1. Programa Cooperativo
2. Plano Cooperativo
3. Cooperative Program

It's World Mission Support

MR. C.P. SEZ :



Refugee support grows into Romanian church

By Jim Newton

LOS ANGELES (BP)—Petru Popovici knows almost every corridor and gate at Los Angeles International Airport by heart.

Whenever a plane lands bringing a refugee or immigrant family from Romania, Popovici, pastor of the Romanian Baptist Church in Los Angeles, is almost sure to be there to greet them.

Chances are good he'll take them to his home in the Bellflower section of Los Angeles, or to an apartment he has rented for them. He'll also stock their pantry with food, their home with furniture, and help the husband find a job.

Popovici has sponsored hundreds of refugees and immigrants from Romania—so many that he's lost count of the number. Pressed for an estimate, he replies modestly that of the 120 members of his church, all but six families are immigrants or refugees he has sponsored.

Indeed, sponsorship of refugee and immigrant families has been one of the major methods of evangelism used by Popovici, and by his brother, Alexa, who is pastor of the Romanian Church in Chicago.

Twelve years ago, the Popovici brothers fled from Romania where both had been

"dismissed" as pastors because they opposed a regulation restricting the times Baptist churches could meet for worship. They went first to Chicago. Four years later, Petru went to Los Angeles where he suffered less from his chronic bronchitis.

Within a few months, he had started a Bible study that eventually grew into the city's only Romanian Baptist Church. Until last summer, they met at the First Baptist Church of Maywood, but overcrowded conditions forced them to find their own building. Popovici mortgaged his own house to help raise the \$30,000 down payment.

With loan payments of \$840 a month for the building, there is barely enough offerings to pay Popovici's meager salary and the cost of three weekly radio programs, broadcast not only in Los Angeles, but beamed into Romania via Trans World Radio and Radio Free Europe.

"We are a poor church, but we are a missionary church," Popovici said.

When in Romania two summers ago for a visit, he discovered that at least 12 Baptist churches had been organized by new converts who became Christians as a result of listening to the radio broadcasts he produces.

He said while there is more religious freedom there now than in 1967, many of the meetings of Baptists in Romania are unauthorized. But the people "are on fire, praise God," Popovici said. Most of the applications from new congregations are not approved, because the government wants to close churches, not open new ones, he said.

Sponsoring refugees and immigrants, Popovici has discovered, is the most effective evangelistic method.

"Just today, someone called and asked if I could sponsor a woman from Romania who has 10 children," he said. "It's a difficult thing, but we will try."

Popovici is the only member of the church who has been a sponsor, and he uses his own money. "It isn't easy to be a sponsor," he observed. "You have to get them a place to live, a job, a Social Security number, food."

He is convinced, however, that if he is able financially to sponsor more immigrants and refugees, he will be able to win more to Christ and increase membership in the church.

"They know I am willing to be a sponsor because I am a Christian, and because I love God," he said. "I love them, they love me and they see the love of God in our church."

Adapted from the March 1979 World Mission Journal.

Senior adult conference registration re-opens

The senior adult conference of the church training department, scheduled to be held Mar. 12-14 at Smoky Shadows Conference Center in Pigeon Forge, can accommodate approximately 100 more persons, according to Johnnie Hall, state director. The openings became available after a recent cancellation of one church group due to a schedule conflict.

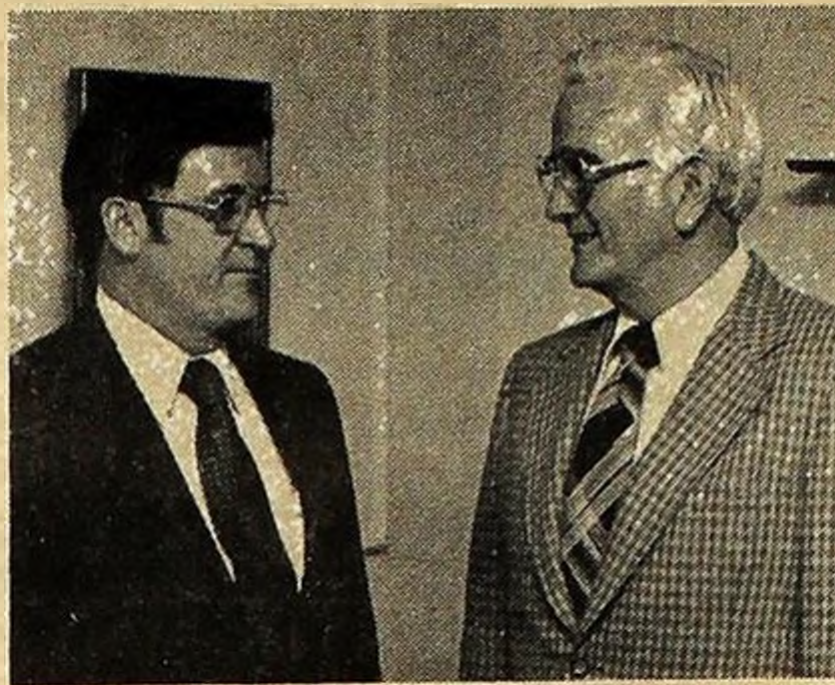
The conference will be similar to the one held in September at the same location. Sessions will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday and close at noon on Wednesday.

Churches interested in sending a group or individuals desiring to participate, should contact the church training department immediately, Hall said.

Mrs. Naylor recuperates at Fort Worth Home

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Mrs. Robert E. Naylor is resting in her Fort Worth, Texas, home following surgery to clear arterial blockage in her neck.

Mrs. Naylor, wife of retired Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Robert Naylor, suffered a stroke Jan. 20 while the Naylor family were visiting their daughter Rebekah, a medical missionary, in Bangalore, India. They returned to the U.S. Feb. 5.



ALUMNI PRESIDENT—Paul W. Woodford, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ripley, was one of more than 20 state alumni presidents who attended a meeting of state and national alumni officers at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La. this month. He is shown here discussing future alumni plans with seminary president Landrum Leavell. The two-day conference is held annually to formulate plans and proposals which will be brought before the national alumni organization in June at the association's annual meeting.

WMU workshops continue in March

Workers and leaders in all phases of Woman's Missionary Union may still participate in Tennessee's annual workshops for leaders of day camps, mission friends, girls in action, acteens, Baptist young women, and Baptist women.

Nine workshops remain on the winter schedule, according to Jannie Engelmann, coordinator for the conferences.

The remaining meetings, all scheduled to be held in March, will be held at First Baptist Church in Bolivar at 9:30 a.m. (Mar. 1); First Baptist Church in Savannah at 7 p.m. (Mar. 1); Pleasant Heights Baptist Church in Columbia, 9:30 a.m. (Mar. 2); First Baptist Church in Lebanon at 9:30 a.m. (Mar. 12).

Closing out the schedule will be meetings at: First Baptist Church in Manchester, 7 p.m. (Mar. 12); First Baptist Church in Crossville at 1 p.m. (Mar. 13); First Baptist Church in Cleveland at 9:30 a.m. (Mar. 14); and at First Baptist Church in Greeneville at 9:30 a.m. and Broadway Baptist Church in Maryville at 7 p.m., both on Mar. 15.

All sessions will last approximately two-and-one-half hours, Miss Engelmann said.

Foundation

A name to remember

By Jonas L. Stewart

A boy delivering groceries was asked his name. When he replied that his name was Abraham Lincoln, the inquirer replied, "That is a well known name in these parts."

The lad responded by saying, "It should be. I have been delivering groceries around here for two years."

One of the most visited spots in the world is the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. This statue is there to make sure that the nation shall never forget the contribution made by the one who inspired the construction of it.

No less important to God's Kingdom are great Christian stewards, who may be little known on earth, but who are great in the Lord's service. It is a tragedy that their testimony is so soon forgotten after death.

Your Tennessee Baptist Foundation was established in 1938 by men of dedicated wisdom for the purpose of keeping alive the memory and testimony of those who love the Lord. One may establish a living trust fund or a trust in his will, in his name, or the name of some other loved one, designating that it is to remain forever with the income therefrom to be paid each year for some Christian cause. Thus, until Jesus comes, these funds become a living and serving memorial to the testimony of grateful Christian stewards.

For more information write or call Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Jonas L. Stewart, executive secretary-treasurer, Box 347, Brentwood, Tenn. 37027, phone: 615-373-2255.

Devotional

On missing the point

Matthew 23:23; Jonah 1:2-3

By Roy L. Lassiter, Jr.

Some of Jesus' most severe criticism was directed toward the Pharisees because they knew the law, but entirely missed its directions in terms of the intended relationship with God and their fellowmen. His condemnation stands as a continuing warning to those who are entrusted with God's truth and message. Although many examples might be given of how we may, and do, "miss the point," I have chosen a book from the Bible to illustrate how God's message and purpose may be obscured by a myopic view.



Lassiter

When the book of Jonah is mentioned among church members, several distinct attitudes are likely to be manifest: belligerent defensiveness, embarrassment, skepticism; all because of a controversy over the part dealing with Jonah and the fish, and the question as to whether the book is to be viewed as a narrative of actual history, or an Old Testament parable. In concentrating on the nature of the book and one element of the story, the major points may be entirely lost. What is missed?

Perhaps only a partial listing of the major themes can answer the question. 1. Man cannot escape God's call to duty to be performed. 2. Even a reluctant and prejudiced witness can be the instrument of communicating God's eternal message. 3. In a manner unequalled elsewhere in the Old Testament, God is portrayed as the Father of all mankind, a Father who actively seeks reconciliation with men and freely accepts all who repent. 4. A missionary journey is portrayed which is unmatched in significance until those of Paul. If our understanding of the book of Jonah has been determined solely in terms of its nature, or Jonah's experience with the fish, it is clear that one may hold the correct view of the nature of the book and completely overlook its vital, eternal themes.

While the attitudes toward, and views of, one of the smallest books in the Bible do not necessarily indicate that we are "missing the point" of God's total message, the challenge to all who claim the name of Christ is that we do everything possible to insure that we understand and convey God's truth unobscured by man's additions. Unfortunately, the temptation is ever present to modify what God intended.

In his book, *The Incendiary Fellowship*, Dr. Elton Trueblood deals with this very temptation and its impact on contemporary Christianity. In comparing the church of the New Testament with the church today, he points out that the claims of the earlier fellowship are too strong and even embarrassing. Perhaps the distinction is best illustrated in his contrast of the New Testament description of a "hot fire," with our preference for a "damp wick." In the context of our title, if Dr. Trueblood's characterizations are fair, we surely have "missed the point."

Lassiter is executive vice chancellor of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee and is a member of Walker Memorial Baptist Church in Franklin.

Son of Calif. leader dies after surgery

RICHMOND, Calif. (BP)—John O. Hughes, oldest son of the executive director of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, died Feb. 11 following heart bypass surgery.

Hughes, 36, was the son of Robert Hughes and pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church since 1973.

Hughes' death came two years to the week after his wife, Sandy, died from bacterial pneumonia. Hughes is survived by his two daughters, Debbie, 10, and Karen, 7; his parents, a brother and a sister.

HISTORICALLY FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rutledge were employed as educational workers by First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. They had been serving St. Elmo Baptist Church, Chattanooga. Rutledge was the son of Pastor Sam Rutledge of Madisonville.

John Jeter Hurt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, was quarantined for two weeks in his home because of scarlet fever. H.E. Watters and I.N. Penick supplied the pulpit in his absence.

25 YEARS AGO

First Baptist Church, Jellico, observed M. Garfield Hardin Day. Hardin had served as secretary of the Sunday School for 40 years, and many of those years he had a perfect record of attendance. He was presented a 21 jewel Elgin watch.

James Queen was elected missionary in Polk County Baptist Association. He had served previously as pastor of Mount Harmony Church in Polk association.

10 YEARS AGO

A Carson-Newman College graduate, William I. Powell, returned to his alma mater to become director of development. He had been serving as vice-president with duties in the correspondent bank division of the American National Bank and Trust Company of Chattanooga.

New officers elected to serve the Tennessee Baptist Foundation were Tom Madden, president; John O. Ellis, vice-president; and J.B. Avery, Jr., secretary. The executive committee was composed of Madden, chairman, Avery, Ben Carson, George Logan, Ellis, and F.C. Delaney. Elected to serve on the investment committee were Ellis, chairman, Melvin Harris, and O.C. Nugent.