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Tennesseans help feed victims of hurricane

By Bobbie Durham

A gamut of humanity was left in Mobile, Ala. last week following the ravagement left by Hurricane Frederic.

A man brought in small cases of ice which were desperately needed—and sold them for \$5-\$10 each. Families with small babies stole and lied in order to obtain a needed item—disposable diapers. Rioters tried to turn over a truck and destroy it when they discovered it wasn't carrying the relief items they needed.

Others displaying neighborly concern, were also present. One lady offered to wash the shirts of the men working in relief efforts in the city. A man drove in from north Alabama with a car load of chain saws he had purchased and sold them to needy families, making no profit for himself. Disaster relief teams and concerned individuals from throughout the South joined forces with the American Red Cross, Civil Defense, and Salvation Army in an attempt to save lives and restore some semblance of normality to the area.

Tennessee Baptists were there. Their money, given through the Golden State Missions Offering and the Cooperative Program helped provide several tons of food to people who had lost their homes and businesses.

The Volunteer State's Baptists were represented by the disaster relief van and team from the Brotherhood department, TBC. Two teams left Nashville the week-end after the hurricane and returned on Wednesday, Sept. 19.

The group consisting of two teams, left after a call for help came from Norman Godfrey, director of disaster relief efforts for the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. The two teams consisted of Larry Duke, director of missions in Robertson County Association; Lawrence Hadley, pastor of Oakland Baptist Church in Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Larry McMurtry, members of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville; Jarvis Hearn, TBC missionary to the deaf; Kenny Rains, state Royal Ambassador director; and Archie King, state Brotherhood director.

The first team left within four hours after the call. King said that it usually takes at least six hours to prepare to leave on a mission of this type.

The disaster relief van was first assigned

the area around Oakdale Baptist Church in Mobile, an older area of town. The church building itself had suffered nearly \$1-million in damages.

Thousands of persons there received the beef stew, corn, peas, chicken and dumplings, and peaches which the Tennessee team cooked and served from the van. On another occasion, the team served food from the church's fellowship hall.

When the supply of food ran low, a couple from Montgomery brought in truckloads of food which they wanted the Tennessee team to distribute. "This replenished our supply to where we had nearly as much as we began with," King explained.

The team had committed itself to take instruction and to serve wherever they were needed most. Late Sunday, they received word that an area of people had been discovered in Irvington, Ala., about 20 miles from Mobile. The area had received no assistance.

"There was heavy damage there. Families had lost their homes in total," King recalled. He added that the team members found a real use for the three-wheel vehicle which they carried as they took turns riding from house to house informing the families of available food. People came late into the night, some just for a glass of milk and some cookies. The team also fed highway workers, power crews, Red Cross volunteers, and telephone men.

Health kits, which were assembled at the state Royal Ambassador meeting last spring, were distributed at nearby Dauphin Island.

One area near Irvington was so badly damaged that trucks and cars could not get in. For this area, King said the team filled thermoses with beef stew and let the Red Cross carry them into the area so people could eat. He estimated about 125 meals were served in this fashion.

Between 60 and 70 gallons of gas were needed to supply the generator for the van. King said most of their gas came from the American Red Cross. They also supplied ice, cases of juice, and canned meat. Other Alabama churches brought in food and supplies for the Tennessee team to distribute.

Besides offering physical relief, the Tennessee team made itself available for counseling and spiritual needs. "We tried to

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PHYSICAL NOURISHMENT—Residents near Oakdale Baptist Church in Mobile make their way to the Tennessee Baptist disaster relief van for food after Hurricane Frederic leveled their homes. Members of the Oakdale congregation helped serve the hot meals.

Brotherhood leaders hear Smith present challenge of volunteerism

Tennessee Brotherhood leaders, meeting in Brentwood last weekend, were confronted with challenges on "The Eighties: Decade of the Laity," which served as the theme for the semi-annual meeting.

Speaking to the men was James Smith, new executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

Smith told the group that it is time they, and other Southern Baptists, re-think their priorities and get ready to join an army of volunteers for ministry and evangelism. He cited the contrast which will face Christians in the 1980s as a decade of self-indulgence (the "me" decade) and a decade of service to others. Our message as Christians during the decade of the eighties, according to Smith, will have to compete with the secular voice of self-indulgence.

He also emphasized that Baptists must find a vision. "One of the greatest things plaguing America today is that we are a visionless people. Many pastors have no vision for their church. Many lay people have no vision for their lives. We, as Christians in America today need a positive, definite vision of God."

Devotionals at the two sessions were given by Carroll Owen, convention ministries division director for Tennessee, and the group's newly elected president, Leonard Brannan, Chattanooga.

New officers elected to serve with Brannan are: vice-president M.B. Howard, Covington; Royal Ambassador vice-president Max Thomas, Chattanooga; lay renewal vice-president Paul Pratt, Clinton; lay revival vice-president Fred Pinckard, Cleveland; and mission study and activity vice-president W.C. Brooks, Knoxville. Also elected were: pastor advisor Sidney Waits, Memphis; and secretary Frank Green, Sparta.

An offering of about \$400 was collected dur-

ing the meeting which will help purchase Bibles for us in the Tennessee Baptist disaster relief van. According to Archie King, state Brotherhood director, the Bibles may be given out to families who have lost Bibles in a flood or other disaster or to victims of a disaster who do not own a Bible.

Kenny Rains, state RA director, was presented with a plaque of appreciation from the staffs of RA camps at Linden and Carson. The staffs expressed appreciation for his leadership and for the assistance he gave during the summer.

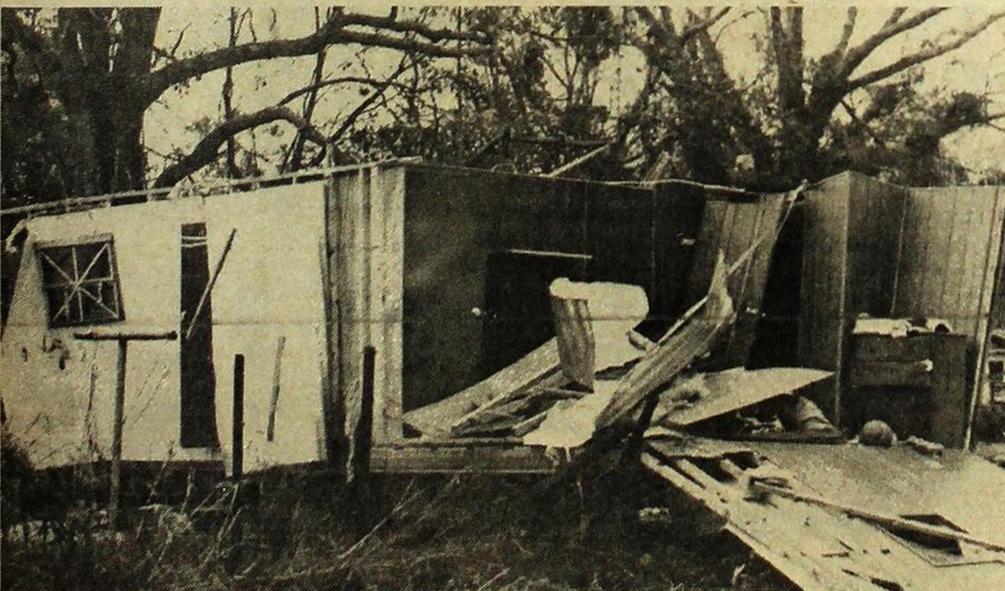
Conferences were offered throughout the weekend on work in evangelism, bold missions, and Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador work.

1st ordination held in church's history

Zion Baptist Church in Brownsville, organized before 1850, ordained two men to the gospel ministry recently — the first to be ordained in the church's history.

Bill Brown, a student at Union University in Jackson, was ordained Aug. 26. In addition to being a student, he is serving as associate pastor in charge of music and youth. He plans to attend seminary following graduation from college. Pastor Michael O'Brien preached the ordination message, and the special music was brought by David Joyner of Collierville.

Jonas Stewart, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, delivered the ordination message Sept. 16 for Phillip Lovelace. A native of Brownsville, Lovelace is now a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He was called as pastor of Edna Hill Baptist Church in Dublin, Tex.



DESTRUCTION IN IRVINGTON—Many families were left homeless after winds from Hurricane Frederic wiped out trailers and houses. Victims congregated at churches and rescue centers until help arrived.

SBC registration inquiry reveals problems but no massive wrongs

By Robert O'Brien

NASHVILLE (BP) — The long-awaited investigation of alleged registration irregularities at the national meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention last June in Houston did not reveal "massive" wrongdoing.

However, the investigation by SBC registration secretary Lee Porter of Nashville did reveal problems calling for measures both by churches and the SBC to correct flaws, ambiguities and "sloppy" procedures which threaten the integrity of the SBC's balloting system.

Porter's report, made to the SBC Executive Committee's semi-annual meeting in September in Nashville, also declared that a "get out the vote" campaign was in evidence as part of the widely reported effort to elect an SBC president committed to Biblical inerrancy as an issue.

In that election, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, was elected to the presidency on the first ballot on the opening day of the SBC, Tuesday, June 12. Rogers collected 6,129 votes out of 11,975 cast, outdistancing his nearest competitor in a six-man race by 3,338 votes, and exceeding the 50 percent needed for a first ballot election by 168 votes.

Amid charges that irregularities had violated the registration process, SBC messengers voted in Houston to instruct Porter to study any such irregularities and report them to the Executive Committee, which serves as the convention between annual sessions. The Executive Committee, in turn, was asked to "report or recommend to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention next year (1980) necessary bylaw changes and/or registration procedure to prevent irregularities and to maintain the integrity of the balloting system."

Porter reported that his investigation revealed 284 registrations absolutely out of line, characterizing the messengers in question as being "caught with blood on their hands." They included registrations beyond the maximum allowed to churches, double registrations, registration of children not elected, and other illegal registrations.

He noted that at least 47 churches permitted only 10 messengers had more than that, including one with 22, one with 20, one with 16, two with 14, five with 13, 11 with 12 and 26 with 11. The top five churches in that list, he said, were from Texas with none from Houston. Twenty-eight of the 47 were from Texas.

Porter told the Baptist and Reflector that only four of the 47 churches registering more than 10 messengers were Tennessee churches, involving a total of seven illegal messengers from Tennessee.

Responding to questions from denominational and secular press during a news conference, Porter said he could find "no

Tennesseans appointed as home missionaries

ATLANTA — Three persons with Tennessee ties were among the 73 people approved for mission service during the September meeting of the Home Mission Board.

Arnold and Beth Becker of Dalzell, S.C., were appointed as missionaries. The Beckers are both graduates of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. They will continue to live and work in Dalzell, where he will be director of missions for the Santee Baptist Association. Prior to appointment, Becker was pastor of Dalzell Baptist Church. He has also served other churches in South Carolina and in Texas. They have two children.

Joe and Debbie Bagwell of Atlanta, Ga., were named missionary associates. Mrs. Bagwell is a native of Chattanooga. They will direct Christian social ministries and he will serve as pastor/director of Chelsea Chapel, Chelsea, Mass.

evidence that the irregularities uncovered centered around churches or messengers committed to a particular theological or doctrinal persuasion or located in a particular section ... They were across-the-board-type Southern Baptists."

The only exception to that statement, he said, involved the get-out-the-vote effort.

"Approximately 200 churches with 150 to 1,000 members located within 150 miles of Houston elected 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 messengers. Most of those registered on Tuesday (the day of the presidential election). Through a sample survey, I have confirmed that many of these came in small vans or buses and that 83 percent attended only business sessions on Tuesday. The survey indicates that 71 percent of them also attended the Wednesday night service at the Astrodome. In my judgment, registration facts point to a 'get-out-the-vote' campaign."

Porter said his investigation showed that reports of large numbers of discarded ballots at the SBC were true. "One usher collected about 400 sets off the floor. Others turned in 30 to 40 sets in the registration booth. The clean-up crew showed me another large container of discarded ballots. Apparently, between 1,000 and 2,000 sets were thrown away after the Tuesday afternoon session."

He said the investigation uncovered no evidence of massive busing voters, no evidence of stolen ballots (although security was breached "for three hours on Tuesday morning when numbers of people traveled through the registration booth"), and that some messengers voted by proxy.

That included husbands voting for wives and vice versa and pastors and others voting for church members. He said letters of confession from persons indicated at least 50 votes cast in this manner.

The investigation also showed technically improper registrations by at least three interim pastors and wives from churches other than ones where they were members, five foreign missionaries, four newly constituted churches, two churches not in cooperation with the SBC, and "one individual at the convention (who said) he was a former supply speaker and an honorary member of the church that elected him."

Porter also pointed out about 1,000 messengers who registered without being elected by their church, noting that these included many pastors and their wives. For example, he said, they included pastors and wives whose churches had voted to provide travel funds for them to attend the convention but had failed to elect them formally as messengers. Much of that, he said, could have resulted from interpretation of the messenger registration card which he said is ambiguous.

"Thirty-nine churches," he said, "had members who had not been elected or appointed by the church and registered on their own. Thirty-one of those persons who registered on their own were denominational workers (convention-wide, state or associational)." That, declared Porter, a Baptist Sunday School Board staff member, was "very sad."

Porter drew 10 conclusions from the investigation which he hopes will be incorporated in whatever recommendations the Executive Committee brings to the SBC annual meeting in 1980 in St. Louis.

—Churches must elect their messengers carefully in keeping with the (SBC) constitutional provisions.

—Churches must publicize the names of elected messengers so that other members will not register on their own.

—Messengers must bring proper credentials with them to the convention. (About half the messengers did not have their credentials with them in Houston, he said.)

—Messengers must register individually.

—The SBC must change bylaws in regard to proxy voting. Only 10 of some 60 ballots were by computer card ballot. When a person is present and another is absent on a hand

ballot, the voter raises only one hand. Therefore, a person should vote only one ballot. No proxy voting should be allowed.

—Alternates must not register; churches must be responsible for changing an alternate to an elected messenger when the need occurs.

—Plans must be developed to eliminate churches over-registering and to prevent individuals registering twice.

—The registration card needs to be redesigned, and the constitutional provisions on registration need to be clarified.

—The integrity of the balloting system must be maintained.

—The registration process must continue to operate on a system of trust of the churches and the personal integrity of the individual messengers.

The Executive Committee will study Porter's report and present the findings at its February meeting in Nashville for action and eventual report to the 1980 SBC in St. Louis next June.

The Executive Committee voted to commend Porter for his "very thorough and incisive analysis of alleged registration irregularities" and expressed gratification that the inquiry "has confirmed the high level of integrity of the broad spectrum of convention messengers... (and that) the great majority of improper registrations appear from the report to be the result of ambiguities and misunderstandings concerning messenger qualifications." It also noted: "Intentional abuse of the registration and balloting process, to the extent that this may have occurred in Houston, even if on a very small scale, is reprehensible and is denounced."

Porter, who declared the investigation was not of the election of Rogers but of the registration process, said the report revealed that "the mass of our people were meticulously careful" in following proper procedures and the letter and spirit of SBC constitution and bylaws.

In a pre-session news conference, he said less than two percent of nearly 16,000 registered messengers were in violation. Porter said the irregularities he did uncover are probably types of irregularities which have occurred in past years in the SBC registration system.

Rogers declared that "Lee Porter has been as fair and even-handed in his report as a man can be." The SBC president said that he had felt all along that an investigation would reveal no large scale wrongdoing and said he was happy that had proven true.

Northwest leader named new Florida executive

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the Northwest Baptist Convention for eight years, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Stringer will assume his Florida position Nov. 1. He succeeds Harold C. Bennett, who resigned to become executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

As he spoke of his new post, Stringer noted Florida challenges, including population growth, work among ethnics, opportunities for outreach and evangelism, and the need for new churches.

The executive board of the Northwest convention — which includes Washington, Oregon, part of Idaho, and most of Western Canada — will meet Oct. 4 to name an interim executive. Under a backup system implemented by Stringer, it is expected to be Bill Peters, director of missions.

Stringer, who terminates his work in the Northwest Oct. 12, is a native of Cordell, Okla., and a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also attended the University of New Mexico, Wayland Baptist College, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor of churches in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. He has also been in denominational work in Arizona and the Northwest.



Dan C. Stringer

New officers voted at Midland meeting

J.T. Miller, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Heiskell, was elected moderator of Midland Baptist Association at its annual meeting Sept. 10-11. According to Glenn Ford, director of missions in the association, Miller succeeds W. Truman Woods in the post. Woods is pastor of Black Oak Ridge Baptist Church.

The association also voted a new church into membership at the 86th annual session. Highland Baptist Church, led by Pastor Charles Lynch, is the new church.

Other officers elected included: vice moderator Ralph Waggoner, pastor of Pleasant Gap Baptist Church; and clerk Mrs. J.T. Miller, a member of Mt. Zion.

Ford said that the 1980 associational meeting has been scheduled for Sept. 15-16 at Pleasant Gap church.



NO FOUL PLAY—Lee Porter, registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention, told reporters after a three-month study of the registration procedures at the SBC meeting in Houston that there was no massive wrongdoing. But he did call for measures by both churches and the SBC to correct flaws, ambiguities and "sloppy" procedures which threaten the integrity of the balloting system.

Baptists respond early to devastated Dominica

By Norman Jameson

ROSEAU, Dominica (BP) — Every grain of rice Dominicans eat, every new shirt they wear, and every shelter they crawl into for the next nine to 12 months will have to be a gift from another country.

Hurricane David so utterly devastated the already impoverished island nation that it will have no income from its fruit exports for nearly a year. All of the trees bearing bananas, coconuts, and grapefruits, Dominica's only exports, were destroyed when David pillaged the 29-by-14 mile island for five horrifying hours Aug. 29.

Southern Baptist missionaries plan to handle food distribution in the town of Boetica if they get permission from the interim government of Prime Minister Oliver Seraphim. The storm left only 20 dwellings inhabitable in the town of 500.

All four Baptist missionary houses in Roseau lost their roofs. The missionaries huddled under beds, in a car, in closets and a basement apartment during the wild afternoon and none were injured. Betty Walker, her son Alan, and a household helper hid behind a washer and dryer, singing "He is Lord," and praying.

Mrs. Walker, who admitted she hadn't taken storm warnings seriously, said, "I began to take it seriously when my roof went."

The 150-mile-per-hour winds of the century's worst hurricane stripped the leaves off the few trees that remained standing, collapsed palm branches like beach umbrellas folded for the winter and even tore up the grass. Thirty-three-foot waves pummeled the island from the normally glassy surfaced Caribbean and 55-foot waves lashed at it from the Atlantic side.

Dominica looked as if winter came to the tropical island that had never known cold; or a forest fire ravaged a nation, leaving no ashes. Torrents of rain tore strips of green velvet forest off the slopes like a giant cat using the mountains for a scratching post.

Fifty percent of the houses on the island, which just achieved independence from Britain less than a year ago, were destroyed; "flat down" as the numbed islanders said. Another 40 percent were severely damaged; none were untouched. All schools, hospitals, and clinics were wrecked. The only factory that escaped will stand vacant for a year until coconuts appear in the mountains again.

Officials estimated it will take at least nine months to restore electricity to the capital

city area of Roseau, longer elsewhere.

Only about 40 deaths were counted, plus an indeterminable number of "Dreads," members of a religious cult that inhabit the mountains.

Dominicans attributed the low death toll, considering the absolute destruction, to the fact people stayed in their houses and did not scurry about where they could fall victim to the galvanized steel roofing that sliced through the air, decapitating at least one citizen of Roseau.

Four men from Texas Baptist churches, in a marvel of logistics, arrived Sept. 10 in Dominica on a boat loaded with building supplies from Barbados. It was the first building supplies to arrive after the storm. They replaced roofs on two missionary houses and Deliverance Baptist Church and put a temporary covering on the roof of a neighbor.

A second team of 15 men from Wilshire Baptist church, Dallas, Texas, was to follow with additional supplies, accumulated by Barbados missionary Jerry Harris with disaster relief funds appropriated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

That team will concentrate efforts in Boetica, where missionary Fred Walker is pastor of a mission church. The church and missionary house there lost their roofs.

Special project dentist John Ross and Doug Hill, part of the first work group, are members of Wilshire. The Dallas men will build ten 10-by-12 foot houses in Boetica and restore as many of the original dwellings as possible with supplies brought from Barbados.

Two weeks after the storm, there were still no building supplies available in Dominica except what Southern Baptists brought in. "If your house is a shambles and you can't even buy a nail, what can you do?" asked Mrs. Walker.

Middle Tenn. pastors to meet in Brentwood

BRENTWOOD—The Middle Tennessee Baptist Pastor's Conference will be held at 11 a.m., Oct. 4, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention building here.

Carl Duck, director of missions for the Nashville Baptist Association, will speak and Joe Morgan, minister of music at Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, will be in charge of the music.

The pastors will gather for lunch following the meeting.



HAPPY FOR LIFE—Augustine Danile (dark shirt, middle) stands proudly in front of a make-shift home where he lives with his 22 children and grandchildren since Hurricane David devastated his hometown of Boetica. "Praise God, we're alive," he said. Southern Baptists will concentrate relief efforts in Boetica where a 15-man team from Wilshire Baptist Church Dallas, will construct ten 10-by-12 foot homes and missionaries Fred and Betty Walker will handle food distribution for the government if they get permission.

(BP) photo by Norman Jameson

The Walkers bailed water from their house for more than a week from the rains of Hurricanes David and Frederic before a roof was restored. All five missionary personnel who remained in Dominica lived in the basement apartment, eating canned foods and searching for drinkable water. They eventually found a spring and then drank water from purification plants set up by the United States.

The British destroyer HMS Fife floated off the coast of Dominica until David passed, then docked and immediately sent 400 of its 500 men ashore to clear roads, distribute food and fly doctors via helicopter to remote areas. Fife was the only help Dominica got for four days.

Flights out of the country were booked for

weeks. Most of the 80,000 inhabitants of the 29-by-14 mile island wanted to leave for "a better life" even before the storm. Now there is nothing to hold them.

The Southern Baptist missionary families of Walker, Ross, and Don Snell and missionary journeyman Colleen Thompson have all decided to stay and continue work in Dominica. Mission Service Corps volunteer Mark Allen and his wife Jan, who is pregnant, have returned to the United States. Some of the wives and children evacuated temporarily to Barbados, but have since returned.

"I felt like God's call to me was for Dominica," said Betty Walker. "Like marriage vows, it's for better or for worse. Just because it got worse didn't change God's call. Remaining was the only way we could be of assistance."

Ground breaking set for Dec. 12 for Belmont student center

Belmont College, Nashville, will hold ground breaking services for a new student center on Dec. 12, according to action taken by the college trustees last Thursday.

The \$2-million structure will be located near the tower in the center of the Baptist college campus. The structure will provide a cafeteria, meeting rooms, recreational area, post office, and guest rooms.

The ground breaking ceremony will follow the Dec. 12 chapel service in Massey Auditorium.

The college now has over \$1,000,000 toward the project. College president Herbert Gabhart told the Board of Trustees that his goal is \$5-million in hand or pledges on groundbreaking date.

The trustees voted to ask authorization of Gresham and Smith as architects to proceed with working drawings for the center. The contractor will be American Constructors Inc.

At their Sept. 20 meeting the Board of Trustees was told that student enrollment for the college had reached a record 1,483, as compared to 1,314 last year. The faculty has been expanded to 77 full-time and 58 part-time members, also a record.

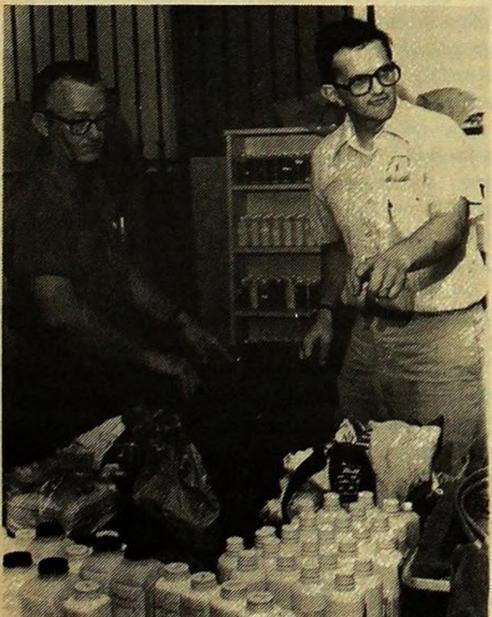
The trustees received the auditor's report during their meeting. In reviewing their financial situation, they voted to express appreciation to Tennessee Baptists for their continuing support through the Cooperative Program.

Newport congregation constitutes church

Fifty-seven Baptists in Newport constituted the Riverview Missionary Baptist Church earlier this month in that city.

Begun as a mission of First Baptist Church of Newport in 1953, the first group met as a Sunday School under the leadership of Porter Beason. In 1957, the members' first building was constructed.

The congregation currently gives 13 percent of its total receipts through the Cooperative Program and seven percent to associational mission work. Ernest Bragg is pastor.



GATHERING SUPPLIES—Dewey Dunn (right), physician and member of Nashville's Woodmont Baptist Church, loads his duffle bag with medical supplies in the Baptist building in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, before heading for refugee camps in the back country. Texan Bill Parmer, another volunteer, assists.

Executive Committee installs Bennett as executive secretary

NASHVILLE (BP)—Harold Clark Bennett was installed as executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee during services at First Baptist Church.

The installation came as the Executive Committee held its annual fall meeting, its first session since Bennett succeeded Porter W. Routh in the post.

Two of the three men who have preceded Bennett as executive—Routh and Duke McCall—issued challenges to the former executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention. McCall, now president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, told Bennett:

"Perhaps the most pressure (you will face) is from people and positions who will try to force you into their mold. But one of the greatest gifts you can give to Southern Baptists is not to fill a mold, but to be the man you were called to be...unique...infinite...conformed to the mind of Christ."

Routh, who now is teaching at Southern Seminary, urged Bennett to look at the faces of the people around him: staff, executive committee, agency, leaders, pastors, people of faith, but to most of all seek the "incomparable, sensitive, loving face of Jesus."

Bennett, in his response, said: "I love Southern Baptists. I love Jesus Christ. I am grateful for His salvation. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to be a servant of Him through His church."

He added: "Pray for me. Let's walk together down the tremendous pathway on which Christ has led as we share the gospel with every person in our day."

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered the address and told the audience: "I believe God is getting ready to do something in our convention that the most visionary of us has not even dreamed of."

EDITORIAL

No SBC registration conspiracy

The long-awaited investigation of messenger registration at the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston has been completed, and a report was given by Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, to last week's meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

Porter's report indicates there were 284 messengers from 47 churches who were illegally registered. When you consider that there were 15,900 registrations, these 284 illegal messengers (only 1.8 percent) hardly shows a conspiracy to control the SBC session—although some could properly argue that only one fraudulent messenger is too many.

Since this is the first time such an exhaustive examination of messenger registration has been conducted, we can not judge whether this 1.8 percent is any better or worse than other recent conventions.

It is pleasing to note that these 284 messengers could not have changed any action taken in Houston—including the election of Adrian Rogers as SBC president. The report noted that these 47 offending churches represent a cross section of our convention.

Neither the registration secretary nor the Ex-

ecutive Committee seems to feel that it is wise to reveal the names of these churches or messengers.

There were several aspects of the report which are disturbing.

(1) 107 messengers registered twice. Obviously, a messenger should know that he has already registered, so he should not register again.

(2) 31 of the illegal messengers were denominational employees (SBC agency, state convention, association).

(3) Too many messengers do not vote. Even in the election of the SBC president—which was certainly the focus of the convention—only 80.2 percent of the registered messengers voted (11,975 of the then registered 14,935). In the run-off for second vice-president, only 32.5 percent of the messengers voted, with the winner receiving an affirmative vote from 18.4 percent of the registered messengers.

(4) Approximately 7,000 messengers arrived at the Houston registration tables without a registration card appropriately signed by their churches' moderator or clerk. This puts a tremendous work load on the Credentials Committee.

(5) A number of churches elected "alternates" who registered, although the SBC Constitution makes no provision for alternate messengers.

Registration at any Baptist meeting must be on an "honor system." There is no way to verify every messenger from every church. So the burden must rest on the conscience of each church to properly elect and certify its messengers and on the conscience of each messenger to abide by convention procedure.

Housing crisis

By Presnell Wood, editor
"Baptist Standard", Dallas, Tex.

There is a crisis of enormous emotional and financial proportions facing many ministers and churches—housing. With real estate value skyrocketing and inflation rampant, many ministers who live in church-owned houses soberly realize there is the possibility of coming to the end of their active ministry without a place to live. Many retired ministers have experienced no house at the end of the road.

More than one pastor who lives in a church-owned house has anxiously looked at his family and tried to come to grips with the stark realities of what would happen to them and where would they live if he died suddenly. The parsonage system requires the widow and family to move out after a reasonable time, because a new pastor will be coming.

The problem of the parsonage has also surfaced when ministers have a physical disability and must take early retirement.

But the parsonage has not only been a problem just to the pastor. Churches have struggled with limited funds and good intentions in trying to keep integrity in dealing with the sensitive issue. Some churches have suffered guilt and a sense of helplessness in meeting the crisis of a pastor's retirement or death.

The problem is real. Many ministers and churches have chosen to ignore the problem, as if it only happens to some other preacher or church.

The obvious reasons of availability of housing and mobility of the clergy have made the parsonage system plausible in the past. And some church members frankly believe privately-owned houses on the part of ministers could be a deterrent to some pastors moving to other fields of service. Others have said that some ministers who own their own house spend more time working on their own house than working in the work of the church.

But the advantages of pastors owning their own houses are found in the building of equity, dignity of ownership, and a sense of security.

Another problem is that in assuming the parsonage is part of the pastor's remuneration, the pastor in reality buys the house for the church with his salary, rather than buying his own house.

In lieu of providing a parsonage many churches budget an adequate allowance for the pastor in order that he can own his own house. Some churches have sold their parsonages and created a fund to help the pastor with the down payment in the purchase of a house.

Obviously, there is no plan that will satisfy all churches or all ministers. In some towns where housing is critical, the parsonage plan could be the better approach. But in most cases the churches can and should get out of the housing business and provide a housing allowance for the pastor to own his own house.

The housing crisis facing ministers and churches can be solved with open, intelligent, and prayerful consideration on the part of both the minister and the church.

Cicero's comment



By the editor

Two events in recent days have provided Southern Baptists with a revealing glimpse of their two top leaders — Adrian Rogers, SBC president, and Harold Bennett, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

On Monday night of last week (Sept. 17) Bennett was installed as executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee. Rogers brought the closing message at that session, which is not unusual, since the SBC president always speaks at the September and February Executive Committee meeting.

Last week was Rogers' first speech before the committee. Frankly, there was much speculation about what he might say.

Rogers has always contended that he is first and foremost a preacher, and his first love is to preach the gospel. So it was not really surprising that last week he preached a challenging message to the Executive Committee members and visitors. Rogers used Judges 4-5 to remind us of the faith of Barak that resulted in victory for the Israelites.

According to Rogers, Barak had (1) an infallible source of faith, the Word of God, (2) an incredible success of his faith, and (3) an invincible strength of his faith. "Faith can do anything God can do," he shared.

Last week's SBC Executive Committee session was the first one in 23 years without Porter Routh who retired July 31. I was amazed at how quickly Harold Bennett has eased into his position, and how he worked with the convention-elected committee members during the three-day meeting. If he had any problem with the "newness" of his responsibility, it was not evident.

My appreciation of the Rogers-Bennett team was intensified on Sunday afternoon when the pair were interviewed on a one-hour television broadcast by NBC-TV.

All Southern Baptists can be proud of the way these two represented us — while recognizing that no one Southern Baptist can speak for any other Southern Baptist.

The theme of the telecast was "Thrust toward 2000" — which focused on Bold Mission Thrust and our stated objective of confronting every person on earth with the gospel by the year 2000 A.D.

However, the topics of discussion were wide and varied. As I watched, I was proud that as a denomination we place such an emphasis on openness. The questions were hard and somewhat controversial, yet Rogers and Bennett shared their convictions with firmness.

The interviewer, Russell Barber of NBC, responded to their openness by digging into such issues as abortion, disarmament, women pastors, race relations, liberalism in seminaries, prayer in public schools, and of course the innerracy question.

How fortunate we are to have men of conviction and commitment as our leaders in these two important positions!

I don't know how many non-Baptists sat for one-hour and watched the interview (especially since Bennett and Rogers were on at the same time as a football game on one channel and a baseball game on another). But I feel that those who did watch should have received a wonderful insight into the beliefs and interests of Southern Baptists—as well as, our top leadership.

As the TV program went off, I could not help but believe that its success (from my viewpoint) must have been because of the prayers that many Southern Baptists are offering for our denomination and our leadership.

I don't know how historians will view the roles of Adrian Rogers and Harold Bennett in Southern Baptist life from a future vantage point, but it is my opinion that they both are off to a great start!

THE AMAZING IMMENSITY OF GOD



CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE—78,101

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**Baptist
and
Reflector**

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News-Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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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.

Will of the people

Dear editor:

It has always been a tremendous honor to be a part of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. To me, it is the finest state convention anywhere.

The matter of dealing with Belmont Plaza seems to be a matter that could very well cause a great breaking down of our convention.

At the called convention it was my personal desire to keep the building and to use it for the purpose for which it was built. My idea was not accepted, and the convention said to dispose of this building. I accepted that as being the will of the people.

I know that all the men on the committees have worked hard and long. I do not feel like any of them would do anything that they knew was wrong. However, I feel that the decision to transfer this with the TBC still in the picture and being held somewhat responsible is in direct opposition to what our convention has voted to do. As a pastor, I know that this is going to be a real issue with people who are not as sold on the Cooperative Program as they ought to be.

I do not feel that the people were just emotional at the meeting nor do I feel like they have changed their minds. If this should be the situation, for the sake of harmony in our convention, please let the people say so in our state convention in November. Then we will know the will of all.

I am committing myself to praying for these men and trust the best decision will be made.

Kim Crawley
Rt. 6 Paris, TN 38242

Broadcasting standard

Dear editor:

The Biblical standard for broadcast regulation was not presented to the U.S. Congress, judging from the statements of church spokesmen which I saw in the committees' files.

The Biblical standard issues out of the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not bear false witness to my neighbor." That essentially means one may not communicate anything to anyone unless it is authorized by God. For even truth as a standard is not enough, because truth at the wrong time and place can make problems and cause harm (John 16:12).

The airways do not belong to the people, but to the Creator. The so-called "public interest" is nothing else than God's interest.

There are ample tests to know when one is communicating according to God's will. Altogether, one must be able to affirm one is sincerely presenting truth in Christ, in love, as out of God, before God, for the edification

Nashville churches offer international program

The 1979 continuing program for international women and children convened this month at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, according to Mary Colley, director of organization.

The organization, "International Friends," was begun in 1975 as a ministry from Baptist women in Nashville to internationals attending that city's 13 colleges and universities or who are families of students. The purpose of the group is to make easier the adjustment to the American way of life and to show the gift of Christian love, Mrs. Colley said.

Meeting each Thursday morning from 9:00 until 11:50, the program includes a period of conversational English, specific helps on becoming accustomed to a new environment, and craft classes.

Nine Baptist churches in the Nashville area sponsor the organizations and its programs. There is no membership fee.

of others and the glory of God, according to faith, in good conscience, in the Holy Spirit, by the enablement that God supplies (Romans 9:1; 2 Corinthians 2:17, 12:19, etc.).

Need I say: very little broadcasting meets these tests?

Willel W. G. Reitzer
17 Fifth St. N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

Committee needed

Dear editor:

May I congratulate you on your editorial "Inerrancy question needs answers" in the July 18 issue and support your suggestions that a special committee be formed to investigate this matter.

Many of us do feel there are some serious problems on some of our seminary campuses that need to be dealt with. Certainly, there is enough evidence to warrant a thorough investigation.

Of course, only the trustees can administer the internal affairs of an institution, and they must ultimately make the decision in how to deal with any problems that may be discovered. However, if there is ample reason there may be some serious problems, it is not only expedient but essential that an impartial investigation be undertaken.

I commend you for your suggestion.

Larry Lewis
Tower Grove at Magnolia St.
St. Louis, MO 63110

Personal perspective

BY TOM MADDEN
TBC executive secretary

I have heard some criticize God's Word. The truth of the matter is that the Word of God is the critic of man. I was reminded of this again recently when I read Hebrews 4:12. These verses share with us some of the qualities of God's Word.

His Word is quick. I take it this means His Word is living continually, and actively alive. I believe it was Spurgeon who said, "If you cut the Word of God into 1,000 pieces, every piece will live and grow."

His Word is powerful. It gives energizing power to the one who reads or hears it. When Christ was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He answered him by quoting God's Word. The Psalmist states, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against God."

His Word is sharp. It is likened to a two edged sword. It would not be wrong to say that God's Word is all edge. There is no bluntness to be found in it. It cuts all the way from Genesis through the Revelation. It cuts the one who quotes it as well as the one who hears it quoted.

His Word pierces. Like a needle, it cuts through the various layers of our defenses. It pierces through our indifferences and prejudices and worldliness and materialism. It pierces all the way to the heart.

God's Word is a discerner. It takes a life, sifts through the intents, ambitions, rips the mask from our face, and draws a conclusion.

May the quick, powerful, sharp, piercing, discerning Word of God be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.



Madden

Former defense secretary speaks at Belmont forum

Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told students and faculty at Belmont College last week that it is the responsibility of colleges to defend the free enterprise system of the United States.

Keynoting the 1979-80 William B. Cockroft Forum for Free Enterprise at the Nashville college, Rumsfeld made comments on the Salt II Treaty, the arms race, and defense spending. He urged the students and faculty to be concerned enough about the posture of our national defense to support congressmen and senators who support the free enterprise system. He warned that, with the attention of our nation having been directed toward domestic affairs, the free enterprise system is in trouble. "We must let Congress know how we feel," he encouraged.

Speaking primarily as an ex-secretary of defense, Rumsfeld also said the Salt II treaty is a bad agreement for the United States, primarily because it would be hard to verify Russian cooperation with the treaty. As far as an arms race, Rumsfeld said there is none. "The Russians are walking, and we are crawling," he said.

Criticizing our defense spending, he pointed out that five percent of the United States' spending from the Gross National Product is going to defense, while between 11-17 percent is going toward defense spending in Russia.

Prior to assuming his present position as chief executive of the G.D. Searle and Co., Chicago, Rumsfeld was the 13th secretary of defense under the Ford administration. Before that, he chaired Ford's transition to

the Presidency, and in September 1974 was appointed chief of staff of the White House and a member of the Cabinet. He has also served as United States Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Belgium, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and director of the Cost of Living Council. His earliest experience with government came under the Kennedy administration when, at the age of 29, he was elected to Congress and served four terms from Illinois.

Presently he is preparing to testify before Congress on Salt II.

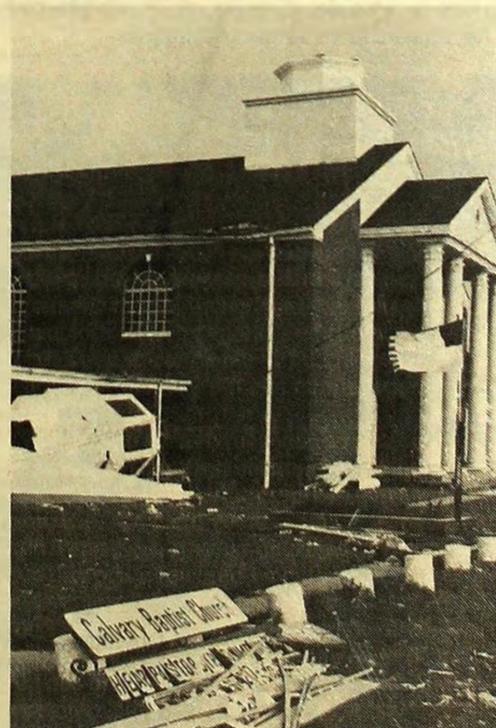
Rumsfeld kicked off the second year of the Cockroft Forum at Belmont. Wayne Robbins, vice-president for development, said that the forum is a substantive and symbolic program which is designed to bring the business world and the academic world together in support of our free enterprise system. "We want college students and businessmen to better relate to each other, to support what the students are getting in the classroom, and to give business representatives an opportunity to hear what the students are saying," Robbins told Baptist and Reflector.

The forum is named for a Memphis Baptist layman.

Speakers scheduled to address students this year at Belmont are: Bob Sellers, chairman of Cities Service Oil Co. of Oklahoma; Eric Hilton, Hilton Hotels; John Hanigan, Genesco; and Donald MacNaughton, president of Hospital Corporation of America.



POINT OF RELIEF—People in Irvington, Ala., one of the hardest-hit areas, receive food from the disaster relief van of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Many families received their first hot meal in several days.



STEEPLELESS CHURCH—Calvary Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Miss., lost its steeple, as did several coastal churches, following Hurricane Frederic.

Hurricane...

(Continued from page 1)

let them know whom we represented every chance we got to talk to people," King said. He explained the response they received most was "We didn't know Baptist did things like this."

By Wednesday, power began to be restored throughout the area. Stores also re-opened, and food stamps were being issued as rapidly as possible.

Team member Jarvis Hearn said a major need in the area for the next several weeks will be for workers in carpentry, electricity, and clean-up crews. Work teams from Tennessee churches could assume this responsibility and offer their services by contacting Pat Harrison, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mobile.

King also pointed out the need for more Tennessee Baptists to train in the area of disaster relief. Directors are needed most urgently, he explained, to work with the Red Cross and Civil Defense and to oversee the work of other team members. "People don't have to work through a team now," he added. "Anyone who has any skill and can offer anything, can find a job to do for somebody in Mobile."



MULTIPLE BAPTISMS—A medical-evangelistic effort held in the Philippines recently resulted in more than 2,350 decisions for Christ. In this baptismal service, 22 Filipinos were baptized by three Filipino pastors.

Philippine crusade records 2,355 decisions for Christ

BISLIG, Philippines (BP)—One year ago, a Southern Baptist medical-evangelistic team postponed plans to go to the Philippines when Missionary James (Boe) Stanley was wounded during crossfire between the New People's Army, a rebel group, and the Philippine military.

Stanley, one of the missionaries planning the 1978 crusade, has recovered completely and the team recently went ahead with the crusade.

Two of the crusade participants were from Tennessee. Both expressed receiving personal benefit from the effort.

"I have always known the scripture 'fields white unto harvest,'" said Ed Cloud of Knoxville, "but I see now that I have never really understood it before. This has been the greatest experience of my life. I have felt God in me and all around us. Life will never be the same from having been there."

Lynn Warner, a Dyersburg physician, said, "This was my first such trip, but I can assure you that it won't be my last. It has literally brought the Bible to life for me."

The delayed crusade resulted in 2,355 decisions, including more than 1,600 decisions to accept Christ as Savior, according to Southern Baptist missionary Marge (Mrs. Howard D.) Olive. Of that number, 124 people have been baptized and another 44 expect to be baptized soon. One baptism was held at 5:30 a.m. so that the five candidates could get to school by 6:30.

The results, which one volunteer compared to the biblical Pentecost, have led missionaries and participants in the 1979 crusade to believe God was in the postponement.

The evangelistic team, made up of 10 preachers, three musicians, three doctors, three dentists and four nurses, was coordinated through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's office of evangelism and church development.

They worked with 20 Filipino pastors and interpreters and 10 missionaries and one missionary child. In the 16-day effort, they held 96 services in churches and 98 services in other places such as schools, markets, clinics and parks. The dentists saw more than 1,800 patients and extracted more than 4,500 teeth. The doctors treated more than 4,400 patients and performed both minor and major surgery.

"This is another example of how Southern Baptists can be used in special projects through the board and the missionaries on the field to ensure the most enduring fruits," said Joseph B. Underwood, the board's consultant on evangelism and church development.

The results were due, in part, to the year's delay. Many of the decisions were among members of the Manobo Tribe. Even though work among this tribe in the Bislig area ac-

tually started earlier this year. Twenty-five of the subchiefs accepted Christ during the three-day visit.

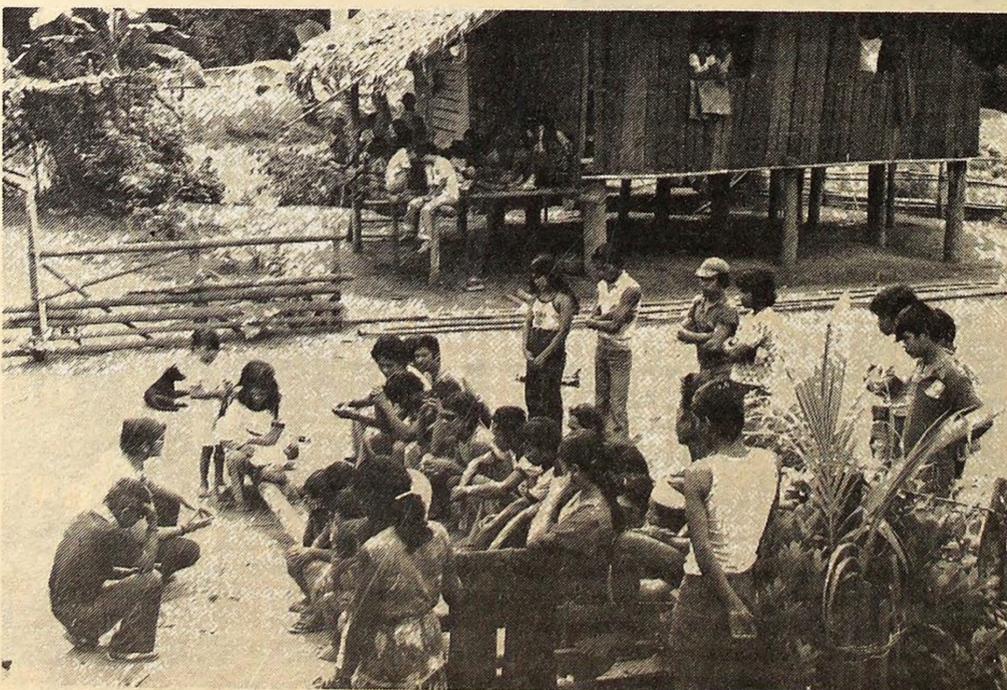
One of the dentists said he was especially impressed with the response of the Manobos as many of them heard the gospel for the first time. "Having seen this, I can envision Pentecost," Russell Snow of Marietta, Ga., exclaimed.

Besides the crusade results, special travel arrangements enhanced the volunteers' feelings that the year's postponement was a part of God's plan, Mrs. Olive said. Philippine Air Lines carried free of charge more than 600 pounds of excess baggage all the way from San Francisco.

Then at the airport in Cebu, Philippines, eight other passengers were asked to wait for another flight so that the excess luggage could be accommodated. This baggage included 1,600 pounds of medicine that the doctors and dentists distributed during the crusade effort.

Now that the visiting evangelistic team has returned to the United States, the missionaries and Filipinos are working on the final stages of the crusade effort, the follow-up.

"You've had the joy of seeing these people come into the fold—our job is to keep them there," Stanley told the departing volunteers. The day the team left, 30 pastors and workers gathered in the Stanleys' home for follow-up training led by Southern Baptist missionary Billy B. Tisdale, director of church planting for missionaries in the Philippines.



OUTDOOR EVANGELISTIC MEETING—A Southern Baptist medical-evangelistic team held meetings in the Philippines recently in such places as churches, schools, markets, clinics, and parks.

"Little Isam" of Nazareth recovers, return to Israel

ANTIOCH, Tenn.—"Little Isam" of Nazareth, a four-year-old Arab boy from Israel, returned home last week following open heart surgery performed recently in Atlanta, Ga.

In a bold and dramatic plan which involved Arabs, Christians and Jews, a Nashville Baptist pastor began a project early this year to bring the small boy to the United States for the delicate operation.

Ralph Duncan, pastor of the Mt. View Baptist Church in the Antioch area of Davidson County, has raised \$3,400 toward the child's medical expenses that have reached almost \$15,000 at the United Methodist related Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, Ga. That amount does not include the surgeon's fee that was donated by an Atlanta heart specialist.

The National Council of Churches has agreed to contribute \$7,000 to the hospital bill.

The Nashville minister learned of the child's plight during a tour of the Holy Land last February.

"When I was leading a tour group in Nazareth, I met the pastor of a Baptist church where we held a worship service," Duncan said. "I told him I had felt a 'strange burden' that day on my way to Nazareth. I asked him if he had a child in that church who needed help.

"He nearly fell over from surprise and then

he told me that he had a nephew, Isam, who was in need of heart surgery that could not be done in Israel."

Duncan and the Baptist minister talked about what could be done to help Isam.

Isam's doctor, a Jewish heart specialist in Haifa, had told the family an operation that could save his life could be done in the United States but not in Israel, and the operation would cost about \$15,000.

"In true Baptist fashion, we took up an offering right there and our tour group shelled out \$270 for Isam and the "Little Isam of Nazareth Fund" was on its way.

The Nashville pastor also learned that the child had an uncle, the Rev. Fayiz Sakhnini, who is a Southern Baptist missionary based in Atlanta. He soon made arrangements for the surgery to be performed there.

Duncan reports that "Little Isam's parents have an income of less than \$4,000 per year and there are four other children in the family.

"We're simply trusting the Lord to provide the rest of the money to pay the balance of the child's huge hospital bill," Duncan said. "The round trip plane fare for the child and his parents cost \$3,000 and the family has had other expenses in addition to hospital charges."

The Nashville pastor plans another tour to Israel Feb. 20-29, 1980 and he and Mrs. Duncan will be special dinner guests of several of "Little Isam's" relatives in Nazareth. Duncan said, "So far as we are concerned, 'Little Isam' will be the centerpiece at the banquet table."



TENNESSEAN HELPS—Dr. Lynn Warner Jr. of Dyersburg, along with other doctors, treated more than 4,400 patients during 16 days in the Philippines recently.

Citizen's Corner

By Jerry M. Self
Public affairs and Christian life consultant

What do people do on a marriage enrichment retreat? Enrich their marriages, of course!

On a marriage enrichment retreat, a typical couple can get away for a two or three day experience where nothing has their attention except themselves. In a small group setting they have gotten into some highly pressured sensitivity session where deep dark secrets are exposed. A marriage enrichment retreat can be a relaxing and comfortable experience.



Self

Some helpful communication techniques will be learned. You will do exercise designed to help you and your spouse continue growing a healthy marriage. Mostly, the retreat is just plain fun.

One style of marriage enrichment retreat has been developed by the Sunday School Board. For more information write to Dick Waggener, MSN 140, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234. This style of retreat is well organized, building on key Biblical insights about marriage.

Another excellent form of marriage enrichment retreat has been developed by David and Vera Mace. Their work comes under the sponsorship of the Association of Couples for Marriage Enrichment (ACME). From the Mace's Quaker background, they have fashioned a more free form but somewhat similar retreat model. Write ACME, P.O. Box 10596, Winston-Salem, NC 27108 for information about Tennessee leader couples.

The usual format for either style of retreat begins on Friday evening and extends to Sunday noon. Some alteration of days is possible, but that basic time frame seems necessary to accomplish the goals of the retreat.

Think about it. What's more important than your marriage?

Our People and Our Churches . . .

PEOPLE...

Former Tennessee pastor Melvin O. Childress has joined the faculty of Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky. as a teacher in the music department. He is a native of Sharon and a graduate of Union University in Jackson and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Bill Brown, minister of music at Zion Baptist Church in Brownsville, was ordained to the gospel ministry at that church recently. A student at Union University in Jackson, he has been asked to serve the church as associate pastor in charge of music and youth. The ordination message was delivered by Pastor Michael O'Brien.

First Baptist Church in Mt. Juliet was scheduled to ordain Joe Carter, John Kellams, Roger Lovell, Don Lyda, and Billy Mofield as deacons on Sunday, Sept. 16. Billie Friel is pastor.

A golden wedding anniversary reception was held Sept. 9 for Mr. and Mrs. William Greer Shaw, Lenoir City. The couple are members of First Baptist Church in that city. Charles Redmond Jr. is pastor.

David Richardson observed his fifth anniversary as minister of music at Concord Baptist Church in Chattanooga earlier this month. Bob Segrest is pastor.

First Baptist Church of Petersburg ordained Fred Richardson Jr. as deacon recently. Aubrey Knois is pastor.

Norman L. Gardner was honored recently at First Baptist Church in Gallatin for 10 years of service as minister of music and youth. The church choir presented a program of praise using anthems and solos. The Gardners received a plaque and love gift from the church and a mantle clock from the choir. Harold W. Allen is pastor.

North Johnson City Baptist Church, Johnson City, held deacon ordination services and licensing services recently. Ordained to the deaconate was Dana Malone. Keith Wilson was licensed to preach the gospel ministry. Wiley Rutledge is pastor.

CHURCHES...

Little West Fork Baptist Church in Clarksville celebrated its 161st anniversary with a note burning service recently. Picture in this issue. The church was organized in 1918 by Ruben Ross who served as pastor for 42 years. It was the third church established in Cumberland Association. The first church was built of logs around 1831 on three acres off Britton Springs Rd. It was then moved to the present location at Britton Springs Rd. and Highway 41-A North in June 1894. The bricks of the old sanctuary, which is still standing, were hauled by oxen. Roger Oldham is pastor.

Unaka Baptist Church, Elizabethton, observed its 25th anniversary recently with guest preacher Earl Campbell, the congregation's first pastor. Special events included a memorial service, dinner on the grounds, and an afternoon service with special music and a reading of the church history. Stephen J. Pressley is pastor.

Valley Hills Baptist church, Bristol, held note burning and homecoming services recently, making payment on a \$75,000 note. Participating in the service were: Hershel Chevallier, Bruce Robinson, Louis Kincaid, Charles Jessee, and James Harris. All are former pastors, except Harris, who serves as director of missions for Holston Association. Clint Dunagan is pastor.

North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland, began a new transportation

ministry for its senior adults using a 1979 15-passenger van. Don Long, pastor of the church, said that "many of our senior members are unable to drive at night and are fearful of going into their homes after dark." The service will involve picking up those members at their homes and returning them safely after the evening worship service. Mike Wallace will serve as driver for the senior citizen transportation plan. The church will use the van for other activities also.

Holston Valley Baptist Church, Abingdon, Va. (Holston Association) has completed extensive renovation of the church building. B.H. Harvey is pastor.

Members of First Baptist church, Hickory Withe, held ground breaking services for a new building recently. Dick Henderson is serving as interim pastor.

Graceland Baptist Church, Memphis, is scheduled to observe its 25th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 23. The morning service will include songs from former minister of music Lawrence Cunningham, Joe Helms, Herbert Cox, and Daryl Randall, and a message by C.M. Pickler. E. Lowell Adams is pastor.

Howell Hill Baptist Church, Fayetteville, held dedication services for a new building. Wayne Honea gave a brief historical review of the church. Joe Mayberry, director of missions for William Carey Association, preached the dedicatory message. Former pastor Ed Blackburn also participated in the service. Willie Banks is pastor at Howell Hill.

Members of Inskip Baptist Church in Knoxville observed the 60th anniversary of the church with a note burning ceremony recently. The church's property is valued at more than \$1.2-million. Speakers for the special services were: Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Bill Bruster, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Bearden. The members also honored their pastor, Robert A. Sander, on his 16th anniversary as pastor.

LEADERSHIP...

Mike Higgins resigned as pastor of Northport Baptist Church, Newport, last month.

Merton Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, called Robert Emory as youth director. He is a native of Greer, S.C., and a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in that city. William A. Foote is pastor of Merton Avenue.

Paul Smith, a sophomore at Union University in Jackson, accepted the position of music and youth director at First Baptist church in Obion. He served this summer as youth director at First Baptist Church, Counce. Smith is the son of Stanley Smith, pastor of Falcon Baptist Church in Shiloh Association. Otis Hinton is pastor of the Obion church.

Conroy Ryan Jr., minister of music at First Baptist Church in Apison, resigned recently in order to attend New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Lee Somers has accepted the position on an interim basis. Harlan Williams is pastor.

Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Maryville added two staff members recently. They are William May, minister of education and youth, and J.C. Reed, minister of senior adults. May comes to the post from Big Spring Baptist Church of Cleveland. He has directed music in revivals and crusades, led Bible camps and seminars, and assisted in retreats and youth revivals. Reed comes to Madison Avenue from East Maryville Baptist Church where he was pastor for over 18 years. He attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City and is a graduate of Southern Bible Institute. Glenn Grubb is pastor of the Maryville congregation.

Tusculum Baptist Church in Greeneville called John Tagliarini as minister of music last week. He is a new resident of Greeneville, coming from Lakeland, Fla. where he taught music in high school for five years. During that time, he was also minister of music at Webster Baptist Church in Lakeland. He holds a B.A. degree in vocal music education and a M.A. in music choral conducting from the University of South Florida. He has also accepted a position with Tusculum College in Greeneville. Grant Bishop is pastor.

Larry Booth has been called as part-time minister of outreach and education at Kensington Baptist Church in Memphis. A student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, he is a graduate of Trenton State College, in Trenton, N.J. For five years, he was a member of the faculty of Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. Jerry Massey is pastor at Kensington.

Valley View Baptist Church in Nashville called Lee Porter II as minister of music on Sunday, Sept. 16. Porter is a student at Belmont College in that city, majoring in vocal performance. He served as minister of music at Mt. View Baptist Church in Antioch. Dwayne Sheumaker is pastor.

Harold McNabb, pastor of Muddy Creek Baptist Church, Piney Flats, resigned recently in order to enroll at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Roan Hill Baptist Church, Johnson City, called Wayne McKee as music director. He is employed at North side Hospital in that city. Claude Babb is pastor.

Jerry Wilson was called as music director to Southside Baptist Church, Holston Association. He is a graduate of the School of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo., with a degree in music and choral conducting. He has served as a music director at First Baptist Church in Harrison, Ark., Emmanuel Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., and was post choir director at Fort Polk, La. In addition to his work at Southside, Wilson will be a private voice instructor at East Tennessee State University and the Kingsport Fine Arts Center.

Corky Cross accepted a call to serve as minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

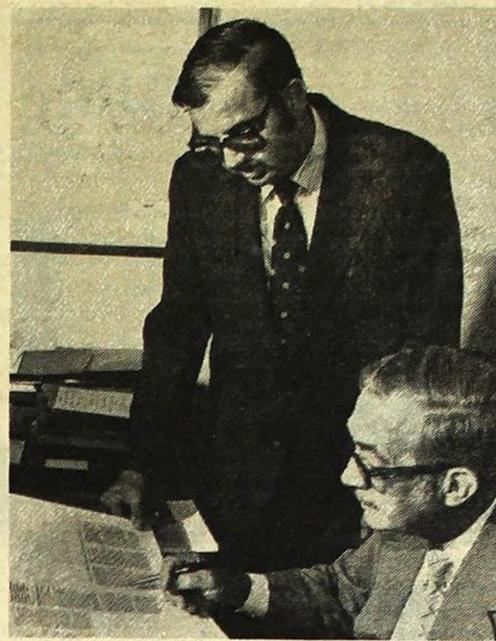
Morris Memorial Baptist Church, Fayette Association, called Hal Mayer as music and youth director. He comes to the post from Rossville Baptist Church in that association, where he was youth director.

Dalton Warden resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Elora.

Al Grounds is serving as interim pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, not First Baptist Church in Smyrna, as reported in the Sept. 12 issue of the Baptist and Reflector. W.D. Thomason is pastor of First Baptist Church in Smyrna.

REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS...

Indian Hills Baptist Church in Gallatin will hold revival services Sept. 30-Oct. 7, according to Pastor Jack H. Goodwin. Clyde Gordon, Bowling Green, Ky., is scheduled to be the evangelist; and Ernest and Evie Frentree, Crafton, Ky., are slated as music evangelists. On Oct. 7, the church will observe homecoming and the laying of the cornerstone for the Dallas Garland Educational Building.



ASSUMING EDITORSHIP—Leland F. Webb (standing) reviews layouts for The Commission magazine with retiring editor Floyd North. Webb, production editor from 1964-70 and managing editor since 1970, will become the new editor Feb. 1, 1980. North has edited the magazine since 1959.

Webb named editor of FMB publication

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Leland F. Webb, 15-year veteran of The Commission magazine staff, has been named editor-designate of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's monthly publication.

Webb, managing editor since 1970, will assume full editorship Feb. 1, 1980, following the retirement of long-time editor Floyd H. North, according to Thomas W. Hill, communications department secretary. North, 65, came to the board in 1957 and has edited the publication for the last 20 years.

A native of McAlester, Okla., Webb is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Before joining The Commission staff as production editor in 1964, he was assistant editor of the Baptist Messenger, weekly paper of Oklahoma Baptists, and editorial assistant for All-Church Press in Fort Worth.

Ingram confirms Gritz termination

NASHVILLE (BP) — Joe Ingram, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has confirmed that Jack Gritz was terminated by the convention's Board of Directors as editor of Oklahoma's Baptist Messenger, Sept. 11, with only one dissenting vote.

Earlier, Baptist Press reported the board approved a motion that Gritz, who will be 63 in December, retire early.

Ingram said the board action suggested that Gritz, who will be paid full salary through March, 1980, could take disability or early retirement and that the board would work out a non-Cooperative Program supplement which would, in effect, pay his full salary and benefits through his normal retirement age of 65 in Dec. 1981.

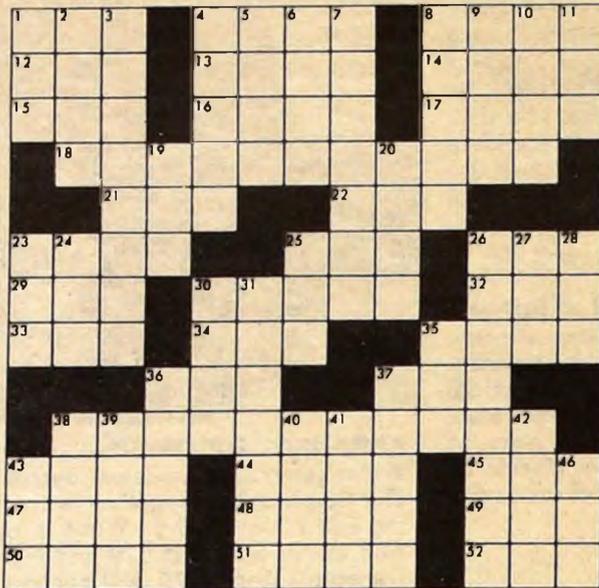
Gritz has had health problems which the board felt makes him eligible for disability retirement, Ingram said. He said, however, that the board's decision was not based on health but on the work of Gritz, who has served as editor of the Baptist Messenger for 30 years. He said he did not initiate the action to terminate Gritz but agrees with it.

Gritz has said he does not wish to take disability retirement because his health is good and that he does not wish to take early retirement either. He said he will discuss the matter with the board's committee.

Gritz said the termination took him by surprise and hurt him, but he added, "I have some good years left and hope to make them count for the Lord."

Bible Puzzle

Answers on page 10



ACROSS

- 1 O. T. book: abbr.
- 4 He received tithes (Heb. 7:9)
- 8 Antitoxins
- 12 Samuel's mentor (1 Sam. 2:11)
- 13 Stove part
- 14 Praise
- 15 Release: abbr.
- 16 Speech part
- 17 Old Italian house
- 18 "The — — the word" (Mark 4)
- 21 Large amount of money
- 22 — and tuck
- 23 "and — unto thy name" (Rom. 15)
- 25 Ball, of a sort
- 26 Designate
- 29 Greeting
- 30 "I — not my power" (1 Cor. 9)
- 32 Hasten
- 33 Less than bogey
- 34 A helper (Nah. 3:9)
- 35 "— to backsliding" (Hos. 11)
- 36 Container
- 37 Cat's —
- 38 "keep — —" (Prov. 3)
- 43 "the silver — be loosed" (Eccl. 12)
- 44 Girl's name
- 45 Dry or black
- 47 Half of a game
- 48 Awl in England
- 49 Place (Ezek. 27:10)
- 50 Sheltered

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E Z R L S N X S F A Z H Q Y L K E E F U F F E

Today's Cryptoverse Clue: Z equals E

- 51 Pork product trademark
- 52 Old Algerian official

DOWN

- 1 Abner's father (1 Sam. 14:51)
- 2 House adjuncts
- 3 "ox knoweth — —" (Isa. 1)
- 4 "they — the praise" (John 12)
- 5 Before lasting or more
- 6 Verses: abbr.
- 7 "that are — —" (Heb. 13)
- 8 "let us not —" (1 Thess. 5)
- 9 Orient
- 10 O. T. book
- 11 Summer cooler
- 19 Droll fellow
- 20 "for — is the gate" (Matt. 7)
- 23 Trees are full of it (Psa. 104:16)
- 24 Marsh elder
- 25 Before cry or crop
- 26 "heir of — —" (Rom. 4)
- 27 City (Josh. 15:32)
- 28 Cat, for one
- 30 "she took — —" (2 Sam. 13)
- 31 "Bear ye one another's —" (Gal. 6)
- 35 Good's opposite
- 36 Officer of the court
- 37 Composition of David
- 38 Dirt
- 39 Seine tributary
- 40 Article of dress
- 41 Man (2 Chron. 18:7)
- 42 Grimace
- 43 Accountant: abbr.
- 46 Temporary duty

Pulpit To Pew

By Jim N. Griffith

A minister and physician had been kidding each other about their professions. Changing the subject, the minister asked the doctor about the condition of an elderly man in his congregation.

"Poor old fellow," the doctor said solemnly, "he needs your help more than mine."

"Oh," said the minister, "Is it that serious?"

"Yes," said the doctor, hiding a smile, "I've been trying to get him to take a daily nap for a long time—and he just can't seem to get to sleep."

The preacher has been described as "the only person who talks in another person's sleep."

But the preacher isn't always to blame. After all, he has only 30 minutes in which to raise the dead.

Supposedly, in this drowsy, complacent age in which we live it could be said that a powerful preacher is one that can be heard above the snoring.

Interpretation

A gospel sound-board

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"For from you sounded out the Word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia (Greece), but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad"

1 Thessalonians 1:8

nian church encouraged all other churches then, even as one on fire for the Lord does today.

Devotional

I love his church

By James M. Gregg

Paul reminds his readers of the beginning of their church in Thessalonica (vv. 5-7). So faithful were they that they became examples or types to all Christians in Macedonia and Greece. Despite hardships they remained true to the gospel.

"Sounded out" renders a verb (*execheo*) found only here in the New Testament. It means to sound a trumpet, to thunder, to reverberate like an echo. Note that "echo" comes from this verb *execheo*. Phillips reads: "You have become a sort of sounding board from which the Word of the Lord has rung out from you." Moffatt: "The Word of the Lord has resounded from you." In modern parlance it has become a broadcasting station sending out the gospel.

The result was that wherever Paul went—even beyond Macedonia and Greece—people knew about the church in Thessalonica. So often bad news from or about a church travels fast. But in this case it was the good news.

What a noble tribute to a church committed to evangelism and missions! The Thessalo-

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said to Peter, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." He did not promise to build His church upon Peter but upon Himself as Peter himself very carefully tells us in 1 Peter 2:4-9.

The church is a body of baptized believers, united together to carry on the work and mission of Jesus. I am glad that I am a part of that body—that family of Christian brothers and sisters. My earliest remembrances are those Sundays when I sat on my mother's lap in a country Baptist church. It was through the ministry of that little church that I received Christ Jesus in my heart, and where I was baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The church has nurtured me, taught me, trained me, blessed me, and through her schools, educated me.



Gregg

Jesus gave His great commission to the Church. This is His only plan to evangelize the world. This job can never be done by parachurch groups. I believe in the scriptural organized church. Some call it "the institutional church" or "denominational church." Nevertheless, it is the only institution which Christ Himself founded and purchased with His own precious blood. I would urge all new believers to serve Jesus through the fellowship of His church. There is not greater fellowship. On His day in His church, we gather to praise and worship Him. Our hearts well up in adoration, in gratitude, and in worship through songs, prayers, and the preached Word. Then, through our tithe, through the church, we help carry out His commission in mission work.

I was called to preach fifty years ago at age 18 and preached my first sermon on Mother's Day 1929 at Unaka Avenue Baptist Church in Johnson City. My entire ministry has been through Tennessee Baptist churches. I praise God for this privilege, and I would like to do it again.

With Timothy Dwight I sing, "I love Thy Church, O God, The house of Thine abode, The Church our blessed Redeemer saved with His own precious blood."

Gregg, retired executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc., is now pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Nashville.

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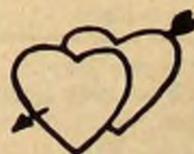
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/TREASURER
EVANS B. BOWEN

Where did the Summer go? Everywhere I have been, parents have said, "I can't believe that it is time for school to begin." It is true that some school systems have moved their opening date up to an earlier date. The hot September sun makes it very difficult for one to look ahead to the snows of January and February. The schools find it necessary to provide some "snow days." Planning ahead is essential to progress in any worthwhile endeavor. However, we must never become only visionaries refusing to deal with the present.



Evans B. Bowen

The boys and girls with whom we are privileged to work must be taught how to face the realities of today and plan for a better tomorrow. Most of us do not like to deal with today. Do you remember when you were young how you projected life at an older age? To dream of the future was the favorite past-time of many. As we grow older, we begin to reflect on the days that are gone. Whether we are young or old, we think of some other time than the present. Someone years ago said, "Yesterday is only a dream. Tomorrow is only a vision. Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of gladness and every tomorrow a day of hope." Our objective is to aid each child who comes into our care to honestly face "today." If we can succeed in this effort, then we can more realistically plan for tomorrow.

As Summer ends, our staff takes a deep breath because they have learned that the population on the campuses will very quickly reach near capacity. This is already a reality at the Chattanooga Home. They have already found it necessary to refer children to other agencies. We have mixed emotions when we reach capacity. We are happy to be serving the number we are licensed to serve. However, we find it very frustrating to tell someone that we cannot help. Does anyone really understand when you must say, "We are sorry but we are full"? "Surely, there is room for just one more" comes back the anxious voice.

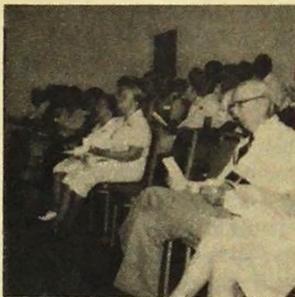
Franklin Homecoming



J.T. Poston, president of alumni, presides over the business session.



Evans B. Bowen, Executive Director-Treasurer gives an official welcome to those attending the business session.



Some in attendance left the Home more than 50 years ago. They were very excited with all the changes. They voted unanimously to establish a scholarship fund to be administered by the Superintendent.



Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Thomas and Porter Freeman were at the Home in 1928.

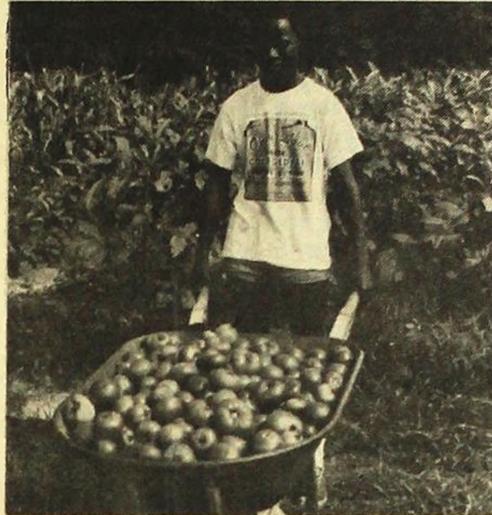


Miss Linda Dalton is Activities' Director. What is she doing? The children took over and threw her in the pool.

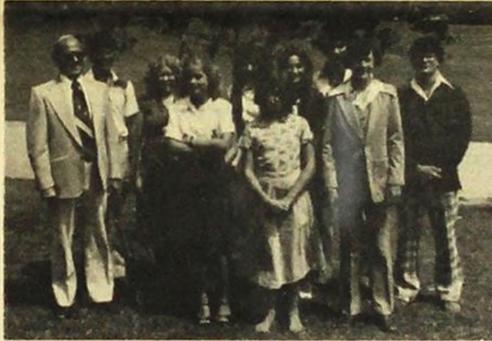
Chattanooga Gives Proof



It was hot and humid! Most of the children and staff were away on vacation. David Jordan (summer worker) enthusiastically leads the boys to gather tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, and corn. Looks good to me.



David Nicholson gives a broad grin as he pushes a wheelbarrow filled with tomatoes just picked from one of their two gardens.



The Johnson Cottage. Mr. Louis Willborn, houseparent, has all his "family" ready for Sunday School and Worship Service.



The staff patiently wait for the boys and girls to first fill their plates. You guessed that it was a picnic.



Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Fike, houseparents, proudly pose with their family just before leaving for Sunday School.

Associational Meetings

Most annual associational meetings are held in September and October. We do our best to have a representative in each association that requests one. Last year, we were represented in 55 of the 68 associations.

We have mailed letters to Directors of Missions and Associational Moderators. A form was enclosed to be used by those requesting a representative. Last year, several people complained that the Children's Homes did not have a representative at the annual meeting. It is certainly understandable that the limited time makes it impossible to give time to every one who might desire it. It would help if the Director of Missions or Moderator would explain why some agencies aren't represented.

Dear Baptist friends, if you do not see a representative from the TBCH, you will understand why. We invite you to make it your business to visit one of our Campuses, and we will give you a tour and let you see exactly what we are endeavoring to do.

Happenings at Memphis

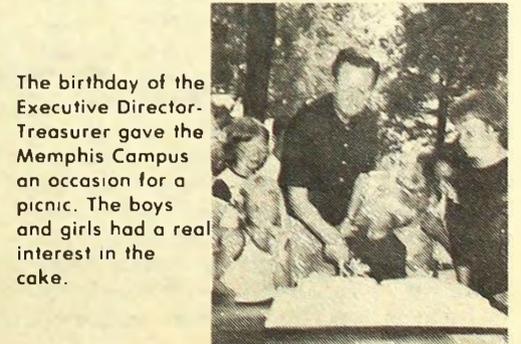
Jimmy Pearson won first prize at the Fishing Rodeo. He decided in the Summer of '78 that he was going to fish with the lady who knew all the right places to fish.



Tyrone and Maurice appear to enjoy sweeping the walk after the grass has been cut



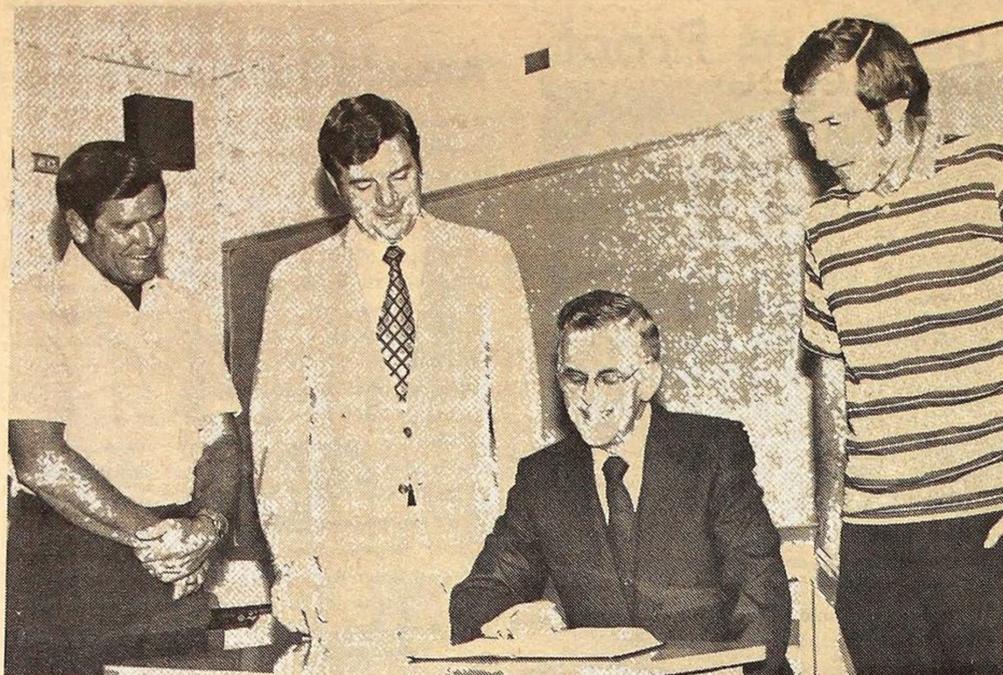
The heavy rainfall through July and August produced a great harvest of hay. They didn't brag too much about their gardens. "Too much rain for good produce."



The birthday of the Executive Director-Treasurer gave the Memphis Campus an occasion for a picnic. The boys and girls had a real interest in the cake.



A part of an August picnic in Memphis is watermelon.



BIBLE STUDY—Sharing a passage from the Bible was Purdue's way of welcoming the first Carson-Newman Bible School students to enroll. Left to right are Bill Witt of Jefferson City, the first student to enroll for all three of the Bible School classes; Cordell Maddox, president of Carson-Newman; William Purdue, director of the Bible School; and Gary Marshall of Morristown, the first student to enroll in the Bible School.

First Bible School opens at Carson-Newman College

By Janice R. Wood

JEFFERSON CITY — "I've wanted something like this for a long time," said Doyle Seal of Talbott, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Hawkins County after beginning his work as one of the 26 charter-member students of the Bible School of Carson-Newman College.

The Bible School was opened this fall with one of its objectives being, "To provide a curriculum geared to practical application in church-related vocations and lay involvements," according to William J. Purdue, director of the Bible School.

Among the charter members were those who are preparing or bettering themselves for the ministry and those who, like Avery Turley of Rutledge, want "to be more involved" in church work.

The members spoke of the sacrifice necessary for them to be attending school. Jerry Stallings, Strawberry Plains, mentioned the complication of being a student with the full-time job he has in Knoxville, his work as the pastor of the Narrow Valley Baptist Church in Grainger County and his responsibilities as a husband and the father of three children.

Having "surrendered to the ministry three years ago," Lawrence Adams, of Maryville, said he has been searching for some way of preparing for this calling. The father of three children, he said that his family is making a sacrifice for him to be in school and that he will probably become a full-time student in January.

Night and Saturday-morning classes are being offered this semester. Twenty students have enrolled in "Church Administration" and seven in "Understanding the Bible," both of which are being taught by Purdue. "New Testament," taught by William Blevins of the C-N Religion Department, has an enrollment of 15.

Thirteen students are taking one class, nine are taking two and four are enrolled in all three classes.

The schedule of night and weekend classes is convenient for those working fulltime jobs elsewhere. Robert Kitts, of Morristown, said that he is able to "work around" his hours as a salesman for Merita Bakery, in scheduling his classes, to further his knowledge of the Bible.

The only woman in the charter group, Joyce Vespie of Jefferson City, said she enrolled to prepare for "some kind of Christian ministry" to which she feels called at some

time in the future. "With a full-time job (as Purdue's secretary), I am unable to take regular college courses," she said. Being the only woman has not discouraged her; she said she has been recruiting another.

Billy Bush, of Morristown, expressed a "need to be better informed" in his ministry as the pastor of Enterprise Baptist Church in Hamblen County.

"I need to understand the Bible more," said Allen Black of Morristown and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Newport.

Pastors and associational missionaries are the initial contact with the new Bible School for most of the students. Taking the advice of his former pastor at Leadvale Baptist Church, Bernie Cagle, of White Pine, enrolled because of his interest in going into the ministry full time at some point in his life.

"We are all going to be students, and we are all going to be teachers," Purdue told the students in "Church Administration," the first Bible School class to be held. Reading from Colossians 3:1-17, Purdue used the apostle Paul's words to encourage the new students to "set your affections on things above," the passage he called "lofty idealism" and the guidelines for the Bible School.

"We all have different backgrounds and aren't you glad? It's good we're not all alike. Each one has something worthwhile to bring to the others. The key word is 'together,'" the director said.

He emphasized that the study he and the students will be doing "together," will be serious study that will be practical, showing them time-saving aids for their church work.

Also addressing the first class was Cordell Maddox, president of Carson-Newman. With the Bible School being opened, Maddox said, "Carson-Newman is returning to the scene of the reasons for which it was started. It was founded primarily to educate the ministers."

Begun in 1851, Maddox said Carson-Newman has "survived six wars, a deep depression, several recessions and two fires." He said that the key to C-N's survival during past and future difficulties is for the college "to be distinctively Christian, concerned about the education of ministers and missionaries as well as the laymen and laywomen sitting in the pews for the next 20, 30 or 40 years."

UNIFORM LESSON Lesson for Sunday, September 30

Visions of God's kingdom

By Jerry Heflin, Bible teacher
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour

BASIC PASSAGES: Daniel 7:1-8; 9:20-27; Rev. 1:1-3; 4:1-8
FOCAL PASSAGES: Daniel 7:15-18; Rev. 4:1-8

One can almost hear the nervous groans of Sunday School teachers as they realize they must teach a Bible lesson from Daniel and Revelation. For many believers these two books have been considered too difficult for the layperson to handle. This is unfortunate for Rev. 1:3 states that there is a great blessing for those who read. And consider that Revelation (Apokalupsis) means "an uncovering, to draw away the veil of darkness."

We are accustomed to teaching stated in words that express realism and not symbolism. This is a major source of our misunderstanding of these two books. They are written in a style of language that we call *apocalyptic*. This writing makes revelations of future judgments and blessings but does so using the language of imagery and symbolism. They may come in the form of visions and/or dreams.

An example of apocalyptic symbolism is given in Daniel 2. God gave Daniel the interpretation of a dream by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The king dreamed of a statue of a man made of various materials. The differing parts of the anatomy represented an overview of the last great world empires from Babylon to Messiah's Kingdom. The interpretation of the symbols is given in verses 36-45: (1) Babylon, head of gold; (2) Medo-Persian empire, breast and arms of silver; (3) Greece, belly and thighs of bronze; (4) Rome, legs of iron; (5) Coalition of 10 nations out of which anti-Christ will emerge, feet of iron and clay; and (6) Christ's Kingdom, represented by a stone that demolishes the statue. It is interesting to see where we are on the prophetic scale.

The serious student should study Daniel 9:20-27 where it is recorded that Daniel had a vision of Jerusalem and the rebuilt Temple, Messiah cut off, and a final seven year period that would usher in great judgments and tribulations before the entrance of the Messianic Kingdom. It is the conviction of many evangelical writers, including this teacher, that these last seven years of Daniel's chapter 9 vision — and the rise and judgment of anti-Christ's kingdom, and the ultimate triumph of Messiah's Kingdom — is the subject of the book of Revelation.

The reader should know that opinions are as



Heflin

numerous as the letters of the Greek alphabet, but it is comforting to know that our differences, or our ignorances, will in no way cause God's time table to suffer. With background from Daniel, one can joyfully enter into an intelligent study of Revelation and rejoice to know that final victory belongs to our Christ. Most of the symbols can be understood with the aid of a few Bible helps.

Daniel's vision of four beasts
Daniel 7:15-18

This is a close parallel to the dream of chapter 2, in that the four beasts represent the character of the first four kingdoms of the earlier chapter. Daniel is troubled, and an angelic being interprets the vision. The "sea" (v.3) symbolizes the nations (compare Rev. 13:1; 17:15). Many interpreters believe the 10 horns on the fourth beast represent a confederation of 10 nations out of which will emerge anti-Christ's kingdom.

Some prophetic specialists think this may be fulfilled by the modern European Common Market countries.

The "saints" probably refers to the redeemed of all time. The point is that Christ's eternal Kingdom will triumph, and we will reign with Him. Cheer up!

John's vision of the throne
Rev. 4:1-8

John, the aged apostle exiled to the island of Patmos, sure has some mighty interesting company to offset his loneliness. He is shown visions of the ultimate triumph of Christ over the wicked nations and Satan. These are represented in a series of judgments, followed by a glimpse of Glory. In our focal passages John is shown the Heavenly Throne Room.

An open door (vs.1) The call to John to come up to heaven could be symbolic of the rapture of the church (I Thess. 4:17). This preceeds the beginning of judgments and tribulations. Rapture is not a Bible word but is a word Christians use to express the joy of the moment when Christ returns to take us home.

The Lord on the throne (vs. 2,3). He is "seated," underscoring His authority. On earth things may be in disarray but not in heaven. God isn't ringing His hands nor tearing His plans and beginning again. "Jasper" speaks of purity, and "sardine," being blood red in color, symbolizes the redemptive purposes of God.

Twenty-four elders (vs. 4,5) Scholars are divided as to identity. They could be representative of both Old and New Testament saints, angelic beings, or representatives of church-age saints only. Whatever your label, these elders are participating in the rule of the Lord. "White raiment" speaks of purity, and "crowns of gold" signify their exalted position. The "seven spirits" may be a designation of the Holy Spirit in fulness. The "sea of glass" I will leave to writers smarter than I. If the elders picture church-age saints, then their crowned and reigning positions would mean that the church will not be on the earth when this divine holocaust is loosed.

The four beasts (living ones) (vs. 6-8). Whether man or angelic, their function is to praise and magnify the holiness of God. Note the effect this worship has on the 24 elders (vs. 9-11).

Apocalyptic writing is to be a source of encouragement to saints. It is refreshing to realize that no matter how tough our earthly pilgrimage, we are guaranteed to be on the winning team. What rich meaning this gives to I Cor. 3:21-23.

PRAYER: Father, as we travel on this earthly spacecraft called earth, thank You for allowing us to look through a porthole and see a glimpse of "Glory rise." When things seem barren, give us the upward look to our real home. Give us a heavenly stubbornness to keep on keeping on when the way is rough. In Jesus' name, Amen!

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

N	E	H		L	E	V	I		S	E	R	A
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C	O	R	D		E	R	M	A		R	O	T
P	I	N	G		N	A	L	L		L	U	D
A	L	E		S	P	A	M		D	E	Y	

"Depart from evil, and do good"
(Psa. 34:14).

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Sunday, September 30

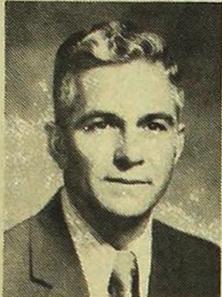
Witnessing by dying

By Ray E. Fowler, pastor
White Oak Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Basic Passages: Philippians 1:19-26; II Timothy 1:11-12; 4:6-8
Focal Passages: Philippians 1:19-26; II Timothy 1:11-12; 4:6-8

Triumphant witnessing amid difficulties (Phil. 1:19-23)

Seemingly, the more harsh the difficulties, the more courageous Paul became in witnessing amid the conflict. In this passage Paul suggests some reasons for his courageous certainty among conflict.



Fowler

One, the supplication of the saints — "through your prayer" (V. 19). Paul had confidence that his bonds and sufferings would bear positive results because of their prayers. He both practiced prayer for others and profited from the prayers of others. Intercessory prayer is a great need of the church today.

Two, the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (v. 19). Usually, where there is much prayer, there will be an overflowing "supply of the Spirit." Paul knew joy in trial as a result of the Holy Spirit's power in his life. Have we forgotten that it is "not by might nor power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6)?

Three, the supremacy of the Saviour (v.20). Some thirty years before Paul had made Christ the "earnest expectation and hope," the one object, of his life. Now unashamedly and "with all boldness," he sought to magnify Christ in his body (see I Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 12:1-2; Dan. 1:8).

How does a Christian magnify Christ in his body? Guy King so ably answers, "Christ magnified in the body — magnified by lips that bear happy testimony to Him; magnified by hands employed in His service; magnified by feet only too happy to go on His errands; magnified by knees happily bent in prayer; magnified by shoulders happy to bear one another's burdens."

Fourth, Paul could go on triumphantly

witnessing amid difficulties because he knew the secret and source of living and dying (vv. 21-23). Christ was his secret and source in both. Remove "Christ" from living or dying and you must remove "gain" also. Whether or not "to die is gain" depends upon your answer to the question, "What has it been for me to live?"

Living for others (Phil. 1:24-26)

Another reason that could be offered for Paul's triumphant witness amid difficulties was his desire to serve the saints (vv. 24-26). Since conversion, his whole life was poured out in service to Christ and to others. Now, in his sunset days, he is torn between duty and desire. Duty demanded that he remain in the flesh and labor for those who needed his ministry. Desire prompted him to depart to be with Christ which he conceived as a "far better" experience. Are we bothered by such a dilemma? By remaining, his love and service would be a means of increasing their joy and faith. Could we say that?

Confidence in Christ (II Tim. 1:11-12)

Paul now offers himself and his experience as a guiding illustration to his spiritual son and successor. He reminds Timothy that to be a communicator of the gospel had meant great suffering for him (see II Cor. 11:23-28). It might well mean the same for Timothy. Too many of us today want an easy berth on the "gospel train."

Further, he reminds Timothy that he is not ashamed of his bonds, and that he has confidence in Christ to keep both what he has committed to God and what God has committed to him. Paul had committed his soul to God, and God had committed the gospel to him. Jesus is able to guard both deposits securely.

Sealing witness with martyrdom (II Tim. 4:6-8)

We cannot rest forever on the leadership of the previous generation. They day comes when we must step into their shoes and ourselves take the lead. That day had now come to Timothy. It comes to all of us in time (see Joshua 1:2; II Kings 2:15).

The apostle's life-work has reached completion and is about to close. Now he seeks to prepare Timothy to take the reins. Paul had given his life as a "living sacrifice" to God. Now his death, the outpouring of his blood in martyrdom, is the drink offering, setting the final seal upon the whole burnt offering of his sacrificial life (see Numbers 15:1-10). Like a prisoner's release or the unyoking of an oxen or the unmooring of a ship, death will come to him.

Like a great old athlete Paul now turns to look at the days that are past (v. 7). He describes his course as a warfare ("I have fought a good fight"), as a race ("I have finished my course"), as a guardian of a treasure ("I have kept the faith"). Suffering, beatings, hardships, shipwreck, and loss, he had completed the race and safely guarded the gospel treasure committed to his trust. Now he is ready to seal his faithful witness with his blood in martyrdom.

Death for Paul meant the claiming of the prize, which he calls the "crown of righteousness" laid up for him and which will be given him at the winning post on "that day." (v.8) Garlands or crowns in Paul's day had little intrinsic value since they were made of evergreen leaves rather than gold or silver. Yet, they were greatly prized by the victors in the Greek games. The crown Paul anticipates he calls "righteousness." Before the Judge of judges, he will stand one day and be declared righteous and justified. No greater crown could man receive for all his spiritual labors.

For every believer who loves "his appearing" Paul holds out the same prospect.

Executive Committee sets stage for increased used of lay persons

NASHVILLE — The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention laid the groundwork to increase the use of skilled laymen in the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust efforts to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century and conducted numerous other items of business during a three-day meeting here.

The committee requested the Bold Mission Thrust steering committee to call together an ad hoc consultation of skilled laymen to think through the implementation of BMT, asked the Brotherhood Commission to assume responsibility for organizing and staffing at least 10 regional conferences on lay involvement and report back, requested the SBC agencies involved in Volunteers in Missions to add names to volunteer lists of laymen with special skills for use by the denomination in ad hoc groups and special projects, asked SBC seminaries to consider various uses of qualified laymen, and suggested that state conventions and SBC agencies form ad hoc advisory committees and workgroups to facilitate use of qualified lay people.

A host of other actions included:

—Adoption of a proposed SBC Cooperative Program budget goal for 1980-81 of a record \$90-million, including \$74,500,000 for total basic operating budget, \$2,500,000 for capital needs and \$13,000,000 in Bold Mission Thrust challenge funds.

—Adoption of a proposed 1979-80 Executive Committee budget of \$744,020 and SBC operating budget of \$1,319,500 and 1980-81 SBC operating budget of \$1,435,000.

—Approval of use of image magnification screens at the annual SBC meeting in St. Louis in 1980 at a cost of \$39,500 and disapproval of use of image magnification at the 1981 meeting in Los Angeles.

—Disapproval of a proposal to televise via satellite the evening sessions of SBC annual meetings.

—A series of actions were adopted to raise Executive Committee staff salaries 7 percent in a cost of living adjustment, evaluate staff performance, study employee retirement benefits and work with the Annuity Board in developing a uniform retirement plan for SBC agencies, study Executive Committee staff salary structure, adjust employee housing allowances and approve dental insurance as part of the Executive Committee's medical insurance.

—Establish a policy limiting exhibits at the annual meeting of the SBC to SBC agencies and committees, the local committee of the host city, the local committee of the host city for the following year, the Baptist World Alliance, state conventions and local associations, the American Bible Society and members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

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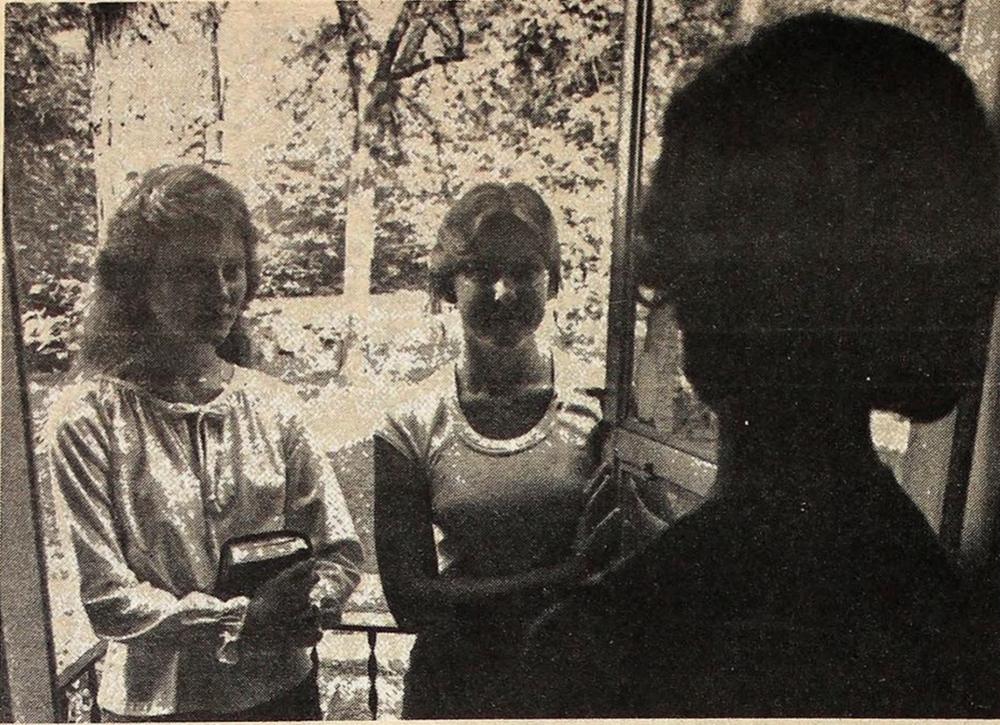
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OCT. IS OUTREACH MONTH—October has been designated Outreach Month through the Sunday School, a time to emphasize visiting and enrolling prospects.

Howard Halsell uses retirement to start new Sunday Schools

NASHVILLE — Howard Halsell of Nashville had imagined that at age 65 he would move out of his office in the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department and began a leisurely retirement.

Instead, three months before that birthday, Halsell is transplanting his work as a growth consultant to Phoenix, Ariz., where he will spend the next five years assisting eight state conventions in starting new Sunday Schools.

Halsell has long been interested in starting new work. But that interest was intensified in

1976 when he was sent to Arizona to try and start 30 new Sunday Schools in one year. He started 51.

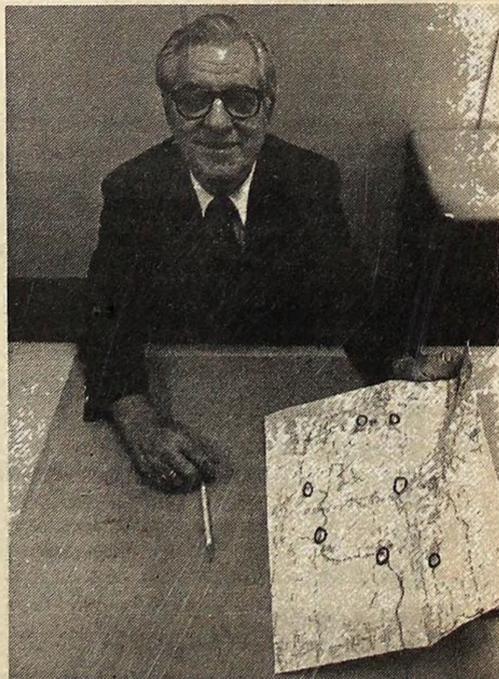
"That year caused me to have a deep conviction that the way we're going to make progress is to work through associations to locate places to start new work," said Halsell.

Halsell will continue to be attached to the Sunday School growth section and will work through the Northern Plains, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Northwest, Nevada, Utah-Idaho and Colorado state conventions. All requests for his services will be channeled through the states.

Halsell's philosophy in starting a new Sunday School is to go where the people are and then try to find a place to meet. "I'm a great believer that we can't wait until we have a plot of ground and a building. We must start with people," he said.

When Halsell is sent by a state Sunday School director to an association, he will work with the director of missions to meet with pastors, the associational Sunday School directors, chairman of the missions committee and moderator to assess interest and needs for new work. Then Halsell will aid the association in pinpointing locations, finding sponsoring churches and beginning the work.

Halsell's first major project is to tour the eight conventions and work with state leaders to set goals for new starts.



HEADING WEST—Howard Halsell surveys the eight western state conventions where he will be starting new Sunday Schools.

Last in a series

Baptists face future of tough energy decisions

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — As Southern Baptists prepare to meet the energy crunch of the coming decade, the conscious decision must be made to adopt a more disciplined lifestyle to meet our obligations as community leaders.

It is no longer all right to use as much fuel as you can afford to the utter disregard of those who are less fortunate. Responsibilities must be faced in light of the needs of tomorrow's world and the Christian ethic that self is not above everyone and everything else.

Sacrifice is inevitable if natural resources are to be stretched to the point where a changeover can be made from fossil fuels to a replacement capable of meeting our needs — not our selfish, wasteful wants.

Change also seems inevitable, in terms of how our church buildings will look and how we use them.

Reg Narmour, Baptist architect from North Carolina, said in an energy conservation meeting that "the church is unique in its inefficient use of space."

"First," he said, "30 percent of church space is taken up by large assembly areas such as the sanctuary, chapel and fellowship hall. And, 60 percent of the church is educational space which 10 percent is used for secretaries, the pastor's study, etc."

"This means that 90 percent of the space in the church is used only five percent of the time and 10 percent of the space is used 30 percent of the time."

Gross inefficiency of energy use cannot continue if the credibility of Southern Baptists is expected to remain high. We must begin immediately to accept the fact that energy consumption has reached crisis proportions, and the simplest, most obvious way to remedy the crisis to a measurable degree is by practicing conservation in our homes and our churches.

In our church buildings, we must look seriously and questioningly at the logic behind oversized, high ceilinged sanctuaries that waste tremendous amounts of energy, particularly heat.

Jerry Privette, supervisor of the church building program and promotion section of the Sunday School Board's church architecture department, said temperature varies approximately one degree for every foot of height. Consequently, when thermostats are lowered to 67 or 68 degrees in the winter, many people experience cold feet because of the temperature difference. If the high ornate ceilings are to stay, churches must find ways to recirculate warm air which rushes to the ceiling.

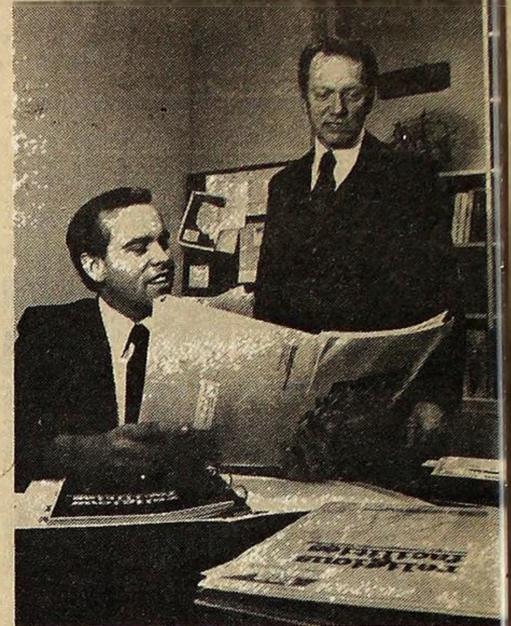
Although much as been said about solar energy recently, it's doubtful solar power will be of much help as an energy source to churches because it must be used on a daily basis for optimum benefit.

Churches can take advantage of nature by building facilities and placing windows to capture solar rays in winter and using deciduous trees or architectural design for shade in the summer. Also, Privette said no windows should be included on the north side of the building provide better insulation in the winter.

Privette feels more new Southern Baptist facilities are being constructed as multipurpose buildings because of the high cost of construction and land.

"We need to keep an attitude of flexibility toward our programs and the use of our buildings," Privette said. "We may need to change our programs to reflect a more energy conscious attitude, by combining meetings, holding some meetings in private homes, and possibly scheduling a worship service and Bible study on Saturday night."

In Europe, where land is extremely expensive and difficult to acquire, several denominations combine their resources to build a worship facility to be used by more than one congregation. The building is used for worship all day Sunday, and for in-



ARCHITECTURE SAVES ENERGY — Jerry Privette (right), supervisor of the church program and promotion section of the Sunday School Board's church architecture department, works with churches planning new facilities to help them save energy. Privette talks here with Jim Lowry, author of the five part series on energy conservation.

terdenominational day care and senior adult programs throughout the week.

Change will have to overcome some treasured Southern Baptist traditions, most of which are above reproach in relation to worship practices, but are simply outdated in terms of energy conservation and stewardship of God's resources.

The time has come for serious introspection by Baptists at church and at home to see where we can contribute to conservation through leadership. Procrastination can only mean additional waste of our precious resources and deterioration of our witness in the community.

Lowry is a writer in the office of communications at the Baptist Sunday School Board and author of the five-part Baptist Press series on energy.

White and black churches join for prison revival

MEMPHIS—A Baptist Men's group from a white church joined forces with members of a black church to hold revival services at the Shelby County Penal Farm here.

Among the 80 decisions recorded during the weekend revival Sept. 21-23 were 30 professions of faith.

The Baptist Men's group from Second Baptist Church, Memphis, has been involved recently in a ministry to inmates at the penal farm on Tuesday nights. When an opportunity came for a weekend revival, they decided to work with members of the Olivet Baptist Church in Memphis.

They also enlisted Paul Wrenn, a weightlifter and evangelist; Kevin Johnson, a karate expert; and Al Worthington, a former professional baseball player. The three men demonstrated their athletic abilities to the inmates as well as sharing their faith, according to Maurice Graham, minister of social ministries at Second Baptist Church.

Bill O'Roak, a layman at Second Baptist, coordinated the revival effort. The Baptist Men's group will use their regular Tuesday night Bible studies at the penal farm to follow up decisions made during the revival, according to Graham.

HISTORICALLY FROM THE FILES

50 YEARS AGO

Third Baptist Church, Nashville, called Bunyan Smith of Carthage as pastor. He succeeded J Rufus Beckett who resigned at Third to become pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

O.G. Poarch began his duties as pastor of Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol. He came to Tennessee from the Baptist church of Wytheville, Va., which he had served for seven years.

25 YEARS AGO

C.S. Wright was the new pastor of Cornersville Baptist Church. He had served six years as pastor of Andersonville Baptist Church in Clinton Association before going to Cornersville.

Hollywood Baptist Church, Memphis, moved into its new \$87,000 educational building which included a kitchen, four nurseries, and 18 classrooms. Lawrence C. Riley was pastor.

10 YEARS AGO

First Baptist Church, Trenton, dedicated its new \$475,000 facilities. O. Wyndell Jones was pastor.

Omer Painter was the pastor of Second Baptist Church, Greeneville. Before going to Greeneville, Painter was pastor of East Alcoa Baptist Church, Chilhowee Baptist Association.