

# Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 148/No. 19/May 12, 1982

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Board sets \$550,000 state offering goal

### Trustee orientation created; FMB commissioning invited

By Al Shackleford

At its May 4 meeting, the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention voted to set the goal for the 1982 Golden State Mission Offering at \$550,000; created an annual orientation for trustees of TBC agencies and institutions; and voted to invite the SBC Foreign Mission Board to hold its April 1985 missionary commissioning service in Nashville.

The mid-year meeting of the board was held at the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board Building in Brentwood.

In other actions, the board elected four Tennesseans as trustees of TBC institutions; established the range of the 1982-83 Cooperative Program budget-goal between \$16- and \$17-million; and passed a strong resolution in opposition to pari-mutuel gambling in Tennessee.

On recommendation of its state missions committee and the Tennessee WMU Executive Board, the goal for the 1982 Golden State Missions Offering was set at \$550,000 — up 10 percent from the 1981 goal of \$500,000. In voting its approval of the recommendation, the TBC Executive Board also established the allocations for distribution of the 1982 offering.

The creation of an orientation for TBC-elected trustees came as a recommendation from the administrative committee's trustee relations subcommittee. The study of the relationship of the Executive Board and the trustees of the various TBC institutions and agencies was authorized by the board at its December 1980 meeting.

The first orientation would take place within three weeks after the 1983 state convention and would involve all trustees. Thereafter, the orientation would be limited to newly-elected trustees.

In a related action, the board voted to prepare an orientation manual for new trustees.

The administrative committee's report did not bring any recommendations concerning the possibility of permitting Executive Board members to serve as agency and institution trustees, a limitation which was approved by the 1975 state convention.

The findings of the committee noted the need for increased communications between the board and other trustees. A return to "cross-pollination" could be an answer to this need, the report indicated.

After the committee's report, the Executive Board approved a motion by Earl Wilson of Knoxville that the subcommittee be continued in order to complete its study and to bring a recommendation on cross-pollination.

Noting that for several years the Foreign Mission Board has held its April

meeting and the missionary commissioning service at various sites, the Executive Board voted to invite the FMB to hold its 1985 meeting in Nashville.

On recommendation of the TBC Committee on Boards, the Executive Board elected four trustees for various TBC institutions to fill unexpired terms: James McSweeney Jr. of Newport, Carson-Newman College; J. H. Patrick, Union University; Hoyt Wilson, Tennessee Baptist Foundation; and Bob Segrest, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

The board approved a recommendation of its program committee that the Cooperative Program basic budget-goal for the 1982-83 convention year be between \$16- and \$17-million. This guideline will be used by the program committee as it receives the budget requests from the various TBC agencies and institutions. The program committee will bring its budget recommendation to the Sept. 14 Executive Board meeting, which will determine its recommendation to the 1982 state convention.

In other action the Executive Board approved a strongly-worded resolution expressing its opposition to pari-mutuel gambling in Tennessee and called on all Tennessee Baptists to openly express their opposition.

Noting that a bill to legalize pari-mutuel gambling passed the Tennessee House of Representatives this spring 50-46 and was rejected by the Senate 16-17, the resolution urged Tennessee Baptists to search out and circulate the facts on gambling; to participate in public opinion polls on the subject; to work with other groups of like convictions; and to raise the issue with candidates for the governorship and General Assembly in 1982 elections.

Also, the Executive Board voted to recommend to the TBC Constitution and Bylaws Committee that it make a recommendation to the 1982 TBC for the

(Continued on page 3)



**SERVICE PINS AWARDED** — At last week's meeting, the Executive Board presented service pins on work anniversaries to (from left) Eura Lannom, Leoma Sherrill, Dorise Haynes, Evelyn Vaughn, and David McDonald.

## TBC employees recognized

Five employees of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention were recognized during the board's meeting May 4, for their years of service.

Service pins are given by the Executive Board to employees for each five years of service on the board's staff.

Eura Lannom, advertising-subscription manager for the Baptist and Reflector, was recognized for 40 years of service.

Mrs. Lannom joined the Baptist and Reflector staff Feb. 1, 1942. She has served in various positions with the publication, including acting editor from August 1974 to November 1976.

Leoma Sherrill has been housekeeper for the Tennessee Baptist Convention since Jan. 1, 1952. She received a service pin for 30 years of service. She has announced plans to retire July 31.

Dorise Haynes, secretary in the Sunday School department, received a pin for 10 years of service. She began employment with the convention April 1, 1972.

David McDonald, data processing specialist in the accounting department, and Evelyn Vaughn, secretary in the accounting department, each received five-year service pins.

McDonald joined the convention staff March 1, 1976. He left the accounting department for about a year to work with a business firm in Nashville, and then returned to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Vaughn joined the staff Jan. 12, 1977.

## CP giving exceeds budget projections

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — April mission gifts through Southern Baptists' national Cooperative Program continued a fiscal year trend that surpasses all budget projections.

April's undesignated total of \$7,847,634 surpasses April 1981 by \$1.5-million, a 23.1 percent increase. Receipts for the first seven months of the fiscal year are \$54,839,170, nearly \$7.5-million or 15.8 percent ahead of the same period last year.

The rate of increase is twice that of the current inflation rate.

Designated giving also continued strongly. In April, Southern Baptists designated \$6,139,375 for national convention causes, an increase of 11.2 percent over April 1981. For the year, designated gifts are \$58,189,661, or 13.8 percent ahead of the same period last year.

Total designated and undesignated gifts forwarded by 34 Baptist state conventions to the national work of the Southern Baptist Convention in the first seven months of the 1981-82 fiscal year are \$113,028,831, an increase of \$14.5-million, or 14.8 percent.

## Bogus tale gets churches' funds

A man has contacted several Tennessee churches with a bogus story soliciting financial help to fly to his wife who has supposedly been involved in an automobile accident in another state.

Although his fictitious story has varied slightly, it seems to follow this pattern. The man, who has used names such as Steve Thomas and James Weber, visits a church service with a woman he identifies as his wife. At the close of the service, she asks the pastor to pray for a relative who is seriously ill in a faraway state, such as Ohio.

Later the man, who falsely claims to be a cable splicer for South Central Bell working in the area, returns to the church with the tearful story that his wife has gone to visit her relative and has been involved in a serious automobile accident. Because he is from "out of town" or the banks are closed, he asks for financial help to fly to her side.

Thus far, it is known that the man has contacted First Baptist Church, Clarksville; Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; First Baptist Church, Woodbury; and East Main Church of Christ, Murfreesboro.



## Historians trace SBC growth from earliest church site

CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP)— Southern Baptist historians traced the denomination's rapid expansion from its earliest origins, meeting in the city where its oldest congregation is celebrating its 300th birthday.

South Carolina Baptists and Charleston's First Baptist Church must be given an important place in those beginnings, Robert A. Baker told the joint annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and Society.

Baker, retired chairman of the church history department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was awarded the Historical Commission's first Distinguished Service Award for longtime contributions to Southern Baptist history.

Baker said First Baptist "was busy with domestic missions before there was another Baptist church in the South."

He noted that William Screven "organized a Baptist church in Kittery, Maine, on Sept. 25, 1682, and that he and his church migrated to South Carolina in 1696. The best evidence reveals that Screven brought his church to Charleston in the fall of 1696 where, after a brief period, the older group of Baptists around Charleston united with this church."

The South Carolinians established preaching points and missions, innovated the "associational missionary movement," and made strides in Christian and ministerial education. In fact, the Charleston Association "became the distinctive archetype for the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845," Baker noted.

J. Glen Clayton, curator of the South Carolina Baptist Historical Collection, said it is not likely that Southern Baptists today would rally around one man, "even if we had another Richard Furman or William B. Johnson," two early leaders in South Carolina Baptist history.

Southern Baptists have capable leaders today, Clayton noted, but the situation is vastly different from the days of Furman and Johnson when cultural unity marked Southern Baptists.

"We are now diverse," Clayton said, and a once strong denominational loyalty is "now being strained on many fronts." Clayton attributed the "cracking" of the SBC synthesis, to stresses in the cultural, denominational loyalty, financial, creedal, and theological realms. The greatest threat, he added, was in what he called "ecumenical fundamentalism."

In the area of Southern Baptist expansion, growth in the South from 1800-1914 can be attributed to several factors, including racism, according to the chairman of Auburn University's history department.

J. Wayne Flynt, who won the commission's annual Norman W. Cox Award for the best article published by the agency in the past year, said Southern Baptists took the cultural position on critical issues such as race.

"They were no better or worse than the Presbyterians, Methodists, village atheists, Unitarians, and secular southern intellectuals," Flynt said. "They both drew strength from their culture and by their endorsement reinforced and deepened its racism."

Other factors contributing to SBC growth, Flynt noted, included individualism, an appeal to the common man, and revivalism. Beyond their

cultural endorsements, Flynt noted, Southern Baptists worked hard to win converts, with effective results.

More recently, G. Thomas Halbrooks pointed to a 1942 decision at the annual SBC meeting in San Antonio, Tex., to admit to membership the Southern Baptist Convention of California as the point where Southern Baptist expansion officially began.

"California was different," said Halbrooks, history professor from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Southern Baptists had migrated there and started new churches that were Southern Baptist from their inception."

In 1951, the national convention met in San Francisco, Calif., and "reaffirmed the removal of territorial limits and asserted that the Home Mission Board and all other convention boards and agencies were 'free to serve as a source of blessing to any community or any people anywhere in the United States,'" Halbrooks said.

Rapid expansion came with the commitment and 15 new state conventions affiliated with the SBC between 1941 and 1978, the professor noted.

Bringing the cause and effect of growth and expansion to the present, Leon McBeth, chairman of the commission and of the Southwestern seminary church history department declared that present controversies within the denomination are related to geographic expansion.

## Florida Baptists celebrate support of world missions

TAMPA, Fla. (BP)— Florida Baptists brought the world to their door in a two-day celebration of missions April 29-30.

Twenty executives from all four boards, five of six seminaries, five of seven commissions, and three related organizations attended the rally to celebrate Florida Baptist history and the work of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified mission support channel.

"This has helped people to see how all our agencies and state conventions work together," said Gerald Palmer, vice-president of the Home Mission Board.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is not just agency and board oriented, but need oriented. The reason for its existence is to help the churches meet the needs in their communities. Out of this kind of experience we can have an explosion of missions involvement."

About 4,500 Florida Southern Baptists attended the gala at the Curtis Hixon Convention Center in Tampa. Visitors viewed exhibits representing all phases of Southern Baptist life, and discovered the far reaching use of Cooperative Program resources.

In a significantly related event, about 200 pastors had full access to nine agency executives in a free wheeling and far ranging panel discussion.

Asked about doctrinal purity in Southern Baptist seminaries, Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said if he discovered a professor who did not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus, he would fire the professor.

Both Leavell and Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern seminary, reiterated their requirement that incom-

## Dunn opposes Reagan on prayer amendment

By Stan Hasley

WASHINGTON (BP)— Baptists' chief church-state spokesman has condemned President Reagan's call for a Constitutional amendment on public school prayer as "despicable demagoguery."

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, reacted to Reagan's May 6 announcement asking Congress to pass the amendment. The president's appeal for the measure came during a Rose Garden ceremony held on this year's National Day of Prayer.

In a statement released to the press, Dunn declared: "It is despicable demagoguery for the president to play petty politics with prayer. He knows that the Supreme Court has never banned prayer in schools. It can't. Real prayer is always free."

Dunn said in spite of public misunderstanding of what the high court decided in its landmark 1962 and 1963 rulings outlawing state-sponsored devotional exercises in public schools, Reagan knows better. "He knows that the court in those prayer rulings affirmed and encouraged studies about religion in public school classrooms," Dunn said. "What the court has done is protect religious liberty."

Noting that most religious bodies "have steadfastly supported" the rulings, Dunn said the Baptist Joint Committee, which works for 27-million U.S. Baptists; the National Council of

Churches, encompassing 40-million mainline Christians; and every national Jewish organization have consistently opposed "compelled ritual."

Increasing religious pluralism all over the nation, Dunn added, argues against a Constitutional amendment which would have the effect of placing decision-making power on prayer in schools in state legislatures and local school districts.

"Do we really want to turn the regulation of religious exercise over to state houses and school boards in diverse places such as Utah, Hawaii, Alabama, and New York?" Dunn asked. "I say 'Never!'"

Although repeated efforts have been made for the past two decades to reverse the effect of the school prayer rulings through a Constitutional amendment, all have thus far failed. The closest opponents of the decisions came was in 1971, when the Senate passed an amendment but the House of Representatives narrowly defeated it.

Since that close call, efforts to amend the Constitution on the issue have been bottled up in committees on both sides of Capitol Hill.

Just the same, chances for passage of such a measure have never seemed better to Supreme Court opponents, particularly since the Senate is now controlled by Republicans. In the House, the amendment is likely to be delayed by Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr.'s judiciary committee. But its proponents could succeed in bringing it directly to the floor for an up-or-down vote if they convince 218 members to sign a petition discharging the measure from Rodino's panel.

In the meantime, Dunn pledged, the Baptist Joint Committee will help lead the battle against the amendment.

## Fire devastates Georgia church

THOMASVILLE, Ga. (BP)— Fire destroyed the sanctuary and gutted the educational building of First Baptist Church, Thomasville, Ga., May 3.

There were no injuries, though 44 kindergarten children were in class in the education building when the fire broke out at 11:30 a.m. The children escaped when a dentist across the street saw smoke, alerted the church, and called the fire department.

Damage to the 2,000-member church was estimated at \$3-million, most of which is covered by insurance. Officials, though unsure immediately after the blaze, believed the fire may have been caused by faulty wiring in the attic.

## FMB sends \$3,000 to Brazilian victims

MACEIO, Brazil (BP)— Southern Baptists are sending aid to victims of a mudslide which killed 10 people and left another 500 homeless in the Brazilian city of Maceio April 22.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$3,000 in relief funds April 23 to buy staple foods and blankets as requested by Boyd O'Neal, Southern Baptist missionary in Maceio. The government housed residents of the 40 homes destroyed in the slides in local community centers, but appealed for food, said Don Turner, Southern Baptist missionary in Recife.

ing professors sign the Baptist Faith and Message Statement that has been reaffirmed at the past several Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings.

In response to a question, Palmer explained that sister state relationships blossoming between well-established state Baptist conventions and states in areas where there is little Southern Baptist work are "supplemental" to the total missions task. But he said such relationships "are meeting our expectations in every respect."

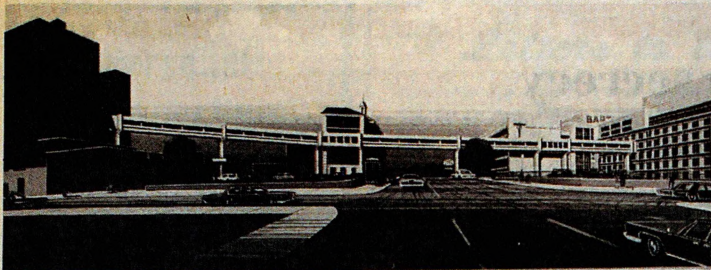
Both Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and James Smith, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, responded to the pastors' apparent concern over lack of mission education in Southern Baptist youth.

In both agencies, said the executives, the fastest growing enrollment is among young people. In WMU it is Baptist Young Women, ages 18-30, and in Brotherhood, it is grades one to six.

Responding to concern about the Foreign Mission Board's ability to support an increasing number of missionaries, Board President R. Keith Parks said the board makes a life commitment to the missionaries when it sends them. If funds fall short, Parks said, cutbacks would be made elsewhere to keep the missionaries on the field.

Noting that over 10,000 persons are now enrolled in the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the pastors asked if there were places for them all to serve. Leavell said that shortly after graduation, 97 percent of New Orleans graduates had church-related positions last year. Honeycutt cited similarly high statistics.





## Baptist Hospital breaks ground for longest pedestrian crossover

NASHVILLE — Baptist Hospital officials broke ground last week for the pedestrian connector project, an enclosed crossover walkway which will span Church Street and connect several buildings in the health care complex.

The 580-foot structure will be the longest elevated pedestrian walkway in the world which is completely enclosed and environmentally controlled.

The connector is seen by architects and planners as an innovative way of dealing with pedestrian traffic which consistently must cross a busy city street.

Construction will begin immediately on the walkway which will cross Church Street near 20th Avenue North and connect buildings on each side of the street. "A hospital is a logical institution to be the first in the community to launch a connector project of this magnitude," said Franklin Paschall, chairman of the hospital's trustees.

Patients currently being transported between buildings on either side of the street must be moved via hospital ambulance. This requires brief exposure to temperature extremes during the summer and winter months.

"So the connector is being built with the patient's comfort in mind as well as the convenience of our employees and medical staff," said Paschall, pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church.

By means of the connector, the facility's South Building will be linked with the Mid-State Medical Center. The walkway then will cross the street and connect the Office Building South and the Progressive Care Center.

This project will also serve to accommodate future residents of Office Building South which is slated for development as a physicians' office complex in the future.

Architects have designed the connector to stand between 30 and 40 feet above street level, supported by a column system. On the inside, the walkway will be 10 feet wide and be equipped with air conditioning and heating equipment to moderate the effects of the outside temperature.

Hart, Freeland, and Roberts are the architects for the \$1.3-million project, and Culbert Construction Company is the general contractor.

The pedestrian walkway will be completed by the end of 1982.

## Choirs from 23 TBC churches to sing at Baptist Pavilion

Thirty-two choirs from 23 Tennessee Baptist churches and one association will perform at the Baptist Pavilion during the six-month run of the World's Fair in Knoxville. The names of the churches and the association were announced last week by Baptist Ministries for the 1982 World's Fair office, but the dates of these performances have not been finalized.

In addition, four musical groups from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, are also featured. Three of these — A Cappella Choir, Women's Chorus, and "Something Special" — performed during the first week of the fair, and the Men's Chorus will sing later.

Since more than one choir will come from six churches, there will be 36 Tennessee choirs among the 145 choirs which will perform at the Baptist Pavilion during the May-October period.

Invited choirs will come from 12 Knox County Baptist Association churches. These are Calvary Baptist Church, Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Eastwood Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Concord, First Baptist Church of Powell, McCalla Avenue Baptist Church, Salem Baptist Church, Second Baptist Church, Sharon Baptist Church, Smithwood Baptist Church, and South Knoxville Baptist Church.

Also participating will be choirs from these Tennessee churches:

- Ardmore Baptist Church, Memphis;
- Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge;
- Chiquapin Grove Baptist Church, Bluff City;

— Concord Baptist Church, Chattanooga;

- First Baptist Church, Cleveland;
- First Baptist Church, Paris;
- First Baptist Church, Sweetwater;
- First Baptist Church, Tullahoma;
- North Etowah Baptist Church, Etowah;

- Parkway Baptist Church, Memphis;
- Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Coalfield.

There will also be a choir from Chilhowee Baptist Association.

According to the announced schedule, these choirs will present two 20-minute concerts at the Baptist Pavilion at 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on the day they are featured.

In addition, youth choirs from four Tennessee Baptist churches will participate in two Choral Festivals which will be held at Carson-Newman College this summer and will sing at the World's Fair as part of a mass choir.

A choir from First Baptist Church, Lewisburg, has been invited to the June 17-19 festival and will join in the mass choir concert on June 19.

Three other Tennessee high school-age choirs will participate in the July 8-10 festival on the Carson-Newman College campus and will join in the mass choir concert July 8. Invited are choirs from Knoxville's Central Baptist Church of Bearden; Crivewood Baptist Church, Nashville; and First Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

These two World's Fair concerts will be at 2:30 p.m. at the Court of the Flags.

## Michigan sees 500 baptisms from Tennesseans' revivals

Southern Baptist leaders in Michigan predict more than 500 baptisms will result from simultaneous revivals led in that state last month by over 200 Tennessee pastors, denominational workers, ministers of music, and church leaders.

Jim Coldiron, director of evangelism for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, made the prediction based on figures already received from churches that participated in the April 18-25 statewide revival services. As of May 10, the convention reported 445 additions to its churches by baptism, 68 other additions, 793 rededications, and six commitments to Christian vocational service.

"The results from churches in all areas of the state have been very positive," Coldiron said. "The revivals were a blessing and a real shot in the arm for our churches in this time of economic recession."

The idea for the simultaneous revivals evolved from the sister-state relationship the Tennessee Baptist Convention entered into with Michigan in 1980. Malcolm McDow, until recently TBC director of evangelism, worked with Coldiron, Michigan directors of missions, and 13 regional coordinators from Tennessee to match revival leaders with churches.

Although they had been told of the many problems in Michigan, the Tennesseans still were surprised by what they discovered.

James Glisson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Alexandria, saw a contrast between the economic status of the church in which he preached and a church 50 miles away in which Albert Jewell, pastor of Saulsbury Baptist Church, Watertown, preached.

"I was in the strongest Southern Bap-

tist church this side of Lansing," Glisson said. "There were a lot of executives. They were getting ready to buy a new building, because the one they have now seats only 150. They were planning to start a day care and other community ministries. They have a mission in Mount Pleasant that has about 60 members."

"On the other hand, Brother Jewell went to a church near Clare where no one in the church had a job but the pastor's wife. The pastor is having to pay off the note he signed on the building."

John Segree, pastor of North Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield, also saw financial hardships in Manistee Baptist Church. "It was a middle-class area, but many people had been laid-off. The pastor was on medical disability because of a lung problem, but the government is going to take that away."

"The church had 13 members — two families. We had up to 47 attending the revival. Two made professions of faith, but it will be hard to get them into the church because of their home background. Catholicism is strong — one Catholic church has 300 families."

"I can really sympathize with the Michigan pastors," said Duane Highlander, director of special ministries for Hamilton County Baptist Association, and leader of a revival in a Muskegon, Mich., church. "They are working with serious limitations. They are limited to drawing from people with little training, and limited on people to draw from to train."

The Tennesseans were glad they went, and some expressed plans to return this summer with youth groups.

"I am grateful for the participation of the Tennessee people," Coldiron said.

## Southern seminary trustees approve budget, campaign

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Two installments of a \$50-million endowment and capital-needs program and a record budget of almost \$10-million were approved by trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during their annual spring meeting.

Together, the first portions of the new endowment and capital-needs program total \$7.5-million and reflect priority needs designated by the seminary's master plan, said President Roy L. Honeycutt.

### Board sets goal...

(Continued from page 1)

creation of a History Committee as a standing TBC committee.

In other action, the board approved position descriptions for five program assistants who are employed by the Executive Board. Previously, all program assistants had the same position description, but there was a need for specific responsibilities. It was pointed out that no new positions were being recreated, but action was to clarify the present employees' assignments.

Noting the April 13 death of long-time TBC leader E. E. Deusner, the board voted to officially express its appreciation to his family and the First Baptist Church of Lexington, where Deusner served as pastor for 32 years.

The next scheduled meeting of the Executive Board will be Sept. 14 at Brentwood. All meetings of the board are open to visitors.

Approved were solicitation goals of \$1.5-million for an addition to the school of church music facilities and \$6-million for a student/family ministry center which will include expansion of present physical fitness facilities.

The \$50-million program which these two solicitation goals help launch was approved by the trustees in February at the initiative of Honeycutt upon his election as president of the seminary.

"This expansion of the music school is part of our response to the heavy demand for our graduates by the churches and to the steady increase in enrollment which indicates that more and more young people are being called into the ministry of music," Honeycutt said.

Current music school facilities are designed to accommodate 170 majors, and last fall the enrollment was 260, reported Milburn Price, dean of the school of church music. The new facilities would allow the school to efficiently train up to 300 majors, the "maximum number" of students the school expects to receive, he added.

The proposed student/family center, said Honeycutt, "will focus on the development of the minister's own family life, something we think is an essential ingredient for fulfillment in the ministry, and a model for what the church should be about in its own caring for families."

The record budget also approved by the trustees includes allocations of \$9,565,313 for operating expenses and \$346,180 for capital needs for the fiscal year beginning Aug. 1, 1982.



## EDITORIAL

## SBC-elected leaders choose secrecy

We are disappointed in two recent decisions by elected leaders of our Southern Baptist Convention.

At a meeting in April, the SBC-elected Committee on Boards voted not to announce its nominations of various SBC trustees prior to the June 15-17 meeting of the convention in New Orleans (See *Baptist and Reflector*, April 14, page 1).

Then, within recent days, SBC President Bailey Smith stated that he will not announce his appointments to the Committee on Committees and to the Resolutions Committee before the SBC convenes (See *Baptist and Reflector*, May 5, page 3).

Although neither is required by the SBC Constitution or Bylaws to make these pre-convention announcements, last year the Committee on Boards and Smith brought responsibility and creditability to their assignments by making these public revelations in April 1981.

According to Bylaw 16(8), the report of the Committee on Boards "shall be published in the first day's Bulletin." The reference is to a publication which is printed daily during the convention and distributed to attending messengers.

According to Bylaw 21, the SBC president, in conference with the vice-presidents, shall appoint the Committee on Committees. The appointees are to be notified in writing one month before the convention, and "their names shall be published in the first issue of the Convention Bulletin."

According to Bylaw 22, at least 60 days before the convention, the SBC president, in conference with the vice-presidents, shall appoint a Committee on Resolutions. There is no direction in this bylaw on how or when these appointments are to be announced, other than the implication that the chairman will be announced publicly, since this bylaw requests that "copies of proposed resolutions be submitted to the committee chairperson 30 days before the convention in order to make possible more thorough consideration and to expedite the committee's work."

Based on these bylaws, certainly Smith and the Committee on Boards are within their rights to withhold the names of appointees and nominees.

Prior to 1981, such pre-SBC announcements were extremely rare. Messengers not knowing these names before the convention was normal procedure — but these are not normal times in our denomination. In the fall of 1980, Paul Pressler stated that his political faction intended to take control of the boards of trustees, when he blatantly declared that his group was going to elect "Bible-centered, Christ-honoring" trustees to replace the "dummies" then serving as trustees.

In view of Pressler's brazen remark, Smith and the 1981 Committee on Boards performed a responsible act last year by announcing their choices in April 1981. Neither Smith nor the committee was required to do so, but their openness expressed a confidence in the Southern Baptists.

Granted: These early announcements did create a lot of discussion, questions, and examination.

But out of this courageous departure from tradition came a positive result. Messengers had the opportunity to thoroughly examine these nominations and appointments — and the discussion came BEFORE the convention, not during the convention.

In our opinion this act of pre-SBC announcing made a definite contribution to the peaceful, positive convention session we had in Los Angeles last June. It signified a confidence in the messengers and the process,

permitting messengers to make their judgments before getting to Los Angeles.

In a denomination which is based on the members' right to know, perhaps we have come to a time when the secrecy of appointments and nominations has become outdated.

One solution to this secrecy would be for the messengers to amend Bylaws 16(8), 21, and 22 to require that appointments by the SBC president to the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee and nominations of the Committee on Boards be announced through Baptist Press at least 30 days before the opening session of the annual convention.

It would seem unlikely that such amendments would receive the necessary two-thirds majority vote this year, because some would interpret this as a condemnation of Smith's otherwise commendable tenure. However, this is a matter which should be seriously considered by some future session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Prayer amendment needed?

Proponents of religious liberty in our nation are greatly disturbed by President Reagan's announcement last week of his support of a Constitutional amendment to permit "voluntary" prayer in public schools.

His statement, which came on the National Day of Prayer, adds further confusion to a two-decade discussion of what actually did the United States Supreme Court rule in 1962 and 1963.

Although those two historic rulings dealt only with government-sponsored prayer and with public schools having Bible reading and prayer as part of their curricula, the interpretation of these rulings have been outrageously applied. Some school boards have taken this to such an extreme as to forbid any meeting which includes an invocation from using public school facilities.

The obvious question remains: Is there a need for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to permit voluntary prayer or meditation in public schools?

It does not seem wise to go through the lengthy, emotional, and expensive process of passing such an amendment — if such an amendment is not necessary.

If the president does indeed want to solve this confusing matter, he could make a real contribution by calling for an interpretation of what is legal and illegal under present laws. He could call for the Justice Department to carefully analyze these Supreme Court rulings and announce its findings. Also, he could urge the Supreme Court to clarify the importance of these two rulings.

A lot of the confusion surrounding this volatile issue could be cleared with some kind of "official" interpretation of the Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decisions. This would be extremely helpful to local school boards, to state legislatures, and to local, state, and federal courts.

Depending on what this official interpretation would declare, the citizens of this nation can then determine if a Constitutional amendment is needed and, if so, what form it should take.

## The Baptist association

Under the theme, "Your Baptist Association: A Base for Mission Strategy," Southern Baptists throughout the nation will observe May 17-23 as Associational Emphasis Week.

This year's theme focuses upon the vital role the association fulfills in missions — including various aspects of ministry, evangelism, new work, and leadership development.

Because of its smaller geographic region, the local Baptist association has closer contact with the churches and the church members — and with the strategic needs of a local area — than other multi-church organizations. And because of its nearness to and familiarity with mission opportunities, the Baptist association is able to respond quickly and completely to such challenges.

Obviously, there is no way the Southern Baptists can accomplish the worthy goals of Bold Mission Thrust without the dedicated involvement of the 1,100 Baptist associations.

The Baptist association provides fellowship and sharing among churches — and this results in a stronger testimony for Christ through cooperative witness and ministry.

An association's activities can be as varied as the local leadership desires — based on the collective objective of presenting the call, care, challenge, and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Associational Emphasis Week is an annual observance in Southern Baptist life, designed to increase Baptists' awareness of and appreciation for the association.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 78,174

Alvin C. Shackelford, Editor

Charlie Warren  
Associate Editor

Steve Higdon  
Assistant Editor

Eura Lannom  
Advertising, Subscriptions

Martha Buster  
Production Assistant

**Baptist  
and  
Reflector**

Established 1835  
Post Office Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027  
Telephone: (615) 373-2255

Published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.45 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$6.15; church budget, 10.8¢ per family per week when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood, Tennessee, and at additional mailing office. Space forbids printing of resolutions and obituaries. Advertising rates on request. Member of Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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

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## Personal perspective

By TOM MADDEN  
TBC executive secretary

Our Lord was constantly surprising people. Sometimes He surprised them by the things He did.

For example, His manner of birth was surprising. He apparently surprised Mary and Joseph when He tarried behind in the temple when He was 12 years of age. I suspect He surprised the lepers when He touched them and cleansed them. He surprised many when He fed the multitudes by multiplying the loaves and fishes of a little boy.

Obviously, He surprised the disciples when He returned in His resurrected body to visit with them. The Word of God indicates clearly He will surprise us when He returns again.

However, there are many other areas in the life of Christ that are surprising. One of those is how He surprises people by refusing to do some things they expect Him to do.

For example, He refuses to act on man's schedule. His disciples were quite anxious that He restore the kingdom. He would not respond to their time frame. Mary and Martha were deeply concerned that our Lord tarried when their brother died. You and I may determine a schedule we think is best, but our Lord always has His own, which is far better.

He constantly refused to use physical force to achieve spiritual ends. Simon Peter drew his sword and attempted to defend Christ with it. Christ asked him to put it away. It is obvious our Lord could have used the angels to bring Him down from the cross. However, never did He use physical force to bring in His kingdom. His was a perfect example that it is not by might nor by power but by God's Spirit.

He refused to avoid physical suffering. In Gethsemane, knowing more than anyone else what the cross held for Him, he prayed, if it be possible, for God to remove the cup from Him, but nevertheless for God's will to be done.

One other refusal I would like to emphasize — He refused to answer some prayers the way some wanted them answered. Paul prayed three times for the thorn in his flesh to be removed, but the answer was that God's grace was sufficient for him.

I am sure you join with me in being grateful for the many things our Lord did and for the things he refused to do.

## Childs Memorial calls Huell Hooker as pastor

Childs Memorial Baptist Church, Hariman, recently called Huell Hooker as its pastor.

Hooker came to the church from the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, Spring City. He was previously pastor of East View Baptist Church, Georgetown, and Pleasant Grove and Mountain View Baptist churches, both of Benton.

Hooker is a former moderator of Polk County Baptist Association, and a former chairman of the evangelism and personnel committees of the Tennessee Valley Baptist Association. He is a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees.

Hooker is a native of Cleveland.



Madden

## 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.

### Revivals in Michigan

Dear editor:

During April 18-25, a group of pastors from the Holston and Watauga Baptist associations participated in a simultaneous revival in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Bill Powell, director of missions of Watauga association, and Frank Bullock, area missionary of the Upper Peninsula, coordinated the successful revival.

The Upper Peninsula Baptists rolled out the white carpet for the east Tennessee preachers. Fifteen inches of snow fell during the week. That would not have been so bad, but they had already received nine feet of snow this winter! On April 21, Marquette was the coldest place in the United States.

The work in Michigan is young. The convention will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. The pastors in Michigan are dedicated men with great abilities who are challenged by one of the great mission opportunities in the U.S. I am pleased that Tennessee Baptists are supporting our sister state.

Someone mentioned that Interstate 75 has become the "Baptist Highway" as many churches will be going to Michigan this summer to participate in Vacation Bible Schools, construction projects, revivals, and backyard Bible clubs. Plans are now being made to invite Michigan pastors to come to Upper East Tennessee to share in a simultaneous revival effort next year.

E. E. Carrier  
421 Main St.  
Mountain City, TN 37683

### Not want to go alone

Dear editor:

I grew up in a church that had the Baptist and Reflector in the budget. When I went to seminary, they continued sending it to me, even though I joined a church there.

## C-N trustees set \$9-million budget

JEFFERSON CITY — The Carson-Newman College Board of Trustees has approved a \$9.5-million budget for fiscal year 1982-83. This represents an increase of \$1-million over last year's budget.

Cordell Maddox, president, attributed the budget increase to inflation, the addition of a nursing program, capital outlay for a computer program, additional faculty, and salary increases.

In other action the board voted to apply the net revenue from the housing of World's Fair guests on campus to energy conservation programs and scholarship endowment. Through Bryan Tours of Jackson, Miss., the college has booked over 35,000 bed nights on campus.

Maddox told the board that while current national statistics reflect a 2 percent decrease in college applications across the nation, applications at Carson-Newman are currently 5 percent ahead of this time last year.

The administrator also reported that gifts and pledges for Vision '80: Carson-Newman's Campaign for Greatness have reached \$3.9-million. Currently the college is conducting a Vision '80 Campaign in upper east Tennessee. Similar campaigns are planned for Chattanooga and Knoxville.

When I graduated, I came back to Knoxville, and the Baptist and Reflector came to the church.

Now I am moving to our sister state as pastor of Moravian Drive Baptist Church, Mt. Clemens, Mich. I don't want to go alone. Please send the Baptist and Reflector to me there.

Jimmy Burkhardt  
21224 Danbury  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

## Citizen's Corner

By Jerry M. Self  
Public affairs and Christian life consultant

The United States Congress is feeling pressure to vote for a "prayer in schools" bill. Two bills currently in the Senate, S 1742 and S 481, would strip the Supreme Court and the federal courts of any jurisdiction in all school prayer cases.

These bills are an attack on the balance of powers which are carefully written into our Constitution. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government each have their separate roles to play in keeping the ship of state on a smooth course. For the legislature to remove power from the courts would mean a dangerous precedent in shifting the balance.

A further problem in stripping the courts is the loss of our right to appeal unjust decisions. One day in the not too distant future, it is possible for some Tennessee school to enroll a majority who favor some religion other than Christian or Jewish. If some form of eastern ritual were imposed on the Christian minority attending that school, you can be sure they would want their right of appeal protected by a healthy, fully functioning judicial system.

Apart from the problems of tampering with the courts, these and other school prayer bills are unnecessary. Current Supreme Court rulings have stated that government may not compose or prescribe school prayers, nor may they mandate religious activities in the public schools. These rulings have affirmed the individual student's right to voluntary private prayer or Bible reading.

It may be that people need to learn what is or is not allowed. If so, the Congress does not need to pass a law to tell us what our rights are.



Self

## Halsell suffers heart attack

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (BP) — Thomas E. Halsell, executive secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, is in serious but stable condition in a Charleston hospital after suffering a massive heart attack at home April 26.

Mrs. Halsell requested news of the incident be delayed until a daughter could finish final exams at Purdue University and a missionary son in Hong Kong could be notified.

Halsell, 60, preached April 24 in Calvary Baptist Church, Grafton, W. Va., despite feeling chest pains during the day.

A temporary pacemaker was installed May 3 after medicine failed to regulate Halsell's heart rate. Doctors have ordered three months of complete rest, and the family has requested no flowers be sent since Halsell is allergic to them.

## Married young adults to hold May retreat

NASHVILLE — "Being Married Christianly" will be the theme for the Memorial Day Weekend retreat for married young adults to be held at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center May 28-31.

Michael Hester, director of the Pastoral Counseling and Enrichment Service, Asheville, N.C., will be the featured speaker at sessions which begin Friday night, May 28, and end Monday, May 31, at 11 a.m.

In addition to large-group sessions and selective conferences for married young adults, sessions for leaders will be offered by personnel from the Sunday School Board's Sunday School and family ministry departments.

No provisions for children have been made for the retreat. Cost of the weekend is \$146 per couple. Registration and a deposit of \$46 should be sent to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.

## Williams begins duties as Roan Creek pastor

Clifford Williams began duties as pastor of Roan Creek Baptist Church, Mountain City, on March 7, in response to a call from the church.

Williams came to the church from the pastorate of Big Springs Baptist Church, Elizabethton. He is also a former pastor of Broadview Baptist Church, Winchester, and churches in North Carolina. He is president of the Watauga Baptist Pastors' Conference, and has served on several associational committees.

A native of Newton, N.C., Williams is a graduate of Catawba Valley Technical Institute, Morehead City, N.C., and has studied with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



## World's Fair prayer requests

This week pray for...

— the volunteers who serve as hosts and hostesses at the Baptist Pavilion each day, that they will be able to minister confidently as they adjust to unexpected situations.

— PowerSource, the singing team, and PuppetPeople, that witnessing opportunities outside the Baptist Pavilion will increase.

— these choirs that will perform at the Baptist Pavilion: May 15, Central Baptist Church Choir, Oak Ridge; May 18, Chowan College Touring Choir, Murfreesboro, N.C.



# Flying means freedom for Brotherhood head

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is part of a series of feature stories on the executive heads of Southern Baptist agencies, boards, and institutions. Each article has been written by a public relations person within the agency.

By Mike Davis

MEMPHIS (BP)— Flying, to James H. Smith, is freedom.

Smith, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission, became interested in flying when a friend took him up shortly after World War II.

Though flying excited him immediately, he did not pursue it because his wife, Nona, was more than a little afraid of anyone in her family flying.

So the flying flame was turned down to simmer until 1967 when Smith became executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Convention. Along with the job came travel demands that kept him on the road constantly.

"I was traveling 50,000 miles a year," Smith says. "I thought there has got to be a better way than this, so why not learn to fly."

Before Smith had a chance to mention the possibility to Nona, she suggested he learn to fly to help cover the miles more easily. She did not have to suggest twice and in two months Smith had completed his requirements.

He has logged 3,000 hours flying-time, holds an instrument rating, and can rev up his Cessna Cardinal RG on a second's notice.

That is a decided advantage for someone who spends 150 days on the road speaking in churches and participating in Brotherhood and other meetings. He has discovered that Delta really is not ready when he is. He can get to more places more conveniently for the same price as a commercial ticket, and he can



**SOARING** — James Smith, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, soars high as a pilot and as a Baptist leader.

take Nona with him.

On the ground, reading holds Smith's interest. "I'm not much of a television fan" he says, "but I do catch the weather. And I look forward to reading the newspaper, except I usually read the morning paper after dinner.

Roses provide another diversion. Although Smith has not had time in Memphis to plant his usual 12 to 15 "very select" bushes, he does have half-a-dozen miniature bushes which he says will keep him busy for a while.

"I'm a radical pruner when it comes to roses. Pruning has a way of producing new growth," he explains, emphasizing that the pruning principle is one of his personal philosophies.

"We have to constantly take inventory of our lives. Superfluous things attach themselves to us. Sometimes it takes a radical pruning to clean things up. When we are willing to cut some of those things in our lives, it is amazing how much new

can grow."

Constant growth, learning to do new things seems to be a benchmark of Smith's lifestyle. He is not timid about learning something new.

"I was in my middle 40s when I learned to water-ski, and I hadn't snowskied until last year," says Smith, 61. "A person needs to learn new things, to try things they have never done before."

Raising four children has provided plenty of growth opportunities for the Smiths.

A pastor for 20 years, Smith found the demands of a local congregation can stretch family ties to the limit. He handled it by making their personal interests his own.

"When my sons were interested in fishing, we fished. When they were interested in guns, I became interested in guns," he says.

And when Smith's son Mark became interested in motorcycles, Smith went halves with him on a 177cc Benelli.

That personal interest accounts for what Smith sees as one of his greatest accomplishments as a parent. He calls it family togetherness.

"What we learned to do was make something out of little things. In the summer I would take my children with me to visit church members in the hospital. They would wait in the lobby, and when I finished the visits, we would make a stop by the zoo or go for ice-cream."

The kids literally grew up at Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting trips Smith would turn into vacation jaunts where every stop would be as elaborate as a full course picnic or as casual as

stopping by a corner grocery for hot-dogs to grill.

And when there was time at home, Smith found ways to increase family ties.

"From the time my children were big enough to hold a screwdriver, I tried to teach them to take care of things around the house. We'd take the lawnmower engine apart and put it back together again. Instead of letting them watch, I'd hand one of them the screwdriver and let him turn the screws. The neighborhood kids would get in on it too."

In the Bartlett neighborhood where Smith lives, his interest in children still creates a pretty big gathering. His corner lot is just right for after school ballgames, and Nona's orange juice and cookies spark more than passing interest.

"We had talked about setting out some trees," Smith says, "but that would just get in the way. The kids playing and having a good time is a lot more important than a couple of trees."

Smith will not say if he has been in on any of the front yard free-for-alls, but considering he has mastered single engine flying, and he learned to ski at 60, some weekend soon you might just see a slightly greyed wide-receiver cut a blazing Z-Out near the corner shrub.

## Presbyterian urges Baptists to use TV

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)— Presbyterian Minister Ben Haden told Southern Baptist media workers that churches should accept the intrusion of television into their worship services because without it they cannot reach their communities.

"If you believe in home and foreign missions, you've got to believe in television," he said.

Haden, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, was keynote speaker for the second National Conference on Broadcast Ministries. The April 26-28 meeting drew more than 400 participants and was sponsored jointly by the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Workshops were conducted in several interest areas to train pastors, media ministers and others in use of radio, TV, and cable. Participants also observed an actual videotaping of a television special for the American Christian Television System featuring comedian Jerry Clower and The Centurymen choral group.

Haden challenged churches that use TV in ministry to communicate their message clearly, avoiding theological, intellectual, and denominational complications.

## Seminary in Malaysia meets expansion goal

PENANG, Malaysia — The Baptist Theological Seminary in Penang, Malaysia, reached the building fund goal the same morning ground-breaking services were held for a new building.

The goal was to raise \$50,000 by the end of 1981 in order to begin expanding faculty housing at the seminary. The housing project is the first phase of an expansion project that will more than double the capacity of the seminary by 1985.

The Malaysia Baptist Convention agreed to raise 25 percent of the funds for the first phase of the project. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board provided the remaining 75 percent.

## Love lift, prayers transport child to Germany for rare treatment

WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)— When 17-month-old Sarah Ray left West Columbia for Frankfurt, West Germany, she literally flew away on a wing and a prayer.

The prayers were offered by 60 Baptists and friends at the airport as the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Ray flew for treatments at Vital Klinik.

The child suffers from an incurable disease called "Epidermolysis Bullosa," and a disorder which causes her to break out in blisters and lesions whenever touched.

Vital Klinik, a medical facility 40 miles from Frankfurt, specializes in a new treatment for the girl's rare disease.

Mrs. Ray described the treatment as an elaborate two-month process which involves regular cleansings, baths in special creams and emollients, and possible corrective surgery to help alleviate scarring.

Her send-off climaxed a sprawling humanitarian process which began several months ago when Dutch Fork Baptist Church's "Love in Action" group in Ballentine began raising money to finance treatment for little Sarah.

The crowd that gave Sarah a lift-off of love was part of several groups that joined the "Missions Love Effort." Eighteen Baptist churches and other churches and organizations joined Dutch

Fork to raise more than \$64,000 for the treatment.

Congressman Floyd Spence helped gain Sarah's admission to the clinic. Pan-American Airlines flew the child and her mother to Frankfurt, where the clinic sent a chauffeur to meet them.

"I've never been involved in anything that has blessed me so," said Gertrude Lowery, Acteens director for Columbia Metro Baptist Association.

### An act of compassion

## Barefoot man receives shoes

NEW YORK (BP)— Barefoot and coatless on a chilly spring night, a young man entered the subway car with a group of Southern Baptist missions directors.

Huddled in their overcoats, the directors noticed his feet, scratched and scarred from the pavement, were missing one toe.

In an impulsive act of compassion, Don Mulkey, state missions director for Nevada, sat beside the man, talked a few minutes, then gave him his own shoes and socks to the man. Another group member shared a gospel tract.

Ray Gilleland, Christian social ministries director for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, had earlier told the mission leaders ministry in Manhattan that they must share the gospel in practical ways before it can be shared verbally.

"I don't normally do that kind of thing, but it just seemed this was what I had to do," Mulkey said later. Mulkey wore sneakers, the only other shoes he had, through the rest of the conference.

Dan Sanchez, director of missions for the Baptist Convention of New York, called it "the strongest sermon I've seen this year."



# Tennessee Scene

## REVIVALS...

Elk River Baptist church, Butler, was led in revival March 14-20 by Richard Jones. Pastor Donnie Davenport reported five professions of faith and eight rededications.

Second Baptist Church of Union City reported five professions of faith, four new members by letter, one commitment to Christian vocational service, and over 100 other decisions during a recent revival. Steve Harbin was the evangelist for the meetings; Noel Edwards is the pastor.

Harold Queen, associate pastor of Keeble's Chapel Baptist Church in Walland, led Cold Springs Baptist Church of that city in revival March 7-14. Cold Springs recorded seven professions of faith and several rededications. Clarence Evans is the pastor of the church.

Revival services at First Baptist Church, Decaturville, March 28 through April 2 resulted in two professions of faith and several rededications. Arthur Bain, pastor of Bath Springs Baptist Church, Bath Springs, was the evangelist; Don Franks is the pastor of the Decaturville church.

An April 11-16 revival at Indian Hills Baptist Church, Gallatin, was led by Evangelist David Walker of Seymour. Jack H. Goodwin, pastor of the church, reported 14 professions of faith, two new members by letter, and many rededications.

Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, led Eastwood Baptist Church, Ooltewah, in revival April 25-28. Eastwood recorded two new members by letter and several rededications. F. Ray Walker is the pastor of the Ooltewah church.

First Baptist Church, Jasper, reported eight professions of faith and several rededications and commitments during an April 25-30 revival. John C. Huffman, vice-president of development for Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, Ky., was the evangelist; and Steve Merrell, minister of music at the church, directed the music for the services. Billy W. Ellison is the pastor of the church.

Center Point Baptist Church, Leoma, was led in revival March 15-19 by Ray Duvall. Pastor L. B. Voss reported six professions of faith and three new members.

An April 18-24 revival at O.K. Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg resulted in two professions of faith and several rededications. Thomas Mattox was the evangelist for the services; W. F. Cox Jr. is the pastor of the church.

J. Arnold Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Centerville, reported four professions of faith and one new member by letter as a result of the church's recent revival. Leon Edwards, pastor of

First Baptist Church, Ashland City, was the evangelist for the services; and Bob Freeman, minister of music at the Centerville church, led the revival music.

Providence Baptist Church, Crockett Mills, was led in revival March 29 through April 2 by Paul Bryant, pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Bells. Lee Austin, minister of music at Providence, led the music for the services. Pastor John Poor reported four professions of faith and several other decisions.

## REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS...

Ivy Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville, will have a youth-led revival May 12-16. Joe Brooks, pastor of Brotherton Baptist Church, Cookeville, will lead the services, which are at 7 p.m. nightly, with an additional service at 11 a.m. May 16. The pastor of Ivy Memorial is Harlan B. Williams.

Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville, will be in revival May 26-30 with J. Harold Smith, Orlando, Fla., evangelist and Radio Bible Hour preacher, as the evangelist. Steve Taylor, a music evangelist from Greenville, S.C., will lead the music for the services. C. Dee Bridwell is the pastor of the Knoxville church.

## LEADERSHIP...

Mike Caywood was recently called as minister of music by Covenant Baptist Church, Cleveland. Ray Womac is the church's pastor.

Maurice Blanchard is serving as interim pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Chattanooga. Blanchard is a former missionary to India, where he was president of the Baptist seminary.

James Moore, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, is interim pastor of Mountain Creek Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

George Cline recently resigned the pastorate of Harrison Baptist Church, Harrison.

LaBelle Haven Baptist Church, Memphis, has called Kim McCarson as minister of education and outreach. McCarson, a graduate of Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky., came to the church from First Baptist Church, Cushing, Okla., where he was minister of music and youth. A. Dennis Pledger is the pastor at LaBelle Haven.

David Wimpee submitted his resignation as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Harrison.

First Baptist Church, Livingston, called Roger Dale Jennings of Red Bay, Ala., to come as minister of music and youth, a ministry he will begin this month. Jennings is a former minister of music at Red Bay's First Baptist Church. Ken Jordan is the pastor of the Livingston church.

Norman Culpepper has announced his retirement from the pastorate of North Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, which will be effective May 30. Culpepper is a former pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Jackson, and associate pastor of the North Jackson church and West Jackson Baptist Church, also of that city. Culpepper will continue to reside in Jackson and plans to be involved in supply and interim work.

Gum Stand Baptist Church, Sevierville, accepted the recent resignation of its pastor, Donald Rolan.

Ray Carr recently resigned the pastorate of Providence Baptist Church, Sevierville.

John Eldridge resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Sale Creek, to accept the pastorate of Center Point Baptist Church, LaFayette, Ga.

First Baptist Church, Memphis, called James C. Brown as minister of discipleship and evangelism, a position he began May 9. Earl C. Davis is the pastor of the church.

Tommy Gerold recently resigned the pastorate of Lick Creek Baptist Mission, Decaturville.

David Joyner accepted a call from First Baptist Church, Ripley, to come as minister of music, a position he began May 1. Joyner came to the church from Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville. Dean Doster is the church's pastor.

Maple Grove Baptist Church, Maryville, accepted the recent resignation of its pastor, Bill Reed.

Teddy Evans accepted a call from Stanton Baptist Church, Stanton, to come as interim pastor.

Liberty Baptist Church, Somerville, called Russell Joyner as its interim pastor.

June 14 HAWAII	11 Day	\$1,499.00
June 21 HOLY LAND	12 Day	1,499.00
June 28 CRUISE-W. Indies, So. America	6 Day	1,429.00
July 1 HAWAII	6 Day	1,259.00
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Curtis Wallin was called as minister of music and youth by First Baptist Church, Monterey. Wallin, who began the position April 12, came to the church from First Baptist Church, Oneida. Gerald Bland is the pastor of the church.

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Nashville, called Mike Laughlin as minister of music and youth. A native of Jackson, Laughlin began the position April 12. The church's pastor is B. L. Willis.

Gaylon Shockley resigned as minister of music and youth of Madison Heights Baptist Church, Madison, and has moved to California. John L. Humphrey is the church's pastor.

Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland, has called Mike Day as minister of youth. The church's pastor is Bob Bell.

## CHURCHES...

A ground-breaking ceremony was held recently at Greenwood Baptist Church, Ooltewah, to initiate the building of a 4,452-square-foot sanctuary and 11 classrooms. Participating in the ceremony were church members Jim Robinson, J. C. Lee, Kenneth Woods, Charlie Rogers, Randy Richie, Richard Braley, Ronnie Hickman, Jim Griffith, and Pastor James Vaughn.

Brace Baptist Church, Summertown, dedicated the new addition to its building during an April 26 service. Troy Gobble is the pastor of the church.

## PEOPLE...

A minister and seven deacons were ordained during a March 28 service at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Bristol. Ordained to the ministry was Jack Brandon, and ordained as deacons were Haden E. "Buddy" Stine, C. Allen Cross, Charles Robinson, Jerry Carrier, Randall Rhea, James F. Deekard, and Jerry Russell. The service was conducted by Pastor L. F. Valley and Pastor Emeritus Howard Robinson.

First Baptist Church, Flintville, recently ordained J. B. Amason, Lyn Chiles, Mike Layman, and Charles Taylor as deacons. The pastor of the church is Glenn Hester.

### World's Fair Rental

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 Call Frank Stidham  
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## 75th Anniversary Homecoming

**First Baptist Church**  
**Etowah, Tennessee**  
**Sunday, June 6, 1982**  
**with a Welcome to All Former Members Friends and Relatives**

9:45 a.m.-Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m.-Morning Worship  
 12:00 -Church Luncheon with visitors as guests  
 1:30 p.m.-Sanctuary Choir:  
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 Robert L. Spears, Associate Pastor

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## Interpretation

# Cleansing of the Temple

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And when He had made a scourge of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables" (John 2:15).

Jesus cleansed the Temple twice: on His first and last visits to Jerusalem during His ministry (see Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46). Some interpreters see only one such, with either John or the other gospel writers mistaken as to the time. But there is no reason why He did not do it both times.

The event took place in the Court of the Gentiles. As a service to the worshipers, sacrificial animals were sold, and for a fee, coins were exchanged for the half-shekel with which to pay the Temple tax. Profits were to go into the Temple treasury. This service came to be called "the bazaars of Annas," a former high priest but still the power behind the office. In time this became a racket with much of the profits kept by those who ran it.

The result was that it took on the air of an oriental bazaar with its noise, smells, and haggling over prices. This was a terrible desecration of God's temple. Gentiles seeking Him would be driven from, not drawn to, God.

So in righteous indignation, Jesus made a whip out of cords. With it He drove out the animals, overturned the money-changers' tables, and drove out the ones involved in the entire mess. To those who sold doves (sacrifices of the

poor), He said, "Take these things hence: make not My Father's house an house of merchandise" or an emporium (emporium).

We should reverence God's house, not desecrate it.

## Speaker denounces 'blind' prejudice

ATLANTA (BP) — Most Southern Baptists consider blind people socially inferior, professionally incompetent, and personally incapable, a blind Baptist college professor charged during a national conference on blind ministry.

Charles Melton, professor of Bible and religious education at Clarke College, Newton, Miss., told about 85 participants in the conference, sponsored by the SBC Home Mission and Sunday School boards, that such views are distorted and there must be a change of attitude before blind ministries can be effective.

A recent survey, he said, disclosed only five blind persons employed by Baptist state and national agencies — two college professors, one state convention consultant, and two stenographers for the Sunday School and Home Mission boards. Since then, the blind secretary at the Home Mission Board has resigned but the board has commissioned a blind hospital chaplain.

Among local churches, so many Baptists feel blind persons are socially inferior that they fail to win blind persons to salvation in Jesus Christ, Melton said. Even those blind who do accept Christ are seldom accepted into full participation in the congregation, he added.

Because of the attitudes of sighted Baptists toward them, few blind people show interest in spiritual matters or being members of the church, Melton observed.

In a second address, Melton called for Baptists to develop a theology for ministry to more than 600,000 totally blind persons in the United States and 5.8-million legally and functionally blind Americans.



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# Nashville hospital charges rank 'low,' survey shows

A recently-completed study by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee revealed that average charges for health care services varied widely among hospitals in Nashville. As expected, the study indicated that Baptist Hospital has some of the lowest charges for any hospital in the area.

These statistics are especially significant because of the high level of technological and professional services provided at Baptist which is officially designated as a tertiary (Level 3) hospital by the Middle Tennessee Health Systems Agency.

"We are extremely proud of the findings of this report," said David Stringfield, chief executive officer at Baptist Hospital.

"One of our primary goals is to provide top quality health care service at a reasonable cost to the patient. Since we are a not-for-profit institution and dedicated to Christian service through a healing ministry, we are especially pleased to be able to offer these low-cost,

top-quality services to the people of our area. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Study has proved Baptist Hospital to be the real leader in hospital cost containment in middle Tennessee.

Stringfield pointed out that the hospital's not-for-profit status was the single most significant factor in maintaining low patient charges.

"Our goal is to serve others, not to make money, as is the case with some hospitals. When you take away the profit motive, the cost of health care can be decreased considerably." Stringfield also said that employee cooperation with the hospital's conservation and purchasing programs has been an important factor in the success of Baptist's overall cost containment efforts.

"We want to emphasize that the conscientious efforts of our administrative staff and department heads along with our other employees working together to keep the cost of hospitalization down have really paid off in a significant way for our patients," said Stringfield.

# Midwestern trustees focus on faculty, record budget

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Faculty and financial matters dominated discussion during the annual meeting of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees April 19-20.

Trustees elected a new academic dean, approved one visiting professor, acknowledged the 20-plus years of service of three faculty members, and adopted a record 1982-83 budget.

N. Larry Baker, associate professor of Christian ethics since 1978, and acting academic dean, was unanimously elected academic dean, effective Aug. 1, 1982, succeeding John Howell who requested to be released of his administrative responsibilities in February 1982, in order to return full time to the classroom and writing.

A 1982-83 budget of \$2,478,587, a 13.4 percent increase, was adopted to provide for expanded programs of off-campus centers, staff and faculty salary increases, faculty additions, and the establishment of an office of institutional development.

During a special recognition dinner, seminary President Milton Ferguson presented 20-year plaques to three faculty members elected in 1960: Pierce Matheny, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew; William B. Coble, professor of New Testament and Greek; and Howell,

professor of Christian ethics.

In other areas, trustees:

— Approved the change in nomenclature of the seminary diploma program to that of associate degrees — associate of divinity and associate of religious education;

— Acknowledged the appointment of John Havlik of the Home Mission Board as visiting professor of evangelism for 1982-83;

— Approved the appointment of Sam T. Switzer, director of financial services at Midwestern since July 1981, as seminary business manager.

## Memphian named VTS coordinator

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP) — Douglas D. Day, minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss., will become the first coordinator of the Southern Baptist Video Tape Service, effective June 8.

VTS is a conventionwide project to produce teaching, training, and informational materials on videotape for distribution to churches, associations, and state conventions.

Day will be employed by the ad hoc committee for the Video Tape Service, which administers the project. He will base his work at the Radio-Television Commission where the tapes are being produced.

Day will assist in production and planning, develop promotional plans for VTS, and be liaison for the RTVC, agencies and participating state conventions.

A native of Memphis, Day is a graduate of Mississippi State University and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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## Faith, unity, mission highlight meeting of religious educators

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Faith, unity, and mission will be the focus of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Educators Association, June 13-14, in the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention, June 15-17.

"We will be focusing on the practical aspects of religious education," said

Charles Gwaltney, SBREA president and minister of education at First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, La.

"We have broken it down into separate sections on faith development, staff unity, and the continuing mission of religious educators," he added.

The first session of SBREA will center on faith development and will deal with the growth of the faith of individual religious educators, Gwaltney said.

The second session will concern staff unity, because for a subordinate staff person "one of the greatest problems faced is that of staff unity," Gwaltney said, adding that pressures from this direction are "extreme on the religious educator."

"We are planning to have audience participation, and will have presentations by professional guidance people, religious educators, and a pastor," he added.

The concluding session will feature a "celebration of worship and inspiration," in which ministers of education will give personal testimonies about God's activities in their lives.

During the annual SBREA luncheon at noon Monday, the association will make distinguished leadership awards to retired educators who have made significant contributions to RE work.

## Missions day camp plans set for SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, in cooperation with the Brotherhood department of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and the New Orleans Baptist Association, will again sponsor a missions day camp during day sessions of the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

Children who have been in grades one through six during the current school year may register for the camp, which will be at Audubon Parkland Zoo, about eight miles from the Louisiana Superdome, site of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 15-17.

Camp registration opens Monday, June 14, at the Missions Day Camp booth in the registration lobby at the Superdome. Parents may leave their children at a designated place in the Superdome beginning June 15. Parents are to retrieve the campers at the close of the morning session on Wednesday, June 16, and the close of the afternoon sessions June 15 and 17.

Camp cost is \$5 per child per day. For two children in a family, the cost is \$25 for three days; for three children, \$45. Cost covers insurance, two noon lunches, and transportation between the Superdome and the camp site.

## SBC offers child care discount

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Janet Kemp, child care director for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, is offering a discount to parents who pre-register their children.

Child care rates for the convention June 15-17 and its related meetings are discounted as much as \$4 per day for children registered by May 31.

Miss Kemp, director of the preschool education center for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will return a registration form to each parent who writes her at the seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126. One form is required for each child and the request must be postmarked by May 31.

Rates vary session to session and day to day. Because of the special evangelism events this year, child care will be provided early, beginning with the Sunday afternoon witnessing blitz.

Child care facilities will open 30 minutes before each session and remain open for 30 minutes after the session closes. Miss Kemp emphasizes that no local children will be accepted for care.

Child care is limited to children who have not entered first grade. There will be no child care provided during sessions of the Pastors' Conference.



**VBS SEASON** — Adam Winingham holds his banner high for his group at Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church, Cookeville. More than 3-million children, youth, and adults are expected to attend Southern Baptist Vacation Bible Schools this summer.

## Mission directors to develop skills

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Skills development and the sharing of key ideas will be featured in the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, June 13-14 at the Gateway Hotel in New Orleans.

"We are trying to make this a skills development time," said Cline W. Borders, president of the conference. "We want this to be something the director of missions can participate in and go away with new ideas which will speak to some of the frustrations he is having."

He added, "This is the first time we have featured the director of missions himself and given him the opportunity to share some key idea ... something which has worked in his association. We have asked 12 of them to share."

The program includes such ideas as the abbreviated church letter, World Missions Conferences, establishment of a youth corps, saturation evangelism, new work, the format of the annual associational meeting, and training for pastors.

Bruce Grubbs, of the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will address the conference three times. Other speakers include Cecil Ray, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

## Church musicians meet June 13-14

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A wide array of church music, much of it instrumental, will greet participants in the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference June 13-14 at First Baptist Church in New Orleans.

The conference is one of several adjunct meetings to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, held June 15-17 at the Louisiana Superdome.

The meeting's theme, "Reaching People Through Instrumental Music," is adopted from a similar theme of the Baptist Sunday School Board church music department. It will be played in New Orleans with organ, piano, and brass combinations.

Traditional voice concerts will also be in abundant supply with presentations by the Centurymen; Paducah Boys Choir; the youth choir of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; Texas Baptist All State Band and Choir; Louisiana Baptist College Choir; William Carey College Choir; and others.

The annual commissioned work, this year "Sing Unto the Lord" by Jack Dean, retired professor from Hardin-Simmons University, will be performed at 1:45 p.m., June 14, by the Texas Baptist All State Band and Choir.

A pre-conference hymnody symposium at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary begins at 10 a.m. June 12 and continues until 4 p.m.

## FMB names Philpot agricultural liaison

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has named James Philpot, Southern Baptist representative to Mexico, as its first furlough missionary liaison for agriculture missions.

Creation of the new assignment, which will be filled by another furloughing missionary when Philpot returns to Mexico in July, is part of a continuing effort to use all resources to combating world hunger, said John Cheyne, the board's relief ministries consultant.

Philpot will be liaison with agricultural mission fellowships, plan overseas agricultural projects, and develop contacts with agricultural schools to inform faculty and students about happenings in agricultural missions.

From his Shreveport, La., residence, Philpot will work closely with the Agricultural Missions Fellowship based in Yazoo City, Miss. He and his successors will encourage the organization of new chapters of this and other agricultural missions fellowships. Agricultural Missions Fellowship is a non-profit organization that supports Southern Baptist agricultural evangelism work overseas.

## Southwestern selects

### Jameson for news post

NASHVILLE (BP) — Norman Jameson, Baptist Press feature editor since 1977, will become assistant director of news and information services at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective July 1.

Jameson will coordinate all news and information services at Southwestern. The newly created position is in the office of public affairs, directed by John E. Seelig.

Jameson, a Wisconsin native, came to Baptist Press from Colorado Springs, Colo., where he was religion editor of the *Gazette-Telegraph*. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University.

## Hunger concert set during SBC

NEW ORLEANS, La. (BP) — A world hunger benefit concert featuring Christian humorist Grady Nutt and Dove Award winner Cynthia Clawson will be held after the evening session of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans June 15.

Billed as "a celebration of commitment," the concert also will feature recording artist Gary Rand; Bob and Jan Salley, gospel duet and founders of World Hunger Relief Inc.; and Darrell Adams, composer and artist of "God! What a World."

The concert, to be in the chapel at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, is sponsored by SEEDS, an Atlanta-based magazine and educational ministry by Southern Baptists concerned about hunger. Concert co-sponsors are St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Hunger Committee.

Nutt, self-styled "prime minister of humor," is a regular cast member of the syndicated television program "Hee Haw." Miss Clawson, voted gospel music's top female vocalist at the 1981 Dove Awards ceremony for the second consecutive year, also won a Grammy in February.

Ken Sehested, director of program for SEEDS, reported all donations from the concert will go to the hunger relief funds of the Home and Foreign Mission boards of the Southern Baptist Convention. The artists have agreed to donate their time and travel expenses.

Free transportation from the Superdome will be provided to the concert. Buses will shuttle back and forth approximately every 20 minutes.

## New housing options open in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Two more housing opportunities are available for Southern Baptists planning to attend the annual meeting June 15-17 in New Orleans.

Although space among hotels cooperating with the convention housing bureau is long gone, three local universities and the YMCA have large-group space available. Also, there are four campgrounds within 20 minutes of the Louisiana Superdome, site of the meeting.

Persons still wishing accommodations for large groups should contact Blake Touchstone, Tulane University, phone 504-865-5426; Monica McClure, University of New Orleans, 504-286-6585; Manny Kinard, Loyola University, 504-865-3622; or Loreine Hofmann, YMCA, 800-568-9622.

There is no on-site overnight camping at the Superdome. Four nearby campgrounds and reservation phone numbers are: Parc D'Orleans I, 504-241-3167; Parc D'Orleans II, 504-242-6176; New Orleans Travel Park, 504-242-7795; and New Orleans West KOA, 504-467-1792. A fifth campground, New Orleans East KOA, is within 35 minutes of the Superdome, phone 504-643-3850.



# BIBLE BOOK SERIES

## Lesson for May 16

# David's sin judged

By Dennis R. Plank, pastor  
First Baptist Church, Madison

Basic Passage: 2 Samuel 10:1 to 12:31 (1 Chronicles 19:1-19; 20:1-3)  
Focal Passages: 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 15; 12:4-5, 7a, 10, 12

After the Ammonites had embarrassed some of David's people, the tension between the Israelites and the Ammonites increased. The Syrians were asked to join the Ammonites in opposing David and his kingdom. Under the direction of God, Israel defeated both the Ammonites and Syrians, and David's kingdom increased.

Although David was a man after God's heart, this did not mean he was sinless. Chapter 11 records the darkest hour in the king's life. Although David had been on a peak of victory, now he was thrown to a valley of spiritual defeat.

For 20 years, David, a man about 50 years old, had governed God's people. While the soldiers of Israel were fighting around the city of Rabbah, David rose from his bed and walked on the roof of his palace in Jerusalem. Nearby he saw the beautiful Bathsheba bathing. Although David learned she was the wife of a soldier named Uriah, Bathsheba was called to the king's palace where David committed adultery with her. In time, Bathsheba learned she had become pregnant due to this illicit affair.

In an attempt to evade the consequences of his sin, David recalled Uriah the husband from battle so he might visit Bathsheba. Since Uriah was loyal to Israel, he refused to visit his wife but rather slept at David's door. Subsequently, Uriah was made drunk in hopes that he would sleep with his wife. When these plans failed, Uriah was sent back to battle with instructions to Joab that the soldier be placed in the center of the fighting. Uriah was slain and David married Bathsheba.

ried Bathsheba.

Perhaps at least a year passed during which David attempted to cover his sin. Nathan the prophet then told the king a story with a message of conviction. How forceful were the words: "Thou art the man!" Judgment was said to come to David and his family because of the king's evil ways. David's sins were to be forgiven when he sought God's pardon, but the king was to suffer the consequence of sin. Galatians 6:7 states a person shall reap whatever is sown. David sowed murder, and murder was reaped in his family. He sowed lust, and lust was reaped in his family.

David confessed his sin upon hearing God's Word. Perhaps Psalms 51 and 32 were written during this dark period of the king's life.

From this week's passages, the following truths can be learned:

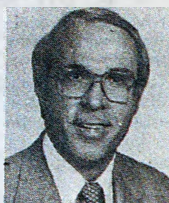
It is at a time of spiritual victory that often Satan will work the hardest to bring spiritual defeat.

No person is immune from Satan's attacks. Past triumphs for the Lord do not mean the enemy will not bother us. First Corinthians 10:12 is a timely verse for all believers.

The role of prophet is not to bring only a message of comfort but also to deliver a message of conviction. Pray for the Nathans of our age that they will be faithful.

God's grace is greater than our sin. There are no sins which God cannot forgive if we ask His cleansing (1 John 1:9).

Past sin does not eliminate us from future service. With the Lord there is always today and tomorrow. Satan often causes individuals to believe past evils eliminate them from meaningful places in God's kingdom. Forgiven David was going to be used by the Lord in future days. Isaiah 55:7 reads: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."



Plank

# UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

## Lesson for May 16

# Persecuted but triumphant

By Robert O. Byrd, professor of religion  
Belmont College, Nashville

Basic Passage: Revelation 6:1 to 7:17  
Focal Passage: Revelation 7:9-17

This week's focal passage opens with, "After these things" (ASV). Such a statement should call the reader's attention to what had preceded.

In particular, some attention needs to be given to the text starting at verse 1 of the sixth chapter, the point at which the Lion/Lamb begins to open the seven seals on the scrolls. This is the point at which the most significant variations in interpretation begin and none has achieved general acceptance among Southern Baptists.

God's faithfulness and a troubled world  
Revelation 6:1-8 recounts the opening of the first four seals. Each opening is accompanied by the command "come" from one of the living creatures around the throne. Each time the order is given, a horse and its rider appear. This section affirms the troubled situation that exists in the world. It is clear that each force represented is under divine control.

It is equally clear that these forces represent tragedy which comes upon all humanity — even believers. Being a Christian would not exempt anyone from the consequences of their impact. The first horse and rider were representative of "conquering," the second of taking "peace from the earth," the third of "famine," and the fourth of "death and Hades."

In 6:9-11 there is a double intention. Honesty leads John to acknowledge that the world is a particularly troubled place for God's people as they face hostile persecution. The passage also carries a heavenly dimension in that "those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne" are depicted "under the altar." (Note that a heavenly altar is indicated at 8:3, 5 and 14:18.) These martyrs acknowledged the sovereignty of God and cried out for divine justice.

In 6:12-17 there appears to be a universal calamity in which the forces of the

universe and nature serve as expressions of and instruments of God's judgment. The sevenfold listing of the chaos seems to declare that the entirety of the created order will be acting in conjunction with God's judgment. The sevenfold listing of those affected by the cataclysm probably implies completeness and means that no one is able to escape the consequence of God's righteous vindication. "For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand before it?"

The church would share the common troubles of the world. The church would endure persecution directed at its destruction. However, the church would see the consequences of sin come to its inevitable conclusion — judgment. Chapter 7 injects two interludes into the sequence of the opening of the seals. These two sections are significant for answering the question which occurs at the end of the sixth chapter, "Who can stand?"

## God's faithfulness and a triumphant church

In 7:1-8 a partial answer is given to the question "Who can stand?" God's people can stand because destructive forces are restrained. This may be a way of saying that world calamities and even the persecution of the church were not as bad as they might be without God's restraining action. Some feel the four winds are synonymous with the four horsemen. At any rate, God's people are protected from catastrophic forces held in check by divine authority. The idea of "sealing" expresses the notion of identifying and protecting God's people.

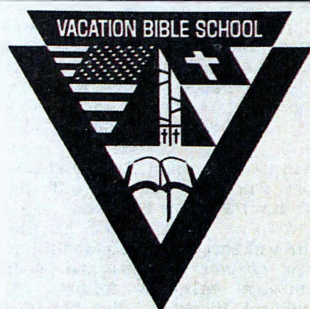
In 7:9-17 the triumphant church is secure and safe beyond judgment. A great deal of debate has taken place as to whether this chapter depicts two groups (Jewish Christians in 7:1-8 and Gentile Christians in 7:9-17 or one group which is depicted in two different locales (earth 7:1 or heaven—"standing before the throne" 7:9).

The multitude of 7:9-17 are beyond the reach of the earlier depicted calamities and distress. Notice several factors which describe this great multitude. It is a countless number. It is a cosmopolitan group. They were from "every nation" (7:9). They were in the presence of God, "standing before the throne" (7:9). They were "clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands" (7:9), which symbolizes purity and victory.

They were praising God because the good work he had begun had been completed. They overflowed with the praise of God. They had endured that great distress prior to the end (Mark 13). They had lived through tragedy to triumph because they had "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb" (7:14). God Himself would shelter them by His very glorious presence (7:15).



Byrd



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# LIFE AND WORK SERIES

## Lesson for May 16

# A holy people

By Larry M. Taylor, pastor  
First Baptist Church, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 7:1 to 8:10  
Focal Passages: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; 8:1-3

Chapter seven of Deuteronomy is another sermon on the First Commandment's prohibition of idol worship. The modern reader has to bear in mind how difficult it was for Israel to learn the lesson of the First Commandment.

We know that after Canaan was invaded, the Canaanites and their gods were not destroyed. Generations of Israelites were led astray by Canaanite worship of other gods. Israel was literally centuries in freeing herself from Baal worship.

The reason for Israel's seemingly favored status among the nations occupied the writer in Deuteronomy 7:6-9. Israel was a "people holy to the Lord" because God had chosen to confer holiness on her. Only in this sense was there anything holy about Israel. Israel did understand herself as having a unique attachment to God enjoyed by no other nation. However, Israel never seemed to understand that she was chosen for service rather than privilege.

This passage is about as close as the Old Testament ever comes to giving a reason for Israel's favored choice by God. These verses mention God's love as the reason for Israel's being chosen. It was not because of the nation's numbers or strength. God had chosen the weak. No reason for Israel's election is given other than God's concern and promises to the old patriarchal fathers. This passage makes it clear that an act of grace, mysterious and beyond comprehension, is the correct explanation of God's choice of Israel. There was no possible reason for pride on Israel's part in her selection.

Because of His love for Israel, God redeemed her from bondage. The Hebrew verb translated "redeemed" means "to ransom." When God is the subject of this verb (v. 8), the meaning is not of a ransom paid for something, but rather the act of setting free. The emphasis is upon the act of setting free from bondage rather than upon the price God paid for the freedom. This and other such passages are in the background of Jesus' words in Mark 10:45.

Israel could safely trust the God who had chosen her. He is reliable and trustworthy, true to His covenant (v. 9). The term "mercy" is translated from the Hebrew word "hesed," which means "steadfast love." It was a legal

term referring to obligations in a covenant relationship. The remarkable thing about Israel's God was that, although the nation violated the covenant again and again, God was always true to His side of the covenant.

The theme of the eighth chapter of Deuteronomy is, again, a sermon on the First Commandment. Notice the singular, "the commandment" (8:1). This refers to the command against other gods.

Israel is instructed to "remember" God's care and leadership in the past. They are to remember the hardships they have suffered. The verb "remember" is important in Deuteronomy. It occurs 16 times, and 12 of them are calls to remember the historical events of salvation history, such as the exodus. Israel is called to remember her suffering (8:2).



Taylor

## "Boyce Bible School ... serving a purpose"

In 1979 Price Simon was told by a physician that his deteriorating eyesight would make it virtually impossible to attend college. Nevertheless, when Price sensed God's call to special service, he and his wife, Carol, searched for a place to help prepare them for ministry. They found an answer at Boyce Bible School.

Since Carol had to assist Price with reading and note taking, she decided to enroll at Boyce also. "We have four children at home and one in Idaho, so it hasn't always been easy," reports Price. "But the people, school and atmosphere have been tremendous. God has placed Boyce Bible School here for a purpose, and it is serving its purpose well."

If you would like to learn more about Boyce, please call toll free 800-626-5525 (outside Kentucky, Or write: Boyce Bible School, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40280



The people are to remember both God's providential care and their testing by hardship. God had humbled Israel in the wilderness as He tested her dependence on Him. God had removed everything else upon which Israel could depend so that she might know utter dependence on Him. Specifically, God humbled Israel in letting her suffer hunger so that He could then send manna in the wilderness as a reminder that the people are dependent on Him even for daily bread.

A classic verse of Scripture concludes this passage. The people are reminded that even daily bread is not the sum total of life. God's people need every word from the mouth of God in order to live.

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Their hunger was for the purpose of teaching them that the divine Word is as necessary to life as daily bread.

Again, the point being made is God's grace. God had chosen Israel for reasons of His own. It was an act of grace. The nation was completely dependent on Him for even the basic bread of life. Israel must live from God's grace.

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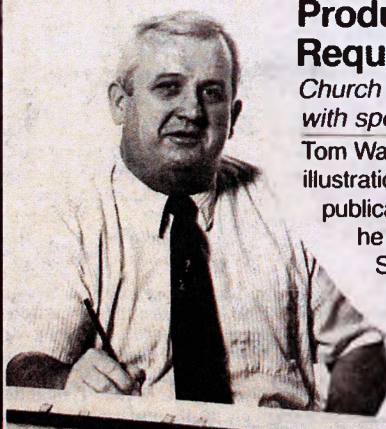
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# Creative financing helps churches build

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP)— An erratic national money market is causing many churches to employ creative methods of financing buildings, not unlike the creative efforts of earlier generations, according to a Southern Baptist architectural consultant.

Churches are looking toward fund raising, church bonds, membership loans, and volunteer builders to escape high interest rates and unpredictable adjustments in loan costs.

"Today, many churches that need to build find the financing situation frustrating and hopeless," said George Fletcher, a consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department. "Before the financial crunch, most churches could afford a debt of approximately 35 percent of their income. These same churches can now afford a debt of only 20 to 25 percent of their income. In many situations, this is not enough money to construct the needed building."

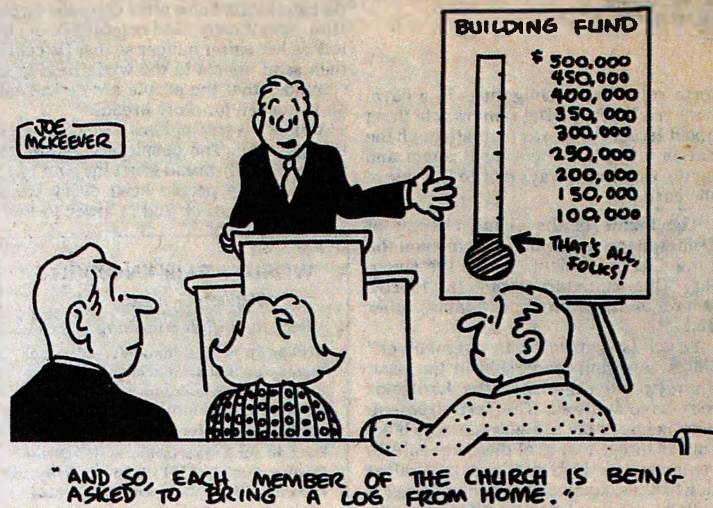
Recounting the history of church financing in light of today's needs, Fletcher pointed to a variety of financing methods.

"In the early years, churchmen cut the necessary number of trees, brought them to the building site, peeled off the bark, notched the logs, and erected the building," he said. "The most skilled person in the congregation was elected construction supervisor."

As "portable sawmills" became available, each landowner donated trees for the project, and a committee bartered for the trees to be sawed into lumber. Most often, the sawmill owner got one log for each two he sawed into lumber for the church. Shingles for the roof were also cut from the donated trees.

"About the only cash needed was for nails," Fletcher observed, and a special offering was taken for this. Men of the church donated most of the labor, including hand-planing the rough lumber."

But after World War II, fewer landowners had trees to donate, and sawmill owners wanted cash instead of lumber in



trade for their services. Cash was more plentiful than in earlier years, and bank loans to churches were obtainable at two or three percent interest. With money this easily available, most churches ceased raising money in advance or seeking donated building materials from members. A building loan could be paid off in equal monthly payments for 10 years.

"The increasing cost of building was always relative to the local and national economy," Fletcher said. "Buildings were costing more, but people were earning more money and could afford to pay higher building costs."

By the 1960s, some churches became concerned about borrowing all money needed for building and began special fund-raising firms to do the job for them. To help these churches, the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, with support and cooperation of the BSSB's church architecture department, had begun a fund-raising program of its own. By 1964, the title "Together We Build" was officially adopted to identify the program.

"Churches that had become accustomed to simply borrowing funds for building were totally unprepared for the sudden change in the money market in 1979 and 1980," Fletcher observed. "When interest rates jumped dramatically from nine percent to nearly 20 percent, banks began to impose a 'floating interest rate.'"

Churches soon found that even if they could borrow an amount of money on which monthly payments could be afforded, an upward adjustment in the interest rate a few months later could raise payments beyond the church's ability to pay.

But Fletcher notes that some churches are turning to sources and methods of financing that have built-in safeguards against fluctuating costs.

**Fund Raising:** Many churches are making all-out efforts to raise money through "Together We Build" and "Building for Today's Challenge" programs. Some churches are raising 50 to 75 percent of the needed funds, and a few are raising the total amount.

"Every dollar the church raises saves

between \$2.50 and \$3 in pay-back interest," Fletcher said. "This method of financing is similar to the one used by our forefathers. Instead of giving trees, members give their dollars."

**Church Bonds:** Bonds are coming to the forefront as a desirable method of financing because they can be offered at several percentage points below bank interest rates. Pay-back interest rates are fixed for the life of the bond.

"Even though bond interest rates are lower than bank loan rates, they are still high enough to be a good investment for church members and other interested persons," said Fletcher.

The church loans division of the Home Mission Board is developing a church bond program that will be available to all Southern Baptist churches.

**Membership Loans:** Churches can determine the amount of money to borrow and invite members to loan the money out of their savings. A legal contract and a pay-back schedule is drawn up for each member granting a loan.

"By this method," Fletcher observed, "all members are given an opportunity to lend according to their abilities."

**Volunteer Builders:** The trend toward volunteer building teams who donate time and labor to churches other than their own is gaining momentum. In many cases, large churches assist smaller churches.

"For most building projects the construction costs are 40 percent for materials and 60 percent for labor," Fletcher said. "Therefore, these volunteer teams have, in effect, financed 60 percent of the building project."

While it is a discouraging reality that churches may never again obtain money easily for building projects, the fact remains that growing churches must have adequate space for persons they hope to reach, teach, win, and train.

"The financial dilemma is not all bad," Fletcher said. "It will bring with it a renewed stewardship commitment on the part of church members. The end result will be churches that continue to meet their building needs with a more committed membership."

## FMB appoints daughter first, parents four months later

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)— Warren and Joanah Rush were about to call their daughter and son-in-law last summer when the phone rang.

It was Deborah, their daughter. "Dad, guess what happened," she blurted excitedly. "Freddy and I have surrendered to missions and we want to go to Japan."

"Oh, really?" Rush replied. "Guess what happened on this end of the line." Already grandparents, the Rushes had just made the same decision — to become foreign missionaries.

Deborah, 26, and her husband, Freddy Davis, then pastor of Sabal Palm Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla., were appointed missionaries to Japan in December by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They arrived in Tokyo April 15, two days after her parents were named Southern Baptist missionaries to Senegal, West Africa, at a service in Birmingham, Ala.

A 60-year-old Alabama native, Rush led Parkway Baptist Church in Tallahassee for 20 years as pastor before returning in 1978 to guide Bethlehem Baptist Church in Laurel, Miss., a congregation he had served in the mid-'50s.

Why mission service now? "We were thinking about what we wanted to do if

the Lord let us retire," Rush says. "The first thing we thought of was to take off and start traveling. But the Lord spoke to us and said, 'That's nothing but selfishness.' With all the experience we've had in our ministry, why put it on the shelf? So we decided we'd be volunteer missionaries."

Then they learned that the age limit for applying to the Foreign Mission Board's missionary associate program had been extended by a year to 60, making Rush eligible. Candidates for the associate program, which employs missionaries for renewable four-year terms, include applicants past the age of 45, the age limit for appointment as a career missionary.

The Rushes were the only grandparents named missionaries in Birmingham; the 31 other new missionaries were closer to daughter Deborah's age. But the senior couple's energy and excitement left some of the younger crowd panting.

"People say I'm crazy, but don't blame me," states Rush. "We just put ourselves on the altar and said, 'Lord, we're here. We're available.' The Lord answers prayer, you know."

The pair will leave Mississippi this fall for three months of orientation in Pine



**GRANDPARENTS BOUND FOR AFRICA** — Mr. and Mrs. Warren Rush are looking forward to mission service in Dakar, Senegal. Their daughter, Deborah, was appointed as a missionary to Japan last December.

Mountain, Ga., before going to Senegal. He will lead the International Church of Dakar, an English-speaking congregation in the capital city of 800,000. An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 English-speaking people live in Dakar, including members of the diplomatic and business communities and students.

Rush dreams of becoming "something of a chaplain to Dakar," establishing

relationships with diplomats, government officials, and business leaders.

He is no stranger to public officials. As pastor at Parkway church in Tallahassee, Florida's capital, he dealt regularly with state legislators and city leaders. For 18 years he was chaplain to the Florida Highway Patrol, and for 10 years chaplain to the Tallahassee Police Department, counseling both officers and offenders. "I was able to get down to the nitty-gritty with the police," he says.

The Rushes got down "to the nitty-gritty" at home too, according to their missionary daughter. "They taught you to practice what you preach," Deborah says. "Everything that my parents preached to others, they did at home. They stressed that no matter what I did in life or what I wanted in life, Christ was always to come first."

## Medical team heals, evangelizes in Korea

SOONCHUN, Korea — A Baptist medical evangelism team recently treated 154 people in a village north of Soonchun, Korea, and led 31 to Christ.

In the evenings, team members showed Christian films and held worship services at the church.