

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

TBC disaster unit aids Alicia victims

A 10-member Tennessee Baptist disaster relief team rushed to the aid of Kemah, Tex., last week, offering food and a helping hand to victims who were driven from their homes by the floods and high winds of Hurricane Alicia.

About 1,300 people fled Kemah, a small town southeast of Houston, near the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Center. Many had returned to their homes by the time the Tennesseans arrived and set up the disaster unit outside the Kemah City Hall building at about noon, Aug. 26.

Most of the homes in Kemah were flooded and the business district was destroyed, according to news reports. The town was without electricity for several days.

The Tennesseans provided about 2,000 meals, feeding those who could get to the unit and delivering meals to those who could not, according to M. H. Peters, a Clear Lake Tex., dentist who serves as area disaster coordinator for Texas Baptists.

Peters said the team fed one lady in her 70s who had not eaten for two days.

Team members also assisted chain saw crews in removing trees and debris from area homes.

"They did a superb job," Peters said. "They couldn't have been more courteous and understanding. We were proud to have them here."

James Foster, mayor of Kemah, was quoted in Kemah's News Citizen, expressing appreciation for the Tennessee Baptist team.

Henry Adrion, pastor of University Baptist Church, Clear Lake, commented, "We are very grateful for their coming. They have done an outstanding job of ministering to the needs of people. We really appreciate it."

Kenny Rains, program assistant in the TBC Brotherhood department and team coordinator, reported that one man received Jesus Christ as his Saviour

after team members shared the gospel with him.

Peters reported that the team held a worship service for area residents outside the City Hall building on Sunday morning.

The team responded to a request by Bob Dixon, disaster relief coordinator for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Earlier, Dixon had advised the Tennesseans not to make the long trip because disaster units from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Mississippi were meeting critical needs.

After the Oklahoma unit left Kemah, however, Dixon contacted Archie King, disaster relief coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, requesting assistance.

The team left the TBC building in Brentwood at about 10 a.m., Aug. 25.

As electricity was restored, cleanup continued, and the need for meals subsided, the Tennessee team began to pack up after serving the evening meal on Aug. 28, and headed home. They were expected to arrive in Brentwood late Aug. 29 or early Aug. 30.

Team members in addition to Rains were Leon Curry, Hermon Dickerson, Leon Fike, and Willis Pierce, all from Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge; Jim England of First Baptist Church, Lewisburg; Jim McBurnett of Parkview Baptist Church, Lewisburg; and Wally Carmichael, Melvin Hill, and Ron Schrader, all of Second Baptist Church, Clinton.

Baptists join march in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON (BP)— More than 250,000 Americans — Southern Baptists among them — braved the August heat and humidity Aug. 27, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic march on Washington.

United under the theme "Jobs, Peace, and Freedom," 700 groups from across the nation, including diverse religious groups, went to Washington to draw attention to a broad political and social agenda. While the 1963 march was sparked by a concern for civil rights legislation then languishing in Congress, participants at "March on Washington II" came to support everything from a nuclear freeze to the Equal Rights Amendment to full employment.

Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said, "The march both remembered Martin Luther King, our fellow Baptist, and also expressed our commitment to human rights, including the right to a job and the right to life undestroyed by nuclear war."

Stassen, a member of the Crescent Hill Baptist Church's Peacemaker Group, said the 1963 march "made a deep impression on me and I suspect this one will have a deep impression on people who were here. It will give us a dedication to work for peace and justice for the rest of our lives."

Former Alabama congressman John Buchanan, a member of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington, noted: "I have been concerned about the degree of apathy and backsliding in the whole area of civil rights and the march should rekindle that fire," he said. "I prayerfully hope we have a revival in our country's commitment to civil rights."

Other Southern Baptists saw in the march a blend of positive and negative. "I thought the march rekindled some of the spirit embodied in Dr. King," said Glenn Saul, associate professor of ethics at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., who is on study leave in the Washington area. "It was a

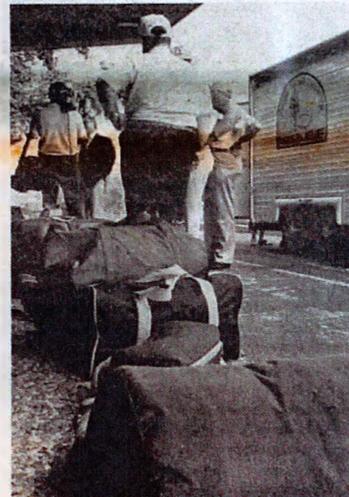
reminder of the power of people when they get together and ought to remind the nation of unfinished business in the area of unemployment."

William Clohan Jr., a Washington attorney and member of Riverside Baptist Church, was concerned about the wide variety of groups at the march. He said: "It will be difficult to hold together a coalition as diverse as this one, although I do think it possibly will stimulate voter registration, especially if the black leadership continues to push it."

Noting most Baptist marchers seemed to concentrate on peace, the former undersecretary of education said, "I see the peace issue having an impact on all social issues. It's only by cutting defense spending that we can free up money for programs for the aging and the hungry."

John W. Baker, general counsel for the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, regretted there were not more Southern Baptists involved in the march.

"The fact that there was no official Southern Baptist participation probably reflects either a lack of concern or a feeling of the inability of people to change things," he said. "People can change things. If Southern Baptists are really concerned about jobs, peace, and freedom, they could make a real impact on the world scene."



READY FOR ACTION — Members of the Tennessee Baptist disaster team prepare to leave for Houston as a local Nashville TV station cameraman (left, background) interviews Archie King, coordinator of Tennessee Baptists' disaster program.

Elaine Dickson resigns BSSB

NASHVILLE (BP)— Elaine Dickson, manager of the Baptist Sunday School Board's direct sales department since its inception in 1979, has resigned effective Oct. 1 to pursue writing, consulting, and training interests.

Miss Dickson, who joined the board in 1975 as supervisor of the young adult section in the Sunday School department, said, "My years at the board have been satisfying and fulfilling, both personally and professionally. At this point in my career, I look forward to charting new directions in some areas where I can continue to be related to the mission of our denomination."

Before assuming her present position, Miss Dickson was church services and materials coordinator and completed an executive office assignment leading a 1976 organization study of the church services and materials division.

A native of Illinois, Miss Dickson earlier was dean of student affairs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and an executive on the staff of SBC Woman's Missionary Union.

She is immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

SBC CP gifts mark best July

NASHVILLE (BP)— Southern Baptists gave to the SBC international objectives of the Cooperative Program at a record pace in July, but the yearly contributions are still short of challenge budget needs.

The mission and education programs of the Southern Baptist Convention's unified giving program received \$8,759,367 from the 34 state Baptist conventions in July, an increase of 8.58 percent over July 1982.

The yearly total of \$84,936,366 is 9.16 percent above the same period during the 1981-82 fiscal year. Should that percentage hold the final two months of the fiscal year, the national programs would receive \$101,923,639.

That would easily oversubscribe the \$100-million basic operating and capital needs budget but would be about \$4-million short of the "Challenge Budget" goal of \$106-million.

The SBC fiscal year ends September 30.

BJCPA backs students in free exercise case

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Baptist public affairs agency has sided with a group of Pennsylvania high school students in asking the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia to uphold a lower court ruling which permitted a student-initiated religious group to meet on an equal basis with non-religious groups during a morning activities period.

In a friend-of-the-court brief written and filed by its general counsel, John W. Baker, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs argued the Williamsport Area School District had violated the students' free exercise of religion and free speech rights by denying them the same access to the morning activities period provided non-religious groups.

The BJCPA, a public affairs agency representing eight national Baptist denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, was joined in the brief by the National Association of Evangelicals, an organization based in Wheaton, Ill., whose affiliates include colleges, universities, and 36,000 churches from 74 denominations.

At issue before the Third Circuit is a ruling by the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania that the student-initiated religious group "Petros" has equal access to school facilities because the school district created a limited open forum by establishing the activities period. Petros was the only group denied permission to meet as a sanctioned student activity.

"Since early 1981 the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has been looking for clean, clearcut cases in which to make the argument for the free exercise of religion," BJCPA Executive Director James M. Dunn said of his agency's decision to enter the case on the students' side. "We see Williamsport as such a case."

In a similar case in 1981, the BJCPA filed a Supreme Court brief supporting of the free speech and free exercise rights of a group of Missouri university students. The high court sided with the students in that case on free speech grounds.

"We've always consistently supported prayer that is truly voluntary," Dunn said, "and this sort of approach to offering access to religious groups at the high school level with various safeguards against government involvement represents nothing more than elemental fairness."

Dunn added the agency also supports legislative efforts to accomplish similar equal access objectives at the secondary school level, saying a bill introduced by Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (S. 815) "holds real promise for a valid application of the free exercise clause of the First Amendment."

In the brief, Baker argued Petros' participation in the "limited open forum" created by the Williamsport Area School District does not violate any of the Supreme Court's establishment clause tests. Those tests require a law or policy to have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion, and produce no excessive entanglement of government in religion.

Because the activities period was used by non-religious groups for a number of years before Petros requested permission to meet, the brief argues the limited open forum was created for "purely secular purposes" and not "religious

purposes." Permitting a group such as Petros to meet, the brief contends, does not constitute "sponsoring or promoting that group." Finally, the presence of a monitor or record keeper who is an employee of the state, the brief states, would result in "negligible" and not "excessive" entanglement of government with religion.

Baker said the case is legally significant because it gives the Third Circuit and possibly later the Supreme Court a "clear opportunity in a clean case to define the boundaries of free exercise rights" for high school students.

"In this case," Baker explained, "the courts will have an opportunity to deal with student-initiated, student-run participation in a limited public forum. In the past, the Supreme Court has dealt with state-sponsored, state-initiated religious exercises."

The Williamsport case could have additional significance, Baker added, if it is appealed to the Supreme Court. A decision by the high court against the students, Baker said, would likely fan the flames of a national push to amend the Constitution's First Amendment.



DRILL WINNER — Mandy Brown of First Baptist Church, Alcoa, represented Tennessee as the state Bible drill winner during a church training conference at Ridgecrest. Sandra Greene of Southwestern Baptist Church, Johnson City, represented Tennessee in the speakers' tournament.

New Lottie Moon film now at film centers

RICHMOND, Va. — A new 16mm motion picture about the life of Lottie Moon, "Journey Home: Lottie Moon of China," will be available starting Sept. 1 from the five Baptist Film Centers.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board production, also available on videotape, takes viewers through a series of flashbacks into Lottie Moon's life.

The original "Lottie Moon Story," a black-and-white movie produced in 1959, will still be available from film centers. Anyone who orders the new film should clearly specify which of the two they want.

'Hee Haw' to pay tribute to Nutt

NASHVILLE (BP) — A September broadcast of "Hee Haw," the country entertainment show, will feature a tribute to Grady Nutt, the show's "Prime Minister of Humor" who died in a plane crash Nov. 23, 1982.

Darrell Adams, a Southern Baptist singer/songwriter from Louisville, Ky., will perform "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" on the Sept. 17 broadcast of the show in memory of two "Hee Haw" cast members who died during the past year: Nutt and Jimmy Riddle.

Adams sang the same song at a memorial service for Nutt in Louisville following the performer's death and was invited to sing on the show's season opener by a "Hee Haw" producer.

Nutt was returning to his Louisville home from Cullman, Ala., where he had spoken to youth at First Baptist Church, when the private plane in which he was riding crashed. Two pilots also died in the mishap.

"Grady made everyone feel like they were special," said Adams, a friend of Nutt's. "He was a giver. His was not a standard ministry but an effective one. Southern Baptists have an empty spot."

Willie Simmons to manage FMB black church relations

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Willie Simmons, who led an inner-city California church through its rocky but victorious transition from white to mostly black membership, will manage a new black church relations section for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, beginning Aug. 31.

Simmons will seek to strengthen the board's relationship with more than 300,000 black Southern Baptists, including members of predominantly white churches. Simmons will work closely with more than 700 black churches to increase their awareness of world missions.

Blacks and black churches have been joining Southern Baptists in growing numbers during recent years. In 1951

only two black churches were affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. By 1981, the number had grown to about 600.

For years the Foreign Mission Board has been responsive to qualified black candidates seeking to be missionaries. Much of Southern Baptist work overseas is with black populations.

To help blacks make missions a priority, the Foreign Mission Board in 1981 named its special ministries director, Elmer West, as a liaison to work with them. Simmons' position was created in West's department last spring.

Simmons was asked to become pastor at First Southern Baptist Church of Compton, Calif., 11 years ago when the city and the church found themselves in a white-to-black transition. It was Simmons' first pastorate, and he was the church's first black pastor.

Simmons saw the church through a saga of struggle and victory. Many members had left, and at one time it looked as though the church would be forced to disband. But under Simmons' leadership First Southern hung together and became a 350-member, missions-giving church involved also in community ministries.

As a bivocational pastor, Simmons worked for the City of Los Angeles, about 15 miles from Compton, during his pastorate.

He has been president of the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and a member of the executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Simmons is a graduate of Biola University, La Mirada, Calif., and Talbot Theological Seminary, La Mirada. He expects to receive his doctor of ministries degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., in December.

Choral directors pick C-N group for concert

JEFFERSON CITY — The American Choral Directors Association has selected the Carson-Newman College Men's Chorus for a concert appearance at the 1984 Southern Division Convention in Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 23.

The choral group was selected from hundreds of audition tapes submitted by college, church, and community choirs in the eight-state Southern Division of ACDA.

The conductor of the chorus is Eric Thorson, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities at Carson-Newman.

Union names Otey regional chairman

JACKSON — R. Trevis Otey, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, has been named regional chairman for Union University's Endowment Campaign.

Otey will lead the college's three-year effort in the 14 west Tennessee Baptist associations outside of Shelby County to raise \$5-million for endowment.

The campaign begins Oct. 1 and will be the first in the 158-year history of the college aimed at raising endowment or permanent funds for Union. The interest generated from these funds will be used for scholarships and operating expenses.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Otey is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

A former member of the board of trustees and its executive committee at Union, he also served as chairman of the west Tennessee division during the college's \$12-million capital funds campaign to relocate the campus.

On the state denominational level, Otey served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for six years and is currently on the TBC Resolutions Committee.

For six years, Otey was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is currently a member of the SBC Tellers Committee and serves on the Foreign Mission Board.



Otey

South American floods leave wake of suffering

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Months of rain and flooding have cut a swath of destruction and human suffering through South America that Southern Baptist missionaries and local Baptists are struggling to relieve.

The flooding killed more than 100 southern Brazilians, drove some 350,000 from their homes in July, left just as many Argentines homeless, caused the deaths of nearly 1,000 Peruvians over six months, and wreaked havoc in Paraguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Uruguay.

Many scientists and meteorologists are blaming the destruction on "El Nino" — "The Christ Child" — a normally gentle Pacific Ocean current that has turned savage this year. Some say last year's El Chichon volcano eruption in Mexico caused the freakish change in the current's impact on weather.

The Foreign Mission Board has dispatched more than \$634,000 to the seven countries for purchase and distribution of food, clothing, medicine, and other supplies. Funds also have financed temporary shelters and church repairs.

Floods devastated three states in southern Brazil, where missionaries are working with Brazilian Baptists to distribute food and supplies to 1,500 families, including some stranded in areas still reachable only by mission plane. Missionaries have contributed more than \$1,000 of their own money to the relief effort.

Flooding in six northeastern provinces of Argentina "has turned into both a natural and a national disaster," according to missionaries. About 350,000 people have abandoned their homes and towns or have been evacuated by the government. Water has stayed high in many areas and there is talk of permanently abandoning or relocating some cities.

"The picture is that of roads and bridges washed out, homes and factories

and farmlands being flooded, precarious housing, widespread disease, and unemployment at an all-time high," says an Argentine Baptist Mission report. Argentine home missionaries, local Baptists, and seminary student volunteers have distributed more than 800,000 pounds of food, milk, clothing, shoes, and medicine paid for by Southern Baptist relief and hunger funds.

In northern Peru, 12 feet of rain in six months dissolved adobe homes and roadways and temporarily turned that part of the country into "one huge lake," in the words of one missionary. In Peru's richest agricultural region, Piura department, rains destroyed 80 percent of an anticipated bumper crop. The department's capital, also called Piura, with 250,000 residents, was isolated from land communications for four months. Missionaries and Peruvian Baptists teamed up to provide medicine, temporary shelter, and food in the hard-hit Piura and Chiclayo areas.

Fourteen mudslides destroyed the chapel and two walls and dumped three and a half feet of mud on the Baptist encampment at Santa Eulalia, in the mountains east of Lima. Before the camp was damaged, Baptists sheltered and fed 50 refugee families whose homes had been destroyed.

The Foreign Mission Board released \$42,400 to pay the air freight to Ecuador of more than \$250,000 worth of antibiotics, cold and cough medicines, anti-parasite, and trauma medicines provided by MAP (Medical Assistance Program) International. The free medicines were distributed to flood victims through an Ecuadorean evangelical committee.

In Guayaquil, Ecuador, \$40,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds helped build a bridge, repair homes, and provide drainage pipes and badly needed landfill. Many of the materials were used in a ghetto area of 300,000 people. The assistance helped earn Ecuadorean Baptists a reputation for practicing what they preach, according to Missionary Ed Ables.

In Paraguay, more than a year of chronic flooding has plagued city and countryside alike, drowning crops and driving thousands of people into refugee camps. Some sizable communities have been evacuated permanently.

Missionaries and Paraguayan Baptists have distributed food, medicine, supplies, and plastic roofing in several areas, particularly among the Maka Indians, who lost their homes and hunting grounds to flooding. Many of the Maka now huddle in a makeshift camp near Asuncion, Paraguay's capital.

Missionaries also have aided the Lengua Indians, whose crops have been destroyed. Lengua children are "very malnourished," reports Missionary Physician Bill Skinner. He hopes \$20,000 in Southern Baptist hunger relief funds will help keep them alive until another crop

can be harvested, possibly by the end of this year.

Skinner, a native of Nashville, and Missionary Tom Kent have led medical teams into flooded areas regularly, treating patients and dispensing medicine. Baptist medical resident Gabriel Rodriguez recently treated 295 patients in two days in the Concepcion area.

Flood victims receiving aid respond to evangelistic witness, Skinner says. Of some 2,000 people aided in the city of Encarnacion, about 140 attend worship services and more than 75 have made professions of faith in Christ.

Baptist churches in Texas suffer \$2-million damages

DALLAS (BP) — Damage to Texas Baptist churches, homes, and businesses from Hurricane Alicia was more extensive than originally thought.

Communications were disrupted by the storm so it was several days before church leaders and mission directors could assess the extent of the damages.

More than 2,700 homes were destroyed or rendered unlivable by the hurricane, including about 1,400 in Galveston which took the initial brunt of the storm's 115 mph winds.

Taylor Pendley, chairman of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Church Building Recovery Task Force, estimates total damage to Texas Baptist churches will top \$2-million.

Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston, received more than \$500,000 worth of damage when high winds tore huge air-conditioning units off the roof of its new sanctuary and ripped away part of the roof. The church is scheduled to occupy the building in October. Ralph Edwards, minister of education, said he did not think the damage would delay the move.

"Initially we were guessing between \$200-300,000 in damages, but the insurance man said it would be closer to \$500,000," Edwards said. Water poured through holes left in the roof when the air-conditioning units were torn off and ruined carpet, ceiling tiles, and wall covering.

Kingspoint Baptist Church, also in the Sagemont area of Houston, lost a portion of the roof over its educational space, "leaving the classrooms in shambles," said Mickey Scott, the church's pastor.

One of more than 90 tornadoes spawned by Alicia gutted the sanctuary at Fairmont Park Baptist Church, LaPorte. Two of the church's brick walls were knocked down, allowing high winds to rip out ceiling tiles, lights, and air-conditioning ducts.

The church, which lost its entire facility in a fire seven years ago, moved into the damaged sanctuary in December 1981. "One of our deacons estimated damage at \$200,000," said Michael Sabo, minister of music.

Ironically, Iglesia Bautista of Bonita Gardens in Houston suffered only slight damage but when the power company restored the electricity, the building caught fire and burned.

Numerous other Texas Baptist churches also suffered damage, according to Pendley.

Disaster relief units from five Baptist state conventions — Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma — joined with the Red Cross to feed 100,000 meals to disaster victims the first week after the hurricane. Disaster relief units from the Alabama and Tennessee Baptist conventions replaced the Mississippi unit and one of the Oklahoma units at the end of the first week.

Many Baptists, including members of University Baptist Church in Clear Lake, who were not hit by the storm, took time off from their jobs to help their less fortunate neighbors.

Many people from that church had been volunteers following the Paris, Tex., tornado in 1982 and the series of tornadoes which devastated the Conroe-New Caney area, north of Houston, last spring.

Volunteers from across the state, including Texas A&M University and Houston area churches, helped staff the Texas Baptist Child Care units in Galveston and Baytown.

They cared for children of disaster victims who were applying for disaster relief through government agencies at the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Centers.

Despite the widespread destruction of the hurricane, there were relatively few deaths.

Lisa Norman, a 24-year-old member of Second Baptist Church, Highlands, was killed Aug. 18, when a tree fell on the car she was riding in with her husband and son. They were returning to their home after the storm, said LaNelle Neatherlin, a secretary at the church.

Explosion damages school in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — A French ammunition truck blew up in front of a building next door to the Baptist school in Beirut Aug. 25, breaking windows in the school and damaging the wall between the two buildings.

One person was killed and eight injured in the explosion, but no one was injured at the Baptist school. The building where the explosion occurred was heavily damaged.

Missionary Ed Nicholas said the blast knocked windows from the Baptist school, broke the kitchen windows of one missionary home, and blew open the wooden door on another. It also weakened the already sagging eight-foot concrete block wall between the buildings which will probably have to be taken down. Students were not at school, which is scheduled to open for a new term Oct. 4.

A contingent of French soldiers from the peacekeeping force in Lebanon were staying in the building where the explosion occurred, according to Jim Ragland, school director now on furlough in the United States. The troops came to the school yard to play basketball and "let off steam," he said.

According to news reports, a spokesman for the French contingent said an accidental fire destroyed the truck. But in Berlin, Armenian terrorists claimed they staged the fire and two other attacks to get comrades freed from French jails.

Clyde Fant accepts position to teach preaching at SEBTS

DALLAS (BP) — Clyde Fant, who resigned Aug. 16 as president of Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, will join the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Randall W. Lolley, Southeastern's president, told the Baptist Standard (Texas Baptist newspaper) Fant would teach two courses during the fall semester — "History of American Preaching" and "Preparation of Sermons."

Fant's appointment to the faculty, at the present, is only for the fall term, but Lolley expressed hope he would also be there at least through the spring semester.

Fant resigned the presidency of the European seminary, citing "family and personal reasons."

His resignation came a year after he was inaugurated as the seminary's sixth president.

Previously, Fant was pastor of First

Baptist Church, Richardson, Tex. Before that he was professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.

Lolley described a series of circumstances which had created the faculty vacancy Fant will be filling.

Southeastern's senior professor of preaching retired last year. His replacement, Tom McKibbens, a pastor from Bristol, is on a year's study leave before he joins the faculty.

V. L. Stanfield, who recently retired from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, had been employed to teach this year, but the death of Stanfield's mother and his involvement with her estate will prevent him from being at Southeastern until at least next spring.

"I got word that Clyde was coming back and called him and asked him to come," Lolley said. "I feel he is worthy of every effort to get him a forum. He can teach preaching."

EDITORIAL

The blame belongs to 'them'

Suppose your pastor stands in the pulpit next Sunday and makes such statements as:

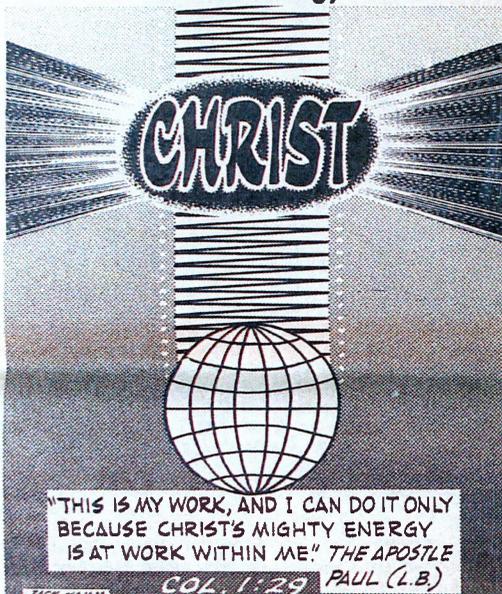
"Someone in this church is a great handicap to our ministry. This person is without question seeking to destroy our fellowship, undermine our witness, and drive the pastor and leaders away. This person's actions literally deny the truth of God."

Before these words had ceased to echo in the auditorium, most of us could present an extensive list of possible candidates for "them."

How much are we unlike the early disciples!

Jesus had gathered the 12 disciples in that upper room for His last supper with these followers before the ordeal of the crucifixion. He used the occasion to give some final teachings — both in word and action. He spoke of some significant things as recorded in John 14-16. He washed their feet, demonstrating the role of a servant.

Eternal Energy



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As they ate together, apparently without warning, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, one of you shall betray Me." No doubt they were startled. They did not fully understand that Jesus was to be taken away from them — certainly they did not think that one of their select circle would betray the Lord.

Had WE been at that meaningful meal we would have quickly started to pick out the betrayer.

As we look around the room, we can see the likely candidates for a traitor.

Peter. He is the loud-mouth bully. He has lived a rough life as a fisherman and surely has no high values. Such a showoff — hot and cold. When he is encouraged, he is great; when he is wrong, he could easily betray Jesus. Why, didn't Jesus refer to him as "Satan"?

James or John. There's an ambitious pair. They have asked to sit beside Jesus in the kingdom — and He refused to grant their wish. Jesus calls that pair "sons of thunder" because of their tempers.

Andrew. He finally got tired of being "Number 2." Everybody refers to him as "Simon Peter's brother." Maybe he found a way to make a name for himself.

Philip. He's so practical. He wants to see everything, like he said, "Show us the Father." He just might prefer the reality of some money to the promises of Jesus. Didn't he bring some Greeks to meet Jesus? Could he be letting those outsiders know who Jesus is?

Bartholomew. He's so prejudiced. The first time he met Jesus he wanted to know if anything good could come from Nazareth. Could that prejudice have grown into hate?

Matthew. A publican is a likely candidate. He's already proven that he is willing to betray his people for Roman tax money. Never trust a turncoat!

Thomas. What a skeptic! Does he accept anything without doubting questions? If he really doubts that Jesus is the Christ, he could betray Him.

James the son of Alphaeus. We call him "James the less" because of his small size. Maybe he feels inferior because of his stature and would become a betrayer to prove his power.

Thaddaeus. He's the quiet one! He never speaks — what's he thinking? Some call him "Lebbaeus" — others, "Judas, the son of James." Who is he, really?

Simon the Zealot. Does that super-patriot realize now that Jesus isn't going to liberate Judea from the Romans? These Zealots put the nation above anything or anybody!

Judas Iscariot. Old money-bags isn't from Galilee like the rest of us. He's greedy. He's a foreigner. He could be the one.

But wait. The disciples are not pointing accusing fingers at each other. One by one, each one questions the Lord, "Is it I?"

Each of the 12 was so afraid that he might be the one who would betray Jesus — either knowingly or unknowingly. They did not look at the weakness of others, but at themselves.

However, we 20th century descendants of these 12 have a different perspective. In our smug, self-righteous security we have convinced ourselves that our thoughts, our actions, and our motives are above question. From this position we question the thoughts, actions, and motives of "them" — to place the blame.

Who is at fault that you, your church, your association, your state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention are not going into all the world to proclaim the teachings of Christ?

Before we start compiling our lists, may God grant us the humility to go to Him and prayerfully ask, "Lord, is it I?"

Cicero's
comment

By the editor

"Cicero, I am here to acquaint you with an organization which you desperately need," announced M. T. Nest as he walked into my office.

"What organization?" I responded. "There are a lot of changes going on in my life right now, and I don't need any new organizations."

Nest noted that was exactly why he was here. "I am aware that your children have left home — and the nest is empty. That is true, isn't it?"

Cicero nodded. "Our older daughter, Tina, is a senior at the University of Tennessee, and last week we took the younger one, Dee, to enroll at Baylor University."

My visitor continued. "Since parents often have a hard time adjusting to the 'empty nest' syndrome, I have formed an organization called PHOOEY!"

"PHOOEY?" Cicero questioned.

"Right. Surely you have felt that way in the past week — but the name actually comes from the initials of our organization — Parents Having Only Offsprings Exiting Yon: P-H-O-O-E-Y," spelled M. T. Nest.

Cicero reacted with silence.

Nest continued. "I am not just trying to 'feather my nest' with some useless organization. When people like you face the empty nest, they sometimes react by throwing themselves either into their work or into the river. That's why we offer services for deserted parents."

Cicero wondered what services.

My visitor listed a few.

"We offer Un-Maid Service. This involves having someone come into your home on a regular basis and do such things as turning on lights in every room, unmaking the beds, leaving on the TV downstairs and the stereo upstairs, and scattering a few clothes around the room and towels around the bathroom." M. T. Nest said.

"PHOOEY also offers Routine Ring — which actually has two parts: (1) we ring your telephone every 30 minutes, so you won't think it is not working, and (2) we program your telephone to give a busy signal anytime you dial your home number."

M. T. Nest recalled that there was Futile Fuel — with someone sneaking out to my house to siphon gasoline from my car so that it will be empty when I need to go somewhere.

"Our best answer to the 'phooey' attitude is our Rent-A-Kid. For a fee, we will send a real, live child to your home to chatter, to empty the refrigerator, to ask for money, and to tie up the telephone."

I said that might help — but it was not enough.

"Not enough!" protested Nest. "What more could you want?"

Cicero replied, "What about those warm hugs — those cold nights when you sit by the fire and put jigsaw puzzles together — those notes left on the kitchen table — those smiles and slight waves from across a room — that "Way to go, Dad" when I do something right..."

M. T. Nest interrupted, "Oh, PHOOEY!"

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



I read in a recent newspaper where Sayed Abdul Mabood, an Islamic holy man from Pakistan whose passport lists his birth date as Dec. 13, 1832, has moved to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. He has come for a medical reason. Those traveling with him said that the birth date is genuine, making him more than 150 years old.

As I read the story, I wondered if anyone, in the man's century and a half of living, had ever shared with him about Jesus. I also thought about all of the things he would hear about while visiting in our country, and wondered if anyone would have the opportunity to share with him their experience with Jesus.

What significance is there to live 150 years apart from God on earth and then spend an eternity separated from God?

This was followed by still another reaction. The average age of our population is increasing and I hear many statistics about how many of our people are beyond 60 years of age.

It is easy for us to presume that people who live within the sight and sometimes literally the shadow of the church building all of their lives are Christian. The fact of the matter is that about two-thirds of any given community are not to be found in anyone's church on a given Sunday.

Surely Sayed Abdul Mabood needs to be introduced to Christ. I pray that he will be reached while he is in our Christian nation. I doubt whether any one of us will have the privilege of witnessing to him, but we can all pray for him.

There is something else we can do. We can recognize that all of those who need to be introduced to Christ do not live in Pakistan or Russia. Some of them live in Tennessee and some of them may live next door to you and to me.

Troutt to write Uniform lessons

William E. Troutt, president of Belmont College, Nashville, will write the Uniform Lesson Series commentary for the Baptist and Reflector during the next quarter. His commentary begins in this issue.

Before assuming the position as Belmont's president on June 1, 1982, Troutt had been executive vice-president since January 1981. Before that he was an advisor to colleges in long-range planning and financial development for McManis Associates of Washington, D.C. Earlier positions include assistant director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and admissions counselor at Union University, Jackson.

A native of Bolivar, Troutt is a graduate of Union University, the University of Louisville (Ky.), and George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville. He has done additional study at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



Troutt

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.

Pastors over 50?

Dear editor:

There seems to be a tacit criterion prevailing among Southern Baptists that our pastors are no longer competent to be considered seriously by pulpit search committees when they enter their "fifties." Of course, there are exceptions to this general observation, but such exceptions appear to be few.

Over the past few years, several of my peers have experienced conflict in ministry that resulted in unwarranted forced resignations or unChristian firings with no other call in sight. Three of these brothers averaged 25 years of faithful pastoral ministry. They also averaged just under two long years of professional unemployment before being called to serve again as shepherd of another flock. Each of these brothers had passed his 50th birthday.

Was it by coincidence these brothers were told by their respective state workers and/or directors of missions, "It's hard to get a pulpit committee to consider you when you are over 50"?

Historically, the American people have seldom trusted the top job in the United States government to any man who was not, at least, in his sixties. Our current president was over 70 when he was elected by a landslide.

This poses a baffling question for me. How can or why should a church body/pulpit search committee be reluctant to issue a call to a physically healthy, emotionally mature, well-qualified administrator with 25 to 30 years of experience in pastoral ministry and a minimum of five to 10 years or more (God willing) of sound pastoral leadership yet to be given?

Why are good men being "let out to pasture" when their years of most meaningful pastoral ministry are yet to be tapped?

Jack Altman
P. O. Box 2215
Cumberland, MD 21502

Send no money

Dear editor:

The solicitation of money via television "ministries" has reached a flagrant state of abuse.

Recently I turned on a well-known religious show and in one 28-minute segment was asked for money 31 times. I can remember when a televised religious meeting ended with the discreet reminder that "your faithfulness in standing with us makes this broadcast possible." What a contrast to the media hype ministries of today.

My stand is a simple one. It is an abuse when programming claims to be religious in content, but is actually a fund raising telethon whose main goal is raising enough money so that an even wider audience can be subjected to yet more appeals.

I am tired of video preachers begging for money on television from dawn to midnight, and calling it the gospel.

I am tired of God's name being used to validate all sorts of ridiculous promises "if you will only send money." Recently I heard this one: "If you send us \$100 today, God will give you \$1,000 by the end of the week — or a Cadillac, or pay the

rent, etc." This is pure and simple hogwash designed to bilk the hopeless and helpless.

As a minister, I am disturbed that the public image of modern Christianity has been taken from the responsibly trained clergy. Using slick media techniques, "ministers" with little or no real training — responsible to no one but themselves — can propagate the most ludicrous notions and leave the human wreckage of their handiwork to be salvaged by the quiet pastors and counselors of our land. What's the solution to this abuse? simple: keep your money at home. Find a local congregation and support it financially. Christians existing in communities of supportive believers have done right well in our history — even before television.

James W. Watkins
8801 Walnut Grove Rd.
Cordova, TN 38018

Indecent advertising

Dear editor:

I find it appalling the kinds of advertising used by many prominent businesses. The use of models to advertise items in manners that should embarrass most modest customers. I find it very disturbing when my wife and I cannot open an advertising circular or a business bulletin without being exposed to men and women in sometimes very expository undergarments.

It is almost to the point some sales catalogues are only a step away from pornographically developed magazines.

I challenge my fellow Christians to screen advertising catalogues and mail order catalogues for such indecent advertising and then to boycott those companies or stores that use models to exploit common decency.

Tim Perry
Rt. 6
Elizabethton, TN 37643

State sight-impaired vote to form Tennessee Baptist blind fellowship

Thirty-six blind persons, meeting at Haywood Hills Baptist Church in Nashville Aug. 19-20, has formed a fellowship group for sight-impaired Baptists in the state.

The group, to be called the Tennessee Baptist Fellowship for the Blind, was born during a two-day gathering coordinated by Jarvis Hearn, program associate in the missions department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

AHA names Powell delegate-at-large

MEMPHIS — Baptist Memorial Hospital's president, Joseph H. Powell, has been chosen as a delegate-at-large of the 6,300-member American Hospital Association.

Powell, president of the 2,068-bed Baptist hospital since 1980, will serve a two-year term on the House of Delegates, highest policy-making of the AHA, beginning Jan. 1, 1984.

The not-for-profit AHA serves as a national advocate for hospitals, provides education and information for its members, and keeps the public informed about hospital and other health care issues.

Citizen's Corner

By Jerry Self
Public Affairs and
Christian Life
Consultant



Last week the Senate Alcoholic Beverage Study Committee conducted a hearing on the bill which would raise the drinking age in Tennessee from 19 to 21.

During the hearing the committee members heard testimony from various individuals representing several groups who are concerned about the problem of teenagers driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Several of those who testified made note of the fact that every age group in the United States has increased its life expectancy rate with the exception of those in the age range of 15 to 24. The major cause of death of these young people is alcohol-related automobile accidents.

According to a representative of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) there are four steps necessary to address the problem of teen drunk driving. They are: raise the age of access to alcohol to 21, put pictures on the drivers' licenses, have a good alcohol and drug abuse education program in the schools, and provide stiffer penalties for driving under the influence.

The major point lacking in Tennessee would be the first, raising the age of access to alcohol.

The committee several times has raised a question about statistics. The information presented to them rather consistently speaks of a problem in the age range of 15 to 24. But the bill before the General Assembly attempts to raise the age of access to alcohol from 19 to 21. Committee members have questioned whether the information they have received is too broad to help them make a decision about the rights of 19- and 20-year-olds to have access to alcohol legally.

Elected to lead the fellowship were Charles Covey, a member of Haywood Hills, as president; Robert Guerard, pastor of Saint Mary's Baptist Church and Brown Chapel Baptist Church, both of McMinnville, as vice-president; and Sharon Bragg, also a member of Haywood Hills, as secretary-treasurer. The group also elected members for a constitution committee and a time and place committee.

"The Haywood Hills meeting was the first time the TBC has attempted to bring the state's blind Baptists together for a meeting," Hearn stated. "We were quite pleased with the turnout."

Hearn, who records the Baptist and Reflector on tape for persons unable to read the regular edition, said that ministry, now in its second year, was used as the basis for announcing the meeting.

Participating on the program of the initial meeting were Guerard; Gordon Dykes, a lay evangelist from Knoxville; Cecil Ethridge, of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.; Carroll Owen, director of the TBC convention ministries division; Faye Burgess, a Nashville music evangelist; and Roger Shelton, pastor of the Haywood Hills church.

According to Hearn, the fellowship plans to hold a similar meeting annually.

Prayer aids recovery of 'other Brandon'

By Brenda S. Hall

TOPEKA, Kan. (BP) — Sixteen-month-old Brandon Botts is taking swimming lessons this summer, natively turned out in red trunks and a brief terrycloth top. He splashes enthusiastically when his mother lowers him into the water.

A thin scar stretching part way across his rotund abdomen is the only obvious evidence of the ordeal Brandon and his parents, Robert and Beverly, have undergone in the past 14 months.

Brandon Botts shares not only the same name and age, but also the same ailment as Brandon Hall, a Memphis toddler who captured national media attention in May when his struggle for life ended days after a liver transplant.

Both were born with biliary atresia, a disorder that occurs in one in 8,000-10,000 live births when a child is born without liver ducts which drain into the intestine. The prognosis is grim: the disease claims 75 percent of its victims, most within their first year.

Brandon Botts, a cheerful, chunky 25-pounder who is growing and developing normally for a child his age, is among the 25 percent who survive biliary atresia. His doctors can offer no scien-

tific explanation but his parents believe Brandon's recovery has happened as a result of the prayers of the many people who knew of his condition.

During Brandon's eight-week checkup in June 1982, Pediatrician Dennis Cooley noticed Brandon was jaundiced. When blood tests showed an abnormally high bilirubin count, Brandon was hospitalized for more tests and three days later was taken to a Kansas City, Mo., hospital for surgery to create the needed ducts.

The family was told the surgery was risky. Half the children who have it never lose the jaundice and die within a year. Another 25 percent lose the jaundice but it returns later, the liver fails and death results. The remaining 25 percent recover completely.

Friends filled the waiting room while Brandon was in surgery. Others from across the U.S. stayed in touch by phone. "There were people praying for him all over the country," Mrs. Botts said. Even teenagers working with Terry McIlvain, Mrs. Botts' supervisor, on a joint youth summer mission project in Nebraska, waited for news to pass along to their home churches.

Brandon remained at the hospital for

nearly two weeks. Friends Bob and Kristen Gray Desbien of Kansas City, who were attending the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, left their home and a car available to the Bottses.

"People were sympathetic and concerned and very supportive," Mrs. Botts said. "We didn't get any comments like, 'If you've got enough faith, Brandon will be healed.' Rather, people encouraged us by saying things like 'If it's the Lord's will that Brandon will be all right, then he will be,'" she said.

Eight weeks after the operation Brandon's bilirubin count dropped only to 8.5. It had been 8.0 before surgery and 11.0 immediately afterwards. Normal is between .5 and 1.

The surgeon told them any positive sign about Brandon's condition should have appeared by then. In his 20 years as pediatric surgeon he had known only one child who had gone longer than eight weeks before a positive sign appeared, Mrs. Botts said.

"He didn't give us any hope at all," she said. "He told us, 'You can hope, but don't expect anything.' He was very honest with us." That was when the Bottses "told the Lord we'd tell what happened to Brandon, whatever the outcome would be."

In following months, Brandon had periodic checkups and experienced the minor health problems usual for children his age. "About the only sign that would show Brandon's improvement was lessening of the jaundice. We also were given a description of symptoms that would appear as his condition worsened. They were pretty gruesome," Mrs. Botts said.

The Bottses determined early on to live as normal a life as possible and do their best not to be overly-protective of their son.

"We had our days. Some days one of us would fall apart and some days both of us would. At least for me, from the very beginning, I felt Brandon would be all right. I still do. That doesn't mean I thought it would be easy. It hasn't been," Mrs. Botts admitted.

She returned on a part-time basis to her job as secretary in the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists' youth evangelism department, and Bob continued his work as a general agent for an insurance company. Brandon stayed with several other children at a sitter's while his mother worked.

"There wouldn't be any purpose in altering our lifestyle so dramatically that all we did was sit and watch Brandon. And it wouldn't have done Brandon

any good. We felt even his being at home with me day in and day out would have deprived him of contact with other people, especially children his own age," Mrs. Botts said.

The Bottses followed through with plans to take a business-related trip to Greece ("Because we needed it for ourselves as a couple"). Mrs. Bottses' mother, Mrs. Annie Dixon, and her aunt, Mrs. Julie Herrington, came to Topeka from Dublin, Ga., to stay with Brandon.

The months passed. At Brandon's nine-month checkup, Cooley thought he looked less jaundiced than usual and ordered another blood test. It showed the bilirubin count had dropped to .9. By Brandon's 12-month checkup, the count had dropped still further to .8.

The Bottses are grateful for Brandon's recovery, but know there still could be problems. Brandon's liver and spleen are enlarged and therefore more susceptible to damage. A liver transplant remains a possibility, should it become necessary to save Brandon's life.

After Brandon Hall's death following his liver transplant, the Bottses remembered their decision to tell their Brandon's story. They discussed it with their pastor, Gene Hawkins, of Topeka's First Southern Baptist Church. Hawkins, in turn, contacted the Topeka Capital-Journal and later that week a story and photo of Brandon appeared on the front page. Response to the article has been positive, the Bottses said.

They were encouraged by a letter from a Sublette, Kan., woman who told them her 10-year-old son, born with biliary atresia, had undergone three operations, now plays football and baseball, and leads a life normal for a boy his age.

"It will never be over (the possibility of future problems). It'll still come back to us on occasion," said Mrs. Botts. "But we have come to the place where we can let it rest with the Lord, and we want people to know that sometimes good things happen."

—Brenda Hall is editorial assistant on the Baptist Digest, news publication of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

Georgia congregation sees growth by multiplication

By Pat Yount

ATLANTA (BP) — In the age of the modern super-church, Dunwoody Baptist Church has an unusual idea about growth; it does not necessarily mean getting bigger.

Though located in an affluent Atlanta suburb with potential for a burgeoning church roster, Dunwoody has chosen to give part of its growth away.

Pastor Jim Chavis and his staff have led the 23-year-old church into the "Decade of Destiny," a plan that includes starting three new churches in the 10-year period, 1980-1990.

Starting new churches is only one of seven programs in Dunwoody's total plan. Other programs include counseling services, Christian education facilities, a conference center, a media center, even a retirement community.

The dream which produced the Decade of Destiny began for Chavis on a 1977 Holy Land trip. At the Garden Tomb, he saw in a new way "the reality of what I had been teaching and preaching, and it literally overwhelmed me," he said.

Once home, Chavis turned his reality into a vision for an entire congregation. "It was a question of building an ecclesiastical empire at Dunwoody, or going in another direction," he explained. "And I knew the Lord wanted us to go the other direction."

Over the next two years the church staff shaped the dream, and in 1979 the congregation adopted their Decade of Destiny proposal. The church called Marion Hayes, home missionary in Providence, R.I., to serve in a newly-created minister of missions position. His prime responsibility is to start and develop new congregations.

On March 22, 1982, the first meeting of the Peachtree Corners Baptist congregation was held in the Hayes' living room with 15 people attending. On October 31, newly-called pastor Doug Turner led 180 in worship.

"One man said this was the first

church he had ever seen born standing up and running," Hayes recalled.

With the first mission on its feet, Hayes was ready to launch the second mission. On Jan. 16, 1983, another group met in the Hayes' living room to discuss start-up plans. For Hayes, the transition is "a bittersweet situation in that you develop a relationship, and then all of a sudden that relationship is severed."

Hayes' work as church-starter opens doors for Dunwoody members to minister. Chavis explained, "Within every congregation, I believe God has people who are church-starters. They like the excitement of a new church. The church-starter just locates them."

Jack Redford, director of the Home Mission Board's Church Extension Division, praises Dunwoody's efforts in church-starting. "Here is a strong church that reached over, started a new church, supplied a pastor, and did it!" he declared. "It's something we'd like to see multiplied a thousand times."

—Adapted from the March-April 1983 issue of Missions USA magazine.

Artist gets 'ticket to heaven'

AOMORI, Japan (BP) — The elderly Japanese gentleman calmly requested an appointment to buy "a ticket to heaven."

Southern Baptist Missionaries Don and Joyce Heiss pressed him for more information since Christian conversions come slowly in conservative northern Japan.

Shunzo Nishizawa, 84, said he had been told years before by another missionary "that there was a place called heaven and Jesus Christ had tickets." He wanted Heiss to introduce him to this Jesus Christ.

The missionary visited Nishizawa, explained the plan of salvation, and led him to become a Christian.

Only later did the Heisses discover Nishizawa is a living "national treasure" — designated as such by the Japanese government for his national renown as a painter, calligrapher, and teacher of artists.

Just before the Heisses returned recently to the United States for furlough, the artist sent his daughter with a gift painting and a message.

"He said," related Mrs. Heiss, "if he didn't see us again he would see us in heaven."

Tim Grooms earns RA service awards

Tim Grooms of Newport has completed five Royal Ambassador Service Aide Awards in the areas of education, worship, ministry, application, and witness.

The award requires a minimum of 750 hours of service and work in the Royal Ambassador program. It carries with it a scholarship to any of the participating Southern Baptist colleges. Grooms is eligible to receive a \$1,200 scholarship for these five service aides and the "National Service Aide Award" from the Brotherhood Commission.

He is an active member of Riverview Baptist Church, Newport, where he is an assistant RA counselor, a member of the mission action team, a participant in the puppet ministry, and a church usher. He has served as a counselor at Tennessee Royal Ambassador camp for three years.



Grooms

Union to offer Bible classes in five locations this fall

JACKSON — Five Bible classes leading to the diploma in pastoral ministries or Christian leadership will be offered through five Union University Seminary Extension Center locations this fall.

Registration for the classes, which will be conducted in Brownsville, Huntingdon, Jackson, Martin, and Trenton, will be held beginning this week.

The classes will meet one night each week for 13 weeks from 7-9 p.m. Up to eight semester hours of work may be transferred from the program to Union for college credit.

Curriculum recommended by the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department is serving as curriculum for the center. Regular college entrance requirements are being waived for the program.

At the college in Jackson, "1 Corinthians" will be taught by Alvin Gilliland, retired pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Jackson. Registration was to be held Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. at Union.

In Huntingdon, "Pastoral Care" will be taught at the Carroll-Benton County Associational Missions Center. Registration was scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 30. Jim Gaines, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dresden, will teach the Monday course.

For individuals in Gibson County, "Old Testament Survey, Part 3" will be taught by Bill Northcott, pastor of Bradford's First Baptist Church. Registration

for the Thursday class will be Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Gibson County Baptist Associational Mission Center in Trenton, where classes will meet.

"Hebrews" will be offered on Thursdays for individuals in the Weakley-Beulah association area in northwest Tennessee. Registration will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 8 at First Baptist Church in Martin, where classes will meet. Mike Adams, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fulton, Ky., will serve as instructor.

At Calvary Baptist Church in Brownsville, "Old Testament Survey, Part 3" will be taught on Mondays. Ronnie Davidson, the church's pastor, will serve as instructor. Registration will be Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.

Hubert Tatum dies Aug. 19 in Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Hubert R. Tatum, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Hawaii, died Aug. 19 of cancer. He was 66 years old.

The Georgia native started churches, helped organize the Windward Baptist Association, and served as director of development and public relations for Hawaii Baptist Academy.

Tatum served for 28 years after he and his wife, the former Margaret Gasteiger of Bramer, Tenn., were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1949. He was one of several missionaries "on loan" to Hawaii Baptists after Hawaii became a state.

He worked with churches in Hilo, on the island of Hawaii, during his first seven years as a missionary. In 1956 he moved to the island of Oahu to minister to a new congregation in Kailua, a former resort village near Honolulu. Under his leadership as pastor, Kailua Baptist Church grew from a charter membership of 44 to more than 400 members.

In 1965 Tatum joined Hawaii Baptist Academy, a primary and secondary school, to head a major program of building and expansion. He worked there until he retired in 1977.

Born in Cornelia, Ga., Tatum was a graduate of Columbia (S.C.) Bible College; Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth, Tex.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He is survived by his wife, who resides in Honolulu; two daughters; four brothers; and two sisters.

Simpson accepts position at Union

JACKSON — Robert Simpson, former accounting clerk at Jackson National Bank, has been named assistant vice-president for business affairs at Union University, effective Aug. 1.

His responsibilities at the college include supervision of accounts payable, purchasing, accounting, and preparation of audit.

Simpson replaces Dana Northcut who resigned to pursue a master's in business at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Northcut had been an employee of the college since 1979.

A 1980 graduate of Union University in business administration, Simpson is currently working toward a master's in business management at Memphis State University.

Historical Commission receives Lottie Moon letter, photograph

NASHVILLE (BP) — "It is a burning shame that men can shoot innocent people (or guilty ones) and hide under the U.S. flag," wrote Lottie Moon, pioneer missionary to China.

Her 1907 letter referred to an American citizen in China who allegedly murdered a native Chinese. Moon wrote to fellow Missionary Peyton Stephens and suggested he go to the American Embassy in China and express displeasure the alleged murderer might use his American citizenship to lessen possible judicial measures against him.

Moon's tattered and yellowed letter, which also discusses purchasing turnip seeds, was donated to the Southern Baptist Historical Commission by Fleeta Stephens, the daughter-in-law of Peyton Stephens.

Mrs. Stephens of Columbia, Mo., informed the Nashville-based Historical Commission the letter and a photograph of Moon had been "tucked away in a drawer" since her father-in-law's death in 1950. After her husband's death last year, she decided to make Moon's letter

and photograph available for research.

"We're interested in collecting missionary documents which detail the lives of Southern Baptist missionaries," said new Dargan-Carver Library archivist, Bill Summers. "We have missionaries that have served for a long, long time. Their papers have great significance in documenting their lives and work."

The Dargan-Carver Library, owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and the Baptist Sunday School Board, possesses the largest collection of Southern Baptist historical and research materials in the world.

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Announcing Tennessee's First

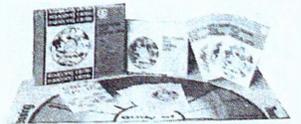
EC equipping centers showcase

Wallace Memorial Baptist Church
701 Merchant Road
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Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1983
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- This showcase enables participants to receive an overview of and have a learning experience in the use of Equipping Center Modules
 - There are six Equipping Center subject areas:
Evangelism and Missions Leadership
Family Life Church and Community
Christian Doctrine Christian Growth
 - There are 32 modules available, 25 of them to be showcased.
 - These are excellent studies for Church Training, Leadership Training, Staff and Church Retreats and Special Interest Teaching/Learning Experiences.
- Showcase is for church staff and all interested adults.

Showcase Schedule

- 9:00 Coffee and Doughnuts
- 9:30 First Session (Six Modules)
- 10:30 Break — Baptist Book Store open
- 10:45 Second Session (Seven Modules)
- 11:50 Free Lunch — Book Store open
- 1:00 Third Session (Six Modules)
- 2:00 Break — Book Store open
- 2:20 Fourth Session (Six Modules)
- 3:20 Break — Recess
- 6:45 Coffee
- 7:10 Fifth Showcase (Six Modules)
- 8:10 Break
- 8:20 Sixth Showcase (Six Modules)
- 9:30 Adjourn



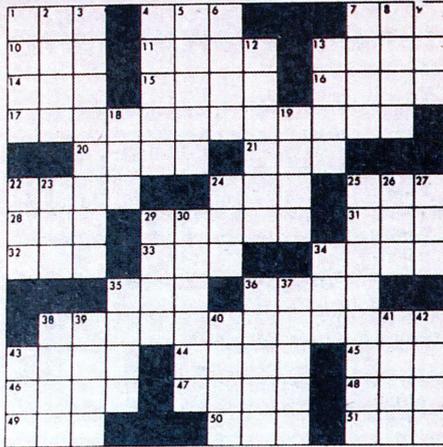
Jointly sponsored by the Knox County Association of Baptists, the church training department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the church training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

SPECIAL SALE

The price of all Equipping Center Modules will be discounted 20 percent at this showcase

Bible Puzzle

Answers on page 10



50 Retired: abbr.
51 — of lions (Dan. 6:19)

DOWN

- 1 Stag
- 2 Jabal's mother (Gen. 4:20)
- 3 "Can two walk —" (Amos 3:3)
- 4 Delete
- 5 "Deborah and —" (Judg. 5:1)
- 6 October birthstone
- 7 Union, political
- 8 Bicarbonate
- 9 Used up, depleted
- 12 Doubting — (John 20:27)
- 13 Baby's bed
- 18 Senora: abbr.
- 19 Eyes, ears and —
- 22 Tokyo, old name
- 23 More!
- 24 Chance
- 25 "— with oil" (Ex. 29:2)
- 26 Combining forms: boundary
- 27 Hole
- 29 Goat, wild
- 30 "spoken by —" (Matt. 4:14)
- 34 Even
- 35 Dishan's son (1 Ch. 1:42)
- 36 Mud
- 37 "Why — ye me" (Matt. 22:18)
- 38 Armor, skirt
- 39 Esau's father-in-law (Gen. 36:2)
- 40 Dim
- 41 "forty stripes — one" (2 Cor. 11:24)
- 42 Foul (Lev. 11:18)
- 43 Bridle

ACROSS

- 1 Head wear
- 4 Central American tree
- 7 Boy Scouts of America: abbr.
- 10 "Why make ye this —" (Mark 5:39)
- 11 Intent
- 13 Blood —
- 14 Filthy —, sing. (Isa. 64:6)
- 15 Ulla's son (1 Ch. 7:39)
- 16 "she — on the ass" (1 Sa. 25:20)
- 17 City (Phil. 4:16)
- 20 Journey
- 21 Crowd
- 22 Hebrew measure
- 24 Pres. 3rd sing. of have
- 25 "the — of the house" (1 Sa. 9:26)
- 28 "Jesus should —" (John 11:51)
- 29 Razz
- 31 Gad's son (Gen. 46:16)
- 32 "— company" (Luke 24:22)
- 33 Viper
- 34 Eject
- 35 American Institute of Architects: abbr.
- 36 "If my —" (Job 31:7)
- 38 "with great —" (Deut. 26:8)
- 43 Geological epoch
- 44 Moslem teacher
- 45 Uncooked
- 46 Image, religious
- 47 Cesspool
- 48 — Gabor
- 49 Number after nine

CRYPTOVERSE

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NC ZJB

Today's Cryptoverse clue: P equals T

Southern Baptists prepare for '84 Olympics in L.A.

By Todd Turner

LOS ANGELES (BP) — In less than one year, Los Angeles will host the 33rd Olympiad Summer Games.

The city already is swarming in preparation for the games, scheduled July 28 through Aug. 12, 1984. Work crews are covering freeway graffiti with scenic murals. Businesses are churning out "official Olympic products" from neckties to seat cushions, anticipating their share of the \$3.3-billion tourists are expected to spend. And local residents are planning vacations so they can rent their homes to visitors for thousands of dollars during the 16-day event.

Southern Baptists also are working to participate through the Summer Games Ministries (SGM), a joint venture of the Home Mission Board, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, and six local associations.

Four years ago, L.G. Chaddick, Los Angeles-area Christian social ministries director, began dreaming of ways Southern Baptists could minister during the Olympics. He visited the Baptist ministry at the 1980 winter games at Lake Placid, N.Y., and talked to the Home Mission Board about backing a similar

project in Los Angeles.

Elmer Goble, one-time Olympic hopeful in swimming, agreed to take a two-year leave of absence as campus minister at Arkansas' Ouachita Baptist University to coordinate the summer games ministries. US-2 Missionaries Kevin and Brenda Collins from Unionville, Mo., joined Goble as staff assistants.

One of their first jobs was locating an office. Unlike other Olympics, where there was one main site for all events, the 1984 games will be spread over 22 sites throughout a 200-mile radius.

After much searching, the SGM team rented a 1800-square-foot facility a half block from the University of Southern California campus, where most events will take place. Even though it needed renovation, the building's rent was right, the location good. Work was soon underway to convert it into an office/hospitality center.

The team also held brainstorming sessions with interested pastors and lay persons to map out a strategy for meeting the needs of millions of Olympic visitors.

Their first and foremost goal, Goble explained, will be to "evangelize through ministry." They also will aim to increase missions awareness among area Southern Baptists and to improve Baptists' credibility in southern California.

Because the games are so spread out, the ministry will involve people from many congregations, Goble said. He stressed SGM will operate as an extension of the local churches rather than as a separate entity.

Specific jobs have been divided among 18 task groups. Goble foresees one of the most active groups will be that responsible for off-site ministries. These volunteers will work at hotels and campsites, as well as plan evening activities at local churches.

Other ministries will include providing aid, tours, transportation and housing, and witnessing to the expected one-million daily visitors.

Because of the SGM office's strategic location, it will be used as a hospitality center, providing meals in a coffeehouse atmosphere, as well as doubling as a crisis center. Travelers' Aid estimates 80 percent of Olympic visitors, or 80,000 persons daily, will have some sort of crisis need.

The use of church parking near Olympic sites and church buses are being examined as a way to help alleviate the expected traffic nightmares, Goble reported. Plans are being laid to offer "bed and breakfast" accommodations for visitors in the homes of local Baptists.

This summer, seven summer missionaries joined the SGM staff to help renovate the building and work with area churches. They started a "Sunshine Club," a backyard Bible club for children living around the SGM headquarters. This fall, a student semester missionary, another US-2er, and assorted Mission Service Corps and Innovator volunteers will take their place.

Goble noted SGM has placed a high priority on establishing ministries that can be carried on after the Olympics. Many, such as the Sunshine Club, are already underway. SGM staff will also "lean heavily" on outside volunteer groups to staff various projects, he said. —Turner is a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the Summer Games Ministries.

Students to aid Tennessee BSUs

Two students will serve on Tennessee college campuses during the academic year as seminary interns, assisting Baptist Student Union directors.

The program offers seminary students an opportunity to be involved in a ministry situation which integrates academic learning and practical experience.

Roy Paul Hodge, a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., will return to his alma mater, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, to assist Ircel C. Harrison, director of religious activities. His main responsibilities will be outreach ministries and work with college freshmen. This is the first year for an intern program at Carson-Newman. Hodge is a native of Loudon.

Steve Hixson, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will work at Tennessee Technological Institute, Cookeville, with Dan Haskins, BSU director. Hixson is a native of Chattanooga and a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Others who will assist BSU directors on other Tennessee campuses in the BSU program are: Darrell Coshatt of Alabama, who will continue his work with BSU Director Jim Sparks, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; Debbie Harned, Belmont College, Nashville, assisting Suzanne Matheny, director and coordinator of campus ministries; and Tim Patterson, who will work with BSU Director Adam Hall, University of Tennessee at Martin, as specialist with international students.

Beulah Oldham will work with black students at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, assisting Jim Alexander, BSU director. Walker Wright, former graduate assistant to Memphis State University BSU Director Ron Hawkins, will be a special assistant this year with interests in ministries to the black students.

S.S. meeting set for Chattanooga

Concord Baptist Church, Chattanooga, will host the fourth of six state Sunday School leadership conventions sponsored by the Sunday School department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Chattanooga convention is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 12 and 13. Stuart Arnold, pastor of Citadel Square Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., will speak to the group on Sept. 13.

Seventeen age-group and special-interest conferences will be featured both nights.

State-approved conference leaders include Jill Adkins, Stuart Arnold, Lyn Brasfield, Bertie Cox, Norma Dean, Ve Finley, June Goodwin, Dot Hammatt, Ann Hart, Jim Meriwether, Sharon Meriman, Eddie Neely, Steve Peek, Frances Price, Wendell Price, Sandy Savage, and Ted Taylor.

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PEOPLE . . .

Phillip O'Neill Lawrence, minister of music, youth, and education at West Memorial Baptist Church in Saulsbury, was ordained to the ministry Aug. 13 by the West Memorial church. Lawrence, who will become pastor of Sharp's Corner Baptist Mission in South Dakota, was previously minister of music at First Baptist Church, Hermitage. The moderator for the ordination service was Jack Carver, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Middleton, while Slade Johnson, pastor of the Hermitage church delivered the ordination sermon. Sam Howell is the interim pastor of the Saulsbury church.

Henry Baptist Church, Henry, ordained James Hastings as a deacon Aug. 14. The pastor of the church is Boyd Bowers.

LEADERSHIP . . .

Benny Bond resigned as minister of education at Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville, to accept a call from First Baptist Church, Edmond, Okla., to come as its associate pastor. Bob Mowrey is the pastor of the Nashville church.

First Baptist Church, Newport, called A. Bruce Coyle as interim pastor.

Dennis Ludwick accepted a call from Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, to come as minister of education. The pastor of the church is Filmore Strunk.

Hanna Baptist Church, Prospect, accepted the resignation of Pastor Neal Price, which is effective Aug. 31.

Larry Bryant was called as minister of education and youth and children's church pastor by Calvary Baptist Church, Lenoir City. Milton E. Hines is the church's pastor.

Galilee Baptist Church, Knoxville, called John M. Maples as minister of music and youth. Maples, who began the position Aug. 15, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. The pastor of the church is George W. Gilbert.

HCBA names Smith

SEYMOUR - Barry F. Smith has been named as head basketball coach and mathematics teacher at Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, effective Aug. 22.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Smith has held teaching and coaching positions in several east Tennessee schools. Most recently, he taught mathematics and assisted with the football and basketball programs at Horace Maynard High School in Maynardville.

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Steve Gallimore accepted a call from Springhill Baptist Church, Paris, to come as minister of music. Lynn Paschall is the pastor of the church.

Central Baptist Church, Crossville, called Bill Selecman to come as interim pastor.

Mike Nason accepted a call to come as minister of music and youth at Whitten Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis. Nason was previously associate pastor, youth/recreation, at Southland Baptist Church in Memphis. The pastor at Whitten Memorial is Kenneth Bruce.

Audubon Park Baptist Church, Memphis, called Leroy Lane as minister of education and administration. Howard Kolb is the church's pastor.

Richard Dickerson was called as minister of music and youth by First Baptist Church, Union City, after serving the church in the position on an interim basis. Dickerson is a former minister of music and youth at Covington Pike Baptist Church, Memphis, and is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville, called Terry Fulbright as minister of music and education. The church's pastor is Marvin E. Hines.

Wallace Hester was called as interim pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Black Oak Baptist Church, Clinton, accepted the recent resignation of its minister of youth, Scotty Carter. Rodney Burnette is the pastor of the church.

Gary Hinton resigned as minister of youth at Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville. The pastor of the church is David C. George.

MISSIONS PROJECTS . . .

Fourteen persons from eight west Tennessee churches worked with Bethel Baptist Church, Niles, Mich., recently in conducting three backyard Bible clubs and a revival. Participating were Joann West of First Baptist Church, Atwood; Barney Anderson of First Baptist Church, Camden; Virginia Livingston and Mildred Kennon of East Side Baptist Church, Camden; George and Lanelle Cook of Howse Baptist Church, Atwood; H. B. and Helen Fisher of First Baptist

Church, Humboldt; James E. Humphreys, director of missions for the Carroll-Benton Baptist Association and member of First Baptist Church, Huntington; Ann and Kevin Kerr of First Baptist Church, McKenzie; John Norville of Southside Baptist Church, Martin; and J. G. and Betty Wise, First Baptist Church, Trezevant. The project resulted in 22 professions of faith through the Bible clubs and one addition to the church by baptism.

REVIVALS . . .

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Union City, was led in a recent revival by Robert Wright of Adwana, Mo., as evangelist and Allen Smith of Troy as music director. John A. Harrison, pastor of the church, reported eight professions of faith, two new members by letter, one new member by statement, and 21 rededications.

An Aug. 7-12 revival at Welcome Valley Baptist Church, Pulaski, resulted in one profession of faith. Argene Hughes was the evangelist for the services; Doyle Smith is the pastor of the church.

C-N graduate receives SBTS preaching award

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - David Moore, a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, is one of three students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to receive the 1983 Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Award.

As a winner of the award, Moore was invited to preach during a recent chapel service on the seminary campus. A theology-social work major, Moore is a native of New York.

The preaching awards, given to honor outstanding sermons by Southern seminary students, are in memory of Clyde T. Francisco, professor of Old Testament at Southern, who died in 1981.

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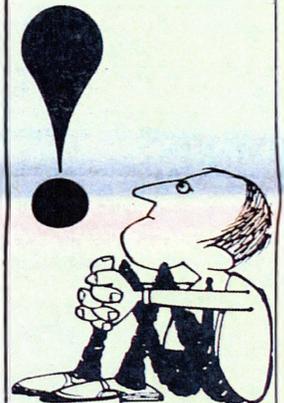
Slade Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hermitage, led West Memorial Baptist Church, Saulsbury, in revival Aug. 14-19. The church recorded 42 decisions. Phil Lawrence, minister of music, youth, and education at West Memorial, led the revival music; Sam Howell is the interim pastor of the church.

A July 31 through Aug. 6 revival at Liberty Hill Baptist Church, Ethridge, resulted in three professions of faith and one new member by letter. Milton Hicks was the evangelist; Cleo Bunt is the church's pastor.

Minnow Branch Baptist Church, Lynnville, was led in revival Aug. 7-12 by Dell Sewell as the evangelist. Pastor Elmer Howell reported one profession of faith as a result of the services.

W. F. Cox led Rock Springs Baptist Church, Pulaski, in revival services July 17-23. The church recorded five professions of faith, one new member by letter, and one rededication. Steve Nave is the pastor of the church.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Sept. 4

Making life better

By Fred M. Wood
author, preacher, teacher, Memphis

Basic Passage: Ecclesiastes 7:1 to 8:15
Focal Passages: Ecclesiastes 7:2-3, 8-10, 13-14, 21-23, 29; 8:2, 14-15

If we had to choose a word to describe our modern world and those who live in it, perhaps "frustrated" would be the best word to use.

Sometimes we feel that nothing we do is right and nothing we try works.

Someone jokingly told of a new toy that helps prepare children for life. It is a puzzle so designed that any way you put it together, it is wrong!

As the "preacher" examined many approaches he had used in an attempt to make life better, he was disappointed. He had tried to follow the teachings of the wise men, but somehow they did not satisfy his quest for meaning in life.

Ecclesiastes 7 and 8 give his reflections on life in general and certain problems in particular. This week's focal passages deal with matters that face all of us as we seek to live in our complex society.

Sorrow and patience are two better ways
(7:2-3, 8-10)

Most of us enjoy the times of prosperity and pleasure more than the moments of grief, but the "preacher" discovered that the latter makes a more qualitative contribution to life.

The Jews had a practice of mourning for seven days after the burial of a near relative or a close friend. When one visited the mourner, he was performing a meritorious act. The reward was twofold. First, the one in bereavement was helped, but also the "comforter" was reminded of life's brevity and frailty.

Sorrow teaches us more and greater lessons than pleasure. Often, our tears can become telescopes by which we see more clearly the things that matter most.

Equal in importance with sorrow in developing character is patience. Often a by-product of sorrow, patience teaches us that everything good does not come immediately. The truly worthwhile things of life are worth the wait.

"Thing" in verse 8 probably should be translated "word." "Better is the end of a word than the beginning." This emphasizes the importance of watching our tongue carefully in order that we do not offend by a hasty use of it.

All the better ways still leave life a confusing mixture (7:13-14)

The more we examine, sometimes the more perplexed we become. The wise course is to cease speculation about

things that we cannot control or change. When good days come, we should be happy, but when we are called upon to go through a time of unpleasantness, we should not grow morbid about it.

God never planned nor promised to make human life an unbroken spell of either happiness or calamity. They both are constituents of life and interchange on His scheme of things. Accept what you cannot change and smile as you do it! Do not be excessively worried when times are bad!

Moderation is a better way (7:21-22)

Since all of us have faults, we are sometimes too anxious to know what others think of us.

A wise man once said, "When I was 20, I was worried about what the world thought about me. When I was 30, I decided I didn't care what the world thought about me. Now that I'm 50, I have discovered the world is not even thinking about me."

To be too concerned about what people are saying about us is not good. A person's sins, not his good deeds, are more likely to be the topic of conversation among people. When we hear criticism, we are tempted to retaliate. Therefore, keep a low profile and be happier!

Moderation never made any person wise and good (7:23-29)

The "preacher" investigated all the various insights and techniques of the wisdom movement and found none of them really brought perfection of character. He also concluded that man is responsible for his own wickedness.

God gives us all opportunities, but some do more with them than others. We cannot attain character by being passive. Active participation in life's events develops character.

Obedience to the king is a better way
(8:2)

Those who respect authority are much happier and find themselves able to advance in society. Though obedience may sometimes limit us and prevent our doing some things we wish, we are freer and more useful in society if we stay within the guidelines of properly established authority in the community.

Injustice undermines the better way of obedience

Even when we obey the king, disappointment comes because some rulers are wicked. The "preacher" recommended mirth as a way of escaping from the riddles of life that cannot be solved. This self enjoyment should, however, be tempered by reverence of God.

The recommendation that man shall eat, drink, and be merry is not a recommendation for the Epicurean philosophy of wild riotous living. Rather, he meant that the best thing, after all, is to enjoy the simple things because all the human approaches people make are not sufficient to unlock the door to life's mysteries.

In a sense, the "preacher" seems cynical but as we think further on his advice, perhaps this is the best after all. We cannot enjoy life if sin exists in great measure with us, but when we find satisfaction with the things God has given us, we realize that such obedience eliminates the terrible things that a life of injustice brings.



Wood

God of creation

By William E. Trout, president
Belmont College, Nashville

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for Sept. 4
Basic Passages: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1-6; 136:3-9; Acts 17:24-28; Romans 1:20
Focal Passages: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1-6; Acts 17:24-28; Romans 1:20

"In the beginning God ..." No statement is more basic to our faith. Our belief in God as the author of creation represents the very foundation of all our faith.

Recently, I was describing Belmont College to a top administrator at a major university. When I shared the fact that Belmont is a Christian college, he said, "That's too bad. Education and religion don't mix. I am an atheist."

It never ceases to amaze me when someone denies the existence of God. This lack of recognition of our Creator is hardly a sign of intelligence. In fact, the Bible dismisses the person who denies the existence of God as a "fool" — an individual not lacking in wits but in intelligence.

One of the tragedies of secular educational philosophy is its failure to acknowledge God and the wonder of His creative power. As a Christian scholar points out, "Science has only given us a new dictionary." If we name and describe it, we think we understand it. It is our sense of mystery and awe regarding the wonder of God's creation, however, that marks the beginning of true faith.

The Old Testament and the New Testament alike speak to the tragic consequences of ignoring or denying the testimony of created things to the One who made them. In the universe He has made, God continues to provide a witness to Himself that cannot be silenced.

The witness of Scripture to God's greatness

The Scriptures begin with a strong affirmation of God's existence and His creative power. Genesis 1:1 reminds us that the Hebrews engaged in no arguments to defend their belief in God. Instead, they appealed to nature itself. We are reminded that He not only made all things but was before all things — the eternal "I Am."

There are many religions and cults that identify God with nature. The Scriptures are very clear, however, in sharing with us that it is an error to see God as part of creation. He is both above it and



Trout

before it. Genesis reminds us that we must distinguish between the Creator and the created.

The witness of nature to God's greatness

Recently my eight-year-old daughter asked me a simple but difficult question. She asked, "Daddy, how big is God?" My only response at the time was, "Big enough." But nature supplies us with a far better answer. Only when we begin to consider His creation can we begin to comprehend His pervasive power.

The 19th Psalm reminds us that God's handiwork in creation declares His glory. The psalmist could see a witness to the glory of God in the vast expanse of sky above. He points out that the testimony of the heavens is continuous both day and night. It is a witness that is not dependent upon words or language for "There is no speech, nor are there words: their voice is not heard." In awesome silence the message of God's greatness is given forth. All people everywhere are exposed to it.

Like many of the psalms, Psalm 19 is a hymn of praise to God. It fits the pattern of many other psalms that serve as hymns of praise to God — including a call to praise God and a reason for praising Him. Psalm 19 beautifully describes how the heavens attest to our need to praise His Holy Name.

Lessons from God's universe

Paul's speech in Athens, as recorded in Acts 17, represents an important example of his approach to non-Jews.

Paul's message was in response to a shrine he saw bearing the inscription, "To an unknown God." In a place devoted to idolatry, this inscription acknowledged the possibility that there was a deity beyond the knowledge of the Athenians.

Paul uses this inscription as an opportunity to state, "Him I declare unto you." Paul points out that all men have their existence in God and are dependent on Him as their sovereign ruler. Paul concludes by mentioning Jesus Christ and His resurrection, obviously in the hope of having an opportunity to return to this theme.

Rejection of God is inexcusable

In the first chapter of Romans, Paul argues that from the time of creation there has been a witness through nature to God's power and deity.

Rejection of God is inexcusable according to Paul, because God's creation of the world itself is sufficient to command human worship and obedience.

This revelation is not complete, of course. It took the coming of our Lord and Saviour to make the fullness of the Father known.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Sept. 4

Tragedy to fulfillment

By Clista Whitehurst Adkins
curriculum writer, Nashville

Basic Passage: Ruth 1-4
Focal Passages: Ruth 1:1, 8, 16-17, 22; 2:5-7; 3:11; 4:13, 17b

Mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationships are often the most explosive ones women experience with one another. Even the words "mother-in-law" conjure up negative thoughts and pictures for some people.



Mrs. Adkins

However, this beautiful short story is about a loving relationship between a mother-in-law, Naomi, and her daughter-in-law, Ruth. Their lovely relationships with God and one another enabled them to find fulfillment out of tragedy.

Tragedy strikes

The story of Ruth and Naomi opens with tragedy. Because Bethlehem-judah was experiencing a famine, Naomi and Elimelech had to leave their family and friends to take their two sons to Moab, a foreign country, in order to survive. Sometime after they arrived, Elimelech died, leaving Naomi and their two sons, who eventually married Moabite women. Within a few years, Naomi's sons also died and Naomi was alone.

These facts, plus her relationship with her daughter-in-law, tell us much about Naomi. She must have been a woman of strong faith because, in spite of all the terrible things that had happened to Naomi, Ruth was so moved by the evidence of God in Naomi's life that she wanted to accept her God. Naomi also must have been loving and giving, because Ruth and Orpah wanted to remain with her after their husbands had died.

We do know, however, that Naomi grew bitter about what she felt God was doing in her life, for she asked her friends to call her Mara, which meant "bitter."

Dealing with bitterness

Tragedy often leads to bitterness. When crises occur in our lives, it is easy for us to feel "cursed" or "put upon." Sometimes the bitterness, disappointment, or resentment can become so strong in our lives that it changes our personalities. We can learn how to deal with tragedy from the example of Ruth.

Ruth did not become bitter. When her husband, one of Naomi's sons, died, her options were to return home to her father

or to remain with her husband's family. Ruth chose to go with Naomi in one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible (1:16-17).

Love, loyalty, courage

Ruth's words and actions tell us much about her. We know that she must have been attracted to the one, true God, for she was willing to leave the gods of her country and her culture in order to accept the Israelite faith.

We know that she was loyal to Naomi for she pledged her loyalty when she begged to accompany Naomi. She lived out her love, loyalty, kindness, and goodness to Naomi by following her and taking care of her when they reached Bethlehem, and by staying by her even after she was married again.

Ruth was also courageous. She had to be courageous in order to leave her family, her country, her culture. She demonstrated courage in her efforts to provide grain for herself and Naomi when they were in Bethlehem. She had to have courage to follow Naomi's directions to go to Boaz during the night.

Finding fulfillment

Naomi and Ruth found fulfillment in spite of their tragedy. They were fulfilled through their relationship with one another.

Ruth loved Naomi enough to follow

her, to care for her, to act on her instructions. Naomi loved Ruth enough to introduce her to God, to want her company, and to plan for her future.

Their relationship was a beautiful one. They gave their love to one another freely and without demand. Perhaps we should evaluate our relationships with our "in-laws" in the light of this one.

Naomi and Ruth also found fulfillment in their relationships with Boaz. Ruth was married, was protected and cared for, and was blessed with a child and heir, Obed.

Naomi was also protected. However, the greatest blessing for Naomi was the child, Obed. She took care of him and loved him. He gave her life meaning and purpose. In fact, she was so fulfilled that she asked her friends to call her Naomi (pleasant) again.

This story of Ruth and Naomi demonstrates how God can use relationships to

carry us through tragedy to fulfillment. Because of her faith in God and her relationship with Naomi, Ruth is one of the most outstanding women of the Bible. She was an ancestor of Jesus, the Christ, who brought fulfillment to a world of tragedy.

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Big A Club interrupts Donkey Kong, Pac Man

By Nancy Carter McGough

DALTON, Ga. (BP)— From 3:45 to 5:00 each Thursday afternoon, the "bings" and "bongs" of Donkey Kong and Pac Man cease. A lesson about Jesus Christ is being taught at a video game room.

A Big A Club is in session. Sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union of First Baptist Church, Dalton, the club is geared toward grade-school children. The majority of the 23 who attend regularly rarely go to church.

The name "Big A" is based on the club's motto from Matthew 22:37. "You must love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Big A Club materials are published at the WMU national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

Although a video arcade is an out-of-the-ordinary setting for a Big A Club, it was made available because the owners, Betty and Barry Whittemore, were concerned about the children who came to play video games.

"The Lord answered my prayer," says

Barry Whittemore, a former assistant Methodist minister. "It's been so beneficial to the children."

The arcade is located in the highest crime rate area in Dalton — one-half of all police calls in the city originate from this section.

Since the beginning of the first Big A Club, church members have been enthusiastic. WMU members are now involved in six other clubs in various locations and two other clubs are in the planning stages.

"We have just begun, but to date at least 116 boys and girls have learned about a loving, caring Saviour," said Dot Reich, WMU director.

There is also a desire to reach the families of the children.

"Some of our women have expressed a concern for the mothers of Big A Club children, and want to begin some type of ministry to them" noted Glenda Kessler, Baptist Women president. Each child is given a Bible to keep so every family has at least one Bible in their home.

"One of the most exciting outreach ministries of our church in recent

months has been the starting of these clubs," observed the pastor, Billy Nimmons. "It has given those involved a greater vision of the local mission field. It has reached so many unreached children, and the vision of needs is spreading to other ministries of our church."

Interest in the clubs came about indirectly because of a mission trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, a few years ago. Twelve adults made the trip to conduct Good News Clubs for grade-school children who did not attend Sunday School, and to train members of a Scottish church to continue the work.

Jerry Chiles, the church's minister of education and administration, organized the trip. He recalls, "As we began to rejoice over how God had blessed us and the Morningside Scottish Baptist Church, I asked myself the question, 'What if they ask how many Good News Clubs we have in Dalton?'"

"The Holy Spirit began to show me this idea was something that needed to be done in Dalton, as well as in Edinburgh, Scotland. Who would have guessed we would have to go to Scotland to discover how to minister in our own town."

When the group returned home, Chiles approached two of the members of the Scotland team, Clovis Burks and Ruth Chen, about the need. They heard about Big A Club materials and realized they were exactly what they needed.

"We found many of these children do not attend church at all," Burks explained, now Big A Club director. "Our

workers made visits in each home inviting them to church and encouraging them to involve their families in Bible study."

There has been a positive response from both children and parents. One mother came to a club leader and insisted on giving a donation. When the hostess explained the church was paying for all the supplies, the mother insisted, "I want you to use this donation somehow. My husband and I both work on Sunday and can't go to church. I'm so happy my son can attend your club." The money was accepted and used to purchase more Bibles.

In addition to the weekly individual meetings of the seven groups, an occasional joint activity is planned. "We schedule times when we can bring all of the clubs together for fun, fellowship, and skating at our family life center," Burks said.

The church had two Big A Club day camps this summer. The church bus picked up the children at their club meeting places each day and WMU members served a hot meal.

"We have visions and big dreams for this outreach ministry," says Burks. "Words cannot express the blessing of being a part of this exciting ministry in our church."

—Nancy Carter McGough, a free-lance writer in New Orleans, previously lived in Whitwell, where her husband, Michael, was pastor of First Baptist Church.

WMU conference speakers highlight SBC partnerships

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)— Some 2,500 people attending Woman's Missionary Union week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center took the theme "Partnership in Prayer and Ministry" to heart, giving \$3,264.88 to the Cooperative Program, the highest offering given this year at Ridgecrest.

"It takes money to undergird any kind of partnership," said Bobbie Sorrells, WMU associate director, describing the offering as a tangible outlet for partnership in prayer and ministry.

Speakers, missionaries, and Bible teacher Monte Clendinning emphasized the importance of sincere commitment to such partnerships.

Gerhard Claas, Baptist World Alliance general secretary, who brought the Sunday morning and evening messages, said the bottom line in any partnership is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "Only this partnership leads to true partnership in prayer and ministry."

Claas said no Baptist can live for himself and neither can the church live for herself. "We must serve the world. As church members we are committed to go and serve," he said.

Clendinning, adjunct professor in missions education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., forced conferees to examine their own personal commitment when he quoted a figure given by a speaker the day before: "Only 22.2 percent of the world is Christian. Has it bothered any of you? Did anyone stay awake last night? Did anyone weep?"

Clendinning reminded conferees they are living in the days of Bold Mission Thrust with only 17 years left in which to accomplish its goal, which is to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by AD 2000.

Each day partnerships between states and between states and countries were featured. Volunteers, missionaries, and WMU leaders told individual stories of the difference these partnerships had made in their lives and work. The common theme of all these individuals was

the strengths gained from shared ministries.

"Southern Baptists are recognizing the need for togetherness as well as individuality," said Dennis McEntire, foreign missionary to Paraguay.

The partnerships between agencies in Southern Baptist life are one reason "Southern Baptists are able to add new missionaries and enter new countries every year at times when other missionary groups are cutting back," said Daniel Sanchez, associate professor of missions at Southwestern seminary.

WMU President Dorothy Sample asked conferees to return home with new commitments to partnerships of their own personal choice. She called them to symbolize this partnership by leaving the final session two-by-two.

Southern Baptist to lead Gideons

BAMBERG, S.C. (BP)— A Southern Baptist layman who once presented a Bible to Ugandan dictator Idi Amin is the new president of Gideons International.

Guy S. Sanders Jr., a Bamberg, S.C., businessman, was elected at the annual convention in Indianapolis on the first ballot.

He had been vice-president for three years and is eligible for three one-year terms.

Sanders, a deacon and Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church, Bamberg, has been a Gideon for 22 years and an officer for 18 years, including trustee and treasurer.

The new president has visited over 40 countries for Bible distribution, initiating work in three of those as well as numerous cities.

In 1977 he spent 30 minutes in private conference with Idi Amin, then the dictator of Uganda. Sanders shared the plan of salvation with Amin and presented him a special edition of the Bible.

Lloyd Elder pledges support for Baptist student ministry

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)— Lloyd Elder pledged to be an advocate of Southern Baptist student work during an address and dialogue session with 200 campus ministers, state student leaders, and church workers with students.

Elder, president-elect of the Baptist Sunday School Board, outlined his philosophy of Christian leadership during the student conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

"I would like to be president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and therefore of national student ministries, in such a way that there is a high trust level," Elder said. "If we know each other and trust each other and lift each other up in prayer, it is possible for us to

do better the work we have to do even at those times when things do not go so well."

Calling student work an "imperative" job, Elder urged persons involved in student ministry on campuses, in churches, and on associational, state, and denominational levels to work together.

"There is an compelling need for persons from various areas of student work to build a program of even greater strength," he said. "This will enable us to make better use of our limited resources but will still allow for diversity."

Elder said he has a personal appreciation for student summer missions because he made his profession of faith at age 18 in Anchorage, Alaska, through the influence of Robin Guess, a student summer missionary from Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Tex.

Later, while pastor of First Baptist Church, College Station, Tex., he also served as interim Baptist Student Union director. "That was a frightening experience filled with hard work, but I caught a vision of student leaders who wanted to make a difference for Christ," Elder said.

He said Southern Baptists must do the work of sharing the gospel with the entire world by starting where they are. "If we're going to grapple with the whole world, we've got to start on campus A, church B, and state C," he noted. He called team work "absolutely essential inside this large and diverse Southern Baptist family."

More than 2,200 persons attended the student conference sponsored by national student ministries of the Sunday School Board.



HILLCREST CEREMONY — Joseph Trybone (center), pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Dyersburg, led the church in a note-burning ceremony during their July 24 homecoming. With Trybone are former Hillcrest pastors R. H. Dills (left) and John Adams.