

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



WORLD HUNGER DAY — October 9 is World Hunger Day in Southern Baptist churches. Through the Home and Foreign Mission boards, Baptists are helping to feed hungry people such as these in southeast Asia.

Conservatives discuss forming organization

By Tom Miller

LYNCHBURG, Va. (BP) — A small group of Virginia pastors is studying the possibility of forming a new non-geographical Baptist association of "conservative churches."

Their spokesman, Arthur B. Ballard Jr., pastor of Old Forest Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., said they are "not leaving the Southern Baptist Convention; not going independent. We can be dually aligned with the associations we are now in."

A three-hour service of "freedom in autonomy" was held Sept. 26 at the Lynchburg church. Robert Witty, founder and chancellor of Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla., and Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas, were principal speakers.

In preliminary remarks, Ballard listed five things "we can expect to do" if a new association is formed: "One, we can speak with a united conservative voice; two, we can sponsor a conservative newspaper in Virginia; three, we can speak out on moral issues such as abortion, prayer in schools, pornography, the direction of the hierarchy in the SBC; four, we can use the association's money for evangelization and starting churches in areas where Baptists are weak rather than in associational administrative overhead; five, through revivals and crusades we can reach the lost in Virginia."

Ballard said a study committee, made up of eight pastors and 16 laymen will study why an association is needed, guidelines for a fresh new work, recommend a name for the association, poll local churches as to interest, plan the next meeting, enter into correspondence, and report back at a Nov. 21 meeting tentatively set for Old Forest Road Baptist Church.

During the "freedom in autonomy" service, Patterson urged a "sweetness of

spirit" among conservatives. "So often conservatives have been ugly," he said. "Let your voice be heard but speak in love. You can't do God's business in the devil's way."

He told the estimated 175 persons attending, "Orthodoxy for the sake of orthodoxy isn't worth very much, but on the other hand the failure to be doctrinally orthodox is interdiction to the cause of evangelism and worldwide missions. Where orthodoxy fails, missions and evangelism soon fail."

He also called for a "return of the denomination to the local churches" and warned against what he called a "trend toward centralization of the Southern Baptist Convention."

In a question and answer session, Patterson declined the mantle of national leader of conservatives, and said from the beginning the movement he represents has been "deliberately leaderless."

However, he made his remarks from the pulpit of the church where in the fall of 1980, he and Houston Appeals Court Judge Paul Pressler unveiled a campaign to take control of the denominational machinery through election of presidents sympathetic to their cause

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Tennessee Baptists' giving stays on track toward goal

With one month remaining in the convention's fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists' mission gifts through the Cooperative Program are on track to reach the convention-approved goal, according to Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Messengers to the 1982 state convention set the basic budget-goal for the November 1982-October 1983 convention year at \$16.8-million. The eleven-month goal would be \$15.4-million and Cooperative Program gifts for the November-September period are \$15,593,067.73, Madden reported.

"This means we are 1.25 percent ahead of the goal at this point, and gives Tennessee Baptists the possibility of reaching this challenging goal," he added.

However, Madden noted that the convention year ends on Oct. 31, which is on Monday. He suggested that church treasurers might consider sending in their churches' Cooperative Program mission gifts earlier in the month, rather than waiting until after the last Sunday of the month.

In comparing the year-to-date Cooperative Program contributions to the same period of the 1981-82 budget year, the TBC executive secretary observed that the \$15,593,067.73 given during the November 1982-September 1983 period is 9.37 percent higher than the \$14,257,711.37 given during the November 1981-September 1982 period.

September's mission gifts through the Cooperative Program were \$1,438,990.03,

which is 2.79 percent (\$38,990.03) above the \$1.4-million monthly goal for the current convention year.

However, Madden noted that September's \$1,438,990.03 was 6.3 percent below the \$1,535,596.05 given to missions through the Cooperative Program during September 1982, which was the TBC's fourth highest month in history.

"I am really grateful for the stewardship of our church members in support of mission causes," Madden said. "This record in sharing is especially significant in light of the recession, economic conditions, and the drought which have plagued our state during the past year."

SBC CP report

August gifts top \$8-million

NASHVILLE (BP) — Contributions to the national Cooperative Program from the 34 Southern Baptist state conventions were \$8,368,901 in August.

The amount, 8.18 percent above the August 1982 figure, leaves the yearly total at \$93,305,266 — 9.07 percent ahead of the 1982-83 pace.

With one month remaining in the SBC fiscal year the \$100-million basic operating budget for the national mission and education programs seems assured of being reached. However, the \$6-million challenge budget will not be fully funded.

August marked the eighth time in the 11 months of the current fiscal year (and the eighth time in the last nine months) national contributions exceeded the \$8-million mark. By comparison, the \$8-million barrier was broken four times in the 1981-82 fiscal year and only once in 1980-81.

Tennessee ranks seventh among the 34 state conventions in total contributions after 11 months of the budget year. Tennessee Baptists contributed \$5,508,086 through the Cooperative Program to SBC causes beyond the state convention.

Chapman takes post at Belmont

NASHVILLE — Harry E. Chapman, account executive for the sales department of WTVF-TV, Nashville, has been named vice-president for college relations at Belmont College, effective Oct. 17.

Chapman will be responsible for maintaining positive relations with Belmont's key constituents and soliciting their support. He also will play a major role in Belmont's upcoming endowment campaign.

The Georgia native joined WTVF-TV in 1971. He was a news reporter and weekend anchorman until 1978 when he assumed the sales department position.

In 1977, Chapman received the Abe Lincoln Award Certificate of Excellence in Broadcasting from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Earlier in his career, Chapman served as an announcer with several Georgia radio stations, including WSB Radio in Atlanta.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, Athens, Chapman is currently active at First Baptist Church, Nashville, where he is a deacon and an assistant adult Sunday School teacher.



Chapman

Public Affairs Committee discusses responsibilities

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — The role, responsibilities, and function of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee were discussed by the 15-member committee during a September meeting.

The meeting is only the second time in recorded SBC history the PAC has met. Its role has been interpreted as being the means through which the Southern Baptist Convention names representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and funds the work of the BJCPA.

The BJCPA, a coalition of nine Baptist bodies focusing on separation of church and state and religious liberty, has been involved in increasing controversy, most of which centers on BJCPA opposition to the proposed Constitutional amendment on prayer in the public schools.

The meeting was called by Sam Currin of Raleigh, N.C., who was elected a member and chairman of the PAC during the 1983 annual meeting of the SBC. Currin, a former aide to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, said he believes the PAC should have frequent meetings "to talk about the Southern Baptist perspective on issues. I think the people are demanding it. Rank and file Southern Baptists want us to meet and at least give the perception we care about them and are representing them . . ."

Currin, SBC President James T. Draper Jr., and Albert Lee Smith of Birmingham, Ala., were critical of the BJCPA. Draper noted, "I think we need a Baptist Joint Committee out the feeling is that the committee is insensitive . . . that only one viewpoint is represented . . ."

Smith, who served one term in the U.S. Congress, said "Southern Baptists in Birmingham know Southern Baptists are putting 75 to 80 percent of the money into the Baptist Joint Committee and have a third of the membership. And then the Baptist Joint Committee goes on record against voluntary prayer . . ."

BJCPA Executive Director James Dunn interrupted Smith to say the BJCPA has never opposed voluntary prayer, but is opposed to state-mandated prayer, which it sees the prayer amendment as being. He added the perception the BJCPA is opposed to voluntary prayer is "fostered by politicians out for a vote, preachers out for an amen, and journalists out for a headline."

"It has never been made clear that voluntary prayer has never been ruled out of the classrooms, and in fact cannot be ruled out," he added.

James Smith, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, asked what other issues "rank and file Southern Baptists" are dissatisfied with the Baptist Joint Committee about. I haven't heard any criticism of their handling of ERISA (retirement) or the IRS or about taxes on the salaries of foreign missionaries."

Currin admitted the "prayer thing is the main issue . . ."

Much of the discussion concerned the function of the PAC. Russell Dilday Jr., president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., and immediate past PAC chairman, said research on the history of the PAC found "no reason for existence outside of being the mechanism by which Southern Baptists choose their representatives to serve with other Baptist bodies on the BJCPA."

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said rules of the SBC "pro-

hibit the allocation of Cooperative Program funds to an entity where trustees are not elected by the convention. So, therefore, the committee functions as a channel through which Cooperative Program funds can be sent to the Baptist Joint Committee."

Bennett added, according to SBC policies, the PAC is a standing committee, and thus is entitled to only one meeting per year. "If a second meeting is wanted, the standing committee must receive special approval from the Executive Committee."

Jimmy R. Allen, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, said he thinks the current system "works well" with the PAC "a unit of the Baptist Joint Committee. I don't think we have any meetings to have. I do not believe we are subject to the call of the chairman (to meet)," he said. "If we feel we need to meet, then we need to go back to the convention and tell them we need a committee and not a joint committee."

The controversy concerning sending of two letters to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee also was discussed.

Shortly after his election, Currin sent a letter to Sen. Strom Thurmond in support of the school prayer amendment. He identified himself as chairman of the PAC, said he supported the prayer amendment, and included a copy of a resolution passed at the 1982 annual meeting in support of the amendment.

Almost immediately, another letter to which 12 of the 14 remaining members names were affixed, was sent. The second letter said Currin spoke only for himself and the signers supported the testimony of John Baker, BJCPA general counsel, opposing the amendment. Draper declined to sign and Albert Lee Smith was unavailable.

Even the second letter became controversial as two — William G. Tanner, president of the SBC Home Mission Board, and James Smith — said they were out of the country when the letter was circulated. The names of both men were added by associates at their agencies.

In addition, Tanner said he did not agree with part of the letter, noting he voted for the 1982 resolution on school prayer. He added he did not vote his conscience when BJCPA trustees unanimously adopted the stand opposing the

Meeting to address single adult needs

"Family Relationships" will be the theme for a single adult conference at Smoky Shadows Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, Oct. 21-22.

Sponsored by the public affairs and Christian life office of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the conference will begin at 7 p.m. Oct. 21 and end at noon Oct. 22.

Conference leaders include Vance Davis, a Knoxville counselor; Alice Magill of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Bob Money of First Baptist Church, Knoxville; Dorothy Sizemore of Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.; and Larry Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

Topics include "Biblical Singleness," "Preparation for Marriage," "Single Parenting," "Intimacy Needs," and "Personal Growth."

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amendment during their March 1982 board meeting.

Dilday told the September meeting he intended the letter to "correct the misconception the chairman spoke for the committee. That was the first purpose and I felt strongly about it." The second purpose, he said, was to "indicate there had been other resolutions . . ."

During the discussion, James Smith told Currin, "I think it was unfortunate you were selected as chairman . . . it was unfair to you. It was unfortunate you felt you had to address this issue before you had had a chance to meet with the committee."

R. Gene Puckett, editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, news journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and chairman of the BJCPA, introduced a means to prohibit any statement which "in any way utilizes the name of this committee reflecting a position of the committee . . . until the complete text

has been verified and confirmed by every member . . ."

The motion died when R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board said, "I don't know if we are constituted to do business."

The PAC has 15 members, 10 of whom are specified in SBC bylaws: the president of the convention, the executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, and the executive officer or staff representative of the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Christian Life Commission, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union. In addition, at least two other agency executives may serve.

Current members are Draper, Bennett, Parks, Tanner, James Smith, Foy Valentine (CLC), Carolyn Weatherford (WMU), Allen, and Dilday. At-large members are Currin, Albert Lee Smith, Donald Brewer of Chicago, Donald Aiesi of Greenville, S.C., and Puckett.

Missouri court overturns Baptist store's exemption

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, after consultation with legal counsel, has decided to petition the Missouri Supreme Court for rehearing of a property tax case related to the Kansas City Baptist Book Store.

The petition will challenge a Sept. 20 ruling in which the Missouri high court, in a 6-1 decision, said the downtown Baptist Book Store should not be exempt from paying property taxes because it was being operated in a manner similar to other retail bookstores.

In a 6-1 decision, written by Justice Warren Welliver, the court said the store in downtown Kansas City was being operated in a manner similar to other retail bookstores. "This bookstore is not substantially different from any other religious bookstore," Welliver wrote. "It sells to all members of the general public as well as churches and Sunday Schools. The literature it sells is not purely denominational."

Albert L. Rendlen, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri, said in the lone dissenting opinion that the fact the store sells materials to others "indicates the reason for being of the Book Store is to spread the religious messages the Sunday School Board seems consonant with the tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention."

According to Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen, "The chief justice in this case has given a good interpretation of the Sunday School Board's objective, which is to assist churches in their efforts of bringing men to God through Jesus Christ. That's why we publish literature, that's why we operate the conference centers, and that is the reason we operate Baptist Book Stores."

"I believe the majority of the Missouri court missed several important points in arriving at their decision," said Cothen. "The first amendment right to conduct both training and evangelistic ministries is inherent in the task of the Sunday School Board. I believe the Missouri ruling levies taxes on these rights."

BSSB attorneys filed suit against Jackson County over payment of \$13,612 in merchants and manufacturers taxes, business personal property taxes, and property taxes during a two-year period.

The merchants and manufacturers tax is levied on inventories of businesses.

In the suit, the board contended its bookstores should not have to pay the taxes because of the provision in the Missouri Constitution that allows property used exclusively for religious worship or for "purely charitable purposes" to be exempt from taxes.

The trial court ruled in favor of the board on the grounds that store profits were used for charitable purposes. However, Jackson County appealed the decision and the majority of the Supreme Court disagreed and reversed the lower court ruling. The Supreme Court did note that more than two-thirds of the sales of the Kansas City store are made to churches and church organizations.

James W. Clark, executive vice-president of the board, said the ruling would be appealed because it appeared the court was considering the Baptist Book Store in Kansas City separately from the Sunday School Board, when in fact, the store is an outreach arm of the agency.

The board also has been advised, Clark said, that the recent ruling, which instructs the board to pay property taxes to Jackson County (Kansas City), Missouri, appears to be in conflict with another Missouri court ruling which states a business is taxable only for the part of the business that is considered non-exempt.

Marston accepts call to Inskip pastorate

Inskip Baptist Church, Knoxville, called Bruce Steven Marston as its pastor, a ministry he began Aug. 14.

Marston came to the church from the pastorate of Brooks Baptist Church, Brooks, Ky., and is a former pastor of Sanders Baptist Church, Sanders, Ky., and Caney Fork Baptist Church, Rockdale, Ky. He has served as a member of the personnel, resolutions, and church and community ministries committees of Kentucky's Long Run Baptist Association.

A native of Owen County, Ky., Marston is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



PASSING THE TORCH — Glendon Grober, missionary to Brazil, passes a torch commemorating the centennial anniversary of Brazilian Baptists to Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and Gene Triggs, board chairman. Grober also presented commemorative medals and plaques given to churches started during the celebration.

Conservatives to organize . . .

(Continued from page 1)

and appointments to boards and agencies of the convention.

Patterson told the participants at the meeting he sees no great possibility of a split in the denomination. "It's absolutely possible, but I would be the most surprised person in the SBC if it occurred. We are going to work this thing through. It will take more years of struggle. We've got to work out something that will be representative and fair so we are not forced to support something that is morally unconscionable to us. We will still have to support some things we don't like but not those things which are tragically and deeply wrong at the heart of our faith."

During the service, Ballard read a letter from Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Tex., congratulating the group on their plan to form the new association.

The SBC president denied any intention to endorse such a group.

Draper explained that the group contacted him and requested a letter of congratulations or greetings which could be read when they met to discuss forming a new association.

"I was misinformed," Draper said. "They told me they had been in touch with Dr. (Robert) Baker (retired professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.) to be sure they were following proper procedures.

"My letter, which I tried to word very carefully, merely affirmed that they were following historic Baptist principals in the right of churches to form an

Campus Day at Union scheduled for Oct. 22

JACKSON — Prospective Union University students will get a firsthand view of college life when the school presents its annual Campus Day, Oct. 22.

The day's activities will include discussions with faculty members, a tour of the facilities, drama presentation, stage band concert, two red-white basketball games, and an introduction to fraternities, sororities, and scholastic organizations. All high school students interested in learning more about Union are invited to attend.

The campus guests will also be treated to a noon meal. Registration will begin at 9:33 a.m. and the day's festivities will conclude by 3:30 p.m.

association. I completely disavow any implication that I am encouraging the establishment of parallel state conventions," he stressed.

Draper indicated some of the misunderstanding may have been over the use of the word "association." He took the word to mean a local organization of churches. However, the Virginia convention is known as the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

On Sept. 9, Pressler and Russell Kaemmerling, editor of the independent Southern Baptist Advocate, met in Lynchburg with some of the same people who are discussing the new association.

At that earlier meeting, both Pressler and Kaemmerling predicted the election of a president from their camp in Kansas City, Mo., next June, an action they said would "reflect the demise of the stranglehold of liberalism on the convention."

Kaemmerling later told the Religious Herald, a small group of persons present suggested Homer Lindsay Jr., Charles Stanley, and Ed Young as acceptable candidates. He could not recall if the Virginians or the visiting Texans called the names.

Lindsay is pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.; Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta; and Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston.

Pressler said he expected "God to place the mantle on one of these three just before the convention as in years past."

Kaemmerling said he and Pressler were in Virginia primarily to bring Pressler's daughter to Randolph-Macon Woman's College where she has enrolled, but "stopped along the way to visit with friends."

In talking with the Herald, Kaemmerling said one of the main agenda items for the inerrancy faction is the removal of James M. Dunn as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. He said the main reason is Dunn's opposition to the Constitutional amendment on prayer in the public schools and Dunn's referral to President Ronald Reagan as a "demagogue."

"We cannot have an agency head who constantly humiliates the convention," said Kaemmerling.

The Texan further charged Dunn is an embarrassment to the denomination because of his association with television producer Norman Lear and the organization, People for the American Way.

HMB disciplines Lowder for civil disobedience

By Craig Bird

SAN FRANCISCO (BP) — Jim Lowder, the pastor of Delores Street Baptist Church in San Francisco, has been reprimanded by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lowder, his wife, Rose Ann, and nine other members of Delores Street Baptist Church, were arrested June 20 during a nuclear protest outside the Livermore Research Laboratory.

Their protest gained national coverage when the 11 gave their individual names as "Southern Baptist Convention" after they were among more than 1,000 protesters who were arrested and charged with obstructing traffic.

The Lowders are jointly appointed by the Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

The reprimand did not become public knowledge until a budget fight erupted in the September meeting of the California convention's Executive Committee. Herb Hollinger, editor of the California Southern Baptist, reported the meeting in the Sept. 22 issue.

Board member Richard Neely, pastor of Alameda Baptist Church, moved that the budget line item of \$12,276 for salary assistance for Delores Street church be deleted. Neely said he was upset Lowder was receiving help from the California convention.

Robert D. Hughes, executive director-treasurer of the California convention, said he was likewise "appalled by the use of the name Southern Baptist Convention," in the protest but noted most of the salary funding was from the HMB. He also assured the board he had held discussions with the HMB and "disciplinary action has been taken."

Ralph Longshore, director of the missions division of the California

convention, added, "they have been reprimanded and if it (their actions) continues, he (Lowder) will be dismissed."

After being cautioned not to remove the line item because, if Lowder were replaced the funding would not be available for a new pastor either, the board voted overwhelmingly against the proposal to delete the funds.

Paul Adkins, director of the Christian social ministries department of the Home Mission Board, confirmed Oct. 3 the Lowders had been reprimanded but declined to comment since it was a personnel matter.

HMB administrators said in August they had received some negative response calling for the Lowders' resignation. The spokesmen also stressed the Lowders' actions in no way represented the position of the HMB on the nuclear issue since the board has taken no position.

Lowder told Baptist Press the letter from Adkins, "focused on our civil disobedience" but did not forbid his participation in any "legal form of peacemaking."

"I have complete freedom to continue our peacemaking activities, though there could be some problems (with the HMB) if they included civil disobedience again," he explained.

Lowder said the civil disobedience (sitting down on a county road leading to the Livermore plant, site of much of the United States' nuclear weapon research) was not taken without "thinking about it a long time," and with the realization it could jeopardize his continued employment with the HMB (which pays 43 percent of his salary). They spent 11 days in the Alameda County Jail in late August.

"We don't regret paying the price for what we did, because we did it out of deep Christian conviction," Lowder said.

ACTS wins first lottery for low-power TV stations

WASHINGTON (BP) — The American Christian Television System (ACTS) came up a winner Sept. 29 in the first government lottery to award low-power television channels and was given permission to build a low-power station on channel 60 in Brownwood, Tex.

ACTS was randomly chosen over five other applicants for the Brownwood station in a lottery held at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington. The lottery procedure was adopted by the FCC earlier this year to speed up licensing of channels for which two or more applicants filed. A total of 22 channels were awarded Sept. 29.

Brownwood was the only ACTS application involved in the first-day lottery, which applied only to a group of the

oldest and most rural applications. Brownwood, a city of 19,000, has no other TV station.

FCC officials drew ACTS' winning number from a Plexiglas drum last used for the Selective Service lottery. Because the complicated lottery procedure gave an advantage to applications with minority representation and with few other broadcast stations, ACTS' chances were about one in four of winning over the five other competitors.

ACTS now has one year in which to build the Brownwood station. The FCC has scheduled another lottery for next month and an ACTS application for channel 20 in Anchorage, Alaska, will be among those decided. The FCC plans one lottery each month until the end of the year, when it may begin holding two per month.

ACTS has applied for 131 low-power TV stations in 35 states. The network will begin next May delivering family entertainment, inspirational and informational programs daily to cable television systems and TV stations nationwide. The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is developing the network and programming.

Clabo accepts call to first pastorate

Scott Clabo accepted his first pastorate in response to a call from Garver's Chapel Baptist Church, Cosby.

Clabo, who began the position Aug. 14, is a former assistant pastor of Gospel Light Baptist Church, Sevierville.

The new pastor is a native of Sevierville.

EDITORIAL

Our portion in a hungry world

Next Sunday, Oct. 9, has been designated as World Hunger Day on the Tennessee Baptist Convention calendar. Hopefully, many of our churches will not overlook the importance of this event in Tennessee Baptist life.

Why have World Hunger Day?

The observance is slated as a reminder that hunger is a major problem for billions of this world's citizens — some of whom live right here in our prosperous nation. The day should serve to remind us that we have a Christian obligation to positively express our concern by sharing what we have with others.

The Bible states this rather succinctly, "But if anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:17-18).

How big is the problem of world hunger?

David Lockard, director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, has provided this vivid illustration. "Picture 10 children at a table laden with food. The three healthiest load their plates with large portions, including most of the meat, fish, milk, and eggs. These three eat all they want and throw away the leftovers.

"Two other children get just barely enough to meet

their basic requirements. Of the remaining five, three — sickly, nervous, apathetic — manage to stave off hunger temporarily by filling up on bread or rice.

"The other two cannot even do that. One dies from dysentery and the second from pneumonia, which they are too weak to ward off."

This is not a pleasant picture — but then, hunger never is.

Both the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board are actively involved in hunger relief. Churches can be assured that special offerings for hunger relief sent to these two SBC agencies will be used 100 percent for food assistance, since administrative costs and personnel are covered in their regular budgets.

In Tennessee, we have a special interest in hunger relief because of our state convention's involvement in Upper Volta. By the digging of wells and the construction of a 160-acre lake, the citizens of one part of that western African nation are learning to increase their food production and to meet their hunger crisis.

This year, for the first time many families in the Sanwabo area had fresh vegetables during the dry winter season.

As you observe World Hunger Day in your church next Sunday, surely you will want to give a special offering to help fulfill the prayer of Proverbs 30:8 — "Feed me with the food that is my portion." This is the theme of the Oct. 9 World Hunger Day.

Since we as Americans (who are one-sixth of the world's population) consume between 30 and 35 percent of all the world's resources, it is obvious that this is more than our portion.

A Peace Corps worker has written about a village plagued by extreme poverty. Autopsies performed on young children reveal roots and dirt in their stomachs. Is this their portion?

Southern Baptists are becoming correctly concerned about the tremendous problem of world hunger. As a result of convention action, World Hunger Day has become a major emphasis involving six of our agencies in a cooperative effort — Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Baptist Sunday School Board, and Christian Life Commission.

Packets of informational materials have been mailed to churches throughout the nation. Certainly, our Tennessee pastors and church members will highlight this tremendous need during services next Sunday.

Offerings for the Upper Volta project MUST be designated "Upper Volta Hunger and Relief Project" when these funds are sent to the state convention office. Otherwise, they will be used for general hunger relief by the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board. Either way, you will have the privilege of helping meet the needs of the world's hungry.

Editor's Note: With this issue we welcome to this page the editorial cartoons of Joe Williamson. A native of Georgia, Joe is a graduate of the University of Georgia, Athens, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

While at Southern seminary, he was graphic artist for the seminary's office of communication, which included serving as cartoonist for the student publication, *The Towers*. His artwork has appeared in a number of Baptist publications.

Joe is placement consultant in the personnel department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. He lives in Brentwood with his wife Debbie and daughter Devon.

With this step, the *Baptist and Reflector* becomes the second Baptist state paper to have specifically designed editorial cartoons on a regular basis.

Cicero's
comment

By the editor

It was a warm, still night at the Baptist project compound in Sanwabo, Upper Volta.

Several of us were talking outside when suddenly — but right on the 9:00 p.m. schedule — the noisy electric generator, which supplies power to the Baptist compound, was turned off for the night.

As the noise of the generator stopped, I became aware of the drumbeats coming from a nearby village. Since that had not happened on either of my two previous nights there, my curiosity found the answer — someone had died, and the drums of mourning would continue throughout the night.

I went to my room in what is affectionately known as the "Sanwabo Hilton" — concrete slab floor, woven reed walls, and tin roof. I crawled into bed (a cot) and tucked in the mosquito netting.

As I lay there awaiting sleep and a cool breeze, the drums continued. Someone had died. "Was it a child?" I wondered. Quite likely it was, since only about one half of the children born in that nation live to maturity.

My thoughts wandered to an experienced Missionary Jimmy Foster had told at that evening's devotional time.

Jimmy said that morning a Voltaic mother had come to the clinic with only one of the twins she had brought on earlier occasions. It seemed that the mother and her family recognized that they had only enough food for one child, so they fed the healthier of the two — and allowed the other to die.

In town that afternoon Jimmy had shared this experience with a European friend, who had responded, "In Upper Volta, dying is a way of life."

As sleep tarried, that statement continued to haunt me. Could it be that death is so commonplace that people accept it without grief?

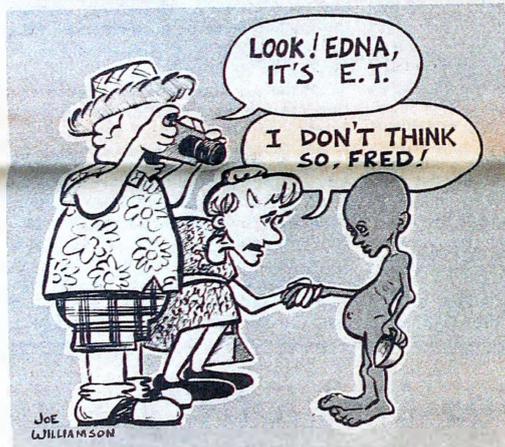
The drums continued — a reminder that a life had stopped.

I began to realize that the reason our missionaries and Tennessee volunteers are in Upper Volta is because we believe that lives — and souls — are important! To date, nearly 400 Tennesseans have gone to Upper Volta to give their time and testimony as a part of a hunger and relief project.

Why Upper Volta? Well, it is one of the three poorest nations in the world. The illiteracy rate is more than 90 percent. The nation has no sources of natural energy and practically no natural resources. With its average of one-half inch of topsoil and its nine months without rainfall, the Voltaic people are hard pressed to raise enough food for their own use — with none to sell or export. And the average annual per capita income is \$60.

God has blessed our efforts to share ourselves through Christian love with the Voltaic people. Over 250 were baptized on Christmas Day and a like number are awaiting baptism.

Through God's help, Tennessee Baptists are saying to the people of Upper Volta that their lives and souls are important to us — and to Him.



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Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



I have just finished reading the Mark and Luke accounts of Jesus healing the man "borne of four."

As I read it, I became aware of several surprises in the experience. This seems to be the reaction of those who witnessed the event, for Mark records them as saying, "We never saw it on this fashion" (Mark 2:12). In Luke we find these words in reaction to the experience, "We have seen strange things today" (Luke 5:26).

It was surprising the way this man was brought to Jesus. Four men put him upon a pallet and pushed their way through the crowd. When they could not get close enough to present him to Jesus, they went up on the roof, dismantled it, and presented him before Christ from the rooftop. No one had ever seen it done in that fashion.

I am always surprised by the statement, "And when He saw their faith . . ." He saw not necessarily the faith of the one with the palsy, but the faith of the four friends who brought him.

Christ surprised them with His words and actions. He obviously gave priority to the spiritual condition of the man before He focused upon his physical condition. He said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee" before He said, "Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk" (Mark 2:9).

The reasoning of Christ must have surprised them also. Obviously they reasoned that only God can forgive sins. Christ agreed with that and apparently reasoned since He was God, He could also forgive sins. This surely amazed them.

The experience concludes with surprising results. Before, the man had been hopeless, helpless, and powerless. Now he was able to get up off his pallet, roll it up, and depart, walking and glorifying God.

I join my prayers with yours that we might have experiences in which we can say, "We have never seen it in this fashion."



ALL SIZES — Missionaries come in all sizes. Herb Billings, 6 feet 11 inches, and Sue Lindwall, 4 feet 11 inches, are both missionaries to Guatemala.

SBC evangelists overturn vote to merge with pastors

ATLANTA (BP)— Members of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will not disband and merge with the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in 1984.

Rick Scarborough, president of the 300-member evangelists' association, reported the group will "continue to maintain its own identity," reversing a decision to dissolve made during its meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh last June.

The action was taken in a mail ballot of CSBE members.

The evangelists also voted to continue their Wednesday afternoon preaching session at the annual SBC meeting, rather than suspend it as agreed at the last convention, Scarborough said.

In a letter to conference members, Scarborough said the group's chronic financial problems and the resulting strife among members prompted the decision to merge with the Pastors' Conference. At the SBC, he had expressed his opinion that the afternoon preaching session "has outlived its usefulness."

The change-of-heart was influenced by the appeals of "several prominent pastors, including SBC President James T. Draper Jr., that we not disband," Scarborough said. He reported Draper urged the evangelists to "continue to meet the spiritual needs of SBC messengers by sponsoring the Wednesday afternoon preaching session."

Scarborough added the "evidence of God's blessing as seen in the overflow crowds and the souls won at our annual banquet in Pittsburgh" spurred the conference's officers to meet and vote unanimously to ask members to "reconsider a hasty decision."

After canvassing members by mail and receiving only one objection to keeping the conference intact, conference officers have begun plans for activities at the 1984 SBC meeting in Kansas City, Scarborough reported.

"We're planning a breakfast business meeting and our preaching conference will end by 5 p.m. in order to allow messengers to return for the SBC evening session," he said. "Due to the expense, we will not hold the evening banquet, which cost us about \$9,000 last year."

A major consideration affecting the about-face vote was a decision by the Home Mission Board to take over print-

ing and distribution of an annual directory of evangelists, an operation which has been a "financial ball and chain" for the evangelists' conference for several years, Scarborough said.

Last year, members spent more than \$12,500 to print and distribute the directory, almost exhausting conference funds. As a result, "we didn't have the money we needed to pay for our expenses in Pittsburgh," Scarborough noted. "The lifting of this burden from our shoulders will help us become more financially stable," he said.

Conference dues will remain at \$50 for another year to clear the conference's remaining debts and build reserve funds. The decision of whether to lower dues will be discussed at Kansas City, Scarborough said.

C-N enrollment climbs to 1,856

JEFFERSON CITY — For the seventh consecutive year, Carson-Newman College has experienced an enrollment increase.

There are currently 1,856 students enrolled for the 1983 fall semester compared to 1,836 one year ago.

The on-campus enrollment totals 1,734 students with 827 men and 907 women. Another 122 students are enrolled in extension and special courses.

A breakdown by classes reveals there are 598 freshmen, 371 sophomores, 339 juniors, 301 seniors, and one special student.

A further analysis of the enrollment reveals that 1,338 students are Baptist, 132 are Methodist, 49 are Presbyterian, and 44 are Catholic. Nine other religious preferences are represented in the student body. There are 295 students preparing for a church-related vocation.

Hastey accuses Religious Right of radical First Amendment view

By Robert Dilday

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Religious Right does not represent the conservative viewpoint of First Amendment issues, according to a Southern Baptist church-state specialist.

Instead, the Religious Right "espouses in fact a radical view," said Stan Hastey, director of information services for the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "Those who are the real conservatives on First Amendment questions are those . . . who join the late Justice William O. Douglas in contending that 'the First Amendment says what it means and means what it says.'"

Addressing the 36th annual national conference of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Hastey criticized some fundamentalist leaders' assault on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and their attempt to Christianize America by appealing to "tragically flawed interpretations of both theology and U.S. history."

"Leaders of the movement . . . interpret the Bible — particularly the Old Testament — so as to place the U.S. in the mainstream of covenant theology," Hastey told the more than 100 conference participants.

Referring to one of the New Right's most cherished political issues — prayer in public schools — and to recent polls indicating more than 80 percent of Americans favor school prayer, Hastey said, "We are losing the propaganda war in the school prayer debate."

"We have failed to get through to the pollsters . . . that the issue is not 'volun-

tary' but mandated prayer in public schools. How else can we explain the fact the pollsters continue to put to the American people the question, 'Do you support a Constitutional amendment to restore voluntary prayer to public schools?'"

In view of efforts by the Religious Right to push legislation based on radical interpretations of the First Amendment, Hastey said the main objective of church-state separationists over the next 14 months "must be the election of public officials whose vision of America is historically sound and Constitutionally proper."

The "single most important threat to the First Amendment if we stay on the present course," Hastey added, "is the likelihood that the Supreme Court will cease to be the final bastion of its defense."

Welton Gaddy, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Tex., joined in denouncing the claims of the Religious Right. "I am tired of people like us being put on the defensive by arrogant people who think they have a corner on truth," he said. "Let there be no doubt about it: we are pro-America . . . pro-family . . . pro-morality . . . pro-life . . . and pro-freedom."

Although "politics and theology are plagued by a bumper sticker mentality," Gaddy insisted a new definition of religious liberty is needed which will include a toleration for complex and confusing issues. "The same law that permits a parade by Vacation Bible School also permits a parade by the Ku Klux Klan," he said.

Americans United honored a Southern Baptist denominational employee and a U.S. senator for their contributions to religious liberty. Sen. Lowell P. Weicker received the Madison-Jefferson award for his successful filibusters against Senate legislation which would have removed jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts on issues such as school prayer, abortion, and busing.

Ira Peak, director of Christian moral concerns for the Missouri Baptist Convention, was recognized for his leadership in successfully opposing a 1982 bill in the Missouri legislature calling for a Constitutional convention. Despite continued efforts opposing the measure, the Missouri legislature passed legislation calling for a Constitutional convention in May, 1983.

Coads sign documents to open work in Mali

BAMAKO, Mali — Norman and Beverly Coad, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to Mali, have signed documents allowing them to work in the country in "record time," said John Mills, the Foreign Mission Board's director for west Africa.

The agreement, which recognizes the Baptist mission as a development agency, will allow the mission to hold property, work with government offices, and carry out their work more freely, said Mills.

The Coads, who transferred to Mali Sept. 1, were able to secure necessary documents, usually a lengthy process, so quickly because of the influence of Oliver Reese, Southern Baptist miner in Mali, who made friends with a top government minister and shared information about Southern Baptist mission and development work with him.

Latch assumes duties at West Memorial

Randy Latch assumed duties as pastor of West Memorial Baptist Church, Saubury, on Sept. 4, in response to a call from the church.

Latch came to the church from the pastorate of Gibson Baptist Church, Gibson, and is a former pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Whiteville; Clover Creek Baptist Church, Medon; and First Baptist Church, Lincoln, Mo.

A native of Corinth, Miss., Latch is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and has attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Arizona church dispenses milk for body, soul

By Chris Potts

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Continuing efforts to serve the King, the Southern Baptist Temple of Phoenix has become something of a Dairy Queen.

After receiving more than 6,600 boxes

of dried milk, the church spent a great deal of the summer distributing that product to the needy folk of their community.

"I think it's a very good idea in so many ways," said Robert Heath, a

newly arrived resident from Michigan and one of the neighborhood beneficiaries. "I don't know too many people right now who don't need help. I think this will help people realize there's a lot of good left in Christianity A church that says, 'Hey, we've got it, come and get it' — that's a good ministry."

The program began, according to Pastor Greg Gearing, with a call from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in search of food distribution points for the South Phoenix neighborhood. They had read of the Southern Baptist Temple's other community service projects.

The church discovered that 6,600 boxes is a lot of milk. It took four hours for the pastor and 15 others just to unload the truck. And, after two months and two distribution days, the church still had close to 6,000 boxes left.

"In terms of numbers, I'd hoped for more people," Gearing admitted. "There aren't many people who like dried milk. It's not the drawing card cheese would be." Cheese requires refrigeration, something Southern Baptist Temple cannot provide right now.

Still, response has been "one of gratitude," said Gearing. "We're surveying these people to find out what their needs are, and if they're interested. We're

making contact." He added with every box of milk, the neighborhood folks are receiving a tract explaining how to find life in Christ. "We're giving out not only food for the body, but food for the soul."

In addition, Gearing feels he is giving his denomination some good publicity. "We're trying not only to do things, but to give some promotion for Southern Baptists. We want to show Southern Baptists care."

The church's new form of outreach has provided many new prospects for the predominantly black New Jerusalem Church and a Spanish mission, both sponsored by Southern Baptist Temple. "Every person we help is one more contact," Gearing said. "We have a multi-ethnic congregation so we've got room for everybody."

Gearing has encouraged any other churches interested in distributing milk in their community to contact him for details.

"It's one thing," said Heath, now a member of the church, "to preach to the needy. But if a church takes time to care for people they don't know . . . I don't know of a better outreach than, 'if you need help I'll help.'"

—Chris Potts is a free-lance writer in Phoenix, Ariz.

Ghanaian's prayer reveals serious hunger problem

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "Lord, we don't expect meat — but help us get some salt for our soup today," prayed the Ghanaian man.

He, like most of his countrymen, has found it increasingly hard to have even the necessities of life in the once-prosperous west African nation of Ghana, reported Missionary Gene Verner to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last month.

Many Ghanaians, said Verner, now eat only one meal a day and he knows of a woman who went from a size 14 dress to a size 8. Verner is president of the Ghana Baptist Seminary, Abuakwa.

Early this year, the Foreign Mission Board allocated \$352,500 to buy food, fertilizer, and machetes and to provide a truck and driver to deliver them in Ghana. In late summer, the Baptist mission in Ghana requested an additional \$574,000 for food and fertilizer for the country strained by drought, brush fires, and about one-million refugees expelled from Nigeria earlier this year.

Initially hampered in responding by low hunger relief reserves, the board found that other groups have food and fertilizer available for Ghana, but cannot ship or deliver it, says John R. Cheyne, the board's senior human needs consul-

tant. The board is seeking government permission to ship the goods into Ghana and acquire fuel for the truck and driver already in the country to deliver the goods, said Cheyne.

The country's fuel shortage is the most critical problem in getting food to Ghanaians, Cheyne said. Verner reported missionaries can get rationing coupons which entitle them to three gallons of gas twice a week. But they are pleased to get half or a third of that after waiting in line for two or three days. The Ghana Baptist Convention had to cancel its most recent annual meeting and missionaries are just about down to a walking ministry because of the fuel shortage, said John Mills, the board's director for west Africa.

The situation in Ghana has not always been critical, said Verner, who has experienced five coups since his missionary appointment in 1959. When he first went to Ghana, he took little because he could buy anything there he could buy in the United States. But the last time he returned from furlough, he took "the kitchen sink," knowing the store shelves would be bare.

Mills said he cautions missionaries going to other countries against taking too much with them, but makes an exception for those going to Ghana. They cannot take enough.

But in spite of hardships, the Ghanaians have remained responsive to the gospel and are generous to missionaries, even sharing vegetables from their gardens, said Verner. The convention has accepted increased responsibility for Baptist work, now providing half the financial support for the seminary.

The Ghanaians' attitude became evident, said Verner, in a prayer service for the seminary students. The teachers, who were concerned for the many hardships the students face, were surprised to hear some praying for the missionaries who were having a hard time living in their society.

Holder to address C-N Celebrate '83

JEFFERSON CITY — Evangelist Gary Holder, contemporary Christian music group Spectrum, and Alan Duncan will highlight Carson-Newman's Celebrate '83 on Oct. 29.

Holder, official chaplain for the National League baseball teams and chaplain for National Football League teams, will be featured speaker for the Celebrate program.

Spectrum, led by Danny Wolfe, will provide Christian music.

Duncan, former University of Tennessee kicking specialist and son of Southern Baptist missionaries, will be the master of ceremonies.

Celebrate '83 is an annual event sponsored by Carson-Newman and the office of church relations.

Delano congregation calls Fife as pastor

Delano Baptist Church, Delano, recently called George Patric "Pat" Fife as pastor.

Fife was previously pastor of Gum Springs Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg; Ozark Baptist Church, Ozark, Ill.; Immanuel Southern Baptist Church, Rantoul, Ill.; and Pontoon Baptist Church, Granite City, Ill.

A native of Harrisburg, Ill., Fife is a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship to be founded in November

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Bringing Christian nurses together under the umbrella of organized fellowship and ministry is the goal of a new Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF).

The BNF will be born officially at the November Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship (BMDF) national meeting in Oklahoma City, Okla., where its proposed constitution, bylaws, and slate of officers will be presented to attending nurses. A steering committee of medical professionals and representatives of Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention, and the BMDF met last month to plan the launching.

The BNF will be a sister organization

to the seven-year-old BMDF, which is endorsed by the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Mission Union, SBC.

WMU has agreed to provide advisory and administrative support for the Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

The stated purposes of the BNF are threefold, according to proposed bylaws: to provide nurses and nursing students opportunities for worship, witnessing, and ministering through professional association; to provide education and learning experiences through Bible study, theological training, ethical study, and evaluation of denominational work and professional education; and to provide members opportunities for expanded Christian service and witness through personal involvement in home and foreign mission activities and through disaster relief projects.

Nursing professionals will pay dues of \$25 per year and nursing students \$5 per year. Nurses who are active or emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries are not required to pay dues.

Slated officers for 1983-84 are: Ellen Tabor, Winston-Salem, N.C., president; Carol Stephenson, Mesquite, Tex., vice-president; Barbara McCoy, Tifton, Ga., program chairperson; Betty Hall, Wise, Va., membership chairperson; Sarama Joseph George, Nashville, service chairperson; Paul Lawrence, Leeds, Ala., finance chairperson; and Nancy Muldrow, Nashville, nominating chairperson.

The steering committee was composed of Timothy C. Pennell, professor at Wake Forest University's Bowman Gray School of Medicine; Henry Love, BMDF executive director; Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC executive director, and the slated officers.

"We hope to have at least 5,000 members by the end of the first year," Miss Weatherford said.

Woodmont to host medical fellowship

Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, will host a Baptist Health Care Fellowship meeting Oct. 21-22.

The meeting is for members of the Southern Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, physicians and dentists not related to the fellowship, as well as other professionals related to the medical profession, such as pharmacists, technologists, nurses, dietitians, chaplains, and hospital administrators.

Speakers include Bert Dyson, missionary physician to Nigeria; Al Hood, missionary surgeon to Thailand; Nancy Muldrow, a registered nurse related to the Baptist Nurses Fellowship scheduled to be founded next month; Charles Sands, missionary pharmacist to Korea; Bill Skinner, missionary pediatrician to Paraguay; and Anderson Spickard, medical faculty member at Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

The meeting will begin with registration at 6 p.m., Oct. 21, and will end at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 22. For more information, contact Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

India nursing course graduates first class

BANGALORE, India — The first six graduates of the practical nursing program at Bangalore Baptist Hospital will now be able to double their family's income, according to Gail Hill, missionary director of nursing.

Each student came from a large family whose income is less than \$40 per month. Hunger relief donations financed the program.

The six, who are fluent in English and Kannada, will help alleviate the nursing shortage at the hospital. Besides practical nursing instruction, they also received training in spiritual ministry to patients, including follow up work in a nearby village.

During the training period one nurse made her initial commitment to Christ as Saviour.



WRITERS' CONFERENCE — Several Tennesseans attended a recent writers' conference at the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. Pictured are (standing, left to right) Kenny Rains of Nashville and Brotherhood Commission staffers Connie Davis and Karl Bozeman, (seated) Connie Rains and Linda Fields, both of Nashville, James Smith, commission president, and Susan Morehead of Nashville.

Five Tennesseans depart to help in Upper Volta

Five volunteers from Tennessee left Oct. 1 to serve in the hunger and relief project in Upper Volta. The effort is a pilot project of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

- Those leaving last Saturday were:
- Frank Chenault, a member of LaBelle Baptist Church, Memphis, maintenance worker;
 - Sarah Davis, a member of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, literacy worker;
 - Merry Deason, a member of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, nurse;
 - Sally Kirby, a member of Gallaher Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, literacy worker; and
 - Harvey Ivie, a member of Concord's First Baptist Church, Knoxville, maintenance worker.

Four others from Tennessee, who served in Upper Volta from Sept. 3 through Sept. 29, returned home last week. These are:

- Charles Boone, a member of Meridian Baptist Church, Jackson;
- Donna Collier, a member of First Baptist Church, Memphis;
- Juanita Hall, a member of Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison; and

- Janice Ray, a member of Mt. Pelia Baptist Church, Martin.

Nine others from Tennessee are continuing to serve in the hunger and relief project in Upper Volta. These are:

- Guy Causey, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood;
- Freda Crowley, a member of First Baptist Church, Cookeville;
- Pam Godfrey, a member of First Baptist Church, Spring Hill;
- Cynthia Murrell, a member of Faith Baptist Church, Loretto;
- John Mullins, a member of First Baptist Church, Decherd;
- Nancy and Wade Watts, members of Highland Heights Baptist Church, Memphis; and
- Carol and Ted Webb, members of First Baptist Church, Greeneville.

Tennessee is in the third year of a five-year project to assist in agricultural, medical, literacy, evangelistic, and water conservation projects.

Those desiring specific information about types of ministries needed should contact Carroll Owen, Convention Ministries Division, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Congress approves funding to continue postal subsidy

WASHINGTON (BP)— Congress has voted enough funding to preserve current non-profit postal rates until it passes the regular appropriations bill for the Department of Treasury and Postal Service or until Nov. 10, whichever comes first.

The interim funding for the postal service was included in a stopgap funding measure Congress passed Sept. 30 to keep most government agencies running at the start of the new fiscal year. The stopgap measure was necessary because Congress had passed only four of the 13 regular appropriations bills for fiscal 1984.

It is uncertain at what level Congress will fund non-profit postal subsidy for the remainder of the fiscal year. In previous

action, the Senate Appropriations Committee agreed to a figure of \$802-million, enough to mean only a one-step increase in non-profit rates. The Senate panel estimated a one-step hike would boost most non-profit rates 4 to 12 percent.

The House Appropriations Committee voted \$879-million for the subsidy, enough to preserve current rates through the fiscal year. However, that measure was defeated on the House floor, primarily because of a dispute over abortion funding language. A second appropriations measure is now pending before the House committee.

Regardless, Congress appears unlikely to slash the funding for the subsidy to the \$400-million level requested by the administration.

Oklahoma City church ordains three women

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)— A "larger than usual" crowd was on hand at First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City Sept. 25 for the ordination of six deacons — three of them women.

Edna Dunn, Kathleen Nash, and Sherry Lawson were elected Aug. 21 when the church elected 18 deacons from a list of 48 persons which included seven women. A fourth woman was elected but declined to serve. Twelve of those elected had been ordained previously.

The Sunday evening service concluded a process that began in March of 1981 when a committee was named to study the role of women in the church. After two years of study the group reported it found nothing in the New Testament to prevent women from becoming deacons and recommended changing the church's bylaws to allow women deacons. That recommendation passed, 232-167, last January.

All six of the candidates for ordination met with a 35-member ordination council for questioning Sunday afternoon. The all-male council elected Pastor Gene Garrison as moderator and then asked each candidate a single set of questions concerning Baptist doctrinal beliefs such as baptism, grace, and salvation, a deacon spokesman said.

The candidates were presented to the church in the evening service where each stood in the pulpit and gave a testimony. Garrison's charge to the deacons consisted entirely of reading Scriptures dealing with how deacons should act.

Notes by the Capital Baptist Association have expressed strong opposition to the ordination of women as deacons. It is

not known what action, if any, the association will take concerning the action by First Baptist Church.

Cumberland Gap group celebrates 100 years

The Cumberland Gap Baptist Association will celebrate its 100th year of ministry Oct. 9 at Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Tazewell.

Centennial festivities at the 2:30 p.m. celebration will include a dramatic re-enactment of the organization of the association and the presentation of a memorial monument, to be placed on the Cedar Grove grounds, commemorating the founding of the Cumberland Gap group. The re-enactment, written by Mrs. Glenn Yoakum of Tazewell Baptist Church in Tazewell, will have several descendants of the original delegates in the roles of the founders.

According to Mrs. John N. Fugate, centennial committee chairman and a member of Tazewell's Little Mulberry Baptist Church, the Oct. 9 service will also feature the distribution of a centennial book prepared by the committee. The book will feature a history of the association and each of its member churches, as well as historical and current photographs.

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Three composers affirm role of Christian music in '80s

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP)— Today's Christian music is more theologically sound and diverse in style than in recent decades, according to three well-known composers.

Buryl Red, composer and arranger from New York; Ronn Huff, orchestrator and arranger from Nashville; and Mark Blankenship, composer and music editor for the Sunday School Board, recently led a conference for 75 composers from across the country at the board's church program training center.

All agreed the vitality and creativity of musical styles in the 1960s and 1970s had a great impact on composers and church music being heard today.

Blankenship sees about 2,000 new compositions a year in his role as editor and has observed "a trend to more traditional kinds of music." Submissions to the board's church music department, he said, are about 25 percent anthem literature.

"I see less of the strong folk rock rhythm," said Blankenship. "Today's good writers are using easy folk rhythms

because that's what's happening today." He cited the Ralph Carmichael hymn "He's Everything to Me" and "People to People" by William J. Reynolds as examples of the syncopation and easy folk rock rhythm contemporary composers are using.

"Rhythm is constant to life," he continued. "People pervert it. You can't base your worship of God on what non-Christians do. I don't think we have to limit ourselves to a certain sound to be appropriate."

"It is true the dividing line between professionalism and amateurism is pretty thin these days," Red observed. "With new technologies, it's pretty easy to produce something of quality. How much depth there is another matter."

However, Red said he feels there is not any less quality music being produced than in the past. "What we see from the past eras is only a small part of what was being produced then," he said. "Time has a way of weeding out what is not timeless."

Huff said composers "should not be afraid to do a work of personal expression that shows the emotions of the '80s while being sensitive to the makeup of congregations."

"I don't think the average person can stand being startled with revolutionary musical ideas," he continued. "I think

such music interrupts worship though. The congregation doesn't get from what the musician gets."

Blankenship said he feels hymnody is a weak area among today's new compositions. "We need good hymns that deal with praise, the majesty and holiness of God, the worship of God, written in an easily understood terminology but will enough polish to demonstrate substance."

"Fewer than 100 years ago, the bulk of hymn texts were written by preachers," he observed. "We're not seeing much done now by preachers. A number of them are bound to have the gift of lyrics. They should be polishing those skills to leave treasures for further generations. One or two hymns that would last 50 to 100 years would be one of the greatest spiritual contributions a preacher could make."

Red observed that in earlier times the church was considered the center of music. "I want church music to be the pacesetter," he said.

While the youth musical was considered an innovative concept for choral composition for the '70s, there seems to be no emerging new form at this point for the 1980s.

"All publishers and most church musicians are wondering what the next innovative music form for worship expression will be," said Blankenship.

Seminaries begin to establish Urban Evangelism Fellowships

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP) — Declaring they will "challenge the dry eyes that cannot weep for a lost world," Dale Cross and the Home Mission Board, have established the first Urban Evangelism Fellowship.

The organizational dinner, at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., Sept. 22, melded about 80 students and faculty members, committed to Christian work in major cities but often unknown to each other, into a friendship group with common goals.

Cross, director of metropolitan evangelism strategy for the board, plans similar fellowships at the other five Baptist seminaries. He will hold an organizational meeting at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Nov. 17.

"This is a fellowship of concern about urban America," Cross told the group. "We want to develop a network, a relatedness and connectedness with each other to support and to help each other resist the call of culture that says 'Let's get away from all this.'"

"The cultural call of success makes us hesitate to invest in the tough places. But we won't have the strength, the guts, the courage to be what God wants us to be any place if we avoid the tough places."

America's 50 largest metropolitan areas contain all six Southern Baptist seminaries and 102-million people, according to 1980 census statistics, from New York's 9.1-million, to Albany-Schenectady-Troy's 795,000.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in San Francisco-Oakland is in the sixth largest metro area; Southwestern, in Dallas-Fort Worth, eighth; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, 29th; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, 33rd; Southern, Louisville, Ky., 43rd; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Greensboro-Winston Salem-High Point, N.C., 48th.

Cross hopes the fellowship connects students between and within the seminaries. However, he and some seminary faculty members fear firing such enthusiasm may bring disappointment when students graduate into limited vocational ministry opportunities.

"All we can tell them now is to get to the city, get a job, and be bivocational," said Justice Anderson, director of Southwestern's World Mission/Church Growth Center.

"I'm concerned that raising expectations will exacerbate the problem we have that people cannot fulfill their dreams through our denomination," Cross said. "But the problem of not challenging them is worse."

"I'm enough of a mystic to believe when people start to pray and God begins working on their hearts, new things can happen."

Center for Constitutional Studies relocates at Mercer University

MACON, Ga. (BP) — The Center for Constitutional Studies, which has been located at the University of Notre Dame since its birth, has relocated at Mercer University in Macon.

The center provides basic legal scholarship funds and selected advocacy activities in support of religiously affiliated and other independent institutions of higher education. With its broadly based national constituency, the center has become a widely respected voice in legal scholarship, especially in the areas of religion and higher education law.

Newton Moore, formerly general counsel at Mercer, has been appointed executive director of the Center for Constitutional Studies and also chairman of the John Adams Sibley Institute for Public Affairs.

The center's advisory board, in the spring of 1983, desiring to stress the fact the center is not tied narrowly to the denominational self-interest of any one religious group, chose to relocate at Baptist-related Mercer. Mercer was selected from among 20 other institutions related to various churches or religious bodies.

Throughout its six-year existence at Notre Dame, the center has been actively engaged in research and selected advocacy to support the integrity and the autonomy of all church-related and independent colleges and universities.

In 1979 the center hosted the first major Congress of Church-Related Colleges and Universities. It has explored legal issues affecting the relationships between various religious bodies and institutions of higher education (church and campus) and the impact of governmental regulation on religiously affiliated and independent colleges and universities.

In amicus briefs, the center has supported a Southern Baptist university in Mississippi, the Seventh-Day Adventist conference in Michigan, a Presbyterian college in Pennsylvania, and inter-religious based groups such as the National Institute for Campus Ministry and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States.

The center's ecumenical advisory board is interreligious, presently composed of Baptists, Catholics, Jews, Mennonites, Methodists, Mormons, and Presbyterians. This is consistent with its mission to support all independent and religiously affiliated colleges and universities.

The work of the center is funded primarily by the Ford and Lilly foundations. Funding for projects undertaken from the center, however, comes from a variety of sources, including boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church, the Education Commission and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the Mennonite Board of Education, the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Christian College Coalition, a Mormon institution, and a Roman Catholic fraternal organization.

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Tennessee Scene

PEOPLE . . .

Antioch Baptist Church, Athens, ordained Paul Arnett, Larry Blankenship, and Mitchell "Mickey" Webb as deacons Sept. 18. Pastor Virgil R. Peters led the ordination service.

Henry Click was ordained Sept. 25 as a deacon of First Baptist Church, White House. W. Thomas Mosley is the pastor of the church.

First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, ordained Rusty Hedges and Mel Homan into its deacon ministry Sept. 25. The pastor of the church is James Porch.

J. D. Chapman was ordained as a deacon by First Baptist Church, Cleveland, during a Sept. 25 service. O. Eugene Mims is the pastor of the church.

Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, held an ordination service Sept. 25 for eight new members of its deacon ministry. Ordained were Steve Bock, Larry Ferguson, David Haywood, Mike Kemper, Bill Lovell, Bill McDaniel, Jim Randolph, and John Reynolds. Pastor Bill Wilson, Minister of Education and Administration Keith Kline, Minister of Music Drew Thigpen, and Minister of Preschool and Children Gayle Haywood each gave a charge to the church and the candidates.

Kenneth Coleman and Dale Myers were ordained as deacons of First Baptist Church, Pulaski, on Sept. 25. The church's pastor is Bill Morris.

Midland elects new moderators

Paul Haney and Vincent Jones were elected to lead Midland Association of Baptists during its annual meeting Sept. 19-20.

Haney, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Knoxville, was elected moderator, while Jones, pastor of New Liberty Baptist Church in Corryton, was elected vice-moderator. Haney succeeds Ralph Waggoner, pastor of Ruggles Ferry Baptist Church in Strawberry Plains, in the position.

Re-elected to their posts during the meeting were Treasurer Robert Mynatt, a member at Union; Clerk Jean Miller, a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Heiskell; Assistant Treasurer Lynn Brock, a member of Texas Valley Baptist Church in Knoxville; and Assistant Clerk J. T. Miller, pastor of the Mount Zion church.

The meeting was held at Knoxville's Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. According to Director of Missions Glenn Ford, Black Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Knoxville will host the 1984 meeting, Sept. 17-18.

Rice begins ministry at Fruitland church

Bill Rice began his first pastorate recently, after accepting a call from Fruitland Baptist Church, Humboldt.

At the request of the Fruitland church, Rice was ordained Aug. 14 at First Baptist Church, Humboldt, where he served as a deacon. Humboldt Pastor W. Darrell Clarke led the ordination service. Rice is a native of Humboldt.

First Baptist Church, Waynesboro, ordained Timothy W. Davis as a deacon Sept. 18. Norman O. Baker is the pastor of the church.

A Sept. 25 ordination service was held at Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville, for five new members of the church's deacon ministry. Ordained were Donnie Cothran, Kenneth Helton, David Morgan, Braxton Sams, and Julian Thompson. Paul Durham is the pastor of the church.

Donald Norwood and George Wilburn were ordained as deacons Sept. 25 by Thompson Chapel Baptist Church, Pulaski. The church's pastor is Marvin Nelson.

Volunteer Baptist Church, Bristol, ordained Charles M. Bellamy into its deacon ministry Sept. 11.

LEADERSHIP . . .

Holly Grove Baptist Church, Bells, called Gary Lowery of Paris as minister of music. Lowery, who began the position Oct. 1, is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. The church's pastor is Jerry Davis.

D. C. Kirk elected to lead Hiwassee

D. C. Kirk was elected to lead Hiwassee Baptist Association as its moderator during the association's annual meeting Sept. 23-24 at Paint Rock Baptist Church, Erie.

Kirk, pastor of Ten Mile Baptist Church, Ten Mile, succeeds Glenn Crabtree, pastor of the Paint Rock church. Elected to serve with Kirk as vice-moderator was Bob Kelley, pastor of Concord Baptist Church, also in Ten Mile.

Messengers to the meeting also elected Phyllis Bryant, a member of the Ten Mile church, as treasurer/clerk.

According to Director of Missions E. R. Gamble, the next meeting of the association is scheduled for Sept. 28-29 at the Ten Mile church.

Crossville church calls Dickson to pastorate

Central Baptist Church, Crossville, called Robert B. Dickson III as its pastor, a ministry he began Sept. 4.

Dickson came to the church from the pastorate of Braes Baptist Church, Houston, Tex. He was previously associate pastor and minister of education at Grace Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind.; associate pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Crossett, Ark.; and mission pastor/associate pastor for Southside Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.; and First Baptist Church, Key West, Fla.

Active in associational and denominational work, Dickson has served as chairman of the church achievement committee of Texas' Union Baptist Association and as a seminary extension instructor for southwest Indiana.

Dickson is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Hughes Avenue Baptist Church, Chattanooga, called J. Patrick Maloney as interim pastor. He is a former pastor of Fisher Road Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio, and churches in New Orleans, La.; Baltimore, Md.; and Jacksonville, Fla. He is a graduate of Jacksonville (Fla.) University, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

Keith Kline resigned as minister of education and administration at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, to return to the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville as a consultant in the youth section of the Sunday School department. Bill Wilson is the pastor of the church.

Mike Rorie accepted a call from Audubon Park Baptist Church, Memphis, to come as minister of youth and activities, a position he began Sept. 25. The pastor of the church is Howard S. Kolb.

James H. Lumpkins Jr. resigned as music and educational director of Fort Robinson Baptist Church, Kingsport, to take a position as music specialist with the Kingsport City Schools. Clint Barker is the church's interim pastor.

CHURCHES . . .

Berclair Baptist Church, Memphis, dedicated its new home for furloughing missionaries Sept. 18. The house has served as a meeting place for the church's youth, a Sunday School class, and Royal Ambassadors for several years, but was recently renovated as a completely furnished two-bedroom home. Participants in the dedication service included Gordon Crocker, Shelby County Baptist Association director of missions; Pastor William J. Sewell; Mary Clinton, chairman of the church's missions committee; and Dan Scott, Berclair minister of education.

Mount Ararat calls Rummage as pastor

Mount Ararat Baptist Church, Darden, called John Lewis Rummage to come as its pastor, a ministry he began Aug. 4.

A native of Trezevant, Rummage comes to the church from the membership of First Baptist Church there. He has served as Sunday School director for the Carroll-Benton Baptist Association.

At the request of the Mount Ararat congregation, Rummage was ordained Sept. 18 by the Trezevant church, where J. G. Wise is the pastor.

Allardt Baptists call Avery Burr as pastor

First Baptist Church, Allardt, called Avery Burr as pastor, a ministry he began Aug. 1.

Burr is a former pastor of churches in South Carolina, including Long Branch Baptist Church, Jefferson, and Pine View Baptist Church, Chesterfield. He served as president of the pastors' conference and as a member of the associational council in the South Carolina's Chesterfield Baptist Association.

Burr is a native of Chesterfield, S.C.

The present educational facility at First Baptist Church, Sale Creek, is being demolished to make way for a new two-story educational building. Sammy Putnam is the pastor of the church.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethton, dedicated its new building Sept. 18. Calvin Metcalf, a former pastor of the church, delivered the dedicatory sermon. John Perkins is the church's present pastor.

A dedication service was held Sept. 25 for the new building of Bethany Baptist Church, Mountain City. The pastor of the church is Bill Brown.

Bethel Baptist Church, Clinton, celebrated its 150th anniversary Sept. 24-25. The two days of festivities included special services with an old-fashioned emphasis, a Saturday evening singing, Sunday dinner-on-the-grounds, and a historical exhibit. Participants included former pastor Roy Miller, Jimmy Stroud, and Frank Worthington; and H. P. Barrington, director of missions for the Clinton Baptist Association.

REVIVAL PRAYER REQUEST . . .

Ten Mile Baptist Church, Ten Mile, will hold revival services Oct. 9-14. The 7 p.m. services will be led by Evangelist Wade Clemons. D. C. Kirk is the pastor of the church.

BMH, Memphis, names Gordon vice-president

MEMPHIS — Robert Gordon, an assistant vice-president at Baptist Memorial Hospital for two years, has been promoted to vice-president.

Gordon has been at the hospital since 1977, when he started a one-year administrative residency. He served as an administrative assistant from June of 1978 until 1981.

Hospital departments within his areas of responsibilities include admissions, the business office, clinical engineering, data processing, engineering, health services research, risk management, and security. Gordon also assists in preparation of the hospital's annual budget.

He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Jimmy Sartain takes Graceland pastorate

Jimmy Sartain accepted a call to the pastorate of Graceland Baptist Church, Memphis, a ministry he began Sept. 19.

Sartain came to the church from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Coldwater, Miss., and is a former pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss., and Valence Street Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.

A native of Water Valley, Miss., he is a graduate of Delta State College, Cleveland, Miss., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Yarborough to address mid-state historians

The Middle Tennessee Baptist Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m., Oct. 11, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention building in Brentwood.

Eleanor Yarborough, TBC history consultant, will speak on "Tennessee Baptist History: We've Come a Long Way."

Anyone interested in Baptist history is invited to the dessert meeting.

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Oct. 9

Results of Christ's work

By Cordell Maddox, president
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: Ephesians 2:1-22

Focal Passages: Ephesians 2:1-10, 13-18

During World War II, a young boy wrote to his father, "Dad, I hope you stay alive as long as you live."

This is good advice for all of us because there are people who are dead before they die. The New Testament teaches that we can be "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). Paul cautions Timothy that certain women are "dead while they still live" (1 Timothy 5:6).

The Scripture this week focuses upon the results of Christ's work on our behalf.

Two specific results are mentioned in the text. Jesus resurrects us from death in this life (2:1-10). And also He reconciles us to God and to each other (2:11-22).

The work of resurrection

Paul uses a "before and after" motif to describe Jesus' work of resurrection (2:1-3).

Paul refers to people who are dead in trespasses and sins. It is evident that Paul is here portraying a quality of life and not literal death.

What does it mean to be spiritually dead? It means that one lives by the world's standards, follows the influence of the devil, and has an attitude that is common to those who live in disobedience to God (2:2). This kind of existence leads to all kinds of lustful indulgence (2:3).

There is absolutely no hope for such a person apart from God's grace and love (2:4). Yet there is hope for a new quality of life.

Paul describes the "after" condition with several powerful metaphors. Because God loves us, He offers the possibility of a spiritual resurrection (2:5-6). This refers to what we usually call conversion or the new birth.

Before Christ comes into our lives we must become dead to sin. This spiritual resurrection is accomplished by God's grace (2:8). It is effected when we put our faith in Christ (2:8). Although we cannot earn salvation by our works, the genuineness of our salvation is manifested through our works (2:10). When one experiences a spiritual resurrection, he no longer lives like he did "before" Christ.

Paul uses a beautiful picture to describe the resurrection we experience in Christ. He writes that we are God's "workmanship." This word translates



Maddox

the Greek work Poeme (our word "poem"). It refers to a finished work of art.

The point is quite simple. No matter how our lives are distorted by sin, Jesus, through His grace, can make us into a masterpiece!

The work of reconciliation

A second result of Christ's work is reconciliation (2:11-22). The word "reconciliation" means to "restore to friendship." This is exactly what Jesus does through His death on the cross. "Before" Christ, all men are alienated from God and are at odds with each other. But the death of Jesus changes all this (2:13).

Jesus' death restores Jews and Gentiles into one new humanity (2:11-15). We call this new humanity the church. His death also reconciles the church to God (2:16). As a community of faithful persons who are reconciled to both God and to each other, we reach the potential God intends us to be (2:21).

If we are to be the church in today's world, we need to realize in actual practice our reconciliation to each other. Being on right terms with God comes first. But God expects us to be reconciled to one another. Only then is His Spirit apparent in our midst. Only in such unity can we accomplish our mission as the church in the world.

Christian colleges are an extension of the redemptive community - the church. Faculty and students working together in a Christian environment provide an atmosphere for change.

A young woman named Kim transferred from a state university to Carson-Newman because she had become disenchanted with the open community and impersonal nature of the university. After several weeks of involvement in chapel and religious activities, she discovered her previous unhappiness was due to the fact that her life was void of a Christian relationship with students and faculty. After six months of participation with campus ministries, she applied for appointment to summer missions through Baptist Student Union. She was appointed.

Kim is not an unusual case in the life of a Christian college as a redemptive community.

Be alive while you live

Is there life before death? The answer of our text is a loud YES. You and I can stay alive as long as we live. He alone enables us to be dead to sin instead of dead in sin.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for Oct. 9

The motive: God's love

By William E. Troutt, president
Belmont College, Nashville

Basic Passages: Hosea 11:1-4, 8; 14:4-7; John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:8-9

Focal Passages: Hosea 11:1-4, 8; 14:4-7; 1 John 4:8-9

When Karl Barth, the famous Swiss theologian, visited the United States, a reporter asked him to reduce his greatest theological thoughts to one sentence. He answered, "Jesus loves me; this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

God's love for us is truly remarkable. The Old Testament account of God's love for Israel should remind us of His love for all people. God's love for the Israelites was constant and continuous despite their rebellion and idolatry. God loves sinful people (Hosea 11:1-4, 8).

Hosea was a prophet of judgment, but he emphasized that God still loved Israel. Israel's religious leaders were the cause of their nation's downfall. They were supposed to be experts in the knowledge of God, but instead they led the people to worship Baal. Instead of lives marked by compassion and concern for their fellowman, most Israelites had become selfish, corrupt, and immoral.

Hosea prophesied to a troubled nation, but his marriage was equally troubled. His marital problems were used to present a unique view of God's relationship to Israel. As Hosea loved his unfaithful wife in spite of her great sin against him, God continued to love Israel even after the people forsook Him for Baal and other pagan gods.



Troutt

What could God do with a people who continually spurned His love, broke His laws, and merited His judgment? Verse 8 describes the brokenheartedness of God as He considers a response to the sins of Israel. Israel deserved destruction, but God's love prevailed.

God's plan of restoration (Hosea 14:4-7)

Hosea made one last plea to his people to return to God and depend upon Him rather than Assyria. Israel had destroyed itself through its own backsliding. Only God could heal them of their wickedness. He would be to them like water to thirsty plants... like a tree under whose shade they could dwell. In beautiful poetry, Hosea described how God is willing to restore what sin had forfeited.

Hosea described in verse 7 how God's restoring love would enable Israel to "grow as the vine." The grapevine served as the national symbol of Israel. In his parable of the vineyard, Isaiah described Israel as God's vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7). Jesus undoubtedly was referring to the vine symbol when He declared, "I am the true vine" (John 15:1).

God's means: a Saviour (1 John 4:8-9)

The New Testament testifies boldly regarding God's love. His love for all of us was manifested supremely in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The ministry of Jesus was a ministry of love. Jesus taught that God loves us all. Jesus personified God's love and ultimately Jesus' love took Him to the cross.

For the apostle John, to believe in Jesus meant to become like Him - especially in our dealings with others. John went so far as to say that a person without love does not know God because the essence of God's nature is love.

Because God is love, there can be no love without God. God is both the source and ultimate goal of love. As recipients of God's love, we must in turn become channels of God's love to others.

Our primary task as Christians is to convince the world of God's amazing love. To be successful in our mission, we must reflect His love in our daily contact with others.

Glenn Chance accepts
New Bethel pastorate

Glenn R. Chance was called as pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, Shelbyville, a ministry he began Aug. 13.

Chance came to the church from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Minor Hill, and is a former pastor of Meadow View Baptist Church and Hollywood Hills Baptist Church, both of Knoxville; Petersville Baptist Church, Petersville, Ala.; and First Baptist Church, Waterloo, Ala. He has also served as moderator of the Giles County Baptist Association.

A native of Knoxville, Chance is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and has attended New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

WMU names Gilliland
to marketing position

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) - Dolores "Dee" Gilliland, Northern Plains Woman's Missionary Union executive director, will become the first marketing communications specialists for WMU, SBC.

Mrs. Gilliland will begin her new duties at the national headquarters in December. She will direct the development and implementation of WMU's plan for marketing its program and materials. As marketing communications specialist she will also participate in developing and implementing dated plans and base designs, as related to marketing.

She is a graduate of Black Hills State College in Spearfish, S.D., and has attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

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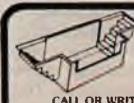
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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Oct. 9

God's courageous champion

By R. Trevis Otey, pastor
First Baptist Church, Jackson

Basic Passage: 1 Samuel 17:1-54
Focal Passages: 1 Samuel 17:8, 32-33, 37, 45-47, 50

The story of David and Goliath is one of the best loved stories in the Old Testament. We heard it in our childhood and still thrill to it in our old age. It has captured the imagination of all ages and all cultures.



Otey

The story is dramatically yet simply told. It is the story of the triumph of good over evil, of God over Satan, of God's people over their enemies. It also throws light on the individual's spiritual warfare and the conditions which assure victory.

I. The challenge of Goliath (17:1-11; 42-44)

A. Goliath of Gath, a giant, was terrorizing God's people. He stood about nine or 10 feet tall. His armor weighed 157 pounds and his club head weighed about 19 pounds (vv.4-7).

B. He challenged the people of God to send forth their finest warrior to meet him on the battlefield in a fight to the finish. The loser would cause his people to be the servants of the other (vv.8-9).

C. The people were terrified (v.11). They had forgotten who they were — the people of God. They had forgotten God's past dealings with them. They had forgotten His many promises. They took their eyes off God and saw only the enemy.

D. Today we face not a giant of Gath but an adversary who "goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour."

We are not engaged in a physical conflict but a spiritual one. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

We battle against the giants of greed and covetousness, of anger and hatred, of lust and licentiousness, of pride and arrogance, of selfishness and egotism.

II. The confidence of David (17:12-41; 45-47)

A. David comes on the scene bearing food for his brothers who are in Saul's army fighting the Philistines (vv.12-23). He hears the taunts and challenges of Goliath and offers to meet him in battle (vv.32).

B. Saul doubts him, his brothers rebuke him, and Goliath mocks him but David is not to be denied. He is certain he can defeat the enemy. Why such confidence?

He had the past experience of slaying a lion and killing a bear who threatened his father's sheep. He knew that God had given him the victory then and He would again (v.37).

He knew that what he was doing was right and consequently God's cause would not fail.

He had faith to believe that God would be with him since he went "in the name of the Lord."

C. We admire the courage of David as he faces Goliath. There is no fear — only faith. Fear can always be turned into courage by the Holy Spirit and can fell any giant with one stone.

D. David refused to wear the armor of Saul (v.39). There is a bit of humor in this scene as David puts on the armor of

Saul. What a picture this must have made — David the youth struggling and stumbling in the armor of a warrior who was noted for his size ("from the shoulders up higher than any of the people").

David has to be himself. David did not need physical armor. His protection was spiritual. So must we "put on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13ff).

III. The conquest for God (17:48-54)

A. We marvel at the control of David who downed Goliath with only one stone. This magnificent control came as a result of years of practice and reliance on God. Today we need such control — not with a sling but in the inner man. Our passions, our desires, our drives demand it.

Paul tells us that such control is a fruit of the Spirit. "The fruit of the spirit is . . . self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

B. With the giant's own sword, David decapitated Goliath. The death and defeat of the enemy was complete.

This is the only way we can effectively deal with sin. If we do not destroy sin, it will destroy us. Do not try to compromise or it will rise to harm in the future. Our victory over the giant of temptation and the Goliath of sin is not complete and our future secure until we have "utterly slain it."

C. The victory was God's. It was God working through David that brought the conquest.

This is what Paul meant when he said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). It is still true today — "it is not by might nor power but by My spirit saith the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6).

God is looking for men and women of commitment and faith who, like David, are willing to risk their lives in service and sacrifice for His cause. He calls today even as He did long ago. His invitation is still — "If any man would come after me let him deny self, take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24).

North Carolina retreat to host dialogue between Jews, Baptists

LITTLE SWITZERLAND, N.C. — The Middle East will be the focus of a regional dialogue between Jews and Baptists, Oct. 17-20 at Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Jewish-Baptist Colloquium on the Middle East is being sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Participants will hear papers by three Baptists and three Jews who will discuss political, personal, and theological perspectives on the current Middle East situation, and how these issues affect Baptist-Jewish relationships.

Political perspectives on the Middle East will be presented by Kenneth Jacobson, director of the Anti-Defamation League's department of middle eastern affairs; and by Charles Kimball, interfaith director for the Fellowship of Reconciliation which works with religious peace fellowships. Kimball, a Southern Baptist doctoral candidate in world religions at Harvard University, traveled to Iran several times during the hostage crisis in 1979 and 1980, and has also traveled through Israel and administered territories.

Rabbi Howard Singer, director of the ADL's interfaith affairs department, will speak on Jewish attitudes toward war and peace. Singer is a noted Jewish author, former military chaplain, and Israeli broadcasting personality.

Norman Lytle, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative in Israel, will discuss the Middle East situation from the perspective of a Baptist who has lived in Israel since 1964.

Rabbi Leon Klenicki, also of the ADL interfaith affairs department, will discuss "Exile and Return: Spirituality and Zionism." A native of Argentina, Klenicki is professor of history and Judaic studies at the Roman Catholic Immaculate Conception Seminary in Mahway, N.J.

Reinhold J. Kerstan, an associate general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance and editor of The Baptist World, will speak on "The Middle Eastern Situation in a Worldwide Baptist Perspective."

The dialogue is the fourth in a series of regional discussions held at Wildacres, a retreat operated by the Blumenthal Foundation of Charlotte, N.C. Previous conferences were held in 1979, 1980, and 1982.

About 30 participants, evenly divided between Baptists and Jews, are expected to attend this year. Participants include seminary and college faculty, pastors and rabbis, denominational and religious agency personnel, and lay persons.

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Baptists join hands to aid Guatemalan girl

By Carol Sisson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)— Three people peered gingerly across the doctor's shoulder, captivated by the delicate eye surgery underway less than six inches before them.

"You're surrounded by a heavenly host cheering you on," Southern Baptist Missionary Kay Owen quipped to the doctor. The observation was lighthearted, but the symbolism of her statement was vivid.

A young Guatemalan girl lay on that operating table in Birmingham, Ala., because she and her missionary friends had prayed in faith and because, half a world away, the Lord had moved through a group of Baptist businessmen and individuals to supply the answer.

Twenty-two-year-old Emeliana Choc, the household helper of Missionaries Mike and Kay Owen, was undergoing surgery that would allow her for the first time to look into a mirror without being reminded she was "different."

The K'ekchi' Indian woman's eyes had been crossed since birth, a condition which impaired her personality as well as her vision. A strong Christian, Emeliana's prayer was for better sight and a more normal appearance.

In May, while Owen was on a 30-minute flight from Birmingham to Mobile, Ala.,

he met and struck up a conversation with Doyce Williams, director of Alabama's Lions Club Eye Bank, located in Birmingham.

Their meeting was "one of God's coincidences," Mrs. Owen explained. The two men were more than strangers passing time on an airplane. Both were dedicated Christians.

Owen shared Emeliana's story, and Williams suggested he take pictures of the girl and have a doctor in Guatemala prepare a report of her condition.

Williams, a member of Huffman Baptist Church in Birmingham, also felt this was no chance meeting, and determined to do what he could to bring Emeliana to Birmingham for eye surgery.

He started sharing her story with some Christian friends, what he called "a broad cross section of people." Many made contributions.

Soon, a local Baptist surgeon had volunteered his services at no cost and a Baptist businessman agreed to seek the financial support of his Lions Club.

"We were hoping Mike's ministry could be enhanced," Williams said, through helping this Guatemalan girl.

Harvey Coker, who performed the operation free at the Eye Foundation Hospital, is medical director for the Alabama Lions Eye Bank. Coker, a

member of Crosscreek Baptist Church, downplayed his part in Emeliana's story, saying no more than "Doyce told me the situation and I agreed to do the surgery."

When the anesthesiologist then donated his services, operating costs which would have totaled about \$1,500 were covered. However, travel expenses for Emeliana and Kay, who was to serve as interpreter, still had to be paid.

While much of this money had been donated through individuals and the Birmingham Baptist Association, a gap large enough to keep Emeliana in Guatemala still remained.

When Danny Garrett, a Birmingham accountant and music director at Clearview Baptist Church, learned of the need, he felt the Downtown Lions Club might be able to help.

Because sight is the major project of Lions Clubs internationally, needs such as this are of special concern to the local clubs. But requests for aid in bringing someone to Birmingham's Eye Foundation Hospital are too numerous to meet in every instance.

Garrett felt this request, however, was special, and presented it to his less than 100-member club as such. Their response was a donation of more than \$500, enough to complete transportation costs.

While these plans were being made in Alabama, Owen returned to Guatemala and told Emeliana about the opportunity.

The idea of going to the United States and actually having the operation was frightening at first, Emeliana said. "That night I prayed and asked the Lord to help me to know what to do." She then fell asleep and dreamed an angel passed by her and put his hand over her eyes, saying not to worry, everything would be all right.

To Emeliana, this was the Lord's way of giving her the confidence and peace she needed.

The day before the operation, her faith never wavered. "I know the Lord will see everything through," she said as she put her sight into the hands of a total stranger, a man who could not even explain the operation to her in her own language.

Emeliana was released from the hospital the following morning. That day she and Kay were special guests at the Downtown Lions Club meeting. Those men could not see Emeliana's corrected eyes, still sensitive and covered by protective glasses. Their satisfaction came instead when Kay gave them Emeliana's simple message:

"I cannot pay you back, but I know the Lord will bless you."

Preacher missionaries top FMB's 'most wanted' list

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— Southern Baptist missionaries have told the Foreign Mission Board nearly three-fourths of their most urgent needs are for preachers and church developers.

The missionaries, from 101 countries, sent their message in the form of 484 requests for preachers, church starters, and other specialists in evangelism.

Area directors who oversee missions work outlined these needs and others Sept. 15-16 in an annual meeting with the board's personnel selection representatives, who identify and process new missionaries.

This year's review focused more closely than in years past on needs directly involved in evangelism and starting churches. Missions, the organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries in each country, were instructed to pare personnel requests to include only most urgent needs.

Last year 817 requests came in from the field, and only about 18 percent of them have been filled. This year the board hopes to direct attention to the fields' most critical needs, explained Charles Bryan, senior vice-president for overseas operations. So missions zeroed in on only 657 needs for the coming year.

Area directors used the missions' priority lists to draw up their own priorities according to the plans they have for world areas. In some areas, evangelists were not the No. 1 priority, but in all areas, evangelists were, numerically, the most requested type of missionary.

In Middle America and the Caribbean, for instance, the top priority need is for a bookstore manager to develop a religious literature service throughout the Dominican Republic. But of the other 14 priority requests, nine are for evangelists.

One of the more unusual requests came from Guyana, where national pastors need help in learning how to cope with their own family problems. The Guyana mission is seeking a family life

counselor to work with pastors in a land where family life has deteriorated.

The first priority in Europe and the Middle East is for a bookstore manager in Morocco. The bookstore has been stocked with Bibles and offers a prime opportunity to witness to Arabs, said Isam Ballenger, area director. Other priorities in the area include 10 general evangelists, one to use the German

Dallas Baptist College gets \$2.5-million gift

DALLAS (BP)— Dallas Baptist College has received an anonymous gift of land and cash that will provide \$2.5-million over nine years to pay off a debt to the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Several other institutions, including the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission boards, will also benefit, according to Lynn Craft, president of the Baptist Foundation of Texas. Details of those gifts will be forthcoming.

The gift to DBC will enable the college to retire its debt to the Texas convention and help it avoid interest payments. The convention loaned the college \$2.5-million for 10 years in 1982 with the stipulation the first five years would be interest free and the second five years also interest free if the school could raise \$5-million in endowment.

Details of the trust established for the college stipulate the school receive the earnings from \$2.5-million to make its debt payment, and if the money remains invested for 12 years, it will also net the school \$3.6-million for endowment.

President W. Marvin Watson said the college has finally erased its accumulated deficit that at one time totaled \$1.9-million. At the close of the school's fiscal year June 1, he said, there was a fund balance of \$121,202. The school raised \$8,328,098 in 1982-83, he said, while operating with a \$7-million budget.

language to reach some of the 2-million Turkish immigrants in Germany.

Baptists in Mali, a predominately Moslem country, need someone with religious education training to direct a self-help center in a Moslem city, said West Africa Director John Mills. Though the center would not identify itself with Christianity, the missionary director could provide Bible study for people he meets who want to know about Christ.

Other west African needs include a dentist for The Gambia, a business manager for the Benin mission, a mass media director in Nigeria, and an agricultural evangelist in Mali.

Fourteen of the top 15 priority requests from East Asia are for evangelists, five to work with students. Missions in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong need general evangelists and church planters.

Response to the gospel remains strong in South and Southeast Asia, noted Area Director William Wakefield. Missionaries report about one baptized person for every five church members during the last two years. Four church planters (starters of new congregations) and an agricultural evangelist are sought for the Philippines.

Attitudes of some governments in South and Southeast Asia have hampered Southern Baptist attempts to strengthen some key missions. Last year only about 10 percent of new missionaries went to the area, though about 50 percent of all the people to whom Baptist missionaries minister live in that area, Wakefield said.

Western South America's primary need is for a general evangelist in Arica, Chile, which has never had a missionary couple. Eleven other evangelists are priority requests.

Area Director Davis Saunders gave special attention to Uganda, in eastern and southern Africa, in requesting four evangelism specialists for the country. Only one of 27 Southern Baptist mis-

sionaries now there is a preacher, he said.

Eight of the top 15 requests from eastern South America come from Brazil, where vast areas still need to hear the gospel despite more than 100 years of Baptist missionary work, said Thurmon Bryant, area director. "There are still cities of 80,000 and 90,000 with no Baptist witness. Some of the states have 200 or 300 counties with no Baptist church," he said.

House backs ban on abortion funds

WASHINGTON (BP)— Going beyond previous restrictions, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to bar all federal funding of abortions, even in cases where the life of the mother is endangered.

However, backers of the abortion rider insisted the exception clause contained in current law which permits federal payment for abortions when the mother's life is threatened will be part of the final bill that goes to President Ronald Reagan for his signature.

Rep. Silvio O. Conte offered the restrictive amendment to a \$96.4-billion appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Resources after language in the bill barring Medicaid funding of abortion except to save the life of the mother had been stricken on a point of order.

Conte's amendment prevailed 231-184 despite charges by opponents that it disregards "the mother's life and health interests."

Rep. Henry Hyde, a longtime foe of federal abortion funding, said criticism of the Conte amendment because it does not have the exception clause protecting the life of the mother is unfair. "But I guarantee, my colleagues, as I stand here on this floor, that that protection will be put in conference as it always has been," he said.