

# Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Tennessee reaches mission giving goal

On the last day of the budget year, Tennessee Baptists achieved the \$16.8-million Cooperative Program goal and set a new state convention record in mission giving, according to Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

When the books were closed on Monday (Oct. 31), Madden reported that \$16,800,308.49 had been given by Tennessee Baptists to missions through the Cooperative Program for the November 1982-October 1983 convention fiscal year. This is a 7.69 percent increase over the previous record, \$15,601,106.30 which was given during the November 1981-October 1982 convention year.

Madden expressed his appreciation to Tennessee Baptists for their faithful, continuing mission giving throughout the convention year.

Messengers to the 1982 TBC at Leewood Baptist Church, Memphis, had set the 1982-83 Cooperative Program budget-goal at \$16.8-million. The \$16,800,308.49 received means that the goal was passed

by \$308.49 or two one-hundredths of one percent.

This also means that the \$308.49 received beyond the \$16.8-million goal will be available for the Bold Mission Thrust challenge section of the budget which was approved by the 1982 state convention.

Cooperative Program receipts for October were \$1,207,240.76. This amount was 13.77 percent below the \$1.4-million monthly goal for the convention year just closing.

Madden observed that October 1983's gifts of \$1,207,240.76 were 10.14 percent below the \$1,343,394.93 given during October 1982.

In reviewing Tennessee Baptists' Cooperative Program gifts during the year, the TBC executive secretary noted that for the first time in TBC history these gifts passed the \$1-million mark for all 12 months.

A month-by-month list of Cooperative Program contributions reveals these figures:

—November 1982: \$1,428,851.79 (TBC's

15th highest month in history);

—December 1982: \$1,287,819.90;

—January 1983: \$1,457,099.81 (eighth highest month);

—February 1983: \$1,476,224.52 (seventh highest month);

—March 1983: \$1,452,836.69 (ninth highest month);

—April 1983: \$1,438,636.02 (13th highest month);

—May 1983: \$1,071,990.57;

—June 1983: \$1,615,962.64 (second highest month);

—July 1983: \$1,206,264.17;

—August 1983: \$1,718,391.59 (highest month in TBC history);

—September 1983: \$1,438,990.03 (11th highest month);

—October 1983: \$1,207,240.76.

Later this month, the messengers to the 1983 Tennessee Baptist Convention will consider a recommended \$18.3-million Cooperative Program budget-goal for the coming convention year. The recommended budget-goal will be 8.93 percent higher than the 1982-83 Cooperative Program receipts.

A church-by-church listing of gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program and through designated offerings will be printed in the Nov. 9 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

## Paschall, ex-SBC head, announces retirement

NASHVILLE (BP) — H. Franklin Paschall, president of the Southern Baptist Convention for two years (1966-68) and pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church since 1956, announced Oct. 30 he is planning early retirement.

Paschall said four factors influenced his decision, after several months of struggle, to retire Dec. 31 at the completion of 28 years as pastor.

(1) The need for a more simple lifestyle after 43 years as a "busy pastor";

(2) A desire to continue his "ministry at large" which a more relaxed schedule would allow to be longer and more meaningful;

(3) The fact that he will be 62 next May; and,

(4) The "health and readiness" of First Baptist Church, Nashville, means the congregation is ready to enter its "greatest era of opportunity" and "a new leader of God's own choosing" can best guide the church into that era.

His own health is reported to be excellent.

He read the resignation at the end of the televised, Sunday morning worship service of the 4,300-member church. During that service the congregation adopted a 1984 budget of \$1.3-million — its largest ever.

Paschall stressed he is not interested and would not accept any "position" at another church or within the Southern Baptist Convention and his retirement ministry at large will consist "exclusively of preaching, teaching, and perhaps writing."

In addition to heading the Southern Baptist Convention as president, he held major positions with the Kentucky and Tennessee state Baptist conventions and the Baptist World Alliance. He presently is serving as chairman of the trustees for Baptist Hospital, Nashville, and state-wide general chairman of the \$15-million endowment campaign for the three TBC colleges. He has served on the TBC Executive Board and as a trustee of Belmont College, Nashville.

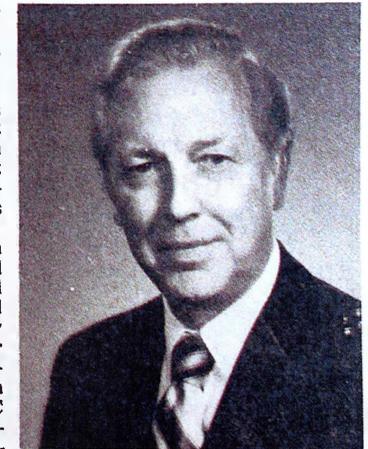
In Southern Baptist life, Paschall has been a trustee for the Baptist Sunday School Board and a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

He has preached extensively in the United States and in Europe, Japan, South America, and Africa. In 1979 he was chairman of the general committee for the Billy Graham Crusade in Nashville.

He was pastor of churches in Kentucky and Tennessee before coming to Nashville. Other Tennessee pastorates include North Fork Baptist Church and Oak Grove Baptist Church, both in Henry County, and Maplewood Baptist Church, Paris.

A native of Hazel, Ky., Paschall is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Union University awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1956.

The Paschalls plan to remain in Nashville and continue as members in First Baptist Church.



H. Franklin Paschall

## Charlotte Davis reviews Grenada 'lifesaving' event

By Charlie Warren

Missionary Charlotte Davis, who was among the Americans airlifted out of Grenada last week, views the United States invasion of Grenada as "a lifesaving measure" that came at "a very critical time."

Mrs. Davis arrived in Knoxville at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 29, after leaving Grenada at noon the previous day. She spent the night in Charleston, S.C., awaiting connections into Knoxville, where her daughters Tamra, 20, and Natalie, 17, are in school.

Mrs. Davis, her missionary colleague Robin Eberhardt, and Mrs. Eberhardt's son, David, caught the last U.S. military airlift out of Grenada. The two husbands stayed in Grenada to continue contact with Grenadian Baptists and to evaluate the needs for disaster relief following the invasion.

The Tennessee couple watched from their home about two miles from the St. George's airport as paratroopers, large army helicopters, and amphibious vehicles landed on the Caribbean island Oct. 25.

Awakened by the sound of heavy gunfire the morning of the invasion, the Davises huddled in the corner of their bedroom for 10 minutes of terror, not knowing who the attackers were. Mrs. Davis' husband, Carter, crawled to the window and identified the paratroopers as U.S. troops.

Mrs. Davis said there had been a 24-hour-a-day "shoot on sight" curfew during the week before the invasion.

"It was a traumatic week for us. We



**GRENADA'S DAVISES** — Charlotte Davis (left), shown here with her husband Carter speaking to the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention, came home to Tennessee last Saturday from Grenada, where they serve as missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board. Charlotte plans to return to that Caribbean island when airline traffic is restored.

heard a lot of propaganda and many untruths and we didn't know what to believe," she explained.

The nights were the worst time, said Mrs. Davis, because Cuban resistors, heavily armed, were seeking refuge and supplies in homes. To discourage intruders, the couple stayed on the floor with the lights out to make it look like no

(Continued on page 3)

## Clinton hears motion to bar churches ordaining women

A motion to amend the Constitution of the Clinton Baptist Association so as to exclude from its fellowship churches that ordain women was presented to the association during its annual meeting Oct. 20-21.

According to a story in the Clinton Courier-News, the motion came only after an earlier motion, which would have refused at the meeting the seating of messengers from a church with female deacons, was ruled out of order. The ruling was that the motion was contrary to the association's Constitution.

The motion to amend, which will be carried over for vote to the 1984 annual meeting as required, calls for the association to "exclude from membership any member church that ordains women to the position of deacon or pastor until that church agrees to follow the expressed desires of the majority of the Clinton Baptist Association." The executive board of the association is on record as stating that "the ordination of women as deacons is not the general practice of Baptists."



Quinn Pugh

## Pugh to head N.Y. Baptists

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP) — R. Quinn Pugh, executive director of Metropolitan New York Baptist Association since 1979, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York.

Pugh will replace interim director-treasurer, Roy D. Gresham, former executive of the Baptist convention in Maryland on Feb. 1, 1984. Gresham took the position last year after the resignation of Jack P. Lowndes.

The tri-state convention includes churches in New York state, southern Connecticut, and northern New Jersey.

Pugh came to New York City in 1962 and participated in the formation of both Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and the Baptist Convention of New York. He was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Belair, Md., for six years. He has served churches in New Jersey, Georgia, Kentucky, and Louisiana.

The native Texan is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall; Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga.; Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He has held numerous denominational offices at the national level and in Maryland and New York including a stint on the board of directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

First Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, the target of the original motion, has ordained women as deacons since 1975. Messengers from the church have always been seated at the associational meetings, although the resolution of the association's executive board to oppose ordination for women came in response to the church's action.

No other church in the association has ordained women as deacons, although Robertsville Baptist Church in Oak Ridge has ordained a woman to serve as a chaplain.

In other business, messengers to the annual meeting voted to accept Riverview Baptist Church of Clinton into the membership of the association. The church, led by Pastor Don Hensley, requested transfer from the Midland Baptist Association.

The messengers also voted to sell a building purchased by the association last year, as renovation costs were deemed too high, and turned down a bid to buy another Clinton property. Both buildings were eyed as possible sites for the association's office.

Three churches were recognized for increases in their Sunday School programs. Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, received the Doug Hudgins award for largest numerical increase in enrollment; South Clinton Baptist Church in Clinton received the Andrew Allen award for largest numerical increase in average attendance; and Fairview Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, received the Jesse Daniel award for largest percentage increase in enrollment and the Warner Rutledge award for largest percentage increase in average attendance.

In officer elections, Wayne Markham, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lake City, was elected moderator, and Filmore Strunk, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, was elected assistant moderator. Markham succeeds L. Gale Lyon, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge.

Re-elected to their posts were Treasurer J. Carl Keith and Clerk Evelyn Green, both members of Bethel Baptist Church in Clinton; Assistant Treasurer Paul Pratt, a member of South Clinton Baptist Church; and Assistant Clerk Pat Long, a member of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Andersonville.

The meeting was hosted by First Baptist Church of Lake City, Royce Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, and Moran Baptist Church, Clinton. According to H. P. Barrington, the 1984 meeting of the association is set for Oct. 22-23 at First Baptist Church of Clinton, Robertsville Baptist Church, and Bethel Baptist Church.

## Flash fire destroys Old Ocoee building

An Oct. 16 flash fire completely destroyed the building of Old Ocoee Baptist Church, Benton.

The fire, cause of which is still unknown, broke out sometime between 1:00 and 1:30 a.m. Oct. 16. Members of the church are now meeting in a building previously occupied by a Benton furniture store.

Because nothing could be salvaged from the debris, the church is seeking to purchase used pews and other furniture, a piano, and an organ. Those wishing to aid the church may contact the members or Pastor Larry Chastain at P.O. Box 108, Benton, TN 37307.

## PR coordinator Evelyn Strickland announces date for retirement

Evelyn Strickland, who has worked with public relations for the Tennessee Baptist Convention for 18 years, announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31.

Mrs. Strickland, who first came to the TBC in 1965 as a public relations news-writer under then assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer Gene Kerr, became public relations coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1973. She has worked with executive secretary-treasurers Fred Kendall, Ralph Norton, and Tom Madden.

In her positions, Mrs. Strickland's responsibilities have included writing news releases about the TBC; providing a Vacation Bible School supplement with Tennessee ties; compiling Quotes and Facts, a quarterly booklet of materials for church newsletters; planning a weekly radio program of TBC news; publishing The Communicator, a newsletter for TBC Executive Board employees; acting as a liaison between the TBC and news agencies; and many others which helped to publicize and aid the work of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. She is also credited with inaugurating the TBC leadership directory.

A member of the Public Relations Society of America, Mrs. Strickland was the second woman to work in a Southern Baptist Convention-related organization to receive accreditation by the society, and presently, the only living one. She

has served as president of the middle Tennessee chapter of PRSA, and is a member of the Baptist Public Relations Association.

Before coming to the TBC, she worked as a secretary with the Nashville Baptist Association; as a kindergarten teacher at Lincocya Hills Baptist Church and Two Rivers Baptist Church, both of Nashville, as a secretary in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California; and as an employee of the Baptist Book Store in Fresno, Calif. She has served as a conference leader at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, as a writer for Baptist Sunday School Board and Convention Press magazines, and as a member of the SBC Public Relations Committee.

A native of Joplin, Mo., Mrs. Strickland is a member of First Baptist Church in Nashville. She has attended Belmont College, Nashville; the Knoxville and Nashville campuses of the University of Tennessee; West Tennessee Business College, Jackson; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.; Hardin-Simmons Baptist University, Abilene, Tex.; and Boston (Mass.) University.

Mrs. Strickland will be retiring near the date of retirement for her husband, Alvis, who is presently a consultant for adult Sunday School work with the Baptist Sunday School Board. The Stricklands have two children and five grandchildren.

The employees of the TBC Executive Board will honor Mrs. Strickland with a Dec. 14 luncheon.



Mrs. Strickland

## Louisiana Supreme Court upholds right to teach creation-science

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Louisiana Supreme Court has upheld the legislature's right to order the teaching of creation-science when evolution-science is taught in the state's public elementary and secondary schools.

The 4-3 decision overturns a November 1982 ruling by U.S. District Judge Adrian Duplatier of New Orleans that the state's Constitution provides for the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

to ultimately decide what curricula will be taught in the schools.

Louisiana Baptists, at the 1982 state convention, passed a resolution to "reject attempts by any school to teach as fact any theory of creation and take action when the opportunity arises to oppose the teaching of any religious dogma, favored or opposed by Louisiana Baptists, in our classrooms."

The introduction of the resolution confirmed Louisiana Baptists' belief in the "divine creation of man, made in the image of a loving God, and found unacceptable any theory which ascribes the creation of man to any other than our Creator God."

Louisiana Senator Bill Keith, a former Southern Baptist missionary and denominational employee, now a Methodist, led the fight for the creationism bill in 1981.

Keith is quoted as saying "they (BESE) said they had won a great victory and put creation-science to rest. Well, we have just seen a resurrection."

Louisiana's attorney general, William Guste, contended the legislature did not violate the Louisiana Constitution when it passed the law mandating equal treatment of the two theories of man's existence.

Guste said the legislature was not requiring either theory to be taught, but merely mandated that "balanced treatment" be given both theories when one was introduced into the classroom.

Even with the Supreme Court's ruling, the state's creationism law will be suspended by an act of the legislature until the final legal arguments over its constitutionality are settled.

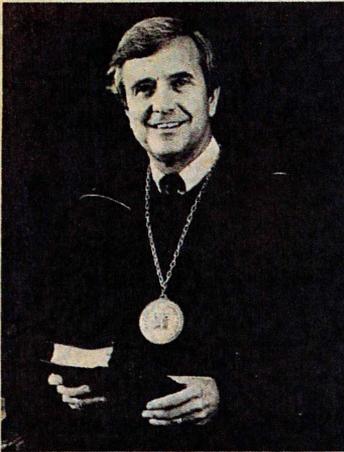
## Zimbabwe TV uses RTVC 'Jot' cartoons

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP) — Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) has begun airing the Southern Baptist Convention-produced "Jot" television cartoon series.

"The films have been previewed and are good for children," said Job Johnera, head of ZBC television services. ZBC-TV is owned and operated by the Zimbabwean government.

Each "Jot" segment is 4½ minutes of color animation, designed to entertain children four to 12 years old. Through this entertainment they are led to thoughts about themselves, God, and others. Some themes are honesty, obedience, forgiveness, and trust. A moral is emphasized at the end of each program.

Produced by the SBC Radio and Television Commission, the "Jot" series received financial support from the more than 36,000 churches of the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States.



Frank Pollard

## GGBTS installs Frank Pollard

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Franklin D. Pollard has been inaugurated as the fifth president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pollard was installed by Carlos McLeod, chairman of the seminary board of trustees, at the ceremony on the Strawberry Point campus.

In his address to the more than 600 persons attending, Pollard expressed appreciation to the pioneers who built the heritage upon which the seminary rests, and said he not only desires to continue their vision to reach the West for Christ, but to expand their commitment to make Golden Gate a base for worldwide evangelism.

The former pastor of churches in San Antonio, Tex., and Jackson, Miss., said Golden Gate will remain obedient to the vision Paul had to evangelize and he listed four foundations to insure it.

"We believe the people of the world must know Jesus Christ," he said. "We also believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God — all of it, not selected spots. We believe God intends to reach the world and disciple people in dynamic and growing churches. We believe God calls people to His ministry, and that our ministry is one of training them for very specific and particular tasks in His kingdom."

## Zimbabwe MKs set scholarship fund

GWERU, Zimbabwe (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary kids (MKs) in Zimbabwe have established the Chip Corley Memorial Scholarship Fund to help students attending the Baptist Theological Seminary in Gweru, Zimbabwe.

Twelve-year-old Chip, son of missionaries Charles and Gayla Corley of Texas, was killed last February in a bicycle-car accident in Zimbabwe.

"Chip loved God's Word and we believe the scholarship would please him," Missionary Pam Parker of Sanyati, Zimbabwe, wrote on behalf of Chip's MK friends. "The MKs felt this would be an excellent way to establish a living memorial in the land they all love so much."

The MKs raised funds for their initial contribution by selling popcorn at the Zimbabwe mission's annual meeting. They personally raised \$125 and received another \$395 in other contributions, according to Missionary Rebecca McKinley.

Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., where former Zimbabwe volunteers Margie and Paul Bowling maintain ties with the mission, donated \$250.

## LA Baptists plan Olympic ministry

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Southern Baptists are setting up a crisis center hotline and massive network of volunteers to help an estimated 775,000 visitors expected to attend the 1984 Olympics July 28 through August 12.

Need for the project became apparent after the Olympic organizing committee made it clear they are working only to stage the Olympic games and take care of the athletes, not to help spectators and tourists with emergencies.

Whether it be reporting a stolen wallet or finding a trustworthy mechanic to repair the family car, volunteers of the Southern Baptist-sponsored Summer Games Ministries plan to offer that helping hand.

The crisis center hotline will operate from the SGM center across from the coliseum and sports arena where many events will take place. It will be staffed around the clock with trained volunteers.

The volunteers will tap a master resource list to link needy visitors with at least two Baptists in their vicinity who will be able to render aid. Area coordinators will also be on call in the field to take care of special cases.

To let visitors know where help is available, ministry organizers plan to rent billboards and distribute pamphlets on the streets. Literature also will be placed in all area churches.

## Charlotte Davis reviews...

(Continued from page 1)

one was home. The international troops finally secured their neighborhood Oct. 27.

During the curfew, many Grenadians experienced physical hunger, according to Mrs. Davis. Most have no refrigeration and generally go to the markets and stores every day. When they were not allowed on the streets to shop, they were forced to go without food, she explained.

When the military tribunal realized the people were becoming desperate, they lifted the curfew, but only for four hours. "Most people spent the time trying to locate family members," Mrs. Davis said.

The Davises spent the four hours searching for Baptist church members.

Miraculously, throughout the Oct. 16 coup, the tense week of the curfew, and the fighting during the Oct. 25 invasion, there were no deaths or serious injuries among Baptist church members, even though several were in areas where there was heavy artillery fire.

"God provided a way for us (Baptists)," said Mrs. Davis. "It had to be from God."

She told of one Grenadian church member who hid under a car for several hours with heavy fighting all around him. He escaped without injury.

Several pastors and Baptist church members had broken the curfew and risked death to gather neighbors in their homes for church services Oct. 23.

The missionaries stated appreciation for President Ronald Reagan's decision to send troops into Grenada, according to Mrs. Davis.

"The invasion opened a way for freedom and democracy," she explained. "With that comes freedom for us in our work. I anticipate our churches are going to experience a surge of freedom."

Even before the October coup, there were limitations to Baptist work, she explained. "There were no official restrictions, but we sensed our limitations and

## Murray claims atheist groups distribute fake 2493 petitions

By Bob E. Mathews

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP) — Atheists keep alive the RM 2493 petition rumor to make Christians look foolish, according to William J. Murray.

Murray, the son of America's best known atheist, Madelyn Murray O'Hair, is now a Christian and a Dallas minister.

He was in Oklahoma City recently and distributed a pamphlet, "Please Sign Here ... The Great 2493 Fraud." In it, he says the American Atheist Center in Austin, Tex., continues to circulate a petition addressed to the Federal Communications Commission.

Murray alleges the fake petitions, which ask the FCC to deny an effort by O'Hair to ban all religious radio and television broadcasts, are printed by the atheists and circulated primarily in Baptist and Assembly of God churches and lately in Catholic churches as well.

Since 1975 more than 22-million of the fake petitions have been sent to the FCC even though the federal agency says O'Hair has never asked it to remove religious broadcasts from the air waves.

He says the tactic is designed to "make Christians look foolish before the FCC which must approve applications for Christian radio and TV stations" and "issue to get even more free radio and TV time" for atheists.

Murray says, in reality, his mother does not want religious broadcasting off the air. "If it were removed, she could not demand free equal time," he said. The American Atheist Center has radio programs broadcast free throughout the nation, he noted.

"In addition, Mrs. O'Hair follows the religious leaders such as myself around the nation demanding free TV time from stations which broadcast our message of the saving grace of Jesus Christ," Murray noted.

Murray gives this advice: "Never sign any petition which does not have the name and address of the individual or group who sponsors it. None of the petitions titled '2493' has a name or address, just further proof that these are the work of the atheist groups."

## Nevada approves \$1-million budget

RENO, Nev. (BP) — Nevada Baptists adopted their first \$1-million plus budget, increased their contributions to the national Cooperative Program by two percent, and elected its first layman as president at the annual meeting of the Nevada Baptist Convention.

The meeting, held at First Southern Baptist Church in Reno, also featured a celebration of Nevada Baptists' fifth anniversary as a state convention.

The 1984 budget of \$1,043,472 contrasts with the convention's first budget of \$390,006 in 1979. The new budget will include \$552,900 in contributions from the Home Mission Board with the remainder being provided by the Nevada Baptist churches.

The increase in state convention Cooperative Program participation means Nevada will send 20 percent of its state receipts on to the worldwide mission and education programs of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jerry Johnston, a Reno businessman, was elected president.

Messengers also gave first-year approval to the formation of a foundation. The 1984 convention must give approval before the foundation can be established.

## Brazilians send new missionaries

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — Baptists in Brazil have sent out their first group of short-term foreign missionaries and have begun screening candidates for next year, despite serious economic problems in their country.

The Brazilian Foreign Mission Board has sent six recent seminary graduates — four to Bolivia and two to Uruguay — to work in the new one-year program. Plans originally called for only four to be sent the first year.

The young people will augment Brazilian Baptists' 76 career missionaries working in 16 countries.

Because the value of Brazilian currency has been dropping, the government requires the mission board to pay for its foreign work with U.S. dollars. In the past three years, the Brazilian cruzeiro has lost 91 percent of its worth as measured against the dollar.

During the last 12 months, Brazilian Baptists have had to increase their giving to foreign missions by about 247 percent just to maintain the same level of mission work.

operated within them. We learned to keep a low profile."

She believes the missionaries will be safer in Grenada now than ever before.

Returning to Knoxville, she said, "was not something I wanted to do. But Carter felt it would help our children if I would sit down with them and talk about what has happened and relieve their fears."

She plans to return to Grenada Nov. 7 if commercial airlines are allowed to land by then. Her return could be further delayed should the trip from the airport to her home be unsafe if Cuban resisters are still hiding in the mountains, she added.

Expressing gratitude for the prayer support of Southern Baptists, Mrs. Davis commented, "I didn't know how many people had been praying for us until I arrived home and so many people began to say, 'I've been praying for you.' I would like to thank Baptists across the state for their faithful prayer support."

She also pointed out that of the four Southern Baptist missionaries in Grenada, two had birthdays during the crisis, therefore, Southern Baptists everywhere were praying for them.

Missionary Michael Eberhardt of Georgia had a birthday Oct. 14, the first day the missionaries learned there was a threat to the existing government. Mrs. Davis celebrated her birthday Oct. 18, the day before Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was slain.

A native of Knoxville, Carter Davis is a missionary dentist. Before being appointed as a missionary in 1976, he had a dental practice in Knoxville. A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Memphis, he also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Born in Nashville, Mrs. Davis is a graduate of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour; and Mid-State Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, Nashville. Prior to appointment, she had served as a nurse at Baptist Hospital, Memphis, and as a public health nurse in Knoxville.

## Rabbi resents Baptist efforts to convert Jews in Israel

LITTLE SWITZERLAND, N.C. (BP) — A top official of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith urged Southern Baptists to "leave Jews alone" in Israel and send their missionaries instead to Africa or "anyplace in the world where people need the Word of the Lord."

"I don't think we need you (missionaries) in Israel," said Rabbi Howard Singer, director of interreligious affairs for the ADL, during a Jewish-Baptist colloquium at Wildacres Retreat in the Blue Ridge mountains.

Singer said he resented Baptists' efforts to convert Jews to Christianity, stressing "I don't think Jews need Christianity — they need Judaism."

In the dialogue that followed, Baptist participants in the conference told Singer frankly and honestly he had overreacted and "come on too strong."

## Beech River adds Lexington church

Beech River Baptist Association accepted a Lexington church into its fellowship during the association's annual meeting Oct. 17-18 at Judson Baptist Church, Scotts Hill.

Poplar Spring Baptist Church of Lexington was voted into membership with the association by the messengers to the meeting. Odel Cagle is the pastor of the church.

Also during the meeting, the messengers passed a resolution in opposition to pari-mutuel gambling in Tennessee; voted to have an associational revival with Bob Kendig May 5-19, 1985; and recognized Director of Missions Mitchell Bennett for his 10 years with the association and dedicated the minutes of the meeting to him and his wife.

In officer elections, Hoyt Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lexington, was elected moderator; Dennis Hodge, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, was elected vice-moderator; Michael Rhodes, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Parsons, was elected treasurer; and Ruth Carrington, a member of First Baptist Church, Parsons, was elected to her 23rd term as clerk.

Bear Creek Baptist Church, Parsons, is scheduled to host the next meeting of the association, Oct. 15-16, 1984.

One Tennessee Baptist participant, Carson-Newman College Professor Clarence Watson, told Singer he had the feeling the Rabbi was "a Jewish evangelist trying to win us Christians to Judaism, and I didn't like it since my understanding of the purpose of this conference is for us to understand each other."

Singer apologized for possibly offending the Baptist participants, but observed the exchange did help to generate understanding among Baptists of how Jews feel.

Several participants in the dialogue, both Jewish and Baptists, pointed out the Christians involved in evangelistic efforts aimed specifically at Jews were not at the colloquium.

Rea Mangum, pastor of First Baptist Church, Blountstown, Fla., quipped Jews in Israel really did not have anything to worry about. Southern Baptists have been working in Israel for more than 40 years and only have about 400 church members — most of them Arab.

Singer's comments came in the evening session after a morning presentation by Norman Lytle, Southern Baptist representative in Israel for 20 years.

Lytle gave a personal perspective on what it means to live and work in Israel as a Southern Baptist, and presented an overview of Baptist ministries in Israel.

Lytle said in a discussion period Baptists do not seek to "proselytize" Jews in Israel, but they do feel a responsibility to make available the gospel of Jesus Christ, not only in Israel, but in 100 other countries of the world. In Israel, "we don't knock on doors or preach in the streets," but Baptists are faithful in proclaiming the gospel to all who are interested.

About 25 Baptists and Jews attended the regional colloquium, jointly sponsored by the ADL and the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Although both Singer and George Sheridan, regional director of the HMB's interfaith witness department, expressed disappointment in the number of participants, they agreed it was one of the best dialogues in the series of four such conferences held at Wildacres, a retreat center operated by the Blumenthal Foundation.



**INTERCONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES** — Gathered in Nashville recently to plan the 10th Baptist Youth World Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, were 43 representatives from five continents. Continental representatives pictured above are (left to right) Raul Scialabba of Argentina, South America; Bob Taylor of Nashville, North America; Laura Salvador of the Philippines, Asia; Noah Iyanda of Nigeria, Africa; and Uwe Kuhne of Germany, Europe.

## Bradley adds two churches

Two churches were added to the membership roster of Bradley County Baptist Association during its annual meeting Oct. 17-18.

Dalton Pike Baptist Church, Cleveland, and New Fellowship Baptist Church, Charleston, were voted into fellowship with the organization. Jethro Smith is the pastor of the Cleveland church, while Steve Davis is the pastor at the Charleston church.

Messengers to the meeting re-elected most of the association's slate of officers: Moderator Roger Hobbs, pastor of Waterville Baptist Church in Cleveland; Vice-moderator Brenton Cox, pastor of Cleveland's Valley View Baptist Church; Treasurer Marcus E. Boring, a

member of Big Spring Baptist Church, Cleveland; Clerk Phillip Dalton, minister of youth and education at Valley View Baptist Church; and Assistant Treasurer Larry McDaniel, a member of New Fellowship Baptist Church. Elected as assistant clerk was Eunice Heath, a member of Waterville Baptist Church.

The association met at Maple Street Baptist Church, Stuart Park Baptist Church, and Tasso Baptist Church, all of Cleveland. According to Director of Missions Raleigh Brady, the 1984 meeting is scheduled for Oct. 22-23 at Candies Creek Baptist Church, Charleston; Corinth Baptist Church, McDonald; and Lebanon Baptist Church, Cleveland.

## House passes bill on postal subsidy

WASHINGTON (BP) — Non-profit postal rates would remain at current levels throughout fiscal 1984 under a funding bill passed Oct. 27 by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The \$11.9-billion Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill passed by the House on a voice vote contained \$879-million for the postal subsidy which provides reduced mail rates for a wide range of non-profit organizations, the full amount needed to maintain current rates.

However, non-profit mailers could face a rate increase if the Senate, which has yet to pass its Treasury-Postal Service funding bill, goes along with the \$802-million postal subsidy figure approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Non-profit rates would be hiked an estimated four to 12 percent under the Senate committee bill.

The Senate is expected to act soon on the Postal Service funding measure because the stopgap bill currently funding it is due to expire Nov. 10. If the Senate settles on the figure approved by its Appropriations Committee, House-Senate conferees would then work out differences between the two bills.

Congress will be forced to pass another stopgap funding bill for all government programs for which it has failed to complete regular appropriations bills by Nov. 10.

## Big Hatchie votes against betting

Messengers to the Big Hatchie Baptist Association, meeting in annual session Oct. 17-18, expressed their concerns about legalized gambling in the state.

In the form of a resolution, the messengers expressed their disapproval of any type of pari-mutuel betting in Tennessee. A number of bills have faced the state legislature supporting pari-mutuel betting, and although none have been passed, the issue is expected to resurface.

Also at the meeting, the messengers elected Robert G. Lee, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Covington, as moderator, and John Tinsley, pastor of Beaver Baptist Church in Brighton, as vice-moderator. Lee succeeds James Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Henning.

Re-elected to their positions were Treasurer James Beard, pastor of Durhamville Baptist Church in Ripley, and Clerk Mike Owens, pastor of Munford Baptist Church, Munford. Elected to serve with Beard and Owens were John Webb, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Atoka, as assistant treasurer, and Martha Smith, a member of First Baptist Church in Covington, as assistant clerk.

First Baptist Church, Ripley, and Fellowship Baptist Church, Millington, hosted the meeting. According to Big Hatchie Director of Missions Ira S. Perkins, the next meeting of the association is set for Oct. 22, 1984.

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## Baptists in Iowa move toward convention status

AMES, Iowa (BP) — An escalating commitment to the national Cooperative Program and progress toward organizing into a state convention highlighted the 12th annual meeting of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

More than 300 people, including 192 messengers, attended the Oct. 21-22 meeting at Grand Avenue Baptist

Church in Ames, Iowa.

The actual date of constituting into a state convention will be determined by the Executive Board, but messengers were told the ISBF is steadily progressing in achieving the six guidelines adopted as criteria to know when the fellowship's strength is sufficient to assume convention status.

Robert H. Stuckey, executive director-treasurer, said all functions of a state convention are now administered in the Iowa state office except pastors' annuities which are paid by ISBF through the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Another sign of the move to independent status involved action on Cooperative Program (the unified giving program of the Southern Baptist Convention). The messengers approved a plan where ISBF contributions will go directly to the national Cooperative Program.

Last year Iowa sent 30 percent of its income to Missouri as Cooperative Program gifts. Missouri treated it as any church contribution to the state convention and sent 35 percent to the national level while keeping 65 percent for Missouri Cooperative Program causes.

Now, ISBF will designate how much goes to the national Cooperative Program. For 1984 that figure will be 11 percent, with one percent annual increases planned through 1994.

The 1984 ISBF budget of \$775,000 was approved. About \$185,000 will be provided by Iowa Southern Baptist churches. Most of the remaining \$590,000 will come from the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

Stuckey reported the fellowship has baptized more than 650 people annually each of the past two years — a ratio of one baptism for each 13 members.

Messengers also voted to establish an Iowa Southern Baptist Foundation beginning Jan. 1.

## Two churches enter New Duck River

Two churches entered into fellowship with the New Duck River Baptist Association during its annual fall meeting Oct. 17-18.

Voted into membership with the association by messengers to the meeting were Farmington Baptist Church of Lewisburg and Normandy Baptist Church of Normandy. Leverage Douglas is the pastor of the Lewisburg church, while Larry Sanders is the pastor of the Normandy church.

Leading the meeting were officers re-elected during the association's spring meeting: Moderator Ray Winsett, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Shelbyville; Vice-moderator Charles Brown, pastor of Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church in Shelbyville; Treasurer Evelyn Parks, a member of Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church; and Clerk Tom Summers, a member of Parkview Baptist Church, Lewisburg.

The meeting was held at New Bethel Baptist Church, Shelbyville, and Parkview Baptist Church. The next meeting of the association will be April 17 at Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, and the Oct. 22-23 meeting of the association will be held at East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg, and Southside Baptist Church.

The director of missions for the association is Robert H. Mizell.

## Missouri Baptists celebrate Taiwan project, anniversary

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — The Missouri Baptist Convention opened with a celebration of the successful conclusion of Bold Mission Taiwan and closed by kicking off a year-long celebration of the convention's 150th anniversary.

The three-year partnership involving Missouri Baptists, the Chinese Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board resulted in more than 6,000 persons trained in the work of the church, more than 20 new churches and chapels established, more than 3,000 professions of faith, and more than 5,000 inquirers about the Christian faith.

Guest speaker Paluf F. P. Kung, president of Taiwan Baptists, described the September revivals and media evangelistic campaigns as "the greatest time of revival in the history of Christian work in Taiwan."

The premiere of "They Came Through Providence" initiated a year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Missouri Baptist Convention. The play is an original historical drama by Ron Boutwell, professor of speech and drama at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar.

A two-tiered Cooperative Program budget was approved by messengers. Total budget receipts are projected at \$13.5-million with an operating budget of \$12.96-million. For the third consecutive year 35 percent of all undesignated receipts were allocated for the national Cooperative Program.

Through resolutions the messengers called for warning labels to be placed on alcohol beverage containers, opposed diplomatic relationships between the United States and the Vatican, and declared opposition to a pending state lottery proposal.

The resolutions committee declined to report out resolutions on President Reagan's proposed Constitutional amendment on school prayer, opposition to the ordination of women, and seating messengers from Canadian churches by the SBC.

Citing expensive 1982 debate on the prayer amendment, the committee argued the position of the convention on

school prayer was widely known. The 1982 resolution opposes "government scheduled and/or government directed prayer in public schools."

Concerning the ordination of women, the committee pointed to a parliamentary ruling in the 1978 Missouri Baptist annual meeting that such a resolution would violate the body's Constitution by interfering in the responsibility of local Baptist churches.

A motion to endorse seating of Canadian messengers was bypassed because the committee said messengers had not been given sufficient information about the ramifications of the issue.

An attempt to take the three proposals from the committee and consider them on the convention floor was defeated by almost a three-to-one margin.

## Peter Rhea Jones to speak at Union

JACKSON — Peter Rhea Jones, senior minister of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., will be the guest lecturer for the annual Staley Lectures at Union University, Nov. 7-9.

Jones, a native of Dyersburg and a graduate of Union, has been pastor of the Decatur church since 1979. He is also a graduate of the University of Mississippi, University, Princeton University of Cambridge, England, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was a professor of New Testament at Southern for 12 years.

The Staley Foundation, as part of its Distinguished Scholar Lecture Program, sends speakers to Christian colleges and universities each year to speak on topics that deal mainly with Christian perspectives closely associated with scholastics.

Sessions will be held Nov. 7 at 10 a.m., Nov. 8 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 9 at 10 a.m., each in the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel. Admission is free and the public is invited.

## Community joins William Carey

William Carey Baptist Association accepted Community Baptist Church into its ranks during the association's annual meeting Oct. 17-18 at Cash Point Baptist Church of Armdore and First Baptist Church of Elora.

The church, located in Flintville, was accepted for membership after a one-year period of being in watchcare with the association. Tommy Franklin is the pastor of the church.

Also during the meeting, Mike Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, was elected moderator, succeeding Larry Meeks, pastor of Hilldale Baptist Church, Fayetteville. Charles Hicks, pastor of Fayetteville's Park City Baptist Church, was elected to serve with Davis as vice-moderator.

Re-elected to their posts were Frances Alexander, a member of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, as treasurer/clerk, and Evelyn Knois, a member of First Baptist Church in Petersburg, as assistant treasurer/clerk.

According to William Carey Director of Missions Joe W. Mayberry, the next meeting of the association is set for Oct. 29-30, 1984, at Park City Baptist Church and Petersburg's First Baptist Church.

## Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden  
TBC Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer



During the past several weeks, the 68 associations of our Tennessee Baptist Convention have been convening in their annual meetings.

It has been the privilege of those of us who work in the Baptist building in Brentwood to attend many of these significant meetings. I want to express appreciation on behalf of all of us for the warm welcome afforded us as we attended. Also, I want to make some observations about these very pivotal meetings.

First of all, I was deeply impressed and encouraged by the unreserved support our churches are giving our associations. In many of the meetings every church had messengers present. In almost every meeting there were usually no more than one or two churches not represented. The messengers came evidencing deep interest in all of the mission undertakings of the association.

Along with the faithful and enthusiastic attendance, there was a remarkably warm fellowship. In most of the associations, a fellowship meal was served. Sometimes it was following the morning sessions. Those associations that did not have a morning session, but began in the afternoon, served an evening meal. Around the table some very vital information and ideas were shared, friendships renewed, and new friendships made.

I observed once again the tremendous respect, love, and admiration for our directors of missions. They invariably knew the majority of those present and were known by them. They provide tremendous leadership for our associational programs.

I was highly impressed and thrilled at the able direction given by the elected officers of the associations. The meetings were moderated lovingly and diplomatically. A beautiful spirit of Christian love pervaded and prevailed throughout the meetings.

I was blessed by the marvelous preaching. During all the associations I was privileged to attend, time was reserved for worship. The sermons preached were saturated by Scripture, presented with a sense of urgency, and eloquently and pointedly delivered. I thank God for the ability of our Tennessee pastors as they preached the unsearchable riches of our Christ.

As I look back across these days of annual associational meetings, I thank God again for the associations of our Tennessee Baptist Convention. I continue to believe that one of the reasons God blesses us is because of our associational life. I find myself looking forward already to next year's meetings.

# Baptist home for retarded provides refuge

By Martha Skelton

SCHMALKALDEN, East Germany (BP)— At the Christian Care Home in Schmalkalden, 140 men and women take refuge from a world which has labeled them retarded.

In that world, they were disturbed and, to others, disturbing. But at the only home on earth Baptists run solely for the mentally handicapped, they are no longer an absurd exception measured against the pace of a world beyond them. Instead, they are the pace.

For 109 years the "home dwellers," as they are called, have come to the center from state institutions and families who no longer could support them. The state contributes about \$25 a day per resident to help East German churches keep the home afloat.

Residents are divided into two groups — those with a mental development of a one- or two-year-old and those equal to an older child. Some toil at handicrafts and set tables or hang clothes to dry, while others do not work at all. As residents are able, they pitch in. As they need, they receive.

A few focus their lives on the 112-acre farm about four kilometers away. The farm, Gut Rothof (good red dirt), provides vegetables, dairy products, and fresh meat for the home dwellers and 53 staff members. About 80 percent of the output is sold in the marketplace.

Farm manager Joachim Deschner, became a Christian at age 12 and felt God's call early. He trained in agriculture and worked on a state farm, praying the Lord would use him. In 1976, he received a call about Gut Rothof, after the former manager resigned.

Now Gut Rothof is his ministry. He teaches Sunday evening Bible studies and daily devotions at the farm. He also speaks to churches throughout the East German Baptist Union about the work at Schmalkalden. His wife, Dorothea, lives and works with him.

About a dozen persons from the home work in shifts of 10 days on, four off, and have their own living space at Gut Rothof. "They have the same rights and privileges as others to develop a happy life," Deschner says. "A godly purpose in life is needed. This work is fulfilling to them. They are a part of us as we are of them."

The farm, bought from the state in 1930, maintains a close relationship with the state and produces high quality food. Gut Rothof sells produce and stock to the government distribution system and buys the raw materials from that system. Last year its 31 cows each produced an average of nearly 300 pounds of 3 percent butterfat milk which brought premium prices.

The majority of the home's residents are unable to handle the rigors of farm work. For many, days move slowly and in well-worn routine. Often change brings confusion. Sameness is a sanctuary.

It is to these people that Christa Friedel ministers. Oberschwester (head nurse) Friedel knows every room in every building, every resident and staff member, and every detail necessary to run the home. With equal poise, she can seize control of a discipline problem or praise a resident for a painstakingly handcrafted potholder.

A Christian since age nine, Miss Friedel committed her life at 19 to being a deaconess and nurse. "It was an inner decision," she says, "my way of serving God."

She is one of five deaconesses at the home. Theirs is a life of isolation from family, of intense involvement with the people they serve.

Intense personal involvement is what makes Schmalkalden the ministry it is. "Our community in worship is more intense than a church," said Gerhard Wutzler, director. Unordained but trained in legal matters, Wutzler must nonetheless take time out from the daily duties of management to lead the home as a father figure and spiritual steward.

Despite varying levels of discernment, residents find a spiritual center with Wutzler's help. "I believe those not able (to understand spiritual things) are caught up in the grace of God," he says. "I think of Jesus' words, 'Suffer the little children.'"

The care home is a community given over to serving by Christ's example, living out His love. "It is an opportunity," says Farm Manager Deschner, "to put into practice Christian ideals . . . with no restraints."

Volunteers find that attitude attractive. Many weekends the grounds at Gut Rothof are peppered with tents of Baptist



**FINDING HER PLACE** — A resident at the Christian Care Home in Schmalkalden, East Germany, has found the spirit of Christlike love. The home's director, Gerhard Wutzler (left), provides a father figure for residents. Photos by Don Rutledge.



**COMMUNITY OF BELONGING** — Residents at the Christian Care Home in Schmalkalden, East Germany, huddle together on a bench outside one of the buildings. Baby carriages in the foreground hold dolls.

union church members working on a construction project.

Workers from Time for God, a one-year volunteer program for Christian service within the union, often undertake projects there also.

Those who come sometimes do not want to leave. "They find such love here," says Oberschwester Friedel, "that they don't want to go back."

—Adapted from The Commission magazine.

# U.S. sailor finds Christ during Kenya murder case

By Laura Lee Stewart

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP)— James William Tyson was found innocent of the murder of a young Kenyan woman, but even more important was the experience he had with Jesus Christ during his confinement in jail.

A court in Mombasa acquitted Tyson, a seaman on the U.S.S. America, on July 14, about three months after police charged he had murdered the woman in the seaport city.

Tyson's life-changing experience came about two weeks after his arrest, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Doug Van Devender.

Van Devender received a call from the U.S. Navy explaining a Navy regulation requires a prisoner have benefit of clergy. Since they had no chaplain in the area, they asked Van Devender to serve in that capacity.

Ironically, Van Devender had tried to visit Tyson, but Kenyan prison authori-

ties refused.

"We at the Nyali Baptist Church had felt strong leadership from the Holy Spirit to pray for Jim after we read of his arrest and to try to visit him," Van Devender said. "But we couldn't get in. The call from the Navy opened the door."

Tyson, from Riverdale, Md., was held in the Central Police Station in Mombasa for the first month after his arrest in early May. Van Devender visited him every day until he was moved out of town to Shimo la Tewa prison where Van Devender could visit only once a week.

The missionary gave the young man a Good News Bible and explained the plan of salvation to him. He accepted Christ as his Saviour in mid-May.

"From that point on a real change took place in Jim's life," Van Devender said. "He confessed he was beginning to hate the Kenyans but he read his Bible, prayed, put away his bitterness, and

began to minister to people around him."

Van Devender said it was not easy to keep Tyson supplied with Bibles, because he kept giving them away to fellow prisoners. The missionary encouraged Tyson to keep sharing his faith and kept supplying him Bibles and other Christian literature.

For a time Tyson shared a cell with two young Asian men. They had nothing in the cell to read except the Good News Bible. They read it together and talked about it.

The two men were convicted of murder, sentenced to hang, and moved from Tyson's cell. He does not know what further experiences they had with Jesus Christ.

When Tyson's trial began, the Kenyan press photographed him frequently. He decided he would not have a picture taken when he did not have his Bible in his hand.

Photographers tried to take pictures

without the Bible, but they complained later only the ones with the Bible were clear.

When the court handed down its not guilty verdict on July 14, Tyson's ship had long since sailed. The Navy arranged for him to fly out on Saturday, July 16, but a special baptism service was held on July 15 at the Nyali Baptist Church, where Van Devender baptized him into its membership.

Tyson told Van Devender that in reality his trial was just beginning as he returned to live on board ship after a 30-day leave.

"Now the hard part begins," he told Van Devender as he contemplated establishing a new lifestyle in an old setting. My friends will expect me to do the things with them that I have done before. I can no longer do that because now I'm a Christian."

—Mrs. Stewart is a Southern Baptist missionary in Kenya.

# State associations hold annual meetings

## Weakley Countians hear missionary

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Weakley County Baptist Association, Oct. 10-11, heard Al Hodges, missionary to Upper Volta, as a special speaker.

Hodges, on furlough from his work in that country, is presently a missionary-in-residence with the Cooperative Program and stewardship promotion department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The TBC is engaged in a hunger and relief project with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Upper Volta.

Also, the messengers elected their slate of officers to a new term. Re-elected were Kenneth Roberts, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gleason, as moderator; James D. Gaines, Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Dresden, as vice-moderator; Mrs. Jerry Seamans, a member of Adams Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden, as treasurer/clerk; and Helen Segebarth, assistant treasurer, and Gerie Sheffield assistant clerk, both members of First Baptist Church, Dresden.

First Baptist Church of Greenfield and Southside Baptist Church of Martin hosted the meeting. The next meeting of the association, set for Oct. 22-23, 1984, will be hosted by Central Baptist Church of Martin and Macks Grove Baptist Church of Dresden.

The director of missions for the Weakley County association is Richard L. Skidmore.

## Lawrence Countians elect moderators

Two new moderators were elected for the Lawrence County Association of Baptists during the association's annual meeting, held Oct. 14-15 at O.K. Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, and First Baptist Church, Summertown.

Elected were Ronnie Gay, pastor of Mount Horeb Baptist Church in Ethridge, as moderator; and Robert Madgett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Iron City, as vice-moderator. Gay succeeds Junior Roper, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Loretto.

In other elections, Jerry Putnam, a member of Park Grove Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, was re-elected treasurer, while Janice Thigpen, a member of Lawrenceburg's Meadow View Baptist Church, was elected clerk.

The next meeting of the association is scheduled for Oct. 18-19, 1984, at Highland Park Baptist Church and Immanuel Baptist Church, both of Lawrenceburg.

Frank Proffitt is the director of missions for the association.

## Cumberland Gap holds 100th meet

The Cumberland Gap Baptist Association held its 100th annual meeting Oct. 9-11 at Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Tazewell.

In celebration of the centennial, the association viewed a pageant depicting the first annual meeting at Cedar Grove Baptist Church in 1884, and received a commemorative plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society.

Also during the meeting, R. C. Tennyson, pastor of Carr's Chapel Baptist Church in Speedwell, was elected as moderator, and Paul Rains, pastor of

Little Mulberry Baptist Church in Tazewell, as vice-moderator. Tennyson succeeds Claude Chumley, pastor of Haynes Flat Baptist Church, Speedwell.

Mrs. White Buis, a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, was elected to her 24th term as the association's clerk. Others re-elected were Treasurer John Fugate II, a member of Little Mulberry Baptist Church; Assistant Treasurer Randy Pressnell, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, New Tazewell; and Assistant Clerk Robert Ziegler, a member of First Baptist Church, Harrogate.

According to William D. Hazelwood, Cumberland Gap director of missions, the next meeting of the association will be Oct. 12-13, 1984, at Haynes Flat Baptist Church.

## Sevier Co. approves planning committee

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Sevier County Baptist Association, held Oct. 17-19, approved a long range planning committee for the association.

The committee was formed to establish priorities for the organization's next 10 years. Plans will be made for goals of two years, five years, and 10 years.

In other business, messengers passed resolutions opposing pari-mutuel gambling in Tennessee and supporting a raising of the legal drinking age to 21.

During officer elections at the meeting, the messengers elected Steve Jett to his first full term as moderator. Jett, pastor of Fern Broad Valley Baptist Church in Kodak, was elected vice-moderator at the 1982 meeting, but stepped up to serve as moderator after the mid-year resignation of Mike Henegar.

Roy Gose, pastor of First Baptist Church in Wears Valley, was elected vice-moderator to assist Jett, and Bobbie Williams, a member of Gists Creek Baptist Church in Sevierville, was re-elected as treasurer/clerk.

The meeting was held at First Baptist Church, Sevierville; Beech Springs Baptist Church, Kodak; Millican Grove Baptist Church, Sevierville; and Zion Grove Baptist Church, also in Sevierville. According to Director of Missions Roy Miller, the 1984 meeting of the association will be Oct. 15-17 at Dripping Springs Baptist Church, Seymour; First Baptist Church, Pigeon Forge; First Baptist Church, Wears Valley; and Zion Grove Baptist Church.

## Beulah celebrates Armour's 20 years

Beulah Baptist Association honored its director of missions during the association's annual meeting, held Oct. 17-18 at First Baptist Church in Ridgely and Second Baptist Church in Union City.

Robert L. Armour and his wife were honored by the association for his 20 years of service as leader of the organization. The association presented a special program and a reception for the Armours.

Also at the meeting, Mel Mason, pastor of South Fulton Baptist Church in South Fulton, was elected moderator, and Mike Agee, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Kenton, was elected vice-moderator. Mason succeeds Otis Hinton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Obion.

Re-elected to their posts were Treasurer Bill Flood, a member of First Baptist Church, Union City; Clerk Gwen Armour, a member of First Baptist Church, Troy; Assistant Treasurer Richard Ams, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Union City; and Assistant Clerk Carolyn Hinton, a member of Obion's First Baptist Church.

The next meeting of the association is scheduled for Oct. 29-30, 1984, at First Baptist Church, Troy, and South Fulton Baptist Church, South Fulton.

## Indian Creek assn. elects moderators

Edward Earl Marbury and Martin Klinghard were elected as moderators of Indian Creek Baptist Association during its annual meeting Oct. 17-18.

Marbury, pastor of First Baptist Church in Clifton, was elected moderator, while Klinghard, pastor of Green River Baptist Church in Waynesboro, was elected vice-moderator. Marbury succeeds Zeno Lindsey, a member of First Baptist Church, Collinwood.

Messengers to the meeting also elected Imogene Steiner, a member of Green River Baptist Church, as clerk; and re-elected Phillip Fisher, a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Waynesboro, as treasurer.

The meeting was held at Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Iron City, and at Zion Baptist Church, Waynesboro. Leatherwood Baptist Church, Waynesboro, and Green River Baptist Church will host the next meeting of the association, Oct. 15-16, 1984.

Lawrence Steiner is the director of missions for Indian Creek.

## Polk County meet recognizes Woody

James O. Woody was recognized for his service to the Polk County Baptist Association during the association's annual meeting Oct. 17-18 at Smyrna Baptist Church in Ocoee.

Woody, of Benton's Antioch Baptist Church, completed this year nine years of service as the association's treasurer. He will be succeeded in the position by Evelyn Guy, a member of First Baptist Church in Benton, who will also serve as assistant clerk.

Re-elected during the meeting were Moderator James Cheatham, pastor of Ocoee's Smyrna Baptist Church; Vice-moderator Stephen Smith, pastor of Cedar Springs Baptist Church in Cleveland; and Clerk Judy Rogers, a member of Zion Baptist Church, Benton.

According to Polk County Director of Missions W. L. Shipman, the next meeting of the association will be Oct. 22-23 at Zion Baptist Church, Benton.

## New River group re-elects Blevins

New River Missionary Baptist Association, meeting in annual session Oct. 17-18, re-elected Roy Blevins as its moderator.

Blevins, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Oneida, will lead the association with Raymond Brown, who was elected vice-moderator. Brown is pastor of New Haven Baptist Church in Oneida. Also at the meeting, Lucille Stanley, a

member of Oneida's First Baptist Church, was elected clerk. Re-elected were Treasurer Ben B. Bowling and Assistant Treasurer Joyce Bowling, members of Low Gap Baptist Church in Helenwood; and Assistant Clerk Edgar Culver, a member of Mountain View Baptist Church, Robbins.

The meeting was held at First Baptist Church, Huntsville; Low Gap Baptist Church; and Norma Missionary Baptist Church, also of Huntsville. The 1984 meeting is set for Oct. 15-16 at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pioneer; First Baptist Church, Oneida; and New Haven Baptist Church.

Dale G. Smith is the director of missions for the association.

## Church transfers to Campbell Co.

Messengers to the annual meeting of Campbell County Baptist Association, Oct. 17-18, accepted for membership a Jellico church on transfer from a Kentucky association.

Crouches Creek Baptist Church was voted into fellowship with the Campbell County association upon transfer from Kentucky's South Union Baptist Association. Roger Stanley is the pastor of the church.

Also at the meeting, the messengers chose to elect its slate of officers to a new term. Re-elected were Moderator Lee Lambert, pastor of First Baptist Church, Coolidge; Vice-moderator Herbert Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, Caryville; and Treasurer/clerk Nila Sellers, a member of Indian Creek Baptist Church, Jacksboro.

The meeting was hosted by Demory Baptist Church and East LaFollette Baptist Church, both of LaFollette, and Indian Creek Baptist Church, Jacksboro. The 1984 meeting of the association will be held Oct. 15-16 at East Jacksboro Baptist Church, Jacksboro; Glade Springs Baptist Church, LaFollette; and the Crouches Creek Baptist Church.

Ralph Cordell is the director of missions for the Campbell County association.

## Dyer adds Harvest under watchcare

Dyer Baptist Association, meeting in annual session Oct. 17-18, added Harvest Baptist Church to its membership under watchcare.

The church, located in Dyersburg, is led by Pastor Jack Chapman. The church may be voted into full membership during the association's Oct. 15-16, 1984, meeting.

In other business, Truman Spurgin, pastor of First Baptist Church in Halls, was elected as moderator of the association, succeeding Roy Stinson, pastor of Gates Baptist Church, Gates. Elected to serve with Spurgin as vice-moderator was Dennis Perkins, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Dyersburg.

Re-elected to their positions were Treasurer Larry Fowlkes and Clerk and Cathy Cavness, both members of Fowlkes Baptist Church, Fowlkes.

Fairview Baptist Church, Newbern, and Macedonia Baptist Church, Ripley, hosted the meeting. Gates Baptist Church and Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg, will host the 1984 meeting.

Joe T. Naylor is the director of missions for Dyer association.

# Brotherhood Commission approves philosophy statement, speakout

MEMPHIS (BP) - Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission adopted a new Brotherhood statement of philosophy, approved a national speakout program for Royal Ambassadors, and elected new officers during the commission's semi-annual meeting in Memphis Oct. 20-22.

The philosophy statement, the work of a select committee to study Brotherhood work through the year 2000, includes the purpose of Brotherhood and lists ways the purpose is accomplished.

Helping churches involve men and boys in missions is the purpose. It is expressed in missions activities, missions study, missions support, personal experience in witness and ministry, and giving and praying to support persons involved in missions.

Southern Baptist comedian, Jerry Clower, has endorsed the RA speakout program. One RA each year will receive

the RA missions speakout national Jerry Clower award. The award will be given to the RA judged to have written and presented the best RA speech of the year.

The national winner will be given an expense-paid trip to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, a \$500 scholarship funded personally by Brotherhood Commission trustees, an expense-paid trip to the Grand Ole Opry as a guest of Jerry Clower, a blazer with an RA emblem, and a plaque.

In other action the trustees voted to express disapproval of the use of Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference centers as a meeting place of Boy Scouts and asked a letter be written to Sunday School Board President-elect Lloyd Elder stating the commission's disapproval of promoting or exposure of Boy Scouts through Southern Baptist literature.

Several trustees who have worked in both RA and Boy Scout programs gave strong endorsements for RAs saying RAs offer Southern Baptist boys all scouts have to offer plus missions education and involvement.

## Tennesseans receive MWBTS scholarships

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Two Tennesseans were among 45 students to receive 1983-84 scholarships at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City.

Ronnie F. Hale of Jackson, a graduate of Union University in Jackson, received the Robert C. Turner Memorial scholarship.

Danny Jones of Henning, a graduate of Belmont College in Nashville, received the L. F. Richardson scholarship.

# Tennessee Scene

## LEADERSHIP . . .

Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville, called Mike Mullican as minister of music and youth. Mullican came to the church Oct. 12 from Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville. He is a student at Belmont College, also of Nashville. Curtis Woods is the pastor of the church.

Howard Robbins accepted a call from Pine Hill Baptist Church, Lake City, to come as its interim pastor.

West View Baptist Church, Cookeville, called Gary West as associate pastor, to work with the church's music and youth programs. West is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The pastor of the church is Ed Malone.

David Wheeler was called by Irving College Baptist Church, McMinnville, as interim pastor. Wheeler is a student at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.

First Baptist Church, Campaign, called Brownie Smith as interim pastor.

Jon Padgett accepted a call from First Baptist Church, Smartt, to come as interim pastor.

## PEOPLE . . .

Larry Jones was ordained Oct. 23 as a deacon of Lincoln Park Baptist Church, Knoxville. Ted J. Ingram is the pastor of the church.

First Baptist Church of Jacksboro recently ordained J. Michael Smithers as a deacon. The pastor of the church is Larry Alan Reeves.

An Oct. 22 reception at Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, honored Mr. and Mrs. Sam Parrish on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. The Parrishes are members of the church, where Adrian Rogers is the pastor.

Julius Edwin Cornes and Arland Thomas Sharp were ordained as deacons by Chamberlain Memorial Baptist Church, Chattanooga, during a Sept. 25 service. Edward Raymond Seanor, pastor of the church, delivered the sermon for the ordination service.

Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, ordained Steve Turner as a deacon recently.

Mike Cantrell was licensed to the ministry Oct. 12 by Northside Baptist Church, McMinnville. The pastor of the church is Jack Rinks.

Fruitland Baptist Church, Humboldt, ordained Truman Miles into its deacon ministry Oct. 16. Bill Rice is the pastor of the church.

## REVIVAL PRAYER REQUEST . . .

First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, will be in revival Nov. 6-9. Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., will lead the services; while Julian S. Suggs, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention church music department, will direct the music. The revival will be held during the regular Sunday worship times of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Monday through Wednesday at noon and 7 p.m. James Porch is the pastor of the church.

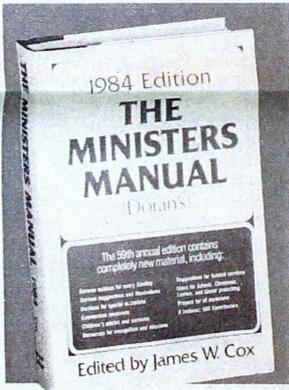
## REVIVALS . . .

Eastview Baptist Church, Shelbyville, had revival services Oct. 2-7. The church recorded two professions of faith, three new members by letter, and a number of rededications. W. B. Oakley was the evangelist; Bruce Smith is the church's pastor.

Dennis Wilson led Little Doe Baptist Church, Butler, in revival Oct. 2-9. Bob Royston, pastor of the church, reported six professions of faith and one new member by letter as a result of the services.

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New editor James W. Cox is Professor of Christian Preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and editor of *Pulpit Digest*.

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November 6-9

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Pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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## Citizen's Corner

By Jerry Self  
Public Affairs and  
Christian Life  
Consultant



The current United States prison population is the size of a small nation. The prisons are becoming an institution of higher learning - training the criminal element to repeat their crimes and recycle themselves through the prison system.

Senators Sam Nunn of Georgia and William Armstrong of Colorado are sponsors of the Sentencing Improvement Act of 1983 (S. 1644). Their bill is a carefully drafted document which would offer alternatives to imprisonment for non-dangerous offenders. These would be required to pay restitution to their victims or engage in some type of community work project.

Criminals convicted of violent crimes, professional criminals, drug traffickers, and other similarly dangerous criminal types would still be imprisoned.

Associates of Charles Colson's Prison Fellowship favor this type of legislation. They argue that it focuses harsher penalties on violent crimes while providing appropriate sentences for those who have committed crimes but would be more likely to stay away from further criminal activity if they are kept out of prison.

**TENNESSEE BAPTIST**

# Children's Homes

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/TREASURER  
**EVANS B. BOWEN**

## EVANS B. BOWEN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



**EVANS B. BOWEN**

On October 11, 1983, I announced to the TBCH Board my plans to retire December 31, 1983. The Board named a search committee to find a replacement. I know that you will join me in praying that they may find the very best replacement and that the Board will stand ready to give their full support to the new leader.

In the spring, Mrs. Bowen and I plan to move to our home in Haywood County, West Tennessee. What are our plans? We want to see more of our grandchildren. We want to do some travelling. I want to work a few weeks each year for the Home Mission Board. I will be available for preaching and teaching. In fact I have a long list of things that I have kept just for this time.

As I have gone across this state, you have given assurance of your support for our Child Care Ministry. I am grateful that God has let me be a part of this worthy cause. Your faith in this ministry has not been misplaced. Continue to support your Child Care Ministry with both your prayers and gifts. The need for this ministry will continue as long as homes continue to disintegrate. Your support for this ministry is a vote for the future of our nation.

Two of our Superintendents tendered their resignations at the October 11 Board Meeting. Keith Wilson, Memphis, and John Ashby, Franklin, have given their very best to our Child Care Ministry. It is regrettable that reports concerning their service did not note the many positive contributions that these men have made over a long period of time nor did they contain the many good things that are presently happening on the campuses.

It is a joy to note that the Board recognizes "that our children are well cared for and spiritually motivated." This, of course, is a capsule of the many positive things that are going on in the lives of the children. Such acknowledgement by a Board is greatly appreciated by any administrator. It seems that good news continues to be no news.

We are always grateful for interest shown by our constituency. TBCH is grateful that the constituency has allowed the Baptist process to function. We praise our Lord that our Baptist polity has taken us through these times.

Evans B. Bowen

Evans B. Bowen, Executive Director-Treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. since October 1975, announced his plans to retire from that position as the chief executive on December 31, 1983.

Dr. Bowen is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree by that same institution in 1964. Before coming to TBCH as Director of the program, Dr. Bowen was Pastor of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Tennessee, for nine years. Before going to Bolivar, he served as Pastor of Berclair Baptist Church in Memphis for 21 years.

Faithful in his denominational service, Dr. Bowen has served as a trustee on the Board of Union University for fifteen years. He served as moderator of Shelby Association for 3 consecutive years, President of the Tennessee Baptist Pas-

tor's Conference, President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, and as a trustee for TBCH Board for nine years prior to his becoming Executive-Director. He was chosen to preach the Annual Convention sermon for 1971.

In announcing his plans for the future, Dr. Bowen stated that he plans to do some work with the Home Mission Board, lead Bible Conferences, and be available for interim pastoral work. He also hopes to do a few of those things that his busy schedule for the past 40 years has not permitted such as some traveling with Mrs. Bowen and spending some time enjoying the company of his grandchildren.

The search committee has asked that Dr. Bowen remain as Interim Director until his successor can be chosen.

Dr. Bowen has demonstrated his love for the ministry of TBCH and the children we serve with untiring fervor. He is to be highly commended for the excellent stewardship he has maintained in the administration of the TBCH program. All

Tennessee Baptists are indebted to him for his quality leadership in this vital ministry.

We express our heart-felt thanks and pledge our prayers to Dr. Bowen in his stepping aside as our leader.

## ACHIEVEMENTS 1976-1984

The following is a summary of some of the highlights and events of the past eight years in the life of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes under Dr. E. B. Bowen's leadership:

- 208 children received Christ as Lord.
- Evaluation of buildings and facilities on all campuses with upgrading and expansion of physical properties.
- Increased operating capital from \$400,000.00 to an excess of \$3,000,000.00.
- Long range planning for more complete services through TBCH.
- Racial integration of all programs and services.
- Production of a film explaining the ministry of TBCH, **ONE WHICH WAS LOST**.
- Installation of a computer system, more efficiently and effectively sorting and utilizing information.
- Acquisition of additional property.
- Increased emphasis on preventive and rehabilitative services to families.
- Established Plant Ledger — The first plant ledger of any Tennessee Baptist Institution according to auditors.
- Improved Health Insurance benefits.
- Salaries and benefits doubled.
- Improved cottage concept with smaller houseparent to child ratio.

Listed below are improvements to TBCH facilities:

### Memphis

- Jennings Building — conversion of dorm to cottage and furnishing . . . . . \$ 72,546.33
- Removal of Rock Building . . . . . 6,525.00
- Construction and furnishing of 3 staff apartments . . . . . 126,696.88

### Franklin

- Complete refurbishing of Director of Cottage Life Home . . . . . \$ 26,646.80
- Remodeling and furnishing Jarman Administration Building . . . . . 220,969.36
- Removal of Talley School Building . . . . . 39,672.00
- Roof/re-aircondition cottages . . . . . 86,353.68

### Chattanooga

- Addition to and furnishing Director of Cottage Life home . . . . . \$ 53,882.96
- Remodel basement of Superintendent home . . . . . 3,592.95
- Remodel and furnish Cobble Building . . . . . 84,231.64
- Remodel Boys' Building . . . . . 79,231.22

### Johnson City

- Building and furnishing Satellite Home . . . . . \$ 343,461.85

**BIBLE BOOK SERIES**

Lesson for Nov. 6

# True to Christ's lordship

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

**Basic Passage:** Colossians 1:1 to 2:5  
**Focal Passage:** Colossians 1:9-23a

A dangerous heresy was threatening the church at Colossae.

This heresy, in part, denied the full divinity of Jesus and pushed a legalistic lifestyle. Paul wrote Colossians to address this situation. In this letter, he stressed the divinity and authority of Christ and outlined how Christians should behave in daily life.

The text for this week focuses upon the lordship of Christ and Paul's encouragement that the Colossians be true to their faith.



Maddox

**Prayer for the Colossians**

Paul began this letter with a prayer for the Christians at Colossae (1:3-14). The prayer has two divisions — thanksgiving for what the Colossians had already attained (1:3-18) and a petition for what they could obtain (1:9-14).

Gratitude is expressed for three achievements gained by the Colossian Christians.

They manifested "faith in Christ" (1:4). This means they were fully committed to Jesus.

They practiced "love for all the saints" (1:4). The word "saint" essentially means the same as "Christian."

These Christians possessed a profound "hope" in the future completion of their salvation (1:5).

The Colossians had achieved a level of spiritual maturity that included the three great elements of the Christian faith — faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

No matter what level of maturity Christians attain in the faith, there is always room for growth. This was especially true for those who lived at Colossae. Paul prayed that they might grow in four areas.

He desired that they might receive a deeper understanding of God's will (1:9). He wanted them to live in a way that was worthy of Jesus (1:10). This meant that they should please Jesus with their behavior, produce good works, and deepen their knowledge of God which grows out of a personal relationship (1:10).

Paul also prayed that the Colossians would be strengthened by God's power.

Only with the power of God can Christians be faithful day after day (1:11). And finally, Paul yearned for the Christians to live grateful lives (1:12). Gratitude is possible because all Christians have been redeemed by Jesus (1:13-14).

**Affirmation of Christ's supremacy**

Paul not only prayed for the Colossian Christians. He offered to them an affirmation of Christ's lordship (1:15-2:5). Our prayers should always be offered out of a firm belief in the absolute lordship of Jesus Christ.

This text first affirms the lordship of Jesus over all of creation (1:15-17). His lordship in this area is stressed in four ways.

First, He is the "image of the invisible God" (1:15). This means that Jesus, and no other part of creation, is the exact image of God. The creation may declare the glory of God, but Jesus discloses God.

Second, He is the "firstborn" of all creation (1:15). In Hebrew practice, the first-born son was greater than all other sons. In the same fashion, Jesus is Lord over creation because He is greater than the creation.

Third, all things in the universe were created by Jesus (1:16). The creator is always greater than the creation.

Fourth, Jesus sustains all of creation (1:17). These four affirmations stress that Jesus is Lord over the entire universe.

Paul also affirms Jesus' lordship over the church (1:18-20). He is the "head" of the church (1:18). This position of authority is His by virtue of life, death, and resurrection. Through His work, God is at work reconciling all things to Himself (1:18-20). Since Jesus is the source of salvation as well as the means of salvation, He has pre-eminence over those who receive salvation.

Jesus' lordship also extends over individual Christians (1:21-2:5). He has redeemed each Christian (1:21-22). And each Christian is to continue steadfastly in the faith (1:23). One can continue in the faith only as he looks to Jesus as Lord. This involves more than a confession of words. It includes a commitment of life.

In matters of faith, some questions are more important than others. Based upon this Biblical passage, one such question demands our honest response. That question is not "Do you believe in Jesus?" It is "Are you committed to Jesus as Lord?"

**UNIFORM LESSON SERIES**

Lesson for Nov. 6

# God's steadfast love

By William E. Troutt, president  
Belmont College, Nashville

**Basic Passages:** Psalm 103; Ephesians 1:3-10  
**Focal Passages:** Psalm 103:1-12; Ephesians 1:5-10

Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," touches all our hearts. The story of a toy soldier's love for a ballerina is especially moving because it tells of a constant love that lasts even beyond death.

How much more should we continue to be moved by our knowledge of God's steadfast love for us. Like the psalmist, we should constantly praise our God for His love which never fails.



Troutt

**The psalmist's praise (Psalm 103:1-5)**

The word used in verse one for "bless" means essentially the same thing as praise. In the first five verses of this psalm, the psalmist summons his whole being to praise God for what He has done.

We frequently ask God for forgiveness, but we often fail to return thanks for the forgiveness we receive. The psalmist reminds us of our need to be constantly grateful for God's pardoning of our sins. The psalmist also thanks God for recovery from sickness. It is so easy for us to forget that even our physical well-being is ultimately the result of His wondrous grace and marvelous sustaining power. The writer of this psalm also reminds us that God is responsible for spiritual healing, that is, for redemption of sin.

In addition to praising God because of his own experience of God's graciousness, the psalmist thought of God's goodness toward others — particularly toward Israel.

He saw in Israel's history evidence of divine concern and intervention. Only God's steadfast love continued to save

Israel from destruction. Even with Israel's rebellion and apostasy, the Scriptures bear witness to the truth that God is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger."

While there are many Old Testament references to God's anger, His natural tendency is to love. But God's very nature is such that He is eternally opposed to sin. Even though God hates sin, He still loves sinners.

The Old Testament psalmist and prophets believed in God's all-prevailing love, but they did not know how He could forgive the sinner and remain true to His holiness and justice. Without a full insight into God's redemptive plan, they affirmed their belief in God's complete and enduring forgiveness.

The psalmist's reminder in verse 10 of God's forgiving acceptance and love should continue to be welcome words for all of us. Fortunately for us, God does not deal with us according to our sins. The fact that He provides a way of forgiveness for persons who so grievously sin against Him is the ultimate in God's steadfast love.

**A love that lasts (Ephesians 1:3-10)**

Someone has said that love is not a characteristic of God: love is His character. No matter where we go, He is there loving us. In light of this unmeasured and unmerited love, we should all join with Paul in saying "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

Paul notes that we are chosen "in love" to receive God's blessing just as adopted children are chosen "in love." Our adoption of God is not the result of our doing. No orphan can earn adoption. His adoption is by "the good pleasure of His will."

Verse seven answers the Old Testament question of how God can forgive sinful people and still be holy and righteous. He did it through Christ's redeeming blood. This sacrifice to save those who had no merits of their own is God's grace — the ultimate expression of God's steadfast love.

Paul frequently uses the term "mystery" to describe something previously unrevealed that has become known through the gospel. In this sense God's whole plan of redemption was a mystery. Although the Old Testament anticipated it, no one knew of its workings.

Here it has special reference to God's future plans for His people. According to Paul, God is in the process of putting all things both in heaven and earth under the lordship of Christ.

God's steadfast love brings all things together in Christ. To the One who died for our sins belongs the highest praise.

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**Association in N.C. names James Hamblen**

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP) — James V. Hamblen, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Association Missions Division, has been named director of missions for Pilot Mountain Baptist Association, effective Nov. 16, 1983.

Hamblen joined the HMB associational missions staff in 1979 when he came to direct training for associational directors of missions and to coordinate associational strategy planning processes.

Hamblen is a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES  
Lesson for Nov. 6

# Ministry to the handicapped

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

Basic Passages: 2 Samuel 4:4; 9; 16:1-4; 19:24-30  
Focal Passages: 2 Samuel 9:1-3, 6-7, 9-10, 13

David had become the king of Israel (2 Samuel 2:4). Saul, Israel's first king and the enemy of David, has died. Jonathan, David's closest friend, also has died. The Philistines, Israel's perennial enemy, have been defeated and peace has been achieved in the land. David has begun to turn his attention toward his subjects and the needs of the kingdom.

**The request of David (9:1-4)**

David asked, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" It was customary for a new ruling power to put to death all of the previous party and especially any heir to the throne. This would explain the implication that there may not remain any "of the house of Saul."



Otey

Ziba, a servant from Saul's household, told David about Jonathan's lame son named Mephibosheth. David then sent for Mephibosheth that he might "show the kindness of God unto him" (v.3).

What prompted such kindness? First it was the fulfilling of a promise David and Jonathan had made to each other years earlier (1 Samuel 18:3). Second it was the result of God's Spirit at work in his heart. David said he wanted to show the "kindness of God" to him. Paul reminds us that such kindness is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Who was Mephibosheth? Mephibosheth was the handicapped son of David's friend Jonathan and the grandson of King Saul. At the age of five, he received a spinal injury when a servant dropped him. The injury resulted in his becoming crippled for life (2 Samuel 4:4).

Every door was closed to him. He

could neither fight for his rights nor work for his bread. He had no place in the wars that were fought nor in the peace that was won. Even the priesthood was closed to him since no one with imperfection of body could serve before the altar. Through no fault of his own, life had dealt him a hard blow.

**The reception of Mephibosheth (9:5-8)**

When Mephibosheth arrived at the palace, he received a royal welcome. He was received with kindness, not because he personally deserved it, but for Jonathan's sake. In like manner we have been received by the Father for Christ's sake.

The first word David spoke to him was "fear not." This probably was to allay the fear that he was to be killed because he was of "Saul's household."

**The results of the kindness (9:9-13)**

Mephibosheth was restored to the relationship of a son. No longer would he live in Lodebar but would come to Jerusalem, live in the king's house, and eat at the king's table as a son (v.11). All of the land was restored to him (v.7). Ziba, the servant, was ordered to manage Saul's estate so Mephibosheth's needs would be continually met (vv.9-10).

When Mephibosheth realized all he was receiving, he was humbled and bowed himself before David. He recognized his unworthiness, calling himself "a dead dog" (v.8). He surrendered himself to David's service - "Behold thy servant" (v.6).

How like the gospel of Christ this story was! All that we lost through the fall, He has restored. Our response should be the same - "Behold thy servant."

**Some lesson applications on handicaps**

We all have handicaps. Billy Graham once wrote, "Nearly everyone has some kind of handicap. They may not be crippled, blind, or deaf, but it is my belief that everyone struggles with some kind of spiritual, mental, or physical handi-

cap. It is the very nature of life and is inescapable."

Handicaps need not defeat us. Psychologists recognize a law they call the law of overcompensation. When one realizes his handicap, he frequently works harder than he would have and attempts projects that he would not have, had it not been for the handicap. Often, such a person rises to heights of achievement that challenge and inspire all of us.

The examples of men who overcame handicaps are endless. Beethoven was deaf, but his deafness did not keep him from writing some of the world's greatest music.

Milton was blind but it did not keep him from writing some of the best prose and poetry in the English language.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was crippled by infantile paralysis. Yet by sheer grit and determination, he became president of the United States.

Handicaps can harden us. A pastor friend tells of visiting one who was blind. In his darkness he struck out at God and cursed Him for his condition.

Mephibosheth might have done this. Life truly had dealt him a crushing blow. A bad start makes it difficult to believe in a good God.

Yet bitterness brings no peace and skepticism inspires no strength. Losing one's faith does not solve one's problems; it adds to them. You still have the handicap to bear and the darkness to face without the strength of One who is an "ever present help in time of trouble."

Help is available. "I wish to God I had not been made," cried one of the characters in a book written by George MacDonald. "You are not made; you are

being made and quarreling with the process." God is not through with you yet.

Many times we later can see that our difficulties are our opportunities in disguise. Paul discovered this with his handicap. His handicap was a "thorn in the flesh." He prayed for its removal, but God said "no." From this experience, Paul learned lessons he would have never learned and discovered grace he would not have known. God's "grace is sufficient" is a truth for all of us.

We can help and understand. There is no substitute for an understanding heart and a compassionate spirit towards those who are handicapped. Christ's heart went out to them and He ministered to their needs. If we are truly following Him, we will do likewise.

The Bible says, "We, then, that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak" (Romans 15:1). It also exhorts us to "bear ye one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). In so doing we are like our Saviour.

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# Father-son team builds churches in Brazil

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Philip Flournoy is traveling a long way to go into business with his dad — all the way from Fort Worth, Tex., to Brazil.

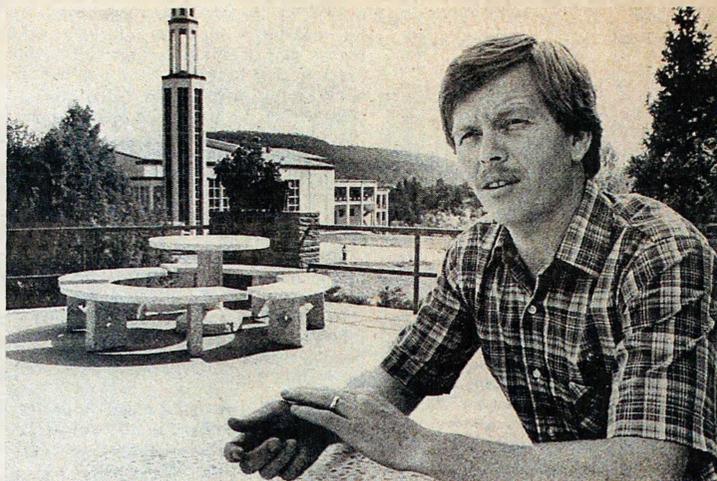
Philip and his dad, Marshall Flournoy, have worked together many times before, but this time things will be a little different. The "missionary kid," who learned the construction business from his dad as he grew up in Brazil, will join his father as a fellow Southern Baptist missionary working under Brazilian Baptists' church loan board.

With the right help, the two can start a chapel from scratch and have it ready for Sunday services two weeks later. And Philip says his dad has found some shortcuts since they set that pace a couple of years ago.

When Philip was graduated from college, he decided to take a break before entering seminary and went to work for a construction firm in Dallas. As it started getting cold in Dallas, his dad called to ask if he could come to Brazil to help build a new prefabricated chapel he had designed.

In Brazil, he found his dad had been trying to solve the problem of Brazilian churches which could not afford a chapel to accommodate their present crowd, much less a growing one. His solution was a prefabricated chapel which would go up quickly and cost a church about one-fifth or one-sixth the normal cost of a building that size. The modified A-frame structure would seat 175 people and cost about \$5,000.

A church would secure the site and pour a concrete foundation. Then Flournoy and his team, sometimes using volunteers from the States, would put up prefabricated trusses and plywood



**HEADING HOME** — When Philip Flournoy was appointed a missionary this summer at Glorieta, N.M., it meant he would be returning home to Brazil to help his missionary father build prefabricated churches for struggling congregations.

panels, finishing in about a week.

The Flournoys set to work, seeing if the plans would work.

"The first one was the hardest because we'd never built anything like it and didn't have anything to go by . . . We just had stuff on paper, and so the first one took a little bit longer to lay. We learned some shortcuts on the first few that we made," said Philip.

They built the first chapel in a little town where a Brazilian Baptist state missionary worked. Because it went over well, they started another before Philip returned to the States. Within the next three years, says Philip, his dad had

built over 30 prefab churches, some financed by Brazilian Baptists, some by mother churches, and some by Southern Baptist churches who sent volunteer teams to help.

Because they look different from most buildings in Brazil, Philip explained, the chapels began to attract attention. Some people even wanted to know where they could purchase a steeple like the one bolted on the roof. "It's good," said Philip, "because people are starting to identify, you know. They'll say: 'Oh, I know, that's one of those little Baptist churches.'"

Philip returned to the United States to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, but he interrupted his seminary training with another building stint in Brazil. About that time, the Brazilian Baptist loan board agreed to sponsor the project, hoping to put their services within the reach of more churches. Their help came at a good time.

The Flournoys had begun building the chapels in their backyard, in what had become an affluent neighborhood of Sao

Paulo. Building one chapel in the yard was not a big deal, said Philip, but things soon mushroomed. As orders increased, they learned it was easier to buy plywood 300 or 400 sheets at a time. And it was easier to buy 50 cans of paint at a time, rather than two or three. Plywood was stacked to the eaves of the house.

The church loan board came to the rescue with a piece of property that could house a factory/warehouse. They also provided a truck for transporting supplies. Philip's family moved to the new site and began work there.

When he, his wife, Karen, and their son, Jason Dillon, join his parents in Brazil, Philip expects the two men to divide the labor. One will stay at the factory to order materials and supervise workers, while the other travels to church sites.

They are also considering other projects, such as developing a portable fiberglass baptistry which can be moved from church to church. Baptismal services are especially important to Brazilian Baptists, says Philip. And they are thinking about training Brazilian apprentices in return for their help at the factory.

Although Philip will be working with his dad, he sees himself as working for the Brazilian loan board. "The man that is in charge . . . I respect him a lot," says Philip. "I respect his knowledge, leadership, and wisdom in making decisions on how the church loan board should plan for the future."

As for working with his father, Philip explains, "We have worked together for quite a few years now doing a lot of building and that type of things together. It's fine when I disagree with something for me to say it, and I respect his opinion and his advice and he respects me."

One of the things he has learned from his dad over the years is every member of a missionary family should participate in the work. He admits he sometimes resented helping his dad when his friends were going to the beach, but today he knows many things he would not know if his dad had left him at home.

In fact, he intends to do the same thing with his new son as soon as he is old enough.

## Baptist nurses deliver baby aboard airplane over Texas

By Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptist State Missions Director Charles McLaughlin preaches often on the "new birth," but he did not expect to encounter it firsthand.

McLaughlin was flying to an associational meeting and the airliner had just taken off from Love Field, Dallas. He heard a woman cry out. He looked back to see flight attendants helping a woman in labor.

They laid her on some blankets nearby and asked for a doctor. There was none.

But Baptist nurses Audrey Lowe, a member of Texas Avenue Baptist Church, League City, and Irene Townsend of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, stepped forward as the plane turned back to Love Field.

"I could see they were doing everything possible," said McLaughlin, "so I bowed my head and prayed for them."

"It was extremely difficult," said Miss Lowe. "The mother was dehydrated, and the baby was born limp as a rag. It was a tense moment, and there was no specialized medical equipment."

Fortunately, Miss Lowe had been a delivery room specialist. She turned the baby upside down and gently massaged its trachea until the blockage bubbled out and the baby cried and began breathing.

The 18-year-old mother spoke limited English and seemed to need financial help; so, her fellow passengers took up an offering of \$323 and all signed a note pad wishing her and her baby well.

With their patients safely delivered to a medical team at Love Field, the nurses re-boarded the plane to be greeted by a rousing ovation from their fellow passengers.

"Doesn't the Lord provide?" said Miss Lowe. "Where else would you find on the same plane a delivery specialist and a pediatric specialist?"

## Seminary in Liberia gets accreditation

PAYNESVILLE, Liberia — The Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary, Paynesville, has been accredited by the Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa, making it one of the first schools accredited by the organization.

The seminary, a college level institution, offers bachelor's degrees in theology and religious education with special emphasis given to education courses in consonance with the Liberian Ministry of Education and the University of Liberia. This prepares students for a bivocational ministry, the tradition for pastors in Liberia.

The seminary, an institution of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention Inc., opened in March 1976 and graduated its first class of 12 in 1979.

## Interpretations

### A theological problem

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2).

Confronted with a man blind from birth, Jesus' disciples did no more than raise the question as to its cause. Like much shallow popular theology today, they saw a given sickness and/or suffering as directly related to some specific sin. The book of Job answers in the negative. But the idea still persists.

Ancient Jews believed in prenatal sin! Which, of course, is ridiculous. So they attributed blindness from birth to either the man's prenatal sin or that of his parents. Such may be caused by parents' sin, but not the baby's prenatal sin. All sickness is related to the principle of evil at work in the world. A given sin may result in a given sickness, but not necessarily so.

Jesus replied that neither prenatal nor parental sin was the cause (v.3a). So far, so good. But the remainder of verses 3b-4

presents a problem. As it reads in the English (KJV, RSV) God permitted the man to be blind from birth so that He might get glory from healing him. Such a view is contrary to God's nature.

The Greek text has no punctuation marks except the question mark, written like our semicolon. Otherwise the punctuation is not inspired. Translators punctuated as they understood the meaning. So we may do the same. Consider this:

"Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents. (Note the period instead of a colon.) But the works of God should be manifest in him. We must work the works of Him that sent Me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work."

Long after making this punctuation I discovered that G. Campbell Morgan does the same.

Thus Jesus said that it was not a question of how he became blind, but the fact that he was, and what they should do about it. The man needed to be healed, not analyzed.