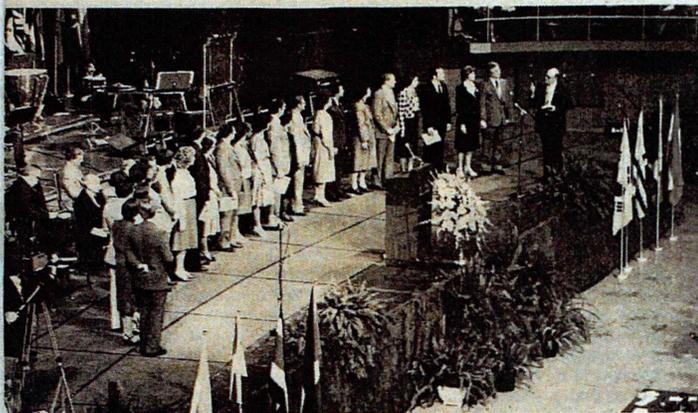


Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



CHARGE TO NEW MISSIONARIES — R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, delivers his charge to missionary appointees at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi, last year. This year's major appointment service will be in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium April 16 beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Hite calls for prayer for Nashville event

Preparations for the April 16 Foreign Mission Board Appointment Service in Nashville have all been completed — except one, according to Norris Hite, chairman of the prayer and spiritual preparation committee.

"Much prayer is needed to assure the success of the effort, to make sure that the program will be spiritually powerful and effective," said Hite, pastor of First Baptist Church, Old Hickory.

The appointment service will be next Tuesday at Nashville's Municipal Auditorium, beginning at 6:45 p.m. CST.

Hite said that materials for prayer support have been sent to churches and church leaders in the middle Tennessee area, asking particularly for special prayers during the April 14 services.

"Past appointment services have proven to be among the finest meetings held by Southern Baptists," Hite said, adding that "life-changing experiences include conversions and commitments to mission service."

He asked for prayers for those participating in the service, for those traveling to the service, and for the final preparations.

Anticipating a large attendance, arrangements have been made for a 1,200-seat overflow auditorium in the basement of Municipal Auditorium, according to Carl Duck, executive director of Nashville Baptist Association. Baptist Telecommunication Network of the Sunday School Board is arranging for closed-circuit television to be shown on three giant screens in the overflow auditorium.

During the April 16 FMB Appointment Service, approximately 40 new missionaries will be commissioned for service in various parts of the world. It is expected that nine of these will have Tennessee connections.

The 6:45 p.m. service will begin with a

concert by a 1,000-voice choir composed of singers from middle Tennessee churches, accompanied by the bands from Belmont College, Carson-Newman College, and Union University.

This will be followed by the parade of flags from the 105 nations where Southern Baptists have mission work.

After testimonies by some of the new appointees, R. Keith Parks, FMB president, will bring the closing message.

Each year, the board holds one of its nine appointment services outside Richmond, Va., where its office is located. This year the board accepted the invitation of Nashville Baptist Association and the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to hold that service in Nashville.

The appointment service will be a part of the FMB trustees meeting which will be held in Nashville April 15-17. FMB staff members and missionaries will be participating in Sunday worship services in many churches in the area.

Appointment service to provide for deaf

Arrangements have been made to provide a special reserved section for the hearing impaired during the Foreign Mission Board missionary appointment service, April 16 at 6:45 p.m. in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium.

Claude (Buddy) Burgess, pastor of the deaf congregation at First Baptist Church, Memphis; and Betty Stirsman, interpreter at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, will interpret during the service.

The reserved section will be near the platform.

Senate approves pari-mutuel bill

A bill to legalize pari-mutuel gambling in Tennessee passed the State Senate April 4, two days after receiving approval by the Senate's State and Local Government Committee.

On Tuesday of last week (April 2), that committee gave the controversial measure a 5-3 endorsement, with one committee member abstaining. Two days later the full Senate gave its approval by a 20-11 margin.

This is the first time in 16 years of debate that pari-mutuel gambling has been approved by the Senate. A similar bill was approved by the House of Representatives in 1982, but failed in the Senate by one vote.

After the Senate vote on Thursday, a House subcommittee approved the pari-mutuel bill, which will apparently be scheduled for consideration by the House State and Local Government Committee on Wednesday of this week (April 10). If approved by this committee, the bill will either go to the House Finance Committee or to the Calendar and Rules Committee where it will be assigned a date for consideration by the full House of Representatives.

Should the House approve the mea-

sure, as expected by political observers, the bill would go to Gov. Lamar Alexander for his consideration.

Under provisions of the Senate bill, any county regardless of its population or any city with a population of 100,000 or more could hold a referendum on whether or not to permit pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing.

A five-member state racing commission, to be appointed by the governor, would enforce track rules and regulations and would have the power to approve or reject a track site — based on economic and other considerations — even if the site is approved by the local community.

Tracks, which are to be built and operated by private enterprise, would be taxed by a percentage of the daily handle, ranging from 3 to 6 percent, depending on how much was bet.

The city or county in which the track is located would get 40 percent of the tax proceeds, with the rest to be divided among all counties and cities of the state.

The bill as it now stands makes no provision for pari-mutuel gambling on dog racing.

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Key leaders in SBC comment on threat to withhold funds

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan of supporting missions and education, could be seriously damaged by the continuing controversy in the 14.3-million-member denomination, key leaders believe.

Former SBC President James T. Draper Jr. warned the Cooperative Program could collapse if current president Charles Stanley is defeated during the 1985 annual meeting in Dallas.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Tex., said "thousands of churches" could withdraw support if a "massive attempt . . . financed by Cooperative Program funds" and led by denominational executives is successful in denying Stanley a second one-year term.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, said: "I think Jimmy (Draper) is trying to get people's attention. He is trying to get them to admit we have problems and to be willing to sit down and talk about them. If godly men will sit down and talk about these problems like godly men, we can come to agreement. If we don't and continue to call each other names, we have major problems," Stanley said.

Stanley said First Baptist Church, At-

lanta, has doubled Cooperative Program giving to \$250,000 for 1985, and has "made no provision to do anything, whether I win or lose."

He commented the way Southern Baptists "go about facing our problems" could affect the denomination's witness. "The worst thing that could happen is that our witness could go down the drain. It could hurt every church and every pastor if we act in an unChristlike manner. We can either demonstrate a beautiful example of how Christians can settle their differences, or we can demonstrate an attitude that would destroy our witness for generations to come."

Baptist Press contacted key leaders for response to Draper's comments, including pastors of the five churches which gave the largest amounts to the Cooperative Program, and two pastors from each of the opposing wings of the denomination.

The pastor of the top Cooperative Program church, Dan Vestal of First Baptist Church of Midland, Tex., said: "The whole Cooperative Program and mission enterprise of Southern Baptists is based on trust. My greatest fear since the beginning . . . is that our trust which holds us together is being eroded," said

(Continued on page 3)

Jackson challenges Pressler in Arizona

By Elizabeth Young

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)— A Houston layman and an Arizona pastor discussed differing viewpoints about the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention during a pastors' conference in late March.

Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, spoke to about 60 pastors and church leaders at Starlight Baptist Church in Phoenix at the invitation of the Estrella Baptist Association.

After his presentation of charges that liberalism is creeping into the SBC, Pressler was challenged by Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church.

Pressler, a leader in the inerrancy movement with in the SBC, cited examples of what he called liberalism, mentioning specifically work by Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Temp Sparkman, a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Henry Jackson (Jack) Flanders and Bob Patterson, religion professors at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Ann P. Rosser, co-pastor of Bainbridge-Southampton Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

"I would define a liberal," he said, "as one who says that the original texts of Scripture can or do contain errors. A conservative is one who believes that the original texts of Scripture are exactly what God intended them to be. In that context I think 95 percent of Southern Baptists are conservative."

Pressler said the problem with "the other 5 percent" has occurred "because people in the ivory towers of intellectualism are not finding out what grassroots Southern Baptists believe and therefore are not addressing themselves to what their constituency believes."

If Charles Stanley is re-elected convention president in Dallas, Pressler said, "maybe the people in our institutions, the few who have not been listening, will realize where Southern Baptists are."

"If Dr. Stanley is defeated for reelection, then that will give carte blanche to the liberals within our institutions not to be responsible to their constituency," he charged.

During a question-and-answer session following the presentation, Jackson pressured Pressler to say the opinions expressed were only the Texan's opinion. "We have had half information in this meeting in too many instances," Jackson said.

He contended there is another side to the issue and noted, "I am not saying either one is right, sir, I just simply believe that the people in Arizona are smart enough to understand that a lot of people have lost the sight of any cause in trying to win the fight."

Jackson asked Pressler, "You wouldn't want me to tell all I know about the politics since this started, would you, Judge?"

Pressler replied, "I'd be delighted for you to tell anything you want to."

"No, no you wouldn't," Jackson said. "You don't want me to tell about when Bailey Smith called me and told me how long the meetings had been going on the spring before he was elected president in St. Louis and how it was set up for him to be elected."

Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., was elected on the first ballot at the 1980 annual meet-

ing, and was re-elected despite a challenge at the 1981 convention.

"Your cause, sir, is just and I respect you for it," Jackson said. "(But) the methods whereby the cause is now being carried out have become overreactionary to the detriment of the convention and it's going on on both sides.

"I said that to Russell Dilday last week. He's gone too far. And I've said that to you."

Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., has been a leader in efforts to defend the institutions and to counter the inerrancy movement.

Jackson added that Pressler and others "get so bent on a cause that you can forget where the means is and the means is not justified by the cause."

On the day following the Phoenix appearance, Pressler was challenged again as he spoke to a group of about 20 pastors in First Southern Baptist Church of Tucson.

Joe Hall, pastor of Twenty-Second Street Baptist Church in Tucson, said, "I have a real concern that we are spending an awful lot of time in the political warfare among ourselves.

"We may end up in the same route and the same place that some of the denominations you (Pressler) have mentioned ... simply because we get gobbled up in the politics of this whole thing. I think that is a predominant feeling amongst a lot of folks."

Pressler asked Hall, "Do you think we have problems? Do you think these things I have cited today are problems?"

Hall responded, "I see those as problems because I happen to agree wholeheartedly with your interpretation of how we ought to interpret Scripture. But I am not so sure that we have a problem that is commensurate with the level of politics."

Pressler asked, "Is it political for me to come here and to share with you what is on my heart? ... Some people might consider my appearance today political. I consider it informational."

—Elizabeth Young is associate editor of the Baptist Beacon, news journal of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Blount to direct S.C. WMU work

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)— Evelyn Blount, program design specialist for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., has been elected executive director of South Carolina's Woman's Missionary Union.

She will succeed Hannah Hills, who is retiring at the end of June after 13 years as executive director.

A native of Winder, Ga., Blount went to WMU in 1983 as youth department supervisor and became field services department director in 1974. She was assistant to the education division director in 1979 and was national enlargement plan director just prior to accepting her current position.

She is a graduate of The Woman's College of Georgia in Milledgeville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. She has been a teacher, minister of education, and was Acteens director for WMU in Georgia prior to joining the staff in Birmingham.

South Carolinians hear Patterson

LEXINGTON, S.C. (BP)— The president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas told a South Carolina audience that Southern Baptists "will be deciding in the next few months the kind of denomination we're going to be."

Paige Patterson spoke to more than 100 persons at Oakwood Baptist Church in what was billed as a preview of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11-13 in Dallas.

Patterson described the convention as a "growing bureaucracy" which has become "increasingly insensitive" to the beliefs of the majority of its members. He said most Southern Baptists believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, "but only two professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary believe that."

Responding to the tactics of what has been called the conservative-fundamentalist party of the SBC, Patterson said: "I don't like my methods either, but I'd rather do something and save the ship than do nothing and let it sink."

The meeting was coordinated by Mark Arrington, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church of Abbeville.

Moore credits mistrust with causing SBC crisis

By Mike Duduit

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)— Although he would like to see "some type of breakthrough" which will allow the Southern Baptist Convention to meet in Dallas this June "with some type of harmony," Winfred Moore believes only "an act of God" will make that possible.

Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex., and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was interviewed about current denominational issues following an address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Denominational Heritage Week.

During the interview, he expressed concern about the current denominational crisis in the SBC and hopes for reuniting the convention. The Texas pastor is concerned that Southern Baptists are being diverted from their primary calling of missions and evangelism.

"Frankly, I'm really sick that it has gotten to this place," Moore said. "We are spending more time with this controversy than with the Great Commission."

Moore believes trust, not belief about the Bible, is at the heart of the current unrest within the denomination.

"What bothers me is that we have reached the place where there is no trust, and I honestly believe that the thing our people are out there wanting more than anything is to be able to trust the motives of the pastors and the other people who are leading this convention."

Moore, who has been pastor of the Amarillo church for 25 years and currently is on the Baylor University board of trustees, believes accusations of liberalism have been misdirected against many Southern Baptist professors and other denominational leaders.

"To me, it's not an issue of the Bible," he explained. "I don't agree with everything the dearest friends I have believe, but it never occurred to me (that they) disbelieved the Bible or don't believe it is God's inspired Word. It doesn't bother me that I don't agree with what somebody else thinks. I don't even agree with some of the things I thought 10 years ago."

Since his name has been mentioned as a possible nominee as convention president in Dallas, some have accused him of being a liberal as well — much to Moore's astonishment.

"I've been called just a little to the right of the Ayatollah. I'm so conservative I thought Barry Goldwater was a liberal. But all of a sudden I've become not just a moderate but a liberal."

Moore insists he has made no commitments about being nominated as an alternative to current convention presi-

dent Charles Stanley (pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta) when the convention meets in Dallas.

"Nobody has asked me. I have made no decisions. I haven't really been called on yet," the Texas pastor said.

The Amarillo pastor expressed hope the convention will find a way to reconciliation and trust.

"I love my denomination. I am greatly in debt to it. It grieves me, not that we disagree — we've always disagreed — but that we have reached the place in our disagreement that there is such bitterness."



Sherman

Steele

Career conference set for May 3-4

Camp Linden will host the 1985 Christian Career Conference, May 3-4, for older youth and young adults. The conference is sponsored by the church training department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Program personalities include Craig Steele, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil; Alice Magil, vocational guidance consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board; and Donny Sherman, a coach at Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

The conference also will feature music by Union University's Proclamation Singers and Union's stage band.

Small group sessions will explore finding God's will and pursuing His call, careers in church vocations, and information about a variety of mission opportunities. An adult leadership conference also will be available.

The program will feature testimonies by members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and testimonies by people in both Christian and secular vocations.

The conference will begin at 3 p.m., May 3, and will end following dinner at 5 p.m., May 4.

There will be a registration fee of \$18, which will cover meals and lodging. A \$3 reservation fee should be sent to the church training department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027. The deadline for reservations is April 26.

Stanley urges dialogue to restore SBC unity

By R. G. Puckett

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, paid his first visit to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and told the students he came as an "encourager" to strengthen "their hearts in ministry" and to help them avoid some of the pain and heartaches he knew they would encounter.

At a luncheon with the faculty, administration, and some invited guests, Stanley called for "us to sit down and talk about our beliefs and possible differences" because the situation is so ex-

plosive (within the denomination) that something needs to be done.

He also met with students for an hour-long dialogue during which he restated his opposition to ordained women serving as pastors of local congregations but added that women "... have the privilege of being obedient to God, no matter what anybody thinks."

"It is not for me to tell you what to do or not to do," Stanley insisted.

His appearance at Southeastern was the first visit to any of the six SBC-owned and operated seminaries since Stanley was elected president last June in Kan-

sas City, Mo. He has an appointment at Southwestern seminary in a "few days" and has accepted an invitation to visit Midwestern seminary in Kansas City but the date has not been determined.

In a press conference which included secular media immediately following his chapel message, Stanley was asked about ways to unify the convention: "It can't be done in one convention and I don't think any man can do it. God will have to do it, and I think He can do it. People ask me about a split (in the SBC), no, I don't think we are going to have a split.

"Some folks may decide they just can't live with certain things and may feel free to do something else. If they feel that way, they have a right to choose to do that," Stanley added.

"We are not each other's enemies, and I think there is an attitude which has developed in some people's minds that

we are each other's enemies. Those of us who are saved by God's grace are brothers and sisters in Christ ... so we are not each other's enemies," he emphasized.

At the luncheon with faculty and administration, Stanley said the situation in the convention is so "explosive" that the time "has come for us to sit down and talk about what we believe and understand each other better."

Stanley made no specific charges against the school or any faculty member, stating only some things he had heard or been told but which he "did not know to be true because I have not talked with you (the faculty) on a personal level."

Some faculty members said they are tired of being accused of things of which they are not guilty. They decried the suspicion and distrust which has been sown by some critics in the convention, and many added that their performance and beliefs were a matter of public record through years of teaching, preaching, and publishing.

In the afternoon dialogue with students, Stanley reaffirmed his opposition to women ordained to be pastors of local churches but called for women to be able to serve in every facet of the work of the church.

Stanley said he feels the 1984 SBC resolution on women was worded wrongly. "I think women should serve in every capacity in the church; I just don't think they should be the pastor."

In response to a question from a student concerning rumors that some persons are being added to committees and boards of the agencies and institutions who are hostile to the entity they serve, Stanley said he would not appoint any hostile person to any position.

"No one should serve anywhere who is hostile. I'll not appoint anyone who is hostile. If I see someone who is hostile, I'm not going to put him on anything," Stanley insisted.

Presidential appointments are crucial in the SBC structure, particularly in the Committee on Committees which names the powerful Committee on Boards, Agencies, and Institutions. Stanley chaired that committee in 1983.

Last September, Stanley pledged to the editors of state Baptist papers that he would not stack the committees, that he would seek a balanced and fair representation among those he appointed. At that session in Nashville he indicated he would seek counsel for appointments from the state convention presidents and the executive directors.

He commented during his visit to Southeastern that some of the state leaders already had made some good suggestions while others seemed to be recommending only their friends. He reported that one state executive had made a trip to Atlanta to talk with him face-to-face about the appointments from his state.

Rogers delivers keynote to dedicate new center

BOLIVAR, MO. — Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, delivered the keynote address at the dedication of a new conference center at Southwest Baptist University here, March 25.

The Jim Mellers Evangelism and Conference Center, a \$1.2-million structure, provides a new home for the schools' institute of evangelism as well as facilities for conferences, seminars, and workshops.

CP battleground...

(Continued from page 1)

Vestal, whose church gave \$944,512 through the Cooperative Program last year. "It will inevitably affect our giving."

Vestal said the church is "committed to the cooperative way of missions and theological education." He added: "The distrust in the denomination is growing, and I grieve and lament about that. The fight in the convention is obsessing us. Winning people to Christ and building up churches is taking second place. The controversy is possessing and obsessing us."

Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, where the congregation placed second with \$687,500 in gifts last year, said it is his hope contributions will reach the \$1-million level soon.

"Several years ago I was nominated for president (of the SBC)," Jackson said. "I didn't get elected. The next year the church doubled its giving. I don't think the laypeople in this convention want to see missions giving used to hold anything over anybody's head. I think a lot of pastors will be surprised if they try (to withhold CP giving)."

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., said he believes the Cooperative Program "is being used by both sides and I hate to see that happen. I have a concern that some would grade spirituality by how much they give. I also do not think it is fair to use it (the CP) as a tool to badger others to take certain positions."

Henry, whose church was ranked third with gifts of \$626,532, said the congregation "has no plans to do anything other than what we are doing. Of course, if we see a deterioration (in the theological stance of national agencies) we would have to consider changes."

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Tex., and widely touted as the man who will run against Stanley at the 1985 annual meeting, said the Texas congregation "will keep right on giving just like it has been" regardless of who is elected. The church, which last year placed fourth with \$591,428, will do so, said Moore, "because we are giving to the Lord and to his work."

John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., said: "I doubt the Cooperative Program is so fragile it will collapse, but there is no doubt it will be hurt."

Broadmoor Baptist Church, which last year gave \$588,858 as the fifth place CP church, "has no intention of doing anything other than supporting the Cooperative Program," Sullivan said.

He said the basic issue in the dispute is "more philosophical than theological.

The question is: 'Will I support significantly that which I cannot appreciably control?' I think we must get a committee together and begin negotiating our differences. I use 'negotiation' advisedly, because in a negotiation, no one gets everything he wants."

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, and president of the SBC for one term (1980), said he is "committed to the Southern Baptist Convention and to cooperative missions. But I have a higher commitment and that is to the Word of God."

He said if he leaves Dallas feeling the "convention has taken a direction away from the Word of God, then we would have to make a decision about how we could place our money so as to be as cooperative as possible without compromise. We have some deep theological convictions and I will not crucify those convictions on the altar of cooperation."

William L. Self, pastor of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, and a leader of the moderate faction, said the church "did not withdraw funds when the 'fundamentalists' took over in 1979. I am a Southern Baptist by conviction, not by convenience."

He referred to the effort to withhold funding as "manipulation and intimidation. We are a family and families don't do that to one another."

Two other representatives are pessimistic about the future.

"I know of nobody who can bring us together because the issues are so deep and strong," said Bailey E. Smith, president of the SBC 1980-81, and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla. "We have two denominations now; we should just admit it and move on."

Smith said the Oklahoma City-suburban church cut CP giving from \$175,000 in 1984 to \$125,000 this year as a protest against a "seminary president who is going around the country on Cooperative Program money trying to defeat Charles Stanley. My deacons said they weren't going to pay for that. I had to work to keep them from cutting it more."

Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Tex., said he has "given up hope" of a reconciliation. He called the threat to withhold or withdraw funds "intimidation, bullying, and putting a gun to the head of the denomination."

"These 'fundamentalists' have a medieval frame of mind: they are right and everyone else is wrong. I am not willing to create an authoritative arrangement where they know the 'mind of the Lord' and all the rest of us become servile and follow. I would give up my Baptist birthright if I listened to that kind of pious bullying," he said.

Mid-state pastors to hear Sullivan

James L. Sullivan, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak at the quarterly meeting of the Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference on April 12, according to James Porch of Tullahoma, conference president.

The 10:30 a.m. meeting will be held at the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board Building in Brentwood.

Sullivan will speak on "The 1985 SBC — A Personal Perspective."

Before retiring in 1974, Sullivan was president of the Baptist Sunday School Board for 21 years. He was elected president of the SBC in 1976.

A recognized authority on Baptist history and relationships, he is the author of the highly acclaimed book, *Baptist Polity*.

Porch said that lunch would be served at the Baptist Building after the program.

Pari-mutuel...

(Continued from page 1)

Senators voting in favor of the pari-mutuel gambling bill on April 4 were: Ray Albright, Chattanooga; Ben Atchley Jr., Knoxville; Steve Cohen, Memphis; Jerry Cooper, McMinnville; Ward Crutchfield, Chattanooga; Ed Davis, Memphis; John Ford, Memphis; Milton Hamilton, Union City; Joe Haynes, Nashville; John Hicks, Nashville; Jim Kyle, Memphis; John Lashlee, Camden; Jim Lewis, South Pittsburg; Ben Longley, Cleveland; Carl Moore, Bristol; Anna Bell Clement O'Brien, Crossville; Bill Owen, Knoxville; Robert Rochelle, Lebanon; Avon Williams, Nashville; and Lt. Gov. John Wilder, Somerville.

Senators voting in opposition to the pari-mutuel bill were: Tommy Burks, Monterey; Robert Burleson, Roan Mountain; Riley Darnell, Clarksville; Leonard Dumavant, Millington; James Elkins, Clinton; Tom Garland, Greeneville; Douglas Henry, Nashville; Carl Koella, Townsend; Curtis Person, Memphis; Bill Richardson, Columbia; and J. B. Shockley, Morristown.

John Rucker, Murfreesboro, "passed" and Lowell Thomas, Jackson, did not vote.

Of the 23 Democrats, 17 voted in favor and four were opposed (Rucker and Thomas were not counted). Of the 10 Republicans, three voted in favor and seven were opposed.

EDITORIAL

Your opposition to gambling needed NOW

The next few days will be critical for Tennesseans who desire to protect our state from the menace of gambling and its related evils.

Last week, a bill (SB604) which would legalize pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing sped through the Senate's State and Local Government Committee, the full Senate itself, and then (as HB624) through a subcommittee of the House of Representative's State and Local Government Committee.

The controversial measure is likely to be considered by the House State and Local Government Committee on Wednesday of this week (April 10). If endorsed by this committee, HB624 would go to either the House Finance Committee or to the Calendar and Rules Committee — which could put it on the House agenda as early as the latter part of this week.

It is imperative that responsible Tennesseans immediately communicate their opposition to gambling in general and to HB624 in particular to members of the House of Representatives.

So that you can know who is your representative, we are printing a map of the Tennessee representative districts and a list of representatives on this page. Find your county. The numbers printed on the map correspond to the numbers on the list of representatives printed below.

Every representative can be contacted through the Legislative Plaza switchboard: (615) 741-2065. Just tell the switchboard operator the name of the representative with whom you wish to speak. If the representative is not in, please leave your name and your opinion with the secretary.

Telegrams and letters can be sent to these representatives at the State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37219. Because of the pressure of time, this must be done IMMEDIATELY.

It is not necessary to give long arguments. The representatives need to know your opinions. Be brief, be courteous, but be firm in stating your opposition to House Bill 624 and to all forms of gambling.

For 16 years the gambling interests have been pushing to legalize pari-mutuel gambling on horse or dog racing in our state. In the early years, the questionable matter never did receive endorsement by any of the various committees of the General Assembly.

However, in 1977 a pari-mutuel gambling bill cleared Senate committees, but was withdrawn when it reached the floor of the Senate — because gambling backers felt they did not have enough votes for passage.

In 1981 a pari-mutuel gambling bill reached the floor of the House, only to be referred back to committee by a 53-33 vote. It did not come back to the House during that session.

Then in 1982, the House barely approved a pari-mutuel gambling bill (50 for, 46 opposed, two abstentions), but was barely defeated in the Senate (16 for, 17 opposed).

During the last two sessions of the General Assembly, no pari-mutuel gambling bill came out of committees to the floor.

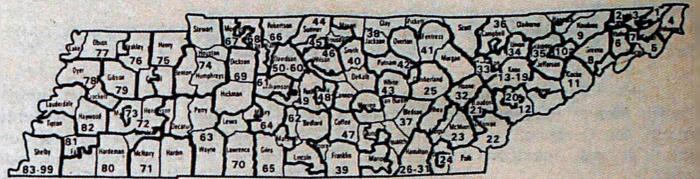
Then came 1985. On Tuesday of last week (April 2), the Senate's State and Local Government Committee approved SB604 by a 5-3 vote. On Thursday (April 4), the full Senate in session surprised observers by not only approving the measure, but by doing so with such a strong vote (20 for, 11 opposed, 1 passing, 1 not voting).

Gambling lobbyists seem to believe that they have a majority vote in the House of Representatives. No one will know until it actually comes to a vote — and this is why it is most urgent that you contact your representative immediately.

If pari-mutuel gambling is approved by the House of Representatives, our only hope of keeping the gambling evils from our borders would rest in the hands of our governor.

A stern warning against citizen apathy has been voiced by Edmund Burke, a British statesman of another generation, "For evil to triumph, it is only necessary for good men to do nothing." May we not be guilty of doing "nothing" when Tennessee faces the threat of gambling's evils.

TENNESSEE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS



- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Dana E. Moore | 34. Thomas C. Wheeler | 67. David L. Ussery |
| 2. Ruth C. Montgomery | 35. Lynn G. Lawson | 68. Stan D. Darnell |
| 3. Ralph Yelton | 36. Jerry Cross | 69. Walter M. Work |
| 4. None | 37. Shelby A. Rhinehart | 70. Robert V. Gafford |
| 5. Zane C. Whitson Jr. | 38. Leslie Winningham | 71. Herman L. Wolfe |
| 6. Ruth M. Robinson | 39. Ed Murray | 72. Dan B. Tankersley |
| 7. James McCroskey | 40. Frank Buck | 73. Matthew H. Kisber |
| 8. Joe L. Bewley | 41. S. Thomas Burnett | 74. William H. Collier |
| 9. Bruce W. Hurley | 42. Jerry A. Jared | 75. L. Don Ridgeway |
| 10. Edward H. Moody | 43. I. V. Hillis Jr. | 76. Ned Ray McWherter |
| 11. Ronald Earl Davis | 44. Mayo Wix | 77. John S. Tanner |
| 12. Larry C. Huskey | 45. C. Ray Clark | 78. Don E. Dills |
| 13. Ted Ray Miller | 46. Joe W. Bell | 79. C. Ray Davis |
| 14. Joseph R. May | 47. Lane Curlee | 80. Robert S. Stallings |
| 15. Charles Drew | 48. John T. Bragg | 81. James O. Naifeh |
| 16. Charles M. Severance | 49. Fred R. Hobbs | 82. Floyd H. Crain |
| 17. Paul C. Scruggs | 50. Tim Garrett | 83. Joe Kent |
| 18. Maria Peroulas | 51. C. Robb Robinson | 84. David A. Shirley |
| 19. Jimmy Kyle Davis | 52. Bill Covington | 85. Larry Turner |
| 20. Arthur M. Swann | 53. H. Victor Ellis | 86. Rufus E. Jones |
| 21. M. F. Stafford | 54. Harold M. Love | 87. Roscoe Dixon Jr. |
| 22. Bob E. Harrill | 55. Michael D. Murphy | 88. Elbert T. Gill Jr. |
| 23. Clyde B. Webb | 56. Steve A. Cobb | 89. Pamela A. Gaia |
| 24. Steve D. Bivens | 57. John G. Chiles Jr. | 90. Karen R. Williams |
| 25. Shirley P. Duer | 58. Charles W. Pruitt | 91. Lois M. DeBerry |
| 26. Bobby G. Wood | 59. Richard R. Clark | 92. Alvin M. King |
| 27. Bill H. McAfee | 60. Ben West Jr. | 93. Michael L. Kernell |
| 28. Clarence B. Robinson | 61. A. C. Frensley | 94. W. A. Nance |
| 29. Brenda K. Turner | 62. Clarence W. Phillips | 95. U. A. Moore |
| 30. David Y. Copeland | 63. L. H. Ivy | 96. Joyce B. Hassell |
| 31. Paul M. Starnes | 64. J. B. Napier | 97. William Chris Turner |
| 32. James M. Henry | 65. C. E. DePriest | 98. Harper Brewer Jr. |
| 33. J. R. McNally | 66. Eugene E. Davidson | 99. Dan R. Byrd |

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 74,656

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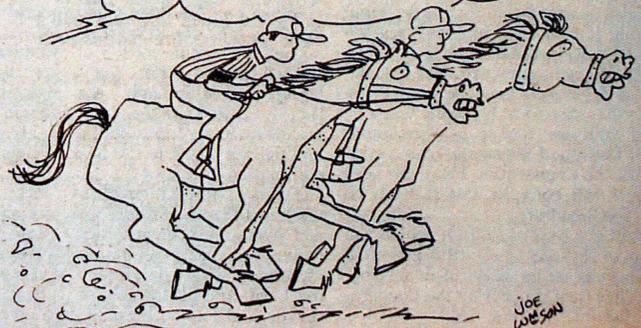
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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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IT'S PARI-MUTUEL GAMBLING AND
MORAL RESPONSIBLITY AT THE WIRE.
AND THE WINNER IS . . .



JOE WILSON

Letters to the Editor

Letters on any religion-related subject are welcomed. Letters of over 300 words will not be used. Other letters may be shortened at the discretion of the editor. No unsigned letters will be printed, but writer's name will be withheld for sufficient reason. Letters must contain complete address and telephone number. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of individuals.

Hope Draper is wrong

Dear editor:

I certainly hope that Jimmy Draper is not a prophet of the future with regards to the Cooperative Program. Draper, our former SBC president, has stated that his church, First Baptist Church of Euless, Tex., might escrow its denominational gifts (about \$400,000 this year) if Charles Stanley is defeated as this next year's SBC president. He stated that thousands of other churches might also withdraw support of the Cooperative Program if Stanley is not elected president.

I do hope that Draper is wrong in his prediction but as his brother in Christ I prayerfully hope that his love for missions and the cause of Jesus will outweigh any holding out in missions giving through the Cooperative Program. We do not need more protest; we need more missionaries and more churches giving wholeheartedly to missions.

I would hope that each church, regardless of its position or opinion of what is occurring in the SBC would not tie its love for Jesus and His co-mission to the presidency of any man. After all, we follow the Master, do we not? Jesus is Lord, follow Him.

Steve Bingham
1513 McArthur Dr.
Manchester, TN 37355

New 'test of faith'

Dear editor:

I could hardly believe what I read in the two press releases this past week concerning two former SBC presidents suggesting the possibility that they would ask their churches to place Cooperative Program money into escrow accounts if Charles Stanley failed to be elected to a second term as SBC president. I am terribly disappointed that these two men reflect the "take my marbles and go home" attitude. This type of attitude is divisive and repulsive.

Perhaps the true colors of the leadership of the SBC for the past five years is now coming to light. It makes one wonder what the next "test of faith" will be should things not be going exactly the way they prefer.

I plan to cast my lot with those fellow Baptists who will remain faithful to our denomination and try to work through our problems as difficult as that may be at times.

Dillard A. Mynatt
1101 Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Power at all costs

Dear editor:

I read with dismay the article in the April 3 edition of the Baptist and Reflector concerning a possible collapse of the Cooperative Program if Charles Stanley is defeated in his attempt for a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Is this how far we have come in the last

six years? Do we now threaten to withhold our missions gifts if our candidate is not elected to office? These veiled threats could be explained in the political realm, but they are dangerous in the work of our denomination.

I have attended the past four annual meetings of the SBC. None of the persons for whom I have voted has been elected president of the convention. Yet, I have not come home to ask my church to withhold or decrease our gifts. There are thousands of people who have prayerfully voted for persons who were not elected and still they continue to support the work of Bold Mission Thrust.

For Draper to suggest the possibility that CP gifts are dependent upon Stanley's election is indicative of the times in which we live in the SBC.

Now is the time to go to Dallas to re-establish the work of the SBC as missions. Six years of politics have been enough. The work of the gospel is too important to be entrusted to those who want power at any cost.

Let us pray for a return to our heritage

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



"Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus" (Galatians 1:17).

It appears to me that right after Paul's conversion, he was impatient and desired to start sharing the gospel immediately either in Galatia or in Rome. Instead, God directed him into the desert of Arabia for about three years.

God directs each of us to our own Arabia.

There is the Arabia of sickness. Persons who are strong and vigorous suddenly become ill, spending a period of time going through pain, anguish, and anxiety, and then health and strength returns. Out of that kind of experience we can say, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted."

There is the Arabia of disappointment. Joseph was disappointed in his brothers when they cast him into the pit. He was disappointed in Potiphar when he was placed in jail. Yet, out of the series of disappointments, Joseph came to give marvelous testimony to God's providence. When his brothers came to him for food and failed to recognize him, he told them that it was not the brothers who had failed him, but rather it was God who had directed his path toward Egypt.

There is the Arabian experience of deep grief and sorrow. There are times we have to trod the winepress alone. Grief is lonely and although friends with expressions of love and concern help, we still have an Arabian experience of deep grief. How welcome it is when our risen Christ joins in walking with us as He did with Cleopas and his companions on the road to Emmaus.

We do not have to stay in Arabia. Paul returned from Arabia and used his experiences for the remainder of his ministry.

and our God-given task in Dallas. Let us elect a president who will support the work of our convention without apology.

Marvin G. Cameron
600 S. Parkway
Gatlingburg, TN 37738

Defends Farrar Patterson

Dear editor:

It is now clear that the current controversy within our ranks has begun to reach our seminaries. A prime example is the recent vote of the Southwestern trustees on the recommendation of President Dilday and the academic affairs committee to fire Farrar Patterson.

I graded papers for Patterson for two of my three years at Southwestern. If he had not taught me how to study the Bible and preach, I would be less useful to the Lord than I am today. I know the man and I believe he has been unjustly accused.

The only thing Patterson did was speak his conscience about the current controversy and Dilday's involvement in it. When the seminary presidents speak out, they are hailed as courageous. When a professor speaks out, he is subjected to an inquisition and attacked without opportunity to publicly defend himself.

I was taught that part of being a Baptist was my responsibility for myself before God. At times that responsibility calls me to speak out when I believe something is wrong. President Dilday has exercised his privilege to do that while denying his faculty the same opportunity. That, however, is typical of Southern Baptist life in the past few years. As C. R. Daley admitted at Southern seminary, the establishment has ruled the SBC for several years.

I grieve to see this happening in the seminary I was trained in. The inconsistencies between what I was taught in the classroom by men of God and what the seminary does as a corporate body bring tears to my eyes. It is tragic that we can no longer speak our convictions for fear of being forcefully silenced.

Rick Nelson
Rt. 1
Harriman, TN 37748

Strange convictions

Dear editor:

As a graduate of Southwestern seminary I am writing to protest the action of the 12 trustees who voted in opposition to the recommendation of Russell Dilday to remove Farrar Patterson from the seminary faculty.

It is my assumption that these 12 trustees voted their convictions in this matter. I believe that they have some strange convictions. Their convictions approve of a seminary professor who uses profanity. Their convictions approve of a professor who isn't faithful to a local Baptist church. Their convictions approve of a professor who threatens the life of our seminary president. Their convictions condone a professor who does shoddy classroom work.

To support a professor at Southwestern who has these moral credentials and academic record is ridiculous and immoral. Furthermore, are we to tolerate such trustees?

Dilday and the Southwestern administration are the ones with convictions. They are to be commended and supported. We do not need our seminary stu-

dents to be exposed to anybody without convictions, much less taught by them. It is a sad situation when a president with convictions is thwarted from removing a professor with few apparent convictions by 12 trustees with fewer convictions still.

Bill Sherman
2100 Woodmont Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37215

Former SBC presidents

Dear editor:

One of my church members recently brought me a tape recording of a program which appeared on the 700 Club. I never watch this television station, but this particular recording caught my attention.

On the 700 Club were three former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention: Adrian Rogers, Jimmy Draper, and Bailey Smith. Their purpose on the program was to supposedly discuss the issues facing the Southern Baptist Convention. Interestingly, there was no one from the other side invited to articulate the opposing viewpoint.

I was dismayed that these former Southern Baptist presidents have used this kind of media to discuss the problems of our convention. I am also concerned when they choose the forum of a charismatic television program to do so.

It has been a strongly held tradition in Southern Baptist life that the former presidents of our convention would refrain from any kind of involvement that would favor a particular candidate. Their open and public support of Charles Stanley is a violation of this long-standing tradition.

In closing, I must add that no one is trying to unseat Charles Stanley as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was elected for the traditional one-year term and, the Lord willing, he will serve his one year. There is nothing in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention which requires or guarantees anyone serving a second year. If he chooses to seek re-election, he will do so by the same process as he followed the first time.

For the time being, I think it would be wise if all our former presidents would refrain from any involvement in this process which would undermine the trust and traditions of our former presidents.

Leonard Markham
303 Wright St.
Sweetwater, TN 37874

Belmont schedules missions emphasis

NASHVILLE — Belmont College will emphasize Southern Baptist missions efforts in a special convocation service April 15 at 10 a.m. in Massey Auditorium.

William R. O'Brien, executive vice-president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will speak. O'Brien, who formerly served as a missionary in Indonesia, also will lead in a commissioning service for Belmont students who will serve in mission posts for the summer months.

Faye Burgess of Nashville, popular contemporary Christian musician, also will be featured in a mini-concert.

The service is open to the public.

Pastor in Florida supports bombers of abortion clinics

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP) — When David Shofner first heard the news of the bombing of abortion clinics in Pensacola on Christmas morning last year, he thought, "I hope they catch whoever did it."

Several days later when two young couples were arrested and charged with the crime, Shofner was even more shocked. As it turned out, the four were active members of a Pensacola church.

"At first, I felt it was awful that a Christian would do such a thing," Shofner said in a telephone conversation to the Florida Baptist Witness, news journal of the Florida Baptist Convention.

But Shofner's feelings have changed and the anti-abortion organization he heads, Pensacola Pro-Life Coalition, has set up a defense fund for the accused quartet.

Although the accused bombers are members of a Pentecostal church, the mother of one of them is a member of West Pensacola Baptist Church, where Shofner has been pastor for 16 years.

At a press conference announcing the establishment of the defense fund, Shofner said, "These young people will go down in history as heroes — not criminals. They did something to stop abortions."

Shofner became involved in the anti-abortion movement last April following an appearance by Penny Lea, founder of I Believe in Life, a Minneapolis-based pro-life organization.

Since then, Shofner or members of his church have picketed the abortion centers.

According to Shofner, most of the abor-

tions are done on Saturday. There is a nurse at the clinic during the week and physicians are brought in to do the abortions. Most of the picketing is done on Saturdays.

Shofner said he changed his thinking about the bombings after talking with the young people and hearing their reasons for doing it. Pointing out that the four accused of the bombing have, in fact, confessed to the act, Shofner explained they did it to call attention to the abortion issue since other efforts had failed.

"When they bombed the first clinic and got by with it, they thought they could do it again," Shofner suggested. "I suppose in their youth, being naive, they thought that would stop it. They did it in the morning when no one would be hurt. If they had it to do over again, they probably would not do it," he explained.

Justified or otherwise, the bombings have earned considerable attention. According to Shofner, he has received telephone calls from all over the country offering support for the cause. Many of those who have called are women who have had abortions and expressed feelings of guilt and regret for doing so.

"I feel like the pro-life movement is a growing phenomenon," Shofner said. He also believes eventually the Supreme Court will rule against abortion on demand and people then will say, "Why didn't you do this sooner?"

Shofner said although some people in the church are not happy that he is taking such a stand, he does have strong support.

Twelve Tennesseans win awards at public relations workshop

RICHMOND, Va. — Twelve Tennesseans shared in winning 11 awards presented at the 1985 Baptist Public Relations Workshop recently.

The Memphis-based Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission claimed two first- and two second-place awards. The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville won a first- and two second-place awards. The Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, won two seconds. Nashville's Southern Baptist Historical Commission claimed a first-place award and Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, won a second.

Tennesseans winning first-place awards were Tim Seanor of the Brotherhood Commission, advertisement, single category; David Wilkinson, Christian Life Commission, newsletter; Charles Dewese, Historical Commission, spe-

cial publications; and Roy White, Brotherhood Commission, advertising design.

Tim Fields of the Christian Life Commission won two second-place awards in the folder category and in the direct mail campaign category.

Connie Davis and Mike Livingston, both of the Brotherhood Commission, were in a three-way tie for second along with Phyllis Thompson of the Home Mission Board in the magazine category. Davis won for Crusader magazine and Livingston won for World Mission Journal.

Other second-place winners were Roy Jennings, Baptist Memorial Hospital, television commercial or public service spot; Jim Gilliland, Linda Lawson, and Marshall Walker, Sunday School Board, brochure; and Bill Latta, Sunday School Board, advertising design.

ETSU students aid Michigan BSU

During spring break, March 15-20, a group of Baptist Student Union members at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, went to Marquette, Mich., to help strengthen BSU work at Northern Michigan University.

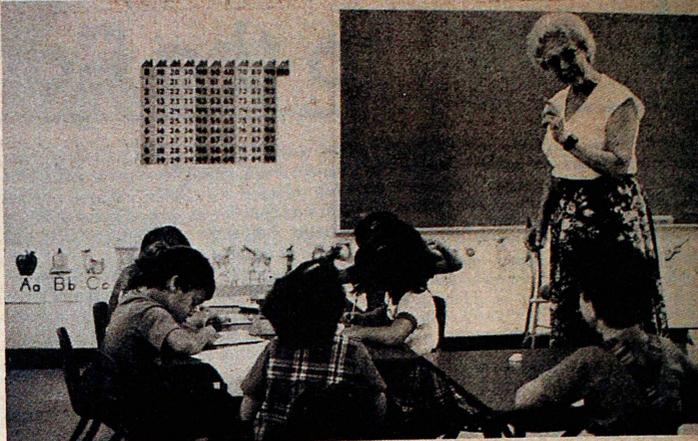
The SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) team was led by Fred Witty, director of the BSU, and Chuck Clary, seminary intern. Team members were Carroll Odem, Paul Brown, Jeff Allen, Chiquita Tucker, and Jennifer Kelley.

The primary purpose of the mission trip was to visit as many Baptist-preference students as possible in the

three days allotted. The group contacted more than 100 students during their stay in Michigan. The information gathered will be used by the BSU and First Baptist Church, Marquette, Mich., in making subsequent visits with all interested students and encouraging them to get involved in the growing student ministry there.

The Northern Michigan University BSU was started three years ago and meets at First Baptist Church, which is adjacent to the campus.

The trip was made possible by the student mission fund which is raised each year by Tennessee's 35 BSUs.



BACK IN THE CLASSROOM — Tennessean Gloria Logan, formerly school superintendent in Humphrey County, teaches second grade and serves as principal at Carib Christian School in Puerto Rico as a Mission Service Corps volunteer.

Tennessean extends call to school in Puerto Rico

By Clay Renick

AGUADILLA, Puerto Rico — Gloria Logan lost the election but not her calling.

As a school superintendent for Tennessee's Humphrey County School system, she lost the bid for re-election, but used the opportunity to move to Puerto Rico as a volunteer missionary/teacher at Carib Christian School in Aguadilla.

"I'm not happy without a challenging job," said the 61-year-old grandmother.

A member of First Baptist Church of Waverly, Logan directed Humphrey County's five public schools, with 3,500 students and a \$5-million budget. At Carib, she found a five-year-old private school trying to teach English in a Spanish-speaking community of 54,000 on Puerto Rico's west end.

Joan Pagan, a member of Borinquen Baptist Church in Aguadilla, started the school because she could not find an affordable private Christian school in the area. Public schools were overcrowded. Classes were only taught in Spanish.

In 1978, four teachers and 28 students met in the Borinquen Baptist Church's fellowship hall. Now the school's enrollment boasts 276 students and 18 teachers, six of whom are Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers.

Mack Adams, pastor of Borinquen Baptist Church, says the school provides an opportunity to reach parents with the gospel by teaching their children Christian principles.

Logan arrived in August 1983 and taught second grade for one year before she became principal. As a Southern Baptist volunteer missionary, she supported herself from teacher's retirement and a \$376-a-month stipend from the grade school.

Since tuition at Carib was only \$875 a year, money for new programs was hard to come by. But Logan used her 34 years' experience in education to start a resource room, in-service programs, and an evaluation process for teachers.

"Sometimes I wonder what I'm doing here," she admitted. "My mother is 82 years old. She'll be 83 in July. Someday I'm going to have to go back and take care of her. I have five grown children and they're all friends of mine. I don't like being away from my family."

But she has made Carib Christian School more like a family for mission volunteers such as Vicki Smith and Chuck Corb, who arrived last August.

"There wasn't an adjustment period,"

Corb said. "All of a sudden we were in Aguadilla and didn't know anybody, but it didn't feel that way. I'm sure there are other principals that are good, but Gloria's outstanding."

"I think there's a place for everybody to use what talents they have," said Logan. You won't be happy until you do.

"Before I graduated from high school I knew I wanted to be a teacher," she recalled. "This present assignment is an extension of that calling."

Tennessee Baptist Foundation

By Earl Wilson
President



The work goes on

Many years ago, in a small village near Gloucester, England, there lived a man called Tidman. He was a godly man who loved the Lord and missions. But, he was poor and money was scarce.

He decided to "give" one of his hens to the London Missionary Society. He would sell the eggs she laid and give the money to missions. Before the hen died, the egg money amounted to four pounds ten — about \$23.

But that was not all. She sat on eight of her eggs. They were hatched. These, too, belonged to the society.

When the hen died the old man was so proud of her that he placed her body in a box, buried it in his garden, and erected a little monument which reads:

"December 21, 1869

Here lies Tidman's missionary hen,
Her contributions four pounds ten;
Although she is dead the work goes on,
as she left seven daughters and a son
To carry on the work that she begun.
So be it."

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation is carrying on the work — distributing money to mission causes from trust funds established by those who wanted to be a part of missions until Jesus comes. So be it.

For information, write the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 347, Brentwood, TN 37027.

FCC ends investigation of Durham's complaint

WASHINGTON (BP)— The Federal Communications Commission has concluded its investigation of a complaint alleging Houston Appeals Court Judge Paul Pressler taped and released to the press portions of a telephone conversation with a Southern Baptist seminary student and has referred the matter to the Department of Justice.

J. Stafford Durham, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., filed an informal complaint with the FCC Sept. 14, 1984, alleging Pressler taped their Sept. 1, 1984 telephone conversation without his prior consent or knowledge and later released portions of the taped conversation which

appeared in a Houston newspaper.

The FCC followed its normal processes in asking AT&T Communications and Southwestern Bell to investigate the taping complaint. In their reports to FCC, both companies said they communicated to Pressler that taping phone conversations without prior consent violates tariff provisions under which they operate, but that the Texas appeals court judge refused to answer questions about the matter.

A spokesperson for FCC said Durham's complaint was forwarded to the Justice Department because of its allegation that portions of the tape were released to the press.

"If we receive a complaint here at the commission and it is not something within our jurisdiction, we routinely refer the matter to the federal or state agency or agencies that would have jurisdiction over the issues raised," said Kathi Kneff, a public utilities specialist with FCC.

A Justice Department spokesman told Baptist Press the question in such cases is whether information released from the tapes is "used for injurious means."

Although neither AT&T nor Southwestern Bell indicated in reports to the FCC they had substantiated Durham's allegations, Kneff wrote Durham that the companies were "adequately responsive" to the complaint notice.

"The phone companies were responsive to our complaint notice even though it is not clear the calls were placed in their territory," Kneff told Baptist Press.

In its report to the FCC, Southwestern Bell stated a company official contacted Durham who described the circumstances of the conversation he alleged was taped and released to the Houston Chronicle.

Later, the Southwestern Bell official contacted Pressler to advise him of Durham's allegation to the FCC.

The report said "Judge Pressler declined to comment on the accusation" and the Bell representative "verified that Judge Pressler is aware that such an action would be a violation of the tariff." The report concluded that the company was "unable to substantiate Mr. Durham's allegation."

In its report, AT&T noted it was "impossible" to determine whether it or some other interexchange carrier provided the service to the calling party. However, its officials contacted Durham and Pressler in response to FCC's complaint notice.

The AT&T report said a company official contacted Pressler in March and that Pressler "refused to answer any questions regarding this complaint."

The FCC has forwarded the reports to Durham along with a copy of its letter to the Justice Department. Kneff said this action concludes FCC's handling of the matter unless Durham elects to file a formal complaint with the agency.

"It looks like Goliath killed David this time," Durham commented after he was notified the FCC had concluded an investigation into his complaint.

Baptist Press contacted both Durham and Pressler for comments following the FCC action.

Durham, who is due to graduate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in May, said he probably will not pursue the formal complaint. "I don't have the time or the money to go to Washington and go through hearings and testimony," he said.

"I really don't want to sue anybody. I just want him (Pressler) to admit what he has done. But he won't do that, even now," Durham said, adding he does not "understand why they (the FCC) couldn't substantiate the allegations when he (Pressler) has admitted in print he did it. I guess what they couldn't substantiate was whether he (Pressler) did it on their (AT&T and SWBTS) equipment."

"It is interesting that he (Pressler) maintains he hasn't done anything wrong, but when an outside party called, he wouldn't even admit to doing it. If he really believes he hasn't done anything wrong, it looks like he wouldn't mind telling anybody about it," Durham said.

Pressler, contacted in Tampa, Fla., where he was speaking in several

churches, said the AT&T report is "erroneous because I clearly informed them I did not make my long distance calls through AT&T. I did not use AT&T long distance service and that should have been properly reported. Therefore, they (AT&T) were not involved and should not have been involved."

He said he "discussed various aspects of the matter with Southwestern Bell and there was no need to make further comments due to its insignificance."

While not directly saying he tape recorded the conversation, Pressler alluded to the matter by commenting: "When my first conversation with Staff Durham was completely and totally misrepresented, I felt it was necessary for me to protect myself against further misrepresentations."

"When the student was apparently manipulated by the administration of the school subsequent to our second conversation and contradicted himself, it was important that I show his factual inconsistencies."

Pressler also noted: "It is my understanding that every president of the United States since Harry Truman has taped telephone conversations without advising the other parties that the conversations were being taped."

He concluded: "This is another attempt by the 'liberals' to divert attention from the fact that the issue in the Southern Baptist Convention is what Scripture is. They constantly try to make non-issues in order to vilify anyone who seeks to have problems corrected that exist in the SBC."

Ridgetop pastor dies after heart trouble

Douglas Adams, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Ridgetop, died on April 2 following several weeks of heart problems. He was 37 years old.

Services were held at First Baptist Church, Ridgetop, on April 4. Burial followed at Sequatchie Valley Memorial Gardens, Jasper.

Adams is survived by his wife, Jan, and three children, Gail, William, and Steve.

Larry Chesser resigns position at BJCPA

WASHINGTON (BP)— Larry G. Chesser, congressional correspondent in the Washington bureau of Baptist Press, has announced his resignation to become news editor of a daily newspaper in Arkansas.

Chesser, who also has been information assistant for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, will become news editor of the Log Cabin Democrat, Conway, Ark., later this spring.

An Arkansas native, Chesser has covered the U.S. Congress and other Washington beats for five years.

Baptists in Karnataka double churches in '84

BANGALORE, India — Rallied behind the theme "Start One, Win One. Train One," Baptists in the state of Karnataka, with the help of Southern Baptist missionaries, nearly doubled their number of churches in 1984.

Karnataka Baptists started 88 new churches last year, bringing their total to 200. They baptized 350 new believers.

Stewardship trustees elect officers, make personal PGG commitments

NASHVILLE (BP)— Jimmie E. Harley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Florence, S.C., was re-elected chairman of the Stewardship Commission during the Southern Baptist Convention agency's annual meeting.

L. Roland Wilson, a layman from Naperville, Ill., was elected vice chairman, and Ben Green, a layman from Wenatchee, Wash., was named secretary.

Trustees also recognized Fred M. Chapman, who directs the endowment

and capital giving program area, for outstanding leadership in enabling Together We Build consultants to help Southern Baptist churches raise more than a third of a billion dollars for building needs.

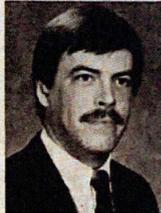
The 60th anniversary of the Cooperative Program also was noted.

During an emphasis on Planned Growth in Giving, commission staffers and trustees made public commitments to increase their personal giving through their churches for the next 15 years.

Planned Growth in Giving is a stewardship program designed to increase contributions to all SBC causes in support of Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's plan to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000.

New Tazewell church calls, ordains G. Long

Greg Long began his pastorate at First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, on Feb. 17. He comes to the church from Highland Park First Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., where he served as minister to singles.



Long

A native of Maryville, Long is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Long was ordained into the gospel ministry on March 3 at Grandview Baptist Church, Maryville. Charles England, pastor of the church, led the service.

Shelby youth ministers hold training sessions

MEMPHIS — More than 25 Baptist youth leaders are participating in an in-service training program sponsored by the Shelby County Baptist Youth Ministers' Association and Lakeside Hospital, Memphis.

Monthly sessions are lead by Tom Elkin of the Christian Psychological Center, Memphis, and Chuck Hannaford of the East Memphis Psychological Center. Hannaford also is on the staff at Lakeside Hospital.

The youth leaders are discussing topics such as listening skills, teen-age sexuality, rock music, single parenting, drug and alcohol abuse, and the absence of a father.

Congress approves relief for Africa

WASHINGTON (BP)— Congress has given strong approval to an \$800-million African famine relief package and has sent the measure to President Ronald Reagan for his signature.

The \$800-million package cleared by both houses April 2 represents a compromise between a \$1-billion measure passed earlier by the House of Representatives and a \$685-million figure approved by the Senate. Final House passage came on a 400-19 vote while the Senate agreed to the conference report on a voice vote.

Two Baptist hunger relief advocates applauded the congressional action.

"The action by the U.S. Congress is a clear signal that the American government has crossed the road to help those Africans who have been stripped by drought, war, and poverty," declared Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "The legislation is an example of how Christian citizenship can positively influence public policy."

Bread for the World President James M. Dunn told Baptist Press, "The action should be applauded, the Congress commended, and those responsible encouraged to hasten delivery of the aid, cutting bureaucratic blockades." Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, serves on a voluntary basis as president of Bread for the World, a Christian citizens' lobby for hunger concerns.

Two concerns emerge from the congressional action, Dunn said.

"First, Baptists need to continue giving for hunger relief through the Foreign Mission Board because it is more efficiently provided, promptly delivered, and accompanied by a proper Christian witness." He added Christians "need to intensify our efforts as citizens to insure that government does exactly what people expect and what lawmakers intend."

Convocation at SEBTS urges lay involvement

By Stan Haste

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — A law professor, a senior seminary teacher, a former president of Woman's Missionary Union, and a seminary president reminded more than 250 laypersons, pastors, and students that the Bible makes no distinction between the ministry of laity and clergy and challenged Southern Baptist laypersons to take their rightful place in church and denominational affairs.

In a keynote address to the 1985 Convocation of the Laity on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., keynote speaker Robert E. Shepherd Jr. declared, "We often forget that Christianity is a religion founded, spread, and nourished by the laity." The University of Richmond law professor added: "Jesus Himself was not a member of the priestly class nor were any of the fishermen, tax collectors, or others called by Him to be His disciples."

Shepherd also said the current conflict between so-called "conservatives" and "moderates" within the Southern Baptist Convention "speaks eloquently to the absence of an active laity as a positive force within our denomination. We have largely abdicated our role to the 'super ministers' who deal in body counts rather than in the depths of commitment and who have forgotten our past as a people and the role of the laity in forging that past."

He suggested the SBC follow the Baptist

General Association of Virginia practice of alternating that state body's presidency between clergy and laity as a way out of current domination of the SBC presidency by pastors of large churches.

"There is no super Olympic committee deciding who is an amateur and who is a professional where the work of the Lord is concerned," Shepherd declared.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Senior Professor Findley B. Edge underscored Shepherd's point in a series of Bible studies on the role of the laity. "The call to salvation and the call to ministry is one and the same," he declared, adding, "If we are 'in Christ,' He has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

Edge repeatedly underscored the false distinction in Southern Baptist life between clergy and laity, noting a more Biblically based view of ministry highlighting the proper place of layperson would actually help pastors.

"We really expect the pastor to do an impossible task," he declared, adding the typical pastor spends most of his time doing administrative chores, a task he does not enjoy or do well.

"The one overriding task of the pastor is to teach others," the veteran Baptist church renewal expert said. Laypeople, along with pastors, he added, are those called to do the ministry of the church.

Former Woman's Missionary Union President Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., addressed her commitments to personal evangelism and ethical righteousness.

"I believe in personal, one-to-one, evangelism," the former SBC first vice-president declared. Noting that if every Christian in the world won only one other person to faith in Christ every year and taught that one to win another, the whole world could be Christian in 32 years, Gregory added: "I do not believe that I am going to win my one each by assuming that I am such an example that persons automatically ask who I am. My faith must be verbalized in telling those I am."

Gregory also spoke of her Christian responsibility as a peacemaker. Recalling the pain of having three sons grow up during the Vietnam War era, she said: "The opposite of war is peace and men will know peace when they know the Prince of Peace and follow His teachings."

On the contrast between rich and poor, Gregory stated the view that "in the final analysis it is our lifestyles which best speak to our words . . . To be the truly Christian minority in a world of 'have nots' is perhaps the most difficult of our efforts."

Her goal, she said, is "to become identified with the radical Jesus" in responding to the needs of the world.

Southeastern seminary president, Randall Lolley, warned about what he called "fear of failure" as a problem common to all Christians, pastors, and laypersons alike, but added: "In Christ, failure does

not have to be final. It certainly does not have to be fatal."

In a sermon closing the convocation, Lolley said: "In our world, we're all going to hack our initials on the tree of failure." But, he added, "The purpose of God will always place you in a ministry in which God will energize you sufficiently to fulfill it."

Participants also confronted current social and ethical issues in a series of topical work groups designed to sharpen thinking about and deepen commitment to the idea that the Christian faith speaks to the everyday world of laypeople.

Leaders of two SBC agencies and three state convention departments organized the convocation. They included William Clemmons, professor of Christian education at Southeastern; Larry Yoder, director of church relations for the Brotherhood Commission; David Langford, director of the Brotherhood department of the North Carolina Baptist Convention; Ben J. Connell, director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Brotherhood department; and Lloyd F. Jackson, director of the Baptist Men's department of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Gregory, Miller, Price to lead Union's Spring Bible Conference

JACKSON — "The Church Triumphant" will be the theme for Union University's 14th annual Spring Bible Conference slated for April 22-24.

Featured speakers include Joel C. Gregory, assistant professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.; Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb.; and Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Joe Helms, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Jackson, will provide special music and lead congregational singing.

The conference will begin April 22 at 10 a.m. with an address by Price. The Bible studies will continue at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8 p.m. each day in G.M. Savage Memorial Chapel.

Each night of the conference has been designated as "Associations Night." The director of missions, pastors, and churches of area Baptist associations will be recognized each evening during the conference.

The schedule for "Associations Night" is as follows: April 22, Carroll-Benton, Beulah, Gibson, Dyer, and Weakley Baptist associations; April 23, Big Hatchie,

Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, and Shelby County associations; and April 24, Beech River, Crockett, Madison-Chester, Shiloh, and Western District associations.

Light refreshments will be served each night in Coburn Dining Room at 6:30 for representatives of the various associations with the conference leaders.

All sessions of the conference are free and open to the public.

SEBTS trustees adopt '86 budget

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — In its spring meeting, trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., adopted a budget of \$5,626,197 and elected two new trustees to serve until the next meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 1985-86 budget, a 3.8 percent increase over the previous year, will be funded primarily by the convention's Cooperative Program, student fees, and housing rents. The Cooperative Program, made up of gifts from individual Baptist churches, will provide 68.46 percent of the budget.

Under the budget, faculty and staff salaries will receive a 3 percent across-the-board increase.

Acting in accordance with the seminary's bylaws, two new trustees were elected to fill unexpired terms. James Herron, Rock Hill, S.C., was elected to succeed Henry Finch, Charleston, S.C., who resigned, and Ralph Holt, Wilmington, N.C., was elected to succeed John Hicks, Asheville, N.C., who died earlier this year. Both will complete terms which end with the June meeting of the convention.

Trustees also voted to request the dean and faculty to study the feasibility of a research doctoral program and trustee-sponsored internship for Southeastern graduates.

The two positions will be filled by the SBC Committee on Boards, whose report will be presented at the 1985 SBC in Dallas, June 11-13.

The trustees heard a progress report on construction now underway of the \$2.5-million Ledford Student Center, and authorized the administration to proceed with negotiations on Phase II costing about \$225,000.

In other action, the trustees granted sabbaticals to William Clemmons, professor of Christian education; Furman Hewitt, professor of Christian ethics; and Malcolm Tolbert, professor of New Testament.

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Citizen's Corner

By Jerry Self

Public Affairs and
Christian Life
Consultant



The State Senate passed pari-mutuel gambling last Thursday by a vote of 20-11.

A comparison to past Senate actions shows the difference was made up, for the most part, of new faces. A Senate committee approved SB604 on Tuesday and the full Senate voted in an 8:30 a.m. session Thursday. The second action came within 47 hours of the first.

The bill will now be considered by the State and Local Government Committee of the House and, if passed to the Calendar Committee, will soon be before the full House where there are even more new faces.

In 1982 the House passed pari-mutuel gambling by the barest majority possible.

Your director of missions has a directory of the 94th General Assembly and can give you your representative's name, address, and telephone number.

Tennessee

PEOPLE...

William Kemp Jr. and James E. Shields were ordained as deacons by Grandview Baptist Church, Nashville, on March 31. Participants in the service include Porter Boyd; Jess Love Jr., pastor of the church; and Neil Overstreet, minister of music at Grandview Baptist Church.

Columbia Hill Baptist Church, near Monterey, recognized Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Phillips on March 3 for their 50th wedding anniversary. Raymond Phillips is the pastor.

Henry H. Plunk was honored for 10 years of ministry by First Baptist Church, Carle Place, where he is pastor.

LEADERSHIP...

First Baptist Church, Gatlinburg, has extended a call to John Cox to serve as minister of music. He is a graduate of the

Church in Columbia calls Floyd as pastor

James Timothy Floyd has accepted the call of First Baptist Church, Columbia, to be pastor.

Floyd is a native of Hales Chapel, Ala., and a graduate of Troy (Ala.) State University. He attended New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex.

Floyd comes to Columbia from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where he has been vice-president of communications for Evangelism Mission III. Previous church staff positions include First Baptist Church, Ocala Park, Fla., where he was interim pastor; Hermitage Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala., where he was associate pastor; and Ansley Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ala., where he served as pastor.



Floyd

University of Georgia, Athens. He will begin his ministry at the church soon after he graduates from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in May. Marvin G. Cameron is the church's pastor.

Bear Cove Baptist Church, Sparta, has called Fredrick R. Freed as minister of music and youth. Roy D. Graves is the church's pastor.

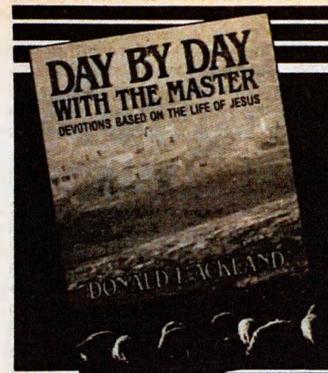
REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS...

Fairview Baptist Church, near Obion, will have revival services April 19-21. A Baptist Student Union team from the University of Tennessee at Martin will lead the services. Phillip Senn is the pastor.

A weekend revival will be hosted by Oakland Baptist Church, Springfield, April 19-21. Sid Maddox, pastor of Lockeland Baptist Church, Nashville, will be the evangelist. Ralph Cobb will lead the music. Charles Gallaher is the church's pastor.

REVIVAL...

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Orlinda, was led in revival services March 22-24 by a Baptist Student Union team from



Walk with Jesus daily through devotional readings from *Day by Day with the Master*. This book chronologically follows the life and ministry of Jesus from birth to ascension. Selections based on the Gospels contain Scripture, devotional thought, and relevant illustrations from life and literature. A companion to other "Day by Day" books by Dr. Ackland, this book makes enjoyable reading and resource for sermons, devotionals, and Bible studies.

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Donald F. Ackland is retired as editor, The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. He edits *Broadman Comments* and is the author of *Day by Day with John* and *Day by Day with the Prophets*.

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Belmont College, Nashville. Leonard Simmons was the evangelist and James Autry directed the music. Other participants include Lori Zimmer, Jana Jackson, Daphne Dobson, and Cleve Couch. Commitments to greater service were made by 25 people. Richard Graham is the pastor.

MISSION PROJECT...

Ken McCoy, minister of students at Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, along with six college students, spent spring break doing inner city missions in Houston, Tex. The team worked with Southern Baptist home missionary Mildred McWhorter, who has worked in the area for the past 26 years. Students who participated are Jeff Fairbanks, Doug Hodges, Tom Hall, Mabelle Durby, Allyson Steelman, and Cheryl Baker.

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CHURCHES...

Park Grove Baptist Church, Ethridge, recently completed construction on an educational building. The pastor of the church is Pete Roberts.

New Prospect Baptist Church, near Greenfield, will observe their 100th anniversary April 21. Bill Joe Patterson is the pastor.

Bethel Baptist Church, Bristol, is now meeting at their new location on Highway 421, South. The church's pastor is Ellis F. Seats.

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... executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Richmond, Virginia. Prior to this he served as missionary to Indonesia.

At the close of the service, students serving in summer missions will be led in a special commitment prayer in dedication of their summer service!

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for April 14

Disciples' characteristics

By Rice Pierce
deacon and Sunday School teacher
Mt. Juliet

Basic Passage: Luke 13:22 to 14:35
Focal Passages: Luke 14:7-14, 25-30

Many human derelicts lie on the streets and in the storefronts of skid row in American cities. Occasionally, newspapers carry stories of how one of these homeless men is found frozen to death on a downtown sidewalk.

With so much hopeless misery everywhere, what can just one concerned Christian do? The follower of Christ must do what he or she can to help every forlorn person possible. Many such "derelicts" have been restored to constructive, happy living by God's grace.

We must believe that Jesus intensely wanted to cultivate compassionate hearts in His disciples as He kept on boldly healing on the prohibited sabbath.

On one of these sabbaths, possibly following the synagogue service, one of the ruling Pharisees had invited Jesus to the customary meal or brunch (14:1). The Pharisee had invited several of his own kind to the meal, either those on his own social and religious level or (if possible) higher.

Luke wrote that they kept watching Jesus closely. For right there in front of Jesus was the trap they had prepared for the meal's special feature. There was a wretched man who was classified religiously and socially as a sinner and an outcast by the scribes. They believed he must have sinned and offended God, for he was afflicted with dropsy (too much water in the flesh).

Jesus, "answering" the situation in which He had been set up, and replying to their thoughts, asked the lawyers and Pharisees a question in return (v.3). "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?"

They remained silent, for either way they answered, they themselves were trapped. Then Jesus reduced them to silence again. He asked if they would have come to the aid of a son or an ox or a donkey which had fallen into a well on the sabbath (vv.5-6).

They could not afford to answer this question either. If they said yes, it would show how heartless they were toward the afflicted man. This Pharisee was going to regret inviting Jesus to dinner!

Jesus urges humility (14:7-11)

While Jesus was talking to the lawyers and Pharisees about compassion for a suffering human being on the sabbath, He observed the way the chief Pharisee's guest were entering. They were scurrying around, jockeying for the best couches and best places on the three-man couches used for reclining on the left elbow while eating. When these status-starved guests were settled, the Guest Speaker told them a parable.

Jesus' disciples, and anyone else who cared to hear, needed to learn about

humility and having regard for others. Jesus used the setting of a wedding feast, larger than their own meal and hinting of the great messianic feast to come one day for all true Jews. One can see in verses 7-11 that Jesus was not just giving a seminar on manners.

The lesson for all Christians is in verse 11. (See also Philipians 2:3.) We are not piously to act as if we are worthless and insincerely act humble in order to be so called by others. We are to try to see ourselves as God sees us and act accordingly.

Jesus urges unselfish sharing (14:12-14) Jesus turned from addressing the guests and spoke to the host of the meal. It is selfishness that is sin. The guests had been selfish in seeking the honored seats. The host had been selfish in preparing his guest list. Even in A.D. 26, reciprocity determined the guest list: either the guest had already had the host to dinner or soon he was expected to do so. If no return invitation was received, no future invitation would be extended.

"But," said Jesus, in strong contrast to Jewish custom in high society (and society not so high), also invite people to dinner who cannot return the favor. God would return the favor that such poor persons could not repay (v.14).

Counting the cost of discipleship (14:25-35)

One of the guests reclining at the meal would not touch Jesus' suggestion about inviting the poor to dinner. But he did want to make some pious comment. Jesus' mention in verse 14 of rewards at the resurrection gave him a handle to exclaim how blessed it would be to eat bread in the great, future kingdom feast (v.15). He, of course, expected to be there, as well placed as he was religiously and socially.

Jesus took this opportunity to give a parable on how difficult it might be to get on the final guest list for the kingdom banquet. If some people did not change their minds about the true Son of God, the despised Jewish "sinners" and Gentiles would be there, but not them.

Then later, to the huge crowd following Jesus, He described the cost of discipleship in the kingdom which had arrived. Loyalty to Christ would have to take priority over all other relationships ("hate," v.26). Rather than literally hating loved ones, of course, putting Christ first would result in loved ones (who were not opposing Christ) receiving a far deeper love than the new Christian could ever have given before. But if the choice must be made, Christ would come first, even ahead of one's own life.

Jesus' cross was to die for a lost world. Our cross is to live for a lost world.

It would be better for one not to make a start at following Christ until he or she stops and prayerfully counts the cost, becoming prepared in faith to see it through (vv.28-32). The capital we have to spend is our own lives. Are we willing to spend all our capital on the "tower" of following Christ?

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UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for April 14

Acknowledged as Lord

By Paul Brewer, professor
department of philosophy and religion
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: John 20:24 to 21:25

Focal Passages: John 20:26-28; 21:15-22; 20:31

The resurrection appearances in John's Gospel have two facets.

First there is a transformation for those who are blessed by the resurrection appearance. Mary's sorrow is changed to joy. The disciples' fear is transformed into assurance. Thomas' doubt turns into a confession of faith. Peter's guilt is forgiven.

Second, the gift of resurrection always carries with it a commissioning for some definite service. Mary is sent to inform the other disciples. The disciples in the upper room are commissioned to preach the word of forgiveness. They are sent forth even as Jesus had been sent by the Father (20:21). When Thomas responds in faith, his life is to remind all future disciples of the power of believing without seeing with the physical eye. Simon Peter is commissioned to be a pastor to the flock of God.

The living Christ continues to send all who believe and acknowledge Him as Lord.

The appearance to Thomas (20:26-28)

All we really know about Thomas is found in the Gospel of John. This appearance to him climaxes the resurrection appearances in this chapter. It testifies to the fact that Jesus truly reveals the glory of God. Outside the gospel, two non-canonical books bear Thomas' name (The Acts of Thomas and the Apocalypse of Thomas). There is also a tradition of a mission to India to preach the gospel.

John informs us that Thomas is not present when Jesus appears to the other disciples. His response to their testimony is one of total unbelief. In his words to them, he uses a double negative which in his language emphasizes his refusal to believe without evidence (v.25). He is not going to accept a faith based on the experience of others.

When Jesus appears to Thomas, two points are made with great clarity. First, without faith a disciple is useless as a witness. Jesus speaks to Thomas and says, "Do not continue to be faithless" (v.27). This word in this form is used only here in John's Gospel and the response to a faithless one is the confession of faith, "My Lord and my God" (v.28). During the time John's Gospel is written, Domitian is Emperor in Rome. He requires that all address him as "Our Lord and our God." Here the daring confession of Thomas acknowledges that Jesus is God and there can be only one Lord for a disciple.

Second, Jesus addresses all disciples who do not have the privilege of seeing Jesus as Thomas has. He declares that believing on the basis of seeing is blessed, but it is even more blessed to believe without the benefit of seeing with the physical eyes.

The appearance to Peter (21:15-22)

John's presentation of this appearance is to make us aware of human weakness and the transforming power of forgiveness. Peter has denied Jesus three times in the courtyard of Annas (18:12-27), and is now asked three times to affirm his love and commit himself anew to the

care of God's flock.

The rhythmic quality of the dialogue between Peter and Jesus does not come through in our English translations. There is a variation in the vocabulary in both the questions and the answers. John uses the words for love almost interchangeably as he does in 15:13, "The greatest love (agape) a person can have for his friend (philon) is to give his life for them" (TEV).

"Do you love (agapas) Me? You know (oidas) that I love (philo) You. Feed the little lambs" (v.15).

"Do you love (agapas) Me? You know (oidas) that I love (philo) You. Look after the young sheep" (v.16).

"Do you love (phileis) Me You know (oidas) everything. You know (ginoskeis) that I love (philo) You. Feed the flock" (v.17).

Jesus seems to be asking Peter if, in every way possible, Peter really loves Him enough to assume the heavy responsibility of service. The little phrase Peter has used about going fishing (v.3) indicates that he is giving serious thoughts to returning to his fishing business. So, Jesus asks if his love is greater than that of the disciples or his fishing business. Peter does not brashly answer with "more than these" but just affirms his commitment.

In His third question, Jesus uses the word for love that Peter has been using. Three times Peter has answered in the affirmative and becomes more despondent because Jesus keeps on asking. Peter then shifts his word for know. He has been suggesting that "You know the fact" but he finally blurts out, "You know from the experience of our closeness that I really love You."

With Peter's assurance clearly stated, Jesus informs him of his work in revealing God's glory. Peter is to shepherd the flock and serve, but also in death he will witness. The high point of the narrative is reached when Jesus declares to Peter that in life and in death and in spite of what happens to others the commission is "Follow Me" (v.22) It all began with such an invitation in chapter one of the gospel. The call does not change under any circumstances.

The conclusion (20:31)

John concludes his gospel not once but twice. In this verse, he concludes and then adds chapter 21 with another ending in verses 24 and 25. In both endings, John assures us that the story is not complete. There are many other works of Jesus that reveal God but this gospel selects some of them to aid in faith.

Here (v.31) he gives the reason for the gospel he has written. This account is not a biography of Jesus but a recounting of certain events to help the reader believe that Jesus is Who He claimed to be, Messiah and God. Through accepting this revelation, the believer is then given a new kind of life through God's grace. His trust is "that you may continue to believe" and thus have life.

Remember, the story continues. The last chapter has not been written. The living Christ comes to us today and continues His transforming work. Just as they "heard ... saw ... looked upon ... handled," we today who are aware through faith continue the victorious march through history. "Jesus is Lord" even now.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Lesson for April 14

A future for failures

By Philip Dougan, pastor
Gath Baptist Church, McMinnville

Basic Passages: John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21
Focal Passages: John 18:25-27; 21:15-19

This lesson is about a failure who recovered and became a success.

The life of the apostle Peter serves as an inspiration to anyone who has ever failed — which takes in all of us. The only people who never fail are those who never try and that is the worst failing of all.

While Babe Ruth was compiling his fabulous home run record, he also held the major league record for striking out the most times!

Peter's renown

Peter is one of the most famous of all Bible characters, but what do people remember most about him? The first thing that comes to mind with most people is that he denied Christ.



Dougan

But he also was the disciple who first made the confession that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). He was also the preacher at Pentecost where over 3,000 people were saved!

Is it not interesting that people mention his denial more than his revival? Could it be that some people are trying to cover for their failures by pointing out those of others? It is also a solemn warning to us that a whole life devoted to goodness can be brought down by one bad stumble. The one failure will be remembered more than 100 good achievements.

Peter's renunciation

Peter had a habit of speaking and acting impulsively without forethought. It has been said that whenever he opened his mouth it was to change feet.

He told Jesus on one occasion that he would lay down his life for Him, to which Jesus replied, "The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied Me thrice" (John 13:38).

Now we see Peter standing by the fire in the courtyard of the high priests' palace while his Master is inside on trial for His life. The doorkeeper asks Peter if he is one of Jesus' disciples. Peter answers, "I am not" (18:17). Some who are standing by the fire ask the same, and again Peter denies (18:25). Finally, a relative of the servant whose ear Peter had cut off (another impulse) asks Peter if he had not been in the garden with Jesus. Peter denies the third time "and immediately the cock crew" (18:27).

The third watch of the night from midnight until 3 a.m. was known as the "cock crow." Peter could have heard the signal given at the changing of the guard at the close of the third watch or a literal crowing of a cock. Whichever, it was a stirring reminder of the Lord's prediction, and Matthew records that "he went

out and wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:75).

Peter's restoration

In the final scene in John, we find Peter and some other disciples fishing in the Sea of Tiberias (21:1). Jesus has risen and already has appeared to several people. Jesus now appears to the disciples who fished all night and caught nothing. He shows them where to find fish ("without Me, ye can do nothing") and then joins them for a fish dinner. It is here that the confrontation between Jesus and Peter takes place.

It is significant that Jesus does not ask Peter to promise to be more courageous in the future, nor does He chide him for his denials, but simply asks him, "Peter, do you love Me?"

Love is the one essential condition for ministry. If we really love Jesus, we will do our best.

Three times Jesus asks Peter, "Lovest thou Me?" Perhaps it is because Peter had made three denials. Three times Peter affirms, "Thou knowest that I love Thee."

Much has been made over the different Greek words used for love. Jesus used "agape," while Peter used "philo," except on the third occasion when Jesus changed to Peter's word. Agape is often interpreted as divine love, philo as human love. But in John's gospel both words are used interchangeably for human and divine love and are, then,

practically synonymous.

The important message of all this is that a cowardly failure is forgiven, restored, and becomes a dynamic spokesman for God, author of two books of the Bible, and remains faithful even to death

when he is crucified some 30 years later during persecution of the church under the Roman emperor Nero.

God can and will forgive any sin and mend any life that is submitted to Him and cause it to bear fruit.

Gerald L. Stow
Executive Director-Treasurer
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Child of migrants follows call to missions

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — When Berta Sosa was a baby, she spent her days lying on shredded paper inside a banana crate in the back of a flatbed truck while her migrant-worker parents tended the fields.

"That truck was sort of like a home for me as a child," the newly appointed Southern Baptist missionary said during a recent break in orientation at the Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Migrant work was about all Mrs. Sosa knew until Christ began leading her on another journey.

Soon she, her husband, Manuel, and their three children will be moving to Colombia as missionaries. He will direct a seminary extension program and she will work among Baptist churches and at the Baptist seminary in the city of Cali.

Born into a Catholic family, Mrs. Sosa was 10 years old when she became intrigued by the color and shape of the Mexican Baptist Church in Muleshoe, Tex. "The church I went to was white, and this church was more like a big office building. It was lime colored, and I wondered, 'Why does it look so funny?'"

Curiosity pushed her inside, though her mother and grandmother had warned her against it. "The thing that caught my eye when I went in was the preacher was standing in front and I could understand what he was saying."

For the first time, she heard that Jesus Christ lived, died for her sins, and rose from the dead to offer her abundant life. But she said to herself, "That can't be. He (the preacher) doesn't know what he's talking about. This Jesus is dead. He hasn't seen what I've seen. I saw Him (on a crucifix), and He looked dead to me."

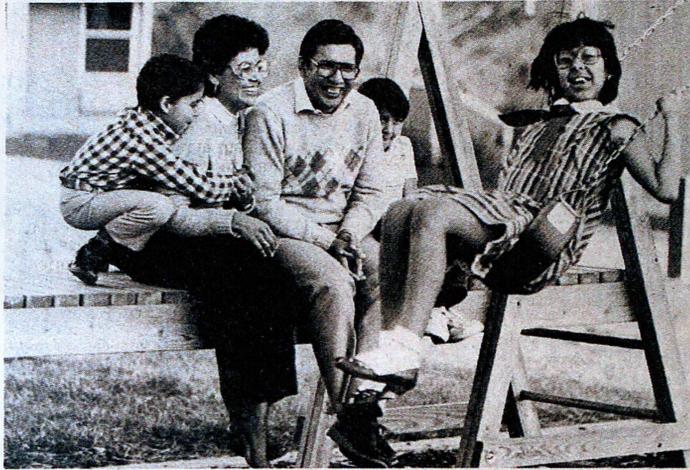
She and her mother began to attend the Baptist church together. Soon they accepted Christ as their living Saviour. Mrs. Sosa saw her mother happy for the first time.

Though her family — all of whom became Christians — remained migrant workers, Mrs. Sosa began believing and praying for things in her life to change. "There were many questions in my mind," she said. "But I knew that Jesus was living in my heart."

Born Berta Acevedo in a Spanish-speaking section of Elsa, Tex., Mrs. Sosa was the second of nine children. She spent most of her younger years in or near her Mexican grandfather's truck, a flatbed with wood and canvas covering the back.

The young girl never felt like a child. "I guess you could say I was second

mother to seven others," she said. "I was a baby and then I was an adult. I can only remember having one doll in my whole life, and that was when I was 10 years old. It was given to another child because she wanted it, and my mother always said, 'You are too mature, anyway.'"



COLOMBIA BOUND — Berta Sosa (center left) spent her early years in the back of a flatbed truck as her migrant-worker parents tended fields. Soon, she and her husband, Manuel, will go to their new "field," Colombia, as missionaries with their three children (left to right) Santiago, 6; Sara, 8; and Rebecca, 11.

Supreme Court agrees to hear blind ministerial student case

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court will decide during its next term if a blind man preparing for a career in the ministry is entitled to federal and state vocational rehabilitation funds on an equal basis with other applicants.

Confronting the justices is a decision by the Washington (State) Supreme Court that Larry Witters, a Seattle man who is studying theology at two religious schools, may not receive the funds. That panel last year prohibited granting the money, ruling in part that to do so would have the primary effect of advancing religion in violation of the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion.

Witters was first denied the assistance when the state Commission for the Blind adopted a policy that Washington's Constitution "forbids the use of public funds to assist an individual in the pursuit of a career or degree in theology or related areas."

An initial administrative review upheld the new policy, as did a Spokane County Superior Court judge and the state Supreme Court.

But in papers filed with the nation's high court, Witters' attorney asked the justices to review those findings, warning that "the Commission for the Blind's excessive zeal to separate church and state under the Establishment Clause, appears to have created a clear-cut Free Exercise violation." (The First Amendment both forbids a governmental "establishment of religion" and guarantees "free exercise" of religion.)

Witters is pursuing his education at the Inland Empire School of the Bible, a non-denominational Christian school, and at Whitworth College, an accredited Presbyterian institution. He hopes to become a pastor, missionary or Christian youth worker.

At 16 Mrs. Sosa attended a Christian youth congress in San Antonio, Tex., when she believes God deposited a sense of the world's needs into her heart. She responded to a call for Christian workers. But when she found out what a missionary was, she backed off. "I knew I could never be a missionary to another

country. I didn't even have the education," she said.

"I thought if I didn't think about it at all, the call to be a missionary would go away and disappear somewhere," she said. But, instead, she found herself praying, "asking the Lord to help me understand this feeling I couldn't shake."

With only a sixth-grade education and no funds, Mrs. Sosa began to prepare for a better life. At 19, with her parents' help, she attended the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio. Later she attended a business school in Corpus Christi. While working as a volunteer youth minister in 1971 in Alto Frio, Tex., she met Manuel. They married four months later, two days before Christmas. She figured starting a family would end the missionary thoughts once and for all.

But after five years of marriage her husband, a high school band director, told her he knew God was asking him to change direction. He came home one evening and told Mrs. Sosa he had resigned. "I said, 'What do you mean? What are you going to do? I'm about to have my third child,'" Mrs. Sosa remembers. "The Lord's got to be kidding about this."

Yet in 1978, the couple moved to attend Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. She found a good-paying job while he went to school. In 1982, he graduated with a master of divinity degree and began working as minister of music at Nashua Baptist Church in Kansas City. She began studies at Midwestern and earned an associate degree in religious education last May.

"I feel like everything that's happened in my life, the Lord has led," Mrs. Sosa said.

Now He is leading her to Colombia.

Interpretations

Oppose false teachers

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies" (1 Timothy 1:3-4).

Some of the most wonderful ruins of the Roman era are found at Ephesus. They speak of what was once a glorious city. Such would attract all kinds of religious teachers.

"Teach . . . false doctrine" translates an infinitive meaning to teach a doctrine of a different kind — in this case, different than the Christian gospel preached by Paul (see Galatians 1:6-9).

These false teachers evidently were Jews as seen in Paul's treatment of "commandment" and "law" (vv. 5-10).

"Fables (myths, muthois) and endless genealogies" probably refers to legends and speculations about the creation narrative in Genesis, as found in non-Biblical writings of the time such as by Philo of Alexandria, Egypt. He sought to harmonize Hebrew theology and Greek philosophy. Such things only produced "questions" instead of spiritual growth which comes by faith. The human heart wants divine answers, not human speculations.

Verses 5-10 deal with the problem. The "end" (telos, goal) of the "commandment" or "our charge" (RSV) is Christian love (agape) out of a "pure heart,"

heart denoting the whole inner self; a "good conscience" before God and by His grace and "faith unfeigned" (anhypokritou, note our "unhypocritical"). It refers to genuine faith. The false teachers had turned away from this goal, the result being empty talking (jangling).

The law is good if properly used. It is aimed at curbing the lawless (vv. 8-10). An analysis of verses 9-10 shows a parallel to the Ten Commandments. All these sins are contrary to the gospel (vv. 10b-11).

Our age is filled with false teachers who peddle their "isms." So as Paul speaks to Timothy, he speaks to us.

Norway seminary picks nominee for president

STABEKK, Norway — Peder A. Eidberg has been nominated to be president of the Norwegian Baptist Theological Seminary.

If elected by Norway's Baptist Union in July, he will succeed Nils J. Engelsen, who is retiring after 35 years in the position.

Eidberg is a 20-year faculty member at the seminary, which is celebrating its 75th year during 1985.

Guatemalan seminary grows from 3 to 13

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala — The residency program at Guatemala Baptist Theological Seminary has grown from three students to 13 since reopening this year.

Discontinued in 1981 after outside agitation disrupted operations, the program is now growing as a "direct result" of Southern Baptists joining with Guatemala Baptists in prayer, according to Missionary John Brackin, seminary dean of academic affairs.

"Without any idea of how many students we could realistically expect, I asked (Southern) Baptists to pray that we would have a minimum of 12 students when we opened classes in 1985," Brackin said. "God answered our prayer. I wish I had enough faith to ask for 25 students."