

Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 151/No. 40/October 9, 1985

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Jonas Stewart dies Oct. 6

Jonas L. Stewart, pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerville, and former executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, died Oct. 6 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis. He was 66 years old.



Stewart

Stewart had undergone heart bypass surgery on Sept. 5, and his death was attributed to complications which resulted following the surgery.

After serving as executive secretary-treasurer for the Tennessee Baptist Foundation from July 1968 until April 1983, Stewart took early retirement and returned to Somerville's First Baptist Church, where he had served as pastor from 1948-56.

A native of Haywood County, Stewart attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. He was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Union University in 1966.

In addition to the Somerville church, Stewart was pastor of First Baptist Church, Holland, Mo.; First Baptist Church, Era, Tex.; and First Baptist Church, Huntington (1956-66). He also was director of missions for Big Hatchie Baptist Association (1946-48).

Active in Tennessee Baptist life, Stewart served as president (1967) and vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and as a member of the TBC Executive Board and as a trustee of Union University. He preached the convention sermon at the 1965 TBC.

In addition, Stewart served on the TBC Committee on Arrangements, Committee on Committees, Committee on Boards, and Committee on Audits.

He was moderator of both Fayette and Carroll-Benton Baptist associations and was president of the West Tennessee Pastors' Conference.

His service in the Southern Baptist Convention included being a trustee for both the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Foreign Mission Board and as a member of the SBC Committee on Boards.

A popular preacher, Stewart conducted more than 200 revivals in Tennessee and in other states, and was interim pastor of many churches during his tenure with the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

Stewart is survived by his widow, the former Emma Lee Simpson; two sons: Larry of Jackson and Billy of Nashville; one sister; and five brothers.

Funeral services were to be held Oct. 8 at First Baptist Church, Somerville, with burial in the Zion Baptist Cemetery near Brownsville.

ACTS reaches agreements with two mid-state systems

NASHVILLE — After nearly two years of negotiations, the ACTS network has reached agreements with Viacom Cablevision of Nashville and Matrix Vision of Williamson County to deliver the Southern Baptist TV network to viewers in middle Tennessee.

ACTS went on the air in Nashville in September on cable channel 34, which the network shares with Reuters Sports and Finance. ACTS' family and Christian programming is carried from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday and all day on Saturday and Sunday. The channel reaches an estimated 65,000 homes.

Williamson County's cable system has agreed to provide a channel for ACTS, with a target date of Jan. 1. The system reaches about 15,000 homes.

ACTS officials worked with the Nashville Baptist Association and several of the association's member churches to secure the channels. Seven Nashville churches have formed a local ACTS board to support the effort and four churches in Williamson County formed a local ACTS board.

Both systems will be able to initiate local programming as well as ACTS-produced programs.

Baptist churches participating in the Nashville system are Belmont Heights, Eastland, First, Grace, Hermitage Hills, Radnor, and Two Rivers. Churches in the Williamson County system are Brentwood, Clearview, Judson, and Walker Memorial.

Perry A. Michel, pastor of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, and chairman of the Nashville ACTS board, and Bill Wilson, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, and chairman of the Williamson County local board, predicted that other churches will join later.

"We are excited about the potential of local programming," said Michel. "We

are thinking about doing community interest programs and the type of entertainment, on a local level, typical of the ACTS network."

Michel said the local board is continuing to negotiate for full-time use of the channel in the future.

The local board in Williamson County is negotiating for a channel on Matrix Vision's basic package, according to Wilson.

The addition of about 80,000 ACTS subscribers in the Nashville area almost doubles the number of homes in Tennessee that can receive the network. About 88,000 homes have access to ACTS via cable systems in Alcoa, Bartlett, Collierville, Columbia, Jefferson City, Knoxville, Morristown, Sevierville, and Tullahoma, according to the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, which operates the ACTS network.

With ACTS viewable in 168,000 Tennessee homes, the network has a potential audience of about 450,000 people in the state. Nationwide, ACTS now reports almost 3.5-million homes, for a potential audience of about 9.5-million people.



WORLD HUNGER DAY — Two women in Mali divide a sack of grain distributed by Missionary Norman Coad. Southern Baptist hunger relief gifts purchased 6,000 tons of grain distributed in Mali this year. Churches across Tennessee and the Southern Baptist Convention will observe World Hunger Day on Oct. 13.

Shells hit Baptist seminary in Beirut, classes continue

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Shells exploded on the campus of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary Sept. 28. None of the four Southern Baptist missionary families, 10 students, and several employees who live there was injured.

The shells fell during a random bombing of areas in east Beirut. One blast broke 12 windows in the home of Missionaries David and Maxine King on the

seminary campus and destroyed a tree in their front yard. The Kings were in an inside hallway at the time.

Glass blew into the Kings' basement, where Missionaries Bill and Vivian Trimble were sitting with their daughter and son-in-law. Missionaries Jerree and Gary White, and the Whites' two small children.

The Trimbles live in an apartment above the Kings. The Whites had been in Lebanon just one week, having transferred from Jordan after their first furlough.

A second shell hit an international ministries building still under construction on campus, doing only slight damage. Shrapnel from another shell hit a room in the home of Missionaries Emmett and La Nell Barnes.

Normal activities resumed at the seminary the next day. Missionaries reported worshippers crowded into the seminary chapel for the Sunday morning service of the Mansourieh Baptist Church. Two young women were baptized, and both mentioned the role of missionaries in bringing them to Christ.

Earlier fighting endangered missionary homes in other parts of the Beirut area. Shrapnel broke windows in the sixth-floor apartment of Missionary Nancie Wingo. During recent artillery battles, a village near Beirut was the

(Continued on page 3)

SBC CP gifts top \$117-million

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention closed its books on the 1984-85 fiscal year for the national Cooperative Program Sept. 30 after receiving \$117,526,691 in undesignated contributions to its worldwide mission and education programs.

"I believe the amount received represents an awareness and commitment to the mission causes the Cooperative Program supports," said A. R. Fagan, president of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. "This commitment is true not only of individual Southern Baptists but also of churches and state conventions.

"The real growth in giving is realized as it relates to the Consumer Price Index. In real dollars this is the strongest gain we have experienced in recent years."

The 1984-85 total was 7.99 percent (\$8,690,959) above 1983-84 contributions while the inflation rate is about 3.5 percent, meaning growth in giving has more than doubled the rate of inflation.

September contributions of \$9.75-million from the 37 state conventions affiliated with the SBC left income slightly more than \$473,000 below the basic budget goal of \$118-million. No funds were available for the \$6.874-million capital needs portion of the budget or the \$5.126-million challenge budget.

Hendricks heads seminar on preschoolers, children



Hendricks



McIndoo



Rives



Jackson



Kirkland



McArthur



Taylor

For the first time in many years the Tennessee Baptist Convention will offer training for leaders of preschoolers and children in all programs in the church together. The "How Children Learn" seminar will be Sat., Nov. 9, at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood. It is for teachers in Sunday School, church training, Mission Friends and Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, church music, and workers in media library.

The seminar will feature William L. Hendricks, author of six books including,

A Theology for Children, and professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Other sessions feature Lou Heath from Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville on story presentation, Ron Jackson and Martha Kirkland from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville on music, Ethel McIndoo from the Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham on art, Karl Bozeman from the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis on planning, Beth Taylor from the BSSB on discipline, and Elsie Rives and Margaret McArthur from the BSSB on prayer.

The 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. seminar is \$10 and the registration deadline is Nov. 1. Contact Cindy Franks, TBC, church training department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Prayer issue goes to Senate floor

WASHINGTON (BP) — Debate over a Constitutional amendment authorizing silent prayer in public schools will go to the Senate floor as a result of action taken by a Senate committee Oct. 3.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 12-6 to put S.J. Res. 2 on the Senate calendar for full debate. The measure states: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group silent prayer or reflection in public schools. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to participate in such prayer or reflection, nor shall they encourage any particular form of prayer or reflection."

Supporters of the proposed amendment hope it will nullify a recent Supreme Court ruling that struck down an Alabama law requiring a moment of silence for prayer or meditation at the beginning of each school day.

The amendment's co-authors, Senators Orrin G. Hatch and Dennis DeConcini, led the vote to approve.

Sen. Arlen Specter argued that a Constitutional amendment is unnecessary, explaining silent prayer already is lawful in light of Supreme Court decisions. "We should not recommend an amendment to the Constitution except in extraordinary circumstances and especially not when it is already appropriate to have a period of silence to pray, meditate, or do nothing," he stated.

Joining in opposition to the measure, Sen. Paul Simon declared, "I don't think this amendment has any secular purpose. Its aim is to promote religion."

'Hogs for Haiti' project elicits fun, enthusiasm

With slogans like "Hug a Hog for Haiti," and "Be a Ham for Haiti," Carson-Newman College Baptist Student Union members are making "pig plans" to encourage those who are busy "bringing home the bacon" to go "whole hog" for a new project.

Steve R. Roper, campus ministries intern on the Jefferson City campus of the Tennessee Baptist College, reported the response to plans for the next year made by the Tennessee BSU presidents and state officers in a recent meeting.

The goal for the new state BSU project is to provide money to send 272 pigs to Haiti for breeding in 12 multiplication centers. Offspring will be distributed to 100 families in each area. BSU funds also will purchase feed, and a truck costing \$78,700.

The need came from the Foreign Mission Board's MANNA (Ministering Aid to Needy Nations Abroad) projects.

Ircel Harrison of the Tennessee Baptist Convention student department explained that this continues a BSU emphasis on hunger in Haiti for a second year. Last year the students purchased a truck for well-drilling in that country. Harrison noted that this project will be recommended for adoption at the state Baptist Student Union Convention on Oct. 25-27 at First Baptist Church in Clarksville.

BSU members also will consider funding student missionaries in 11 overseas positions, 23 Tennessee assignments,

and 22 in other U.S. states. The combined goal for the cooperative effort of the 35 campuses in Tennessee is \$96,000, which is to be raised by the students alone and not through churches.

The entire process, which includes planning, adopting, and locating persons, teaches students how Southern Baptists do missions, Harrison said.



POSTER CHILD — The "poster child" for the proposed Haiti hunger project for state BSUs is not Ed Winters, Carson-Newman College BSU president.

Student meeting set in Clarksville



Page



Bill and Linda Cates



Park



Queener

The biannual state Baptist Student Union Convention will be held Oct. 25-27 at First Baptist Church in Clarksville. It is open to all students, not just to those involved in BSU, emphasized the directors of the meeting from the student department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, special music will be presented by Bill and Linda Cates of Nashville. Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Nashville, will lead the Bible study. Opportunities

for student involvement in short-term and career missions overseas will be presented by Karen K. Park of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Jill K. Queener, US-2er missionary of the Home Mission Board will present personal evangelism.

Seminars will be offered throughout the weekend addressing discipleship, missions, and BSU work.

For housing and other information, contact TBC, student department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Signers for deaf plan workshop

The annual workshop for interpreters for the deaf will be held Nov. 1-2 at the Executive Board Building of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood.

Danny Bice, state missionary to the deaf in Oklahoma, will conduct the workshop which is directed by the missions department of the TBC. He has served there a year and for nine years in deaf ministries in Texas. Bice has also served on the advisory committee of the deaf for the SBC. He holds a comprehensive skills certificate from the registry of interpreters for the deaf.



Bice

The theme for the workshop will be "The Well-Rounded Interpreter" and the three sessions will cover ethics of interpreting, unusual or difficult signs, and interpreting signs to voice. The free workshop will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1 and close at 3 p.m. on Nov. 2.

All Southern Baptists are invited to attend. Contact James Redding, missions department, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027, for motel and workshop reservations.

Glen Melton dies in Lenoir City

The retired director of missions of Loudon County Baptist Association for 21 years, Glen Melton, died after heart surgery Sept. 28 in Lenoir City. He was 70 years old.

Funeral services were held Sept. 30 at Click Funeral Chapel and burial was at Loudon County Memorial Gardens in Lenoir City. Obie Campbell and E. M. Sherwood, pastors in Loudon, and Russell Honeycutt, pastor in Crossville, led the services.

Melton, who currently was pastor of Stockton Valley Baptist Church in Loudon, was a graduate of Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour. He was ordained by First Baptist Church

in Crossville, served as church missionary there for six years, and was pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Crossville, Haley's Grove Baptist Church in Crab Orchard, and Ten Mile Baptist Church in Ten Mile for a total of five years before he became director of missions. He retired from that position in 1980.

Melton in survived by his wife, Lora Mae Smith Melton of Lenoir City, daughter Faye Phillips of Lenoir City, son Ray Melton, and three granddaughters of Decatur.

Memorial gifts can be sent to the Stockton Valley Baptist Church Bell Fund at Rt. 9, Box 346, Lenoir City, TN 37711 to purchase a bell for the church.

FMB allocates \$406,500 to help Mexico rebuild

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board earmarked \$406,500 Oct. 3 to buy equipment and feed 3,000 Mexicans while they are trained to help dig Mexico City out from under the wreckage of two earthquakes.

More than half of the money will pay for nine big compressor jackhammers, plus smaller equipment such as blow-torches and power saws for cutting metal. The rest will finance up to three weeks of food each for 3,000 jobless Mexicans as they are trained to use the equipment.

An additional \$200,000 may be allocated for more compressor jackhammers in a second phase of the project if the overall effort succeeds.

The project emerged as Mexican Baptists, Southern Baptist representatives, and Foreign Mission Board Human Needs Consultant Don Turner met in

Mexico City to evaluate long-term earthquake relief needs.

Mexican Baptists identified three major needs beyond current emergency feeding and shelter: (1) cleanup and reconstruction in the city, (2) jobs and vocational training for those left unemployed and homeless, and (3) temporary income or food during the training.

As unofficial earthquake death tolls topped 7,000 at the beginning of October, an estimated 1,400 buildings in Mexico City lay in various stages of ruin. Many of the buildings housed businesses and government offices, and as many as 30,000 families lost work.

Mexican Baptist businessman Raul Castellanos, an executive in the Aristos hotel and construction group, has offered to provide training for the 3,000 workers, followed by employment with Aristos, other construction companies, and the government.

First Baptist Church of Mexico City, in the heart of one of the worst-hit areas, will likely be the training site. The church owns two adjacent lots with facilities big enough to house the training project, which will include on-the-job experience in the ravaged city. In addition to general demolition, the trainees will learn general repair, maintenance, mechanics, and construction work in concrete, asphalt, and steel.

The Aristos group is willing to train the 3,000 men in return for their labor during training and use of the equipment, Turner said. He added the skills would help them find employment long after the cleanup is completed. Castellanos is also working with Mexico City government officials, who reportedly have expressed a willingness to cooperate, to assure the workers and equipment are used in actual restoration efforts.

Aristos has agreed to buy the compressor jackhammers after the training period at the market price for used machinery, enabling the Foreign Mission Board to recover at least half of the retail expenditure. Those funds will in turn be funneled by Southern Baptist representatives and Mexican Baptists into additional relief-related projects.

In cooperation with the National Baptist Convention of Mexico and its Disaster Response Committee, First Baptist Church will coordinate a program of Christian witness and training for the workers involved in the training program. Turner said First Baptist Church would no longer offer its facilities for emergency shelter after Oct. 2, but will keep distributing food for quake survivors as long as the need exists.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptist relief teams from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Oklahoma arrived in Mexico Sept. 30 to help in continuing Baptist emergency feeding efforts. Louisiana Baptists sent 15 volunteers, according to the Foreign Mission Board's human needs office. Oklahoma and Mississippi Baptists sent 12 volunteers each.

Reinforcements have arrived to relieve the original team of 13 Texas Baptist men who arrived in Mexico City Sept. 26 with a portable field kitchen. Texas Baptists have also sent 80 Spanish-speaking counselors to aid people suffering emotional trauma from the horrors of the earthquakes.

In Richmond, Foreign Mission Board staffers reported receipt of more than \$14,000 in Mexico relief contributions from Southern Baptists by Oct. 2. A great deal more money, they reported, is "in the pipeline" as it moves from individual churches through state Baptist conventions. The board is also sending \$10,000 contributed by the Baptist World Alliance for use by Mexican Baptists in earthquake relief.

A second quake-related death among Mexican Baptists has been reported, but details on the identity of the victim have not yet become available. Earlier reports listed Noemi Avila Betancur, 22, a nurse and member of Bethel Baptist Church in Mexico City, as missing and presumed dead in the wreckage of General Hospital.



Mr. and Mrs. Powers

HMB appoints Nashville couple

ATLANTA — Jim and Mary Lou Powers of Nashville were appointed as language missionaries for service in Nashville by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during its September meeting.

A native of Tennessee, Powers has been pastor of Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville, since 1980.

He also served as pastor of several other Tennessee churches including Pinson Baptist Church, Pinson; Feathers Chapel Baptist Church, Somerville; Hickory Withe Baptist Church, Hickory Withe; and Palestine Baptist Church, Jackson. Earlier, Powers taught school in Hardeman County and was headmaster at Oakland Academy, Oakland.

Appointed jointly by the Home Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Powers will serve as a language catalytic missionary, an activator in the initiation of new work, and in leadership training in ethnic church growth. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

Mrs. Powers, also a native of Tennessee, was appointed for church and family work by the board. She is presently a homemaker and distributes food and clothing to Cambodian and Laotian refugees for the East Nashville Cooperative Ministry.

The Powers have two children, James Nathan, 14, and Clark Granger, 5.

Beirut...

(Continued from page 1)

target of an intense nighttime attack. Missionaries Wayne and Frances Fuller and Mack and Linda Sacco live in the village.

Numerous shells fell around the Sacco home. One pierced the roof of the building across the street. Many more shells slammed into the hills above the Fullers' home, destroying water pipes and power lines and showering their roof with shrapnel.

Frances Fuller said the Southern Baptist missionaries in Beirut "want to thank all who pray for them and for Lebanon."

Baptist disaster relief units feed quake victims in Mexico

DALLAS (BP) — Baptists from Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Louisiana are operating field kitchens capable of serving about 30,000 meals a day to earthquake victims in Mexico city.

About 80 Spanish-speaking Texas Baptist counselors also are working in Mexico City on a one-to-one basis with people who need emotional and spiritual help because of the earthquake.

Thirteen Texas Baptist volunteers began serving earthquake victims in the Tepito neighborhood of Mexico City on Sept. 26 at a rate of 2,000 meals per hour for the first four hours. Meals were served from the disaster relief mobile unit, an 18-wheel tractor trailer rig with portable field kitchen.

Four days later the Texas disaster relief team was joined by Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Mississippi disaster relief units. The Louisiana unit is set up at Centro de Carranza, the Oklahoma unit is four blocks from the Texas unit at the "Sal" Sanchos Center at El Centro Morales, and the Mississippi unit is in Oceania. The Texas unit was expected to move Oct. 3.

From a command post at the Texas disaster relief unit, the volunteers are directing feeding operations and training local Mexican Baptists in field kitchen feeding techniques, said Robert E. Dixon.

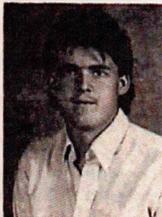
Kagay completes RA service award

Chris Kagay of Louisville has earned the National Ambassador Service Award in the Royal Ambassador program, a missions organization for boys in Southern Baptist churches.

As a part of the award, Kagay is eligible to receive a \$1,200 scholarship to a participating Southern Baptist college.

Kagay completed a minimum of 750 hours of service and work in the areas of application, education, witness, ministry, and worship to complete five Ambassador Service Awards for the national award.

The 17-year-old son of the William Kagays, Kagay just completed a year as State RA Congress Secretary. He served as RA counselor for the state camps for two years. Kagay is an active member of Beech Grove Baptist Church in Louisville, where he is a member of the youth choir. Kagay plans to be a draftsman.



Kagay

on, Texas Baptist Emergency Task Force coordinator. A ration store of stockpiled food is being set up, and soon disaster victims in some areas will be able to cook their own food.

The 80 bilingual Texas Baptist pastors and deacons are being assigned to the four disaster relief units, acting both as counselors and interpreters.

More than 2,000 professions of faith have been recorded as a result of the feeding and counseling ministry. At least four new churches will have been established when the disaster relief crews leave, Dixon said.



NEW FAMILY LIFE CENTER — Members of the building committee of Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for the new family life center. Pictured above from left to right are: Jerry White; Judy Norment; George Nugent; P. A. Michel, pastor of the church; John Trudel; Bill Highsmith; Hortense Medlin; and Murry Reeves.

S.S. enrollment tops 8-million

NASHVILLE — Additional reports received after the Sept. 29 Celebration Sunday (see Baptist and Reflector, Oct. 2, page 1) brought the total Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment to more than 8-million.

The new Sunday School total enrollment is 8,002,809. The enrollment in 1980 when 8.5 by '85 began was 7,433,405, indicating an estimated five-year gain of 569,404.

"Although it does not appear we will reach the 8.5-million, we have achieved a significant victory by topping the 8-million mark," said Harry Piland, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department.

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.

Editor's Note: In Norma Jean Simms' letter to the editor on "All servants prophesy" (Sept. 11), a typographical error occurred at the end of the first paragraph. The Scripture reference should have been "Acts 2:17-18," rather than "Acts 1:17-18."

Facilities for handicapped

Dear editor:
I am a first year student in the M.Div. program at Southeastern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary.
I am writing to publicly express my appreciation of the work which President Randall Lolley, the seminary administration, and staff have done to make the school's buildings and programs wheelchair-accessible. I am physically challenged by cerebral palsy and use a wheelchair and crutches to get about.

Because of Southeastern's commitment to provide an accessible environment, I am able to further my education and preparation for ministry.

I would strongly urge all churches and denominational agencies to follow Southeastern's lead and make their respective programs and ministries accessible to the millions of physically challenged people in our nation.

James A. Garrison
Box 2265 SEBTS
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Agrees with editorial

Dear editor:
I wish to thank you for your courageous and timely editorial on "Can the Executive Committee 'affirm' an SBC action?" (Sept. 25).

What you said is correct in my opinion and needed to be said.

The Executive Committee should have simply said, "We cannot undo or redo the work of the convention."

J. Harold Stephens
1105 Dow Dr.
Shelbyville, TN 37160

Let convention decide

Dear editor:
Most every church has at least one. Now it seems our convention does as well. I'm referring to those self-appointed critics of business sessions.

During the past several conventions I have personally observed one man demanding time, demanding the platform (as opposed to the floor microphones), and demanding his way. I have also observed our presidents graciously bending, lovingly yielding, and humbly deferring to our placard-wearing friend, Robert S. Crowder.

And now he (and unnamed compatriots) threaten legal action to "seek re-

dress." What a pathetic insult to our Christ and our convention. To make matters worse, he demands our Executive Committee to do that which they are not authorized and complains when they take no action.

Does he not know that the convention can (and often does) correct itself when wrong has been done? Does he not believe in the collective voice of the messengers to correct in 1986 what may have been damaged in 1985? Does he not believe that the Holy Spirit has sufficient power to undo alleged wrongs?

Perhaps we need to address matters of procedure, perhaps we do not. But let all the messengers decide in convention, not a few messengers in court.

In the name of our Lord and Saviour, in accord with both the letter and spirit of Biblical truth, and in an attitude of trust, please reconsider your actions and give God and His good people called Southern Baptists the opportunity to decide what is proper in Atlanta June 10-12, 1986.

Mike Womack
540 Adams Street
Erwin, TN 37650

TBC music office sends packets

For the second time the church music department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention has published the "Music Ministry Materials" packet for the new year beginning October 1985. But for the first time it has been sent to all the churches in the state — about 3,200 — even those without music staff members.

Jere Adams of the church music department explained that this is to get information to part-time, bivocational, and volunteer music leaders. The department offers assistance especially for these churches like the summer music worker program and music leadership workshops. It is also to inform youth and children about music scholarships, all-state youth choir, and youth and children's music camps. Adams encouraged them to ask a member of their church staff about these programs.

The packet contains the church music calendar for the year which also includes festivals, retreat for music workers, and choral engagements and information and registration sheets on each event. The packet also requests information on music leadership in each church so the state department can contact them.

Cicero's comment



By the editor

On my first morning in the Baptist and Reflector office in November 1976, there was a knock on my opened door.

I looked up to see a bald, bespeckled man with a twinkle in his eye and a winsome smile. As we shook hands, he introduced himself, "I'm Jonas Stewart, your next-door neighbor," he said, nodding toward the office of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

As we chatted, Jonas pointed out that he and I had something in common — we were the executives of the only two agencies of the Tennessee Baptist Convention: the Tennessee Baptist Foundation and the Baptist and Reflector.

In that initial conversation, Jonas said with sincerity, "I want to be your friend, as well as your fellow worker."

That began a very close relationship between us.

I cannot estimate how many times during the next seven years that I asked him a question about Tennessee Baptists. Jonas was a tremendous source of information about Baptist people, procedures, and traditions.

Jonas' knowledge of Tennessee Baptists came from a lifelong ministry in our state and the experiences he had had as pastor, director of missions, president and vice-president of the state convention, and service on many of the TBC boards and committees.

The 1976 state convention met at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, the same month I came to Tennessee. During that convention — especially at the business sessions — I made a point of sitting with Jonas. This helped me to get instant interpretation about what was happening — and what it meant.

My first preaching engagement in Tennessee came from Jonas. He was interim pastor at First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, during the fall of 1976. Because of a revival engagement, Jonas asked me to preach for him at the Tullahoma church one Sunday.

There are many more memories that flooded my mind when I learned of Jonas' move from his beloved Tennessee to the glories of heaven.

In addition to being an outstanding preacher, a committed Christian, and a friend of Tennessee Baptists, Jonas was also a poet. Last week, I ran across this poem he had penned last October.

*I could build a house — time would cause it to rot;
I could write a book, soon its title would be forgot;
I could preside over a convention, but later others would have that attention.
I'll tell you what I want to do:*

*To take a youth from around our place who on society dishonor would embrace and instill in him hopes and dreams, that when to manhood grown he deems that life for Christ is a man's best way and leading others aright is ample pay.
That work when done will multiply these short years left to me — and when darkness of death deepens every deed of my life shall cry, "He lives on and on — He did not die." And in so doing, my life shall last longer than if carved on a monument or if praised by passing life of dying men.*

Northern holds annual meeting

The Northern Baptist Association met in their annual meeting Sept. 27-28 at First Baptist Church, Maynardville, and Leatherwood Baptist Church, New Tazewell.

They re-elected all of their officers: Horace Dyer who is pastor of Hickory Valley Baptist Church in Maynardville as moderator, George C. Walker who is pastor of Carr's Branch Baptist Church in New Tazewell as assistant moderator, Arthur Johnson who is a member of Clear Branch Baptist Church in Luttrell as treasurer, Leslie L. Corum who is a member of Milan Baptist Church in Maynardville as clerk, Billy Cox who is a member of First Baptist Church in Maynardville as assistant treasurer, and Carl Coppock a member of Alder Springs Baptist Church in Maynardville as assistant clerk.

The association also voted to build a new association building on land donated for it.

The next meeting is planned to be at Taylor's Grove Baptist Church and Blue Springs Baptist Church in Sharps Chapel on Oct. 3-4, 1986.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 75,345

Alvin C. Shackelford, Editor

Charlie Warren
Associate Editor
Doris Elliott
Advertising

Baptist and Reflector

Connie Davis
Assistant Editor
Mona Collett
Church News Assistant

Betty Walker, Production Assistant

Established 1835
Post Office Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027
Telephone: (615) 373-2255

Baptist and Reflector (USPS 041-780) is published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Subscription prices: \$5.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$5.25; church budget, 9.0¢ per family per week when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood, Tennessee, and at additional mailing office.

Space forbids printing of resolutions and obituaries. Advertising rates on request. Member of Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ansell T. Baker, chairman; James M. Parch, vice-chairman; Raymond A. Boston, Bill Bruster, Paul Bryant, E. E. Carrier, William H. Coles Jr., Donald Dorris, Marshall Gupton, George Hill, Fred Isaacs, Jack May, James G. McCluskey, Calvin Metcalf, Jerry Oakley, Fred Steelman, Clarence K. Stewart, and Hoyt Wilson

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION			
For the month ending September 30, 1985			
1. Title of Publication	2. Issue Date	3. Issue Frequency	4. Number of Issues Published Annually
Baptist and Reflector	10/9/85	Weekly	52
5. Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	6. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)	7. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	8. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)
9,350	9,350	9,350	9,350
9. Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions	10. Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions	11. Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions	12. Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions
74,881	74,881	74,881	74,881
13. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	14. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)	15. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	16. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)
74,881	74,881	74,881	74,881
17. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	18. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)	19. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	20. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)
74,881	74,881	74,881	74,881
21. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	22. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)	23. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	24. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)
74,881	74,881	74,881	74,881
25. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	26. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)	27. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	28. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)
74,881	74,881	74,881	74,881
29. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	30. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)	31. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	32. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run)
74,881	74,881	74,881	74,881



BELMONT SCHOLARS — Belmont College's 1985-86 Presidential Scholars meet their benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Clark Akers III of Nashville. Mr. and Mrs. Akers endowed the scholarships, Belmont's highest scholastic honor given each year on the basis of scholarship, character, and leadership ability. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Suzanne Montgomery of Oak Ridge, Mrs. Akers, Jo Ellen Owen of Franklin, (back row) Keith Newcomb of Indiana, Akers, and Mike Mayernick of Madison.

SBC Annuity Board guarantees church staff insurance coverage

DALLAS — From Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board will guarantee life and medical coverage for Southern Baptist church staff members and their dependents.

The coverage becomes effective Jan. 1, 1986. Normal underwriting procedures of all applicants will resume Dec. 1, 1985. Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the special emphasis is designed to allow all eligible church staff members, especially those persons who have been declined life and medical coverage, the opportunity to obtain this protection.

"I am grateful to the Tennessee state executive director, Tom Madden, for his encouragement and help in providing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to those serving on our Southern Baptist church staffs and their dependents," Morgan said.

A highlight of the open enrollment period includes guaranteeing both healthy and unhealthy applicants identical cov-

erage under the current medical and life plans.

Applicants who enter the program with medical problems will not be covered for their pre-existing conditions for 24 months. If they do not receive treatment for these conditions during the first 12 months, coverage will begin at that point. However, all ailments occurring after admission into the medical plan will be covered.

Persons currently participating in the program who have restricted coverage will have all of these restrictions lifted so as to provide full coverage.

Morgan also noted that everyone who participates in the program from Jan. 1, 1986, through Nov. 30, 1986, will receive free coverage for December 1986.

Life rates will be reduced up to 30 percent for some age groups and dependent life coverage will be increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for the spouse and the dependent children's benefit will be \$2,000.

Persons employed 20 hours per week by a Southern Baptist church and their dependents are eligible to participate.

Morgan said that most church staff members will receive information about the special enrollment period by mail in early October. This information also can be obtained by calling the Annuity Board toll free number, 1-800-262-0511, or by contacting Vern Powers, director of protection plans for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Sullivan association calls DOM, Holtzclaw

Ralph Thomas (Tommy) Holtzclaw began his work as director of missions at Sullivan Baptist Association, Kingsport, on Aug. 12.

He comes to the Sullivan association from Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky., where he was professor of theology and director of admissions.

A native of Kingsport, Holtzclaw graduated from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He then completed graduate studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Ky.

Former pastors include Zion Baptist Church, Fairview, Va., and Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Glencoe, Ky.

Senate action on non-profit mail awaits outcome of House version

WASHINGTON (BP) — Recent Senate action would delay probable postal rate increases for non-profit publications until Jan. 1, 1986.

The U.S. postal budget approved by the Senate in late September includes \$785-million in federal subsidies for the U.S. Postal Service to provide reduced mailing rates to non-profit mailers, including state Baptist newspapers and church newsletters.

That figure falls \$196-million short of what the Postal Service says it needs to maintain the present level of subsidy. The shortfall would result in an approximate 30 percent rate increase for typical non-profit mailers, a Postal Service spokesman said.

An amendment sponsored by Sen. Ted Stevens would delay any increase in postal rates for non-profit mailers until the first of 1986.

The Senate-approved postal budget still must be reconciled with the House version of the bill, which contains \$922-million in subsidy. A conference committee is expected to meet soon.

Both versions of the budget contain

subsidies significantly above the administration-proposed \$39-million. The president's proposed 1985-86 budget would have terminated the subsidy except for benefits to organizations that send materials to the blind.

Beginning in 1970, non-profit and other subsidized mailers began a 16-step plan to gradually assume the actual cost of mailing their publications and eventually remove the subsidy entirely. Mailers are now at step 14, with step 15 scheduled to take effect July 1, 1986.

The \$785 subsidy approved by the Senate, however, would catapult mailers to step 16, said an aide to Sen. Quentin N. Burdick. She said a conference committee agreement on a subsidy in the \$850-million range would hold the plan at step 15.

Youth conferences lead to decisions

NASHVILLE (BP) — National youth-related summer conferences and camps resulted in 6,676 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 5,386 youth, or 23.78 percent of those attending, made public decisions. These included 678 professions of faith, 4,116 rededications, and 592 vocational decisions.

Centrifuge, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's recreation department, was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers; Mobile College, Mobile, Ala.; and North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C. Two traveling staffs conducted camps in the West and Midwest.

A total of 1,290 spiritual decisions were recorded at youth conferences sponsored by the board's church training department at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. These decisions included 227 professions of faith, 906 rededications, 73 vocational decisions, and 84 other decisions.

Also at Centrifuge, a missions offering of more than \$84,000 was contributed by youth and their sponsors for hunger relief in Africa.

In addition, weekly offerings for the Cooperative Program collected at Ridgecrest and Glorieta summer conferences totaled \$54,242.13.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



While I admire those who do, I have absolutely no expertise in photography. However, when I made a recent trip to Burkina Faso, I felt that I would want to take some pictures. I went to the camera shop and said to the sales person, "I know nothing about cameras. Please sell me the simplest type of camera that you have." He recommended one to me which he said was fool-proof and self-focusing.

In the ensuing days, I thought about self-focusing. I understand that if the lens of the camera is not properly focused, every picture will be blurred. I also understand that there is a definite law governing the distance between the lens and the film and that law must be heeded if a proper image is to be obtained.

It could be that this is what the Lord was talking about in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, "The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light" (Matthew 6:22).

This being true, it follows that we must be in proper position toward God and our fellowman if the light of the gospel is to pass through us so others shall see the Christ and not a blurred picture of Him and His will.

I have been thinking about the question, "How shall I be in proper focus?" The camera has a built-in mechanism that automatically adjusts to the light and the distance. I immediately thought of God's Holy Spirit living in us and continuing to endeavor to focus us. Also, I thought of how regular worship, prayer, and the reading of God's Word keeps us in focus.

My prayer, and I am sure yours, is that we will always be properly focused so that we might present the right picture of Christ and His cause to a lost world.



MILAN CHURCH BREAKS GROUND — Pictured left to right: Mickey McAdoo; Mike Jenkins; Don Whitt, pastor of First Baptist Church; Brad Gurley; Richard Fite; Henry Bond; Bruce Harrison Sr.; Janice Nowell; Sara Williams; and Ed Jenkins; participate in ground-breaking services Sept. 8. First Baptist Church, Milan, will soon have a new fellowship hall/activities center, including a kitchen, five preschool rooms, and a game room/lobby. The second floor will provide room for four adult departments and a corridor/track.

Church architects face tough task

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (BP) — Southern Baptist churches and their architects must face the hard financial issues early in the planning process of a building program, Gwenn McCormick said during a workshop for architects.

"Not many churches have completed adequate financial planning by the time they select an architect," said McCormick, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture department. "Indeed, some of the early discussions with the architect may leave the impression that money is no object — the church can build anything it wants to build."

"This may be one of the most difficult areas for the architect to bring himself to deal with," McCormick observed. "He may tell himself the committee knows what the church can afford and that dealing with financial capability is really not his responsibility."

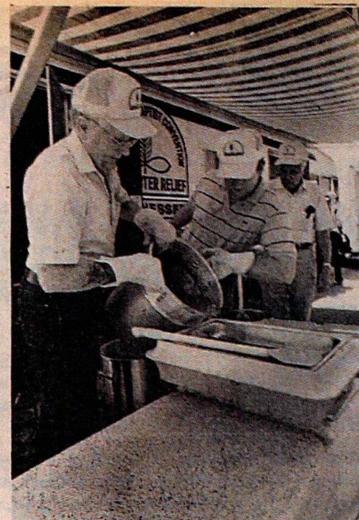
But McCormick expresses the belief that "a sensitive and informed architect can be a valuable resource person in helping the church building committee do its financial homework and by leading them to establish a realistic budget."



WORKING TOGETHER — Paula Witek (left), local Red Cross disaster services director, discusses avenues of disaster response with John Wheeler, Graceland's Brotherhood director. If a disaster strikes, Graceland will coordinate its efforts with Red Cross officials.



PRESSURE CHECK — Kathy Richardson (left), Graceland member and a nurse at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, gives Claire Mercer a blood pressure check in an emergency health care room. In an actual disaster, the room would be staffed by some of the church's nine nurses and a doctor.



FOOD SERVICE — Volunteer disaster relief worker Joe Nave of Nashville (left) helps Kenny Rains of the Brotherhood Commission pour up a serving of beef stew.

Memphis church dedicates disaster shelter

By Joe Westbury

As Sunday morning headlines detailed the tragedies of the Sept. 19-20 Mexico City earthquakes, Graceland Baptist Church of Memphis was dedicating its facilities for use as a community disaster relief shelter.

Located in a city only 30 miles from the epicenter of the nation's second worst fault line, the congregation now stands poised to minister through any disaster that may strike the area, said Pastor Jimmy Sartain.

Though several of Tennessee's 2,800 Southern Baptist churches have offered their facilities to state Brotherhood Director Archie King for temporary use in local disasters, "None have gone to this extent in being completely self-contained for disaster response," King explained.

Brotherhood Commission officials in Memphis, who coordinate state disaster relief units with national response, said the Shelby County church is the only congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention known to be totally equipped as a disaster relief shelter.

During the morning worship service, King gave examples of ways Tennessee Baptists have responded to state and national disasters as he challenged the congregation to greater heights of ministry. "If a tragedy should ever hit Memphis,

disaster relief units from Brentwood with 20 to 30 volunteers could roll onto your parking lot and undergird your ministry as you desire. Though we would be helping you minister, our aim is for Graceland to receive any credit, thereby creating goodwill in your community and a heightened awareness of your caring, loving spirit," he said.

Those Brentwood units were on hand following the service to serve a typical disaster response meal to the congregation. About 250 people were served heaping portions of beef stew, mixed fruit, and cookies in less than 15 minutes.

A special Baptist Men's breakfast launched the dedication festivities as Brotherhood Commission Disaster Relief Coordinator Cameron Byler detailed conventionwide response to disasters and highlighted Graceland's unique contribution to the ministry.

"If a disaster such as an earthquake or tornado should ever strike Memphis, you would be in a unique position to minister in the name of Christ. People would literally flock to your doors for hot meals, temporary housing, and emergency child care," he said.

As Byler showed slides of Baptists ministering in the wake of hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, jet engines screamed overhead to and from the

city's nearby international airport.

Byler reminded the group that disasters are not always the result of natural causes but include plane crashes like the recent one at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport.

Local Red Cross Disaster Services Director Paula Witek praised the 1,300-member congregation for offering its facilities.

"This is the first time since I've been disaster director that a church has contacted us and offered their facilities as a disaster shelter," said Witek. "I was completely surprised when Graceland called because people just don't do that."

Though her office regularly solicits churches, response is nominal. "It would make our job so much easier if more churches followed your example," she added.

The unique project began as the church's Baptist Men sought to enlarge their outreach ministry, explained John Wheeler, Brotherhood director.

Graceland's 75 Baptist Men were already active with a nursing home ministry, a local meals-on-wheels program, and were helping support a Michigan church through a partnership link-up.

But the men were still looking for other means of service.

As they studied their church facilities and asked how they could make better use of its rooms, a disaster relief shelter emerged as the logical avenue of ministry. Baptist Men's president Don Burdick, who serves as manager of in-house printing for the Brotherhood Commission, invited speakers from the Memphis-based agency to guide them in their commitment.

The Baptist Men decided to take the concept utilized on state mobile disaster units and apply it to a permanent location. Then they enlarged the ministry by adding sleeping quarters for victims and a minor emergency medical room to be staffed by some of the church's nine nurses and a doctor.

The key to success of the shelter is split-second coordination of volunteers utilizing skills from their secular jobs, the Baptist Men agreed. The clockwork precision revolves around a small army of men and women dedicating their talents to ministry through disaster, explained Sartain.

At the first sign of a disaster, three

retired laymen — Ray Pittman, Dempsey Williams, and Fred Shadrach — live close enough to the church to be first on the scene with keys to the building. A former civil defense volunteer, Bill Shelby, will coordinate activity between the church and that agency while HAM radio operator Bill Rayburn, K4CXV, will stay in contact with the Red Cross in case of a communications blackout.

Glyn Hollingsworth, a former mess sergeant for the U.S. Army, will supervise meal preparation. As the drama unfolds, several other Baptist Men will spring into action in their roles of shelter operations and medical/first aid.

Burdick said the 31-year-old church will sleep 300 victims in the fellowship hall and another 300 in the nearby gymnasium, where showers are located. If natural gas lines are broken, the kitchen will be converted to propane gas so emergency food service can begin. Electrical power for lights and refrigeration will be provided by a portable generator.

A 330-gallon water storage tank in the kitchen would be pressed into service for drinking and cooking needs.

"The Red Cross has told us they would be here within 24 hours to restock our facilities and provide bedding," Burdick said. "We will provide the building, food, and personnel at the first instant of the disaster and they will supervise us as we man the facilities."

BMH, Memphis, plans new \$6-million garage

MEMPHIS — Baptist Memorial Hospital will build a \$6-million multilevel parking garage in the Medical Center area to accommodate growing needs for more accessible, convenient parking facilities, according to Vice-president Robert S. Gordon.

The 1,000-space Medical Center Garage will be constructed on property bound by Union Avenue, Monroe, Pauline, and Dudley streets. A surface parking lot is presently at the site.

The garage will feature extended clearance heights, an atrium, open-air design, glass-backed elevators, an overhead enclosed crosswalk linking the garage to the hospital, and a blend of natural and high-level artificial lighting.



IT TAKES COMMITMENT — Pastor Jimmy Sartain (left) discusses Graceland's commitment to disaster response with Archie King, Brotherhood director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Ethiopian highlanders walk 'trail of tears'

By Robert O'Brien

RABEL, Ethiopia (BP) — Look in all directions, Berhanu, and try not to believe you see nothing but dry, rock-strewn desolation.

Push from your mind the hunger pains gnawing inside as you put one foot before the other, heading toward salvation or oblivion.

Try not to think about the family, children, friends who stumbled and fell for the last time on their trail of tears across Ethiopia's highlands.

Try to quell the desperate loneliness a person feels when life ebbs away.

Squeeze the hand of your wife, Alamaiyu, stumbling along beside you, and realize you must keep her and little Getachew and Negussie moving, keep them hoping. There is nothing else you can do for them now — and that hurts the most.

'Try to quell the desperate loneliness a person feels when life ebbs away.'

Summon up all the courage of your proud Ethiopian heritage, Berhanu. Refocus your glazed eyes and point them toward the next hill. Tell yourself this surely cannot be the end. Not for you and your family — what is left of it.

Keep on, one foot after another. Hope lies over that hill or the one beyond that. You cannot stop now. Surely someone, somewhere out there cares whether you live or die.

Word filters back along the trail of tears that "feringe" (foreigners) far up ahead have brought food and medicine to Rabel . . .

. . . Alamaiyu, Getachew, and Negussie move on — alone.

Try hard, Alamaiyu, not to dwell on the thought that it is too late for your husband. Berhanu kept you and the children going. Now it is up to you.

Let hope surge in your heart for the

two little ones you continue to shepherd through the barren highlands. Calm your fear for 18-month-old Negussie, who lies too quietly in the sling on your back. Check for signs of life and keep on.

He is still breathing. Hurry to Rabel or he will die. It is still so far away.

Stop to comfort four-year-old Getachew. His legs are too spindly to keep up, and you do not have enough strength to carry him too.

Do not let him see you cry as you make the decision you must. Keep him hoping. Find a safe spot for him to wait for you and remind him again and again not to stray.

Give him all you have left and tell him what a brave boy he is to wait here while you find help to save his baby brother's life.

Pray he will wait. Pray he will be safe.

Pray the "feringe" will really be in Rabel and that they will help you. Pray you will have the strength to return.

Keep one foot following another through the sunbaked, parched terrain, Alamaiyu. Forget the sore, swollen feet. Keep moving and watch out for the jagged rocks.

Wipe the dust from your eyes. They are crusted now. Negussie's eyes have long since crusted shut. Look up ahead at all the people on that plateau. Could that be where the "feringe" are? Try to forget your fear of the strange "feringe." Now they are your only hope.

Move through the crowd. Look through the gate. Catch yourself quickly. Your knees are buckling. Slowly realize hands are touching you. Refocus your eyes. Bask in the warmth of that touch. It has been so long since anyone touched you so gently.

Marvel at the "feringe" with white skin washing Negussie's crusted eyes. Watch him twist his head trying to drink the water as it trickles down his cheek.

Listen to their strange tongue and wonder at their smiles. Their words — though unintelligible — speak with love. Their touch brings such comfort.

Try to kiss their feet in gratitude and stare amazed as they lift you up, embrace you, and then kneel to tend your sore feet. Eat the food. Let the strength

'Eat the food. Let the strength flow back into your body and your mind grow clear.'

flow back into your body and your mind grow clear. Rest. Sleep.

Now, hurry back down the trail, passing the word that help is ahead, and look

for Getachew. Pray you will find him. There! He is there!

Embrace him. Smile into his glazed eyes. Tell him, "Come, Getachew. Your little brother is safe with the 'feringe' friends who call themselves missionaries. Now I must take you there. Their food is so good and they love us.

"You won't believe it, Getachew. I tried to bow down and kiss the feet of the white 'getoch' (lords) but instead they knelt down and washed mine."

—This article, adapted from the September issue of *The Commission* magazine, This article is based on true events, although the names have been changed.

Transportation problems threaten delivery of relief food to Africans

WASHINGTON (BP) — Thousands of Africans may die between now and the November harvest because of failure to provide adequate transportation for delivery of emergency food supplies, according to two U.S. Congressmen.

Representatives Mike Synar and Mickey Leland, who have observed relief efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, testified Sept. 19 at a hearing of the Africa Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Synar told the subcommittee the "No. 1 concern" of his constituents in Oklahoma is the question of whether the food is reaching the African people.

Unfortunately, much of the food is not getting there because of inadequate transportation, he said. "The tragedy is that because of complacency we are facing a new crisis. Food without trucks is useless."

Synar and Leland called for an immediate augmenting of local transport systems in Western Sudan and Ethiopia through the purchase or lease of several hundred trucks to move food now in storage. Leland said there are 350,000 tons in storage in Port Sudan and 200,000

tons in Ethiopia, yet lack of transportation has kept millions of people from receiving food.

The two Congressmen specifically urged the administration to honor immediately a U.S. pledge to provide an additional 400 trucks to Ethiopia.

Leland, chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, said food supplies in Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali, and other famine-stricken countries far exceed local transport capacity after almost a year of intensive relief efforts.

Panel considers day of fasting

WASHINGTON (BP) — A congressional joint resolution would encourage Americans to fast one or more meals and contribute the unspent food money for hunger relief.

The proposed bill would designate Nov. 24, 1985 — the Sunday before Thanksgiving — as National Day of Fasting to Raise Funds to Combat Hunger. The bipartisan measure is now before Senate and House committees.

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, one of the bill's sponsors, outlined details of the proposed National Day of Fasting during a Senate hearing. Participants in the fast will be asked to forego a meal or two on the specified Sunday and send the savings either to the charity of their choice or to a post office box already established in Washington.

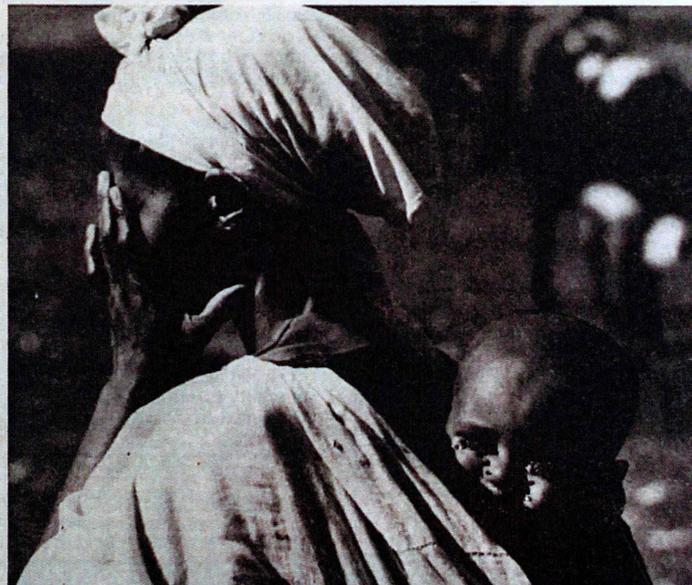
Contributions sent to the post office box will be distributed through InterAction, an umbrella organization of groups dedicated to ending hunger throughout the world. Baptist World Alliance is an InterAction member agency and, according to a BWA spokesman, will participate.

Donations distributed through InterAction will be designated as 35 percent for immediate relief and 45 percent for long-term reconstruction and development in Africa, 15 percent for hunger in the United States, and 5 percent for development education and public awareness.

Hatch emphasized the National Day of Fasting "is not to interfere, detract, or diminish the panoply of events already planned for this fall," but is to "augment and support these other activities and provide another opportunity for Americans to help defeat famine."



ALONE — A small child hunkers down alone in the vast, desolate terrain of the Ethiopian highlands. As families begin to die and scatter because of the conditions, children often get separated from parents.



DESPERATION — Flies and dust crust the eyes of a mother and her baby as she struggles through the jagged, parched Ethiopian highlands hoping to find food and medicine for her child at the Baptist feeding and health care center at Rabel. Her husband died along the way. Photos by Don Rutledge.

News analysis

Court faces new term -divided over religion

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)— Journalists who cover the Supreme Court often fall back on the adjective "divided" to describe close decisions at the nation's highest tribunal...

As it began its new term the first Monday in October, this court was particularly divided over religion cases in two key areas of church-state litigation over the past four decades: aid to non-public schools and religion in public schools.

The court, in an unexpected turn of events last term, embraced again the concept of separation of church and state after a pair of terms when it seemed to be discarding it. Whereas two years ago the justices upheld tuition tax deductions at the state level for parents who send their children to parochial schools...

On the surface such apparently contradictory decisions seem to indicate a court hopelessly adrift and without Constitutional moorings. But when one remembers that all of those recent decisions came on 6-3 and 5-4 votes, what

they actually point to is precisely that "divided" court.

Anchoring that end of the tribunal which appears convinced religion deserves the imprimatur of government are Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Associate Justices William H. Rehnquist and Byron R. White. Of the three, Rehnquist is clearly the ideological leader.

Perhaps no justice ever to sit on the high court has produced a religious manifesto to match Rehnquist's dissenting opinion in last term's Wallace vs. Jaffree decision striking down Alabama's mandatory silent prayer statute. That treatise undoubtedly marked Rehnquist's intention to lead the court in a thoroughgoing re-evaluation of First Amendment religion law in the near future.

Rehnquist apparently expects President Ronald Reagan to have the chance to appoint more justices during his second term and presupposes those additions will enable his long-held revisionist views of the First Amendment to prevail — and soon.

In his approach to religion cases, no justice is more of an enigma than the chief justice himself. Over the past 15 years, Burger has moved from being the author of the court's prevailing three-part standard in Establishment Clause cases (a challenged law must have a secular purpose, must neither advance nor inhibit religion, and must not excessively entangle government with religion) to being one of its principal critics. He appears now to agree with Rehnquist's assessment that the nation's founders wrote the First Amendment only to prevent establishment of a national church or preferential treatment of one Christian sect over another.

Justice White — John F. Kennedy's only appointment to the court — consistently has supported both aid to parochial schools and increased deference toward religious symbolism in public life. The irony of his church-state performance is that Kennedy's church-state record was perhaps better than that of any other modern president.

If Rehnquist, Burger, and White anchor the high court stem in church-state law, its stern is steadied by Justices

William J. Brennan Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and John Paul Stevens. These three consistently hold out for a strict interpretation of the First Amendment religion clauses, the interpretation that the founders sought to separate as much as is practicable the functions of church and state.

In last June's 6-3 ruling striking down the Alabama silent prayer statute, it was Stevens who applied Burger's three-part test and found the Alabama law wanting. Stevens also underscored what he called "the established principle that the government must pursue a course of complete neutrality toward religion."

Stevens — Gerald R. Ford's only appointment to the court — has thus joined veterans Brennan and Marshall as dependable allies of that view of the Establishment Clause law capuled by the late William O. Douglas' injunction that "The First Amendment says what it means and means what it says." For Brennan, Marshall, and Stevens, that means government has no business funding sectarian schools or forcing religious observances on schoolchildren.

The ideological division between pro- and anti-separationists leaves the three remaining justices somewhere in the middle. That breakdown may be a bit too neat because of Justice Harry A. Blackmun's recent propensity to gravitate toward the Brennan-Marshall-Stevens side. Of the key church-state tests in the last three terms, only once did Blackmun come down opposite that trio, in the unsuccessful challenge to a Nebraska law providing for employment of a legislative chaplain at public expense.

The remaining duo — Justices Lewis F. Powell Jr. and Sandra Day O'Connor — increasingly hold the balance of power in church-state cases. Powell, whose vote is assiduously courted by attorneys who argue these disputes, is known as the consummate Constitutional technician.

Yet to separationists and accommodationists alike, Powell is the picture of inconsistency. It was he who provided the necessary fifth vote in the 1983 decision upholding the Minnesota tuition tax deduction scheme. Likewise, two years later his was the pivotal vote in the 5-4 decisions invalidating programs in New York City and Grand Rapids, Mich., that sent public schoolteachers into parochial schools.

O'Connor also has disappointed both sides in church-state disputes. In all three key parochial aid cases, she voted for the public assistance to sectarian schools. But in Wallace vs. Jaffree, she

pointedly endorsed the separationist view that "Nothing in the United States Constitution as interpreted by this Court or in the laws of the State of Alabama prohibits public school students from voluntarily praying at any time before, during, or after the school day."

Whether this three-way division will hold in upcoming cases remains to be seen. Entering the new term, the justices already have agreed to decide four church-state cases and once more will join the increasingly acrimonious debate over abortion.

In what unquestionably will be the church-state headliner of the term, the court will decide whether a student religious club at Williamsport (Pa.) Area High School was unconstitutionally discriminated against when school officials refused it permission to meet during school hours at a designated time for meetings of other extracurricular groups.

Another church-state case accepted for review involves the claim of a blind ministerial student in Washington state that he is entitled to federal and state rehabilitation funds on an equal basis with other applicants.

A third case will test the Constitutionality of an Air Force regulation forbidding an Orthodox Jewish captain who is a psychologist to wear his yarmulke — or skull cap — while in uniform and on duty at a military hospital.

Yet another dispute involves a challenge to federal requirements that recipients of food stamps and Aid to Families with Dependent Children be assigned Social Security numbers. An American Indian has sued the government, insisting his minor daughter be exempted because of a sincerely held religious belief that the numbers represent an evil force.

Although some of these disputes may well be settled by margins larger than those in the recent cases cited here, others likely will be reported as having come from a "divided" court. If that happens, it will be because the Supreme Court in fact is divided over the proper role of religion in American life. In that respect, the nation's highest court merely reflects the present reality in a larger public debate.

—Stan Haste, Washington Bureau chief for Baptist Press, has covered the Supreme Court for the last 12 terms.

SBTS dean affirms women in ministry

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — "As long as God calls women and their churches endorse them, Southern seminary is committed to train them," according to G. Willis Bennett, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Bennett joined the deans of the three other schools of the seminary in addressing a recent meeting of the school's Women in Ministry organization.

The problem, Bennett pointed out, centers on the professional role of women in ministry. He noted optimistically the increased number of women graduates being called by congregations to church-related service.

Southern seminary admits only students who have been endorsed in writing as a candidate for ministry by their home church following a vote of the congregation.

Advertisement for Bowling United Industries, Inc. featuring products like Steeples, Baptries, Signs, Lights, and a toll-free dial number.

Form titled "To change or correct your address..." with instructions on how to update the subscription label and a request for written form.

Subscription label form with fields for Name, Address, City, State, and Zip, and a request for address changes.

Advertisement for Northern Comfort Log Homes, listing various cabin and lodge options and providing contact information for inquiries.

Advertisement for Radnor Baptist Academy, a ministry of Radnor Baptist Church, accepting applications for certified elementary teachers.

Advertisement for Northway Contractors Inc., specializing in building churches and family activity centers, with contact details and a list of services.



TENNESSEANS CERTIFIED — Nine Tennesseans participated in a recent National Trainer Certification for Brotherhood workers, which was held at the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. They were (front row, left to right) Bruce Harrison, M. B. Howard, Leonard Brannon, Marshall Hargrave, Max Thomas, (back row, left to right) Dan Farmer, Dick Lorah, Mike Harris, and Gene Williams.

Fighting in Colombia nears Baptist seminary in Cali

CALI, Colombia (BP)— Fighting between Colombia's military and forces intent on overthrowing the government is within earshot of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali, but classes are continuing.

"They've been shooting up here this morning," said James Giles, Southern Baptist missionary who is president of the seminary.

In an Oct. 1 telephone interview, Giles sounded a call for prayer for the safety of missionaries, the seminary's 73 students, and leaders of 20 Baptist churches in the Cali area, where 1.5-million people live. There are 19 Southern Baptist missionaries working in Cali.

Just four blocks separated the seminary from a mid-September skirmish between the military and forces sympathetic to leftist causes, Giles said. The strife was about one-half mile away in early October.

"If it gets bad enough, we would cancel classes," but for now, Giles said, "we're just sitting tight and hoping that it doesn't come this way."

Threats to their safety have kept some missionaries from visiting churches in places where hostile groups are active. When travel is necessary, Giles said, "We drive ... with the doors locked and the windows raised, in spite of no air conditioning (in the cars)."

"Yet, in the midst of all this tension and turmoil, God's peace has helped us ... Repeatedly someone asks, 'Why don't you all get out of that dangerous place?' The question is hard, because logic would dictate that we do. However, we feel God has called us here. Thus we feel secure."

Fighting confined faculty members Roy and Joyce Wyatt to their home one day, while the military searched in their residential area for a leader of one subversive group. After several hours of conflict, the leader and his bodyguard were killed. Found at the scene was a detailed plan for blowing up electrical and water installations in Cali. Mrs. Wyatt is a native of Rogersville.

Another faculty member, Irvin Northcutt, was in his backyard when he heard projectiles hitting the homes and trees in front of the seminary. A bullet hit the outside of the house where he and his wife, Mildred, live, and one hit a tree in the yard of Missionaries Bill and Katie

Warren. Just down the street, bullets pierced the buildings and cars at a private business school.

Among the casualties in the fighting was the son of a Baptist church member. Telling his mother he was joining one of the subversive groups, the youth left home and was killed two weeks later.

Earlier this year, a number of U.S. diplomatic personnel in Bogota temporarily left Colombia after tensions were stirred up by dealers in illicit drugs, upset over the extradition of four Colombians to the United States to face drug smuggling charges.

Senate votes to strip exemptions from satanism, witchcraft cults

WASHINGTON (BP)— The U.S. Senate has voted to take away tax-exempt status from any cult or organization that promotes witchcraft or satanism.

Sen. Jesse Helms proposed the action as an amendment to the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Appropriations Act of 1986. The amendment stipulates no tax exemption be allowed for any "cult, organization, or other group that has as a purpose, or that has any interest in, the promoting of satanism or witchcraft."

Helms' measure, adopted without objection on a voice vote, defines satanism as "the worship of Satan or the powers of evil" and witchcraft as "the use of sorcery or the use of supernatural powers with malicious intent."

While introducing the amendment, Helms recalled a letter from a constituent questioning the tax-exempt status of a group he said was known to promote witchcraft. Helms said he discovered, following correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Secretary James A. Baker, that the IRS "has and will grant tax-exempt status as a religious organization to groups explicitly promoting witchcraft."

Helms said the amendment would stop that practice.

"We allow tax-exempt status for bona fide religious organizations because we believe they help promote the common good," Helms stated. "Cults and witchcraft groups do not; in fact, they lead to violent and unlawful behavior."

A conference committee will reconcile the Senate measure with the House ver-

Violence in South Africa grows, disrupts missions

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (BP)— As violence escalates on the Cape Peninsula of South Africa, Southern Baptist missionaries are experiencing increased disruption of their work.

Student worker Keith Blakley reports that tension on the three university campuses where he works has reached an all-time high. Tensions are especially bad on the campus of the University of the Western Cape, a primarily "coloured" (mixed race) school where student boycotts, demonstrations, and resulting police action have brought his ministry to a halt. Because of controlled access, Blakley is unable to enter the campus.

The day after assuring her sister she was safe and far removed from the hot spots in Cape Town, Blakley's wife, Terry, found herself watching a clash between varsity students and South African riot police from her upstairs window.

"A peaceful student demonstration had turned nasty after traffic was blocked by masses of students met by police in full riot gear," she said. "Tear gas wafted over our garden as we saw students stoning vehicles, and police with batons and sjamboks (a whip of rhinoceros or hippopotamus hide) charging those gathered."

"Although we were truly never in any danger, I will feel hard pressed convincing my family and friends not to worry," she said.

Earlier, a Baptist Student Union prayer meeting had narrowly escaped intrusion by groups known on the cam-

pus as "disruption squads," said Mrs. Blakley. The squads break up classes and disrupt lectures, sometimes using force, to assure the success of a campuswide boycott of classes.

Baptist Student Union members at the University of Western Cape heard noises outside, but were unaware the "disruption squad" was threatening to break up their meeting. They later learned that a young non-Christian who had been witnessed to by one of the group members convinced the disrupters not to intrude.

Charles and Evelyn Hampton, who work primarily with "coloured" churches, at first avoided going into some neighborhoods after dark, but continued normal ministries during the day. But they now say some meetings have been canceled because of rioting and unrest and that travel in some communities is extremely limited. Blacks particularly have been unable to participate in much of the work in the province recently because of the unrest, they say.

The tensions also have infected the student body, made up of equal numbers of white and "coloured" students, at the Western Province Branch of the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa in Cape Town, says John Saunders, special assignment worker teaching at the college. Unrest in the country has caused strong polarization and tension among students and had a profound effect on their ability to continue their studies, he said.

Gospel Festival at Grinders Switch

October 12, 5-9 p.m.

featuring Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters
Also featuring the Psalmists from Camden, the Gospel Sunliters from McMinnville, Kim Bramlett from Georgia, and Gail West from Centerville.

Location — 52 miles SW of Nashville off I-40 near Centerville, TN.

Admission \$3.00 age 12 and up. Under 12 free. Special group rates.

Concession stands; camping; bring your lawn chairs.

In case of inclement weather, the gospel show will be held at the Hickman Co. High School, Hwy. 100 N.

Grinders Switch Park
P.O. Box 8, Centerville, TN 37033
Phone (615) 729-5558

Also at Grinders Switch Oct. 19-20, Arts and Crafts Show. Application by request.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Athens, Tennessee

Invites Participation in Three Exciting Events

THE LIFE ACTION SINGERS
present

"AMERICA
You're Too Young to Die!"

A Sight & Sound Expression
of the American Spirit

October 14
7:00 P.M.

MOODY ADAMS

Thursday, October 17

"AIDS - No One Is Safe"

Friday, October 18

"STAR WARS—
Death Race with Russia"
7:00 P.M. Each Night

In Concert

DINO

Thursday, October 24
7:30 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION — EACH EVENT

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR
brings you news first

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Oct. 13

Idolatry condemned

By Fred M. Wood
full-time author, preacher, teacher
Memphis

Basic Passage: Ezekiel 6:1 to 11:25

Focal Passages: Ezekiel 6:11-14; 8:13-16; 9:4-5

Although chapters eight through 11 of Ezekiel form a separate unit and should be studied this way, this lesson picks up on the final two chapters of the previous unit.

Chapters four and five deal with coming judgment against Jerusalem, but chapter six announces that Israel's mountains, ravines, and valleys would also feel God's avenging hand. Chapter seven is a funeral dirge over Judah's downfall. Chapters eight through 11 contain visions of Jerusalem's soon to come judgment.

One basic thrust permeates all these messages. Israel has turned from pure worship of her holy God and engaged in the wicked practices that accompanied heathen ritual. This type of conduct was self-destructive and, because the people were practicing idolatry, their future was certain. Doom was coming to what remained of the nation!

Complete judgment is inevitable (6:11-14)

Israel's prophets felt deeply when they viewed the people's sinful state and realized their destiny. Ezekiel's emotional outburst can be interpreted as either great delight or intense sorrow. Contrast 25:6 with 11:13. I prefer to think this passage expresses his anguish as he identified with them and empathized as he thought of how much they would suffer.

The threefold picture of death, pestilence, sword, and famine, should be understood as emphasizing total destruction rather than limiting the deaths to only these three ways.

Verse 13 reminds us of Hosea's similar condemnation of the worship carried on at the "high places" where, as he said, "the shadow is good" (4:13). Oracles, who were supposed to be received under the sacred trees, had a very close relationship with fertility worship. These ceremonies were very licentious. Every place of privacy and secrecy removed the people's inhibitions, permitting, and even encouraging, immoral practices. This type of conduct stood in direct opposition to everything Israel's God of holiness demanded from His people.

To us, the Canaanite worship was ridiculous, even nauseating, but to them, it was a normal function. They believed the rustling of the leaves from the wind symbolized their god's presence. The sacrificial smoke, they thought, soothed his

anger and showed divine pleasure in their worship ceremony. The immoral sexual relations with the temple prostitutes was a way of having fellowship with their gods and assuring fertility of crops. Such conduct was so repulsive to God that He must act in judgment!

More abominable and disgusting practices (8:13-16)

In chapter eight, the prophet moves from symbolic messages to a visit to see the actual sins in the Temple at Jerusalem. The horrible things going on were almost unbelievable! The climax of the disgusting acts was when God showed him the women weeping for Tammuz.

This religious myth began about 3000 B.C. and has varied in different geographical localities. Tammuz, Syriac name for Adonis, the god of spring vegetation, died each year as the summer heat caused plants to wither and rivers to dry up. The people wept when he vanished into the underworld to return in the spring. They held a great feast each year in the summer when the Syrian women showed wild grief. They tore their hair, yielded themselves to prostitution, and dedicated the money they received to Venus. Another feast was held on the day he returned.

These terrible things were taking place not merely on the mountains but in God's house, the Temple. What a horrible thing sin is as it grows worse and worse!

Wicked punished, righteous saved (9:4-5)

Because He is holy, God must punish sin. The "loud voice" (v.1) was for the executioners, but the prophet also heard it. In every wicked city, some are found who do not take part in abominable things. God remembered those and instructed the destroyer to mark them in a special way so they could be spared the terrible fate of the others. The "mark" may have been an indication of ownership or, as some Hebrew scholars contend, the letters may have stood for "you shall live." Ezekiel's cry "I was left" probably meant he was the only one in the Temple not executed. Others out in the city, no doubt, also were spared.

Chapter 10 describes symbolically the spiritual side of the city's destruction. God's glory returned to His house, and He sat on the throne above the cherubim. Chapter 11 rounds out the section with two words to Israel.

The religious leaders are condemned (vv.1-13), and a word of hope for the future is given (vv.14-21). Verses 22-25 give a picture of God's glory leaving the city and the prophet returning to the exiles.

This lesson is a strong condemnation of idolatry and a warning to us to examine our own covetousness which Paul says is the very essence of idolatry.



Wood



Irby

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for Oct. 13

Immorality in the church

By David J. Irby, chairman
department of religion and philosophy
Union University, Jackson

Basic Passage: 1 Corinthians 5-6

Focal Passage: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to deal with problems in the church. Beginning with the seventh chapter the letter primarily dealt with questions which the Corinthians had addressed to Paul.

The first six chapters related to problems that Paul had learned about from other sources. This week's basic passage (chapters five and six) dealt with the problem of sexual immorality. A specific case of immorality was discussed in chapter five. Chapter six listed specific sins of immorality along with instructions about avoiding them.

Sins of sexual immorality (5:1-13; 6:9-11)

The specific case of immorality reported to Paul was that of a man in the church living with his father's wife. It is difficult to know precisely what the relationship was between the two.

Some have suggested that the woman was the second wife of her husband, the stepmother of the son, and that her husband had died, leaving her and the stepson together in the home. Clearly it was not an isolated incident but rather a "live-in" affair. Traditionally, it has been interpreted as a case of incest. If so, it was strongly condemned in Jewish law (Leviticus 18:8, 20:11).

Whatever its nature, Paul was horrified about it, stating that it was something "not found even among pagans" (v.1). He condemned it and chided the church for its flippant attitude regarding it (v.2). He also considered the man to be the guilty party in the affair and called for swift and decisive action by the church against him (vv.5, 13).

The case above involved sexual im-

morality between members of the opposite sex. In verses 9-11 of chapter six, Paul included homosexuals in his catalog of those who were guilty of sexual immorality. The specific reference was in verse nine where two words were used to refer to homosexuals. They were translated as "effeminate" and "abusers of themselves with mankind" in the King James Version. The Revised Version combined the two words and translated them as "homosexuals." The New English Bible referred to the practice as "homosexual perversion."

Paul wrote in verse 11 that "such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified . . ." His teachings were clear: Sexual immorality is wrong, whether heterosexual or homosexual. It is devastating to the church, the body of Christ, and should not be regarded lightly by the church. Yet the immoral can be changed by Jesus Christ and can lead clean and holy lives.

The wrongness of immorality (6:12-20)

Paul declared in verse 13 that "the body was not meant for immorality." Although he was addressing Christians, is this not a universal truth? Sexual immorality reaps terrible rewards. One needs only to witness the results of it (both heterosexual and homosexual) in our society today - unwanted pregnancies, "fatherless" children, abortions. Could one include also AIDS, the mysterious disease that is causing such widespread fear in our country today?

Paul argued that sexual immorality is especially wrong for Christians because our bodies are "members of Christ" (v.15), and are intended to be "for the Lord" (v.13). Each individual's body is a "temple of the Holy Spirit" (v.19), and the goal of Christian living is to "glorify God" in one's body (v.20).

Therefore, in verse 18 Paul commanded Christians to "flee fornication" (KJV), "Shun immorality" (RSV), "Avoid sexual looseness like the plague" (Phillips).

The books of James (4:7) and 1 Peter (5:9) instruct Christians to "resist" the devil. The idea seems to be that of "standing one's ground" with him and "fighting it out." But this is not so regarding temptations to sexual immorality. The Christian is instructed to "run from" the slightest temptation of that kind - run for his dear life!

Handbell magazine begins publication

NASHVILLE - Handbells, a quarterly magazine for directors and members of handbell choirs, was launched in September by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department.

Publication begins with the October-November-December 1985 issue.

Each issue will include 24 pages of music and eight pages of articles related to playing or directing handbell choirs.

Concurrent with the publication of Handbells, use of handbell music in The Church Musician is being discontinued.

Handbells is available in bulk, through the dated church literature order form, at \$2.95 each.

Baptist school awards diploma despite rebels

SANTIAGO ATITLAN, Guatemala - The Paul Bell Baptist Theological Institute recently awarded a diploma to its first graduate in more than three years, despite guerrilla activities in the area.

Guerrillas burned a courthouse two miles from the institute in January, causing pastors and missionaries to question the safety of continuing classes. Enrollment has been hindered, but classes continue for nine students.

CHURCH FURNITURE
Pews, Pulpits, Altars, Communion Tables
Free Brochures - Free Estimates
Write R.G. Keitron Church Furniture
or 3401 Montlake Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37920
Phone (615)577-8716

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER
OF FIBERGLASS
CHURCH PRODUCTS

- STEEPLES • WALL CROSSES
- STAINED FIBERGLASS WINDOWS
- BAPTISTRIES
- BAPTISTRY HEATERS

Call 1-800-527-1459
Write for free color brochure

FiberGlass Specialties
In Texas (214)657-8522 Box 210 Henderson, Texas 75652

ADD-A-PAD
PEW UPHOLSTERING & REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS

Our installers have upholstered over 125,000 lineal feet of pews 15 year wear warranty. We can upholster your pews on site for less than loose cushions! Call us for a FREE estimate.

TOLL FREE 800-334-8130

Church Interiors Inc.
CHURCH FURNITURE & STAINED GLASS
2029 N. Centennial Street
P. O. Box 5346 • High Point, NC 27662-5346

Pews, pulpits, baptistries
steeples, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors,
carpet

**VAN WINKLE
CHURCH
FURNISHINGS &
PEW UPHOLSTERY**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT**

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSONPIKE-CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Oct. 13

Believing God's promises

By Paul Woodford, pastor
First Baptist Church, Lewisburg

Basic Passages: Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-21; 17:1-27
Focal Passages: Genesis 15:1-7, 13-16

"Do you promise?" is a question that most parents have been asked manifold times by their children. "I promise" seems to be a seal that assures fulfillment of that which is expected.

The dictionary gives the preferred definition of promise in the noun form as "an agreement to do or not to do something" and in the verb form as "to give a basis for expectation."

God is a God of promises. But most of us find it difficult to believe God's promises at particular periods and circumstances of our lives. Abraham was human, as we are, and he had his times of doubting God's promises.

Probably no promise gave Abraham more difficulty than the promise in his old age of an heir from his own loins. When we meet him in our chosen Scripture passage, he has continued to grow older, as has his wife, Sarah, and there was no prospect of an heir although God had promised. He was filled with fear and doubt.

God's answer to Abraham's doubt and fear was another promise and a reiteration of the previous promise.

Abraham's crisis of faith (15:1-3)

Genesis 12 recorded the call and covenant of God with Abraham to give him a land and seed (or descendants) to inhabit that land. Certainly 70-year-old Abram exercised faith by leaving his homeland for this unknown new promised land. But years had passed and left their marks upon his body as well as that of his wife, Sarah. Time and circumstance had impacted Abraham's faith. The defection of Lot, as well as other happenings, had led Abraham to a crisis time in his faith walk.

Rather than eliciting peace in his life, the promise was causing anxiety. He could certainly have identified with the imprisoned John the Baptist who sent two of his disciples to ask: "Art Thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" Abraham was asking, "God, do you keep Your promises to Your followers?"

How many of us have or may even right now are asking somewhat the same question? Let us note how God responded to Abraham for assurance of how He may respond to our query. "God, do You keep Your promises?"

The comfort of God's promises (15:4-7; 13-16)

God answered with the promise to be Abraham's shield and his reward. To tell him that He would be his shield was to promise His personal presence as a protection against every foe and in every circumstance.

One person has noted the irony that at the crisis of Abraham's faith, the moment when he could not possibly believe that God would really carry out His

promise of making the patriarch into "a great nation," was the moment when God graciously offered Abraham His covenant.

As a beginning, God offered Himself as Abraham's "shield," his protection. God declared Himself to be the defense to Abraham in time of trouble and the reward to Abraham in place of worldly gain. Furthermore, God promised Abraham, not an adopted son, but a son of his own loins (15:4-6) who would bring forth progeny more numerous than the stars of the sky that God invited Abraham to attempt to count.

The Bible records simply that Abraham "believed in the Lord" and "He counted it to him for righteousness" (15:6). Both reason and human experience would argue the impossibility but Abraham dared to believe.

God further promised a real homeland (15:7) and a bright future (15:13-16). All of these promises brought comfort (strength) to Abraham.

The key was and is faith (15:6)

Abraham's experience defines faith:

absolute, implicit trust in God's character, in God's promises, even though tangible proof is lacking. This inner attitude puts a person in right relationship with God, and this right relationship is what "righteousness" means.

Theologian Walter R. Bowie has been quoted as saying: "The heart of the whole gospel that Paul preached is beating here, the gospel that it is not what a man is but what a man trusts God to do that saves him" (Interpreters Bible, Volume I, p. 600).

Faith in God's promise has the power to transform weak men and women. Bearing witness to this truth are the lives of the apostles, of Paul, and all the Old Testament and New Testament patriarchs. Modern day examples are found in Martin Luther, John Wesley, Billy Graham, and you and me.

God wants to "cut" a covenant with someone today. He promises that "He who comes to Me I will in no wise cast out." And His spirit asks, "Believest thou this?" Believing God's promises is what the life of faith is all about.



Woodford

NO

You can not be excluded from the Church Insurance Program, even if you have been denied coverage under this plan before.

This year, the Southern Baptist life and medical plan is better than ever before. So if you thought about enrolling in the past and didn't, now is the time. Or if you've ever been denied coverage, now you can get full life and medical benefits, no questions asked, except for health conditions diagnosed or treated within six months prior to your date of coverage.

To make it as easy as possible for you and your family to sign up for this excellent protection plan, we're having a special enrollment period from October 1-November 30.

You'll find that life rates have been reduced up to 30% for some age groups. Also, if you're enrolled in the plan from January to November next year, you won't be billed for your December medical premium - which means you get 1 month's medical insurance absolutely free!

The Church Insurance Program. The insurance protection you need at a price you can afford during our special 2-month Open Enrollment Period ending November 30. Call your Annuity Board at 1-800-262-0511, or call or visit your state annuity representative.



"Serving those who serve the Lord."

Underwritten by Aetna Life Insurance Company, 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06156

COMPUTERIZE YOUR CHURCH
CHURCH
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A series of well integrated modules developed exclusively for churches

Modules include:

- MEMBERSHIP
- CONTRIBUTION
- PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP
- MAILING LIST
- BUDGET INFORMATION
- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
- ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
- PLEDGE INFORMATION
- WORD PROCESSING can also be integrated

Available for IBM-BC XI and compatible computers

For more information call or write



B-P SYSTEMS
P.O. Box 341104
Memphis, TN 38184
(901) 382-0487 or
(901) 794-3194

Hammers, nails build witness, fellowship

By Jim Lowry

KALISPELL, Mont. (BP)— Hammers and nails can do a lot more than hold boards together.

Some construction work in the northwestern United States also can help bring about a special understanding of Southern Baptist missions.

Montana Pastor Butch Adcock knows God told him to help construct church buildings in this strategic, pioneer location.

"If nothing else is certain in my life, this is," he said. "We're fulfilling what was born in the heart of God."

For the past nine years, Adcock, pastor of Easthaven Baptist Church in Kalispell, Mont., has led building crews to construct 14 Southern Baptist churches.

Each summer, during the first week of July, families from Easthaven Baptist Church travel as much as 600 miles to do construction work.

The church families take vacation time from their jobs, live in campers and tents, cook all their food, and work 10- and 12-hour days to frame and roof a church building.

"This is our way of participating in missions even though we are a small church," Adcock said. "Every year at the end of a project, we come home loving more people."

Faith, commitment, excitement, and sacrifice all are vital parts of building churches in the Northwest, which started in Kalispell with the construction of Easthaven Baptist Church.



A WEEK'S WORK — This section of Emmanuel Baptist Church's new building in Pullman, Wash., was completed to this point upstairs and downstairs in one week by the Easthaven Baptist Church work crew. Discussing the progress are (left to right) Grady Wilson, construction foreman from Easthaven; Gene Watson, Emmanuel church member; and Easthaven Pastor Butch Adcock. Photo by David Haywood.

"We wanted to build a new church here but we didn't know how to get loans, permits, or materials," Adcock explained. "Hal Buettner, a retired building contractor, moved to Kalispell and soon became coordinator of the project, work-

ing on plans and listing and pricing materials.

"While we were building Easthaven, the Lord said He had a job for us," he continued. "The Lord said, 'Go and leave the things you think are important and I'll give you more.' Our family grows every year."

When Easthaven's facility was built in 1977, average attendance was about 120, but the auditorium was built to seat 500. Attendance now reaches 200 occasionally, with an average of 165. The Sunday morning services are televised.

Over the years, the construction projects have grown to include families and workers from other churches, including First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., where Adcock was associate pastor before moving to Montana. Other families meet the group after traveling from Washington, Idaho, Arizona, and California.

Construction sites have ranged from Portland, Ore., which is 600 miles west of Kalispell, to Poplar, Mont., located 500 miles east on an Indian reservation near the North Dakota border. Work at each location includes checking plans with the church architecture department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and learning how to obtain financing through the Home Mission Board.

The annual trek begins on the first Sunday of July when a caravan leaves Kalispell following the morning worship service to drive to the construction site. Living quarters are set up that night and construction begins early Monday morning. An advance coordinator has prepared the site by having the foundation completed and materials delivered and ready for construction.

In the Northwest, distances between churches and meetings are a way of life instead of an insurmountable obstacle. On a recent trip to visit some of the construction sites west of Kalispell, Adcock covered 1,600 miles in three days.

Numerous benefits are cited by churches in appreciation for the free labor from construction crews, but there is universal agreement the financial saving is the most obvious.

Different churches have estimated savings as high as 50 percent of pro-

jected costs. While this would be significant to any church, it is the difference between building and not building a facility for these congregations. When construction crews leave, there is usually a building with walls and a roof. Considering all but one or two are amateur carpenters, the amount of progress in six days is miraculous.

It is at this point that sacrifice and participation begins for local church members who do the inside and finishing work.

Clint Ashley, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pullman, Wash., the location for the 1985 construction project, said visiting workers let his church see the good in Baptists working together.

Like other Baptist churches in the Northwest, many members do not have a Baptist background. "When our members rub shoulders with other Southern Baptists, it enlarges their vision of missions," Ashley said. "Our members are amazed that a group of people who don't know them would give up vacations to come and work like this."

Charles Hargrove is pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church in Deer Park, Wash., where a building was constructed in 1982 by the Kalispell crew. In his two and one-half years there, attendance has risen from 60 to more than 100.

Hargrove said the free labor really got the church started in an area where "money is hard to come by. Putting the building up showed the community Southern Baptists are really serious about being a part of the community. After meeting in a mobile home and the entrance to a mall, the new building gave us room to expand and we started to grow."

Other locations where the construction crews have worked include Rathdrum, Idaho; Hood River, Ore.; Bingen, Wash.; Dallesport, Wash.; and Nine Mile Falls, Wash.; Dishman, Wash.; Lakeside, Mont.; and Sandpoint, Idaho.

The excitement of participating in the construction and meeting new friends becomes a "mutual ministry," in the words of Ashley, the pastor in Pullman. Every year, Adcock said people in the church under construction express interest in helping the next year. Their feelings go farther than gratitude to a commitment to help others, which is translated into action.

Next year these Kalispell Southern Baptists plan to help some Baptist brothers and sisters in Laurel, Mont.

Baptist Children's Home redeems coffee coupons for \$61,746.48

By Helen Sheffield

MONROE, La. (BP)— What do you do with 1,029,108 Community Coffee coupons? Earl Mercer can tell you.

At the end of August, Mercer, public relations director for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, took them — in 23 boxes — to the Community Coffee office in Baton Rouge. On Sept. 13, company officials presented a \$61,746.48 check to Children's Home Superintendent Wade B. East.

Community Coffee decided to discontinue its more than 30-year-old coupon program at the end of 1984. But, when the company closed its premium stores, it agreed to redeem — at double value — any coupons, regardless of date, collected by non-profit organizations such as the Children's Home and turned in by Aug. 31, 1985.

The coupons have been arriving at the Baptist Home steadily since an organized effort to collect them was launched early in the year. They came in 4,188 pieces of mail — from people all across the state and several out-of-state locations. Some of them were collector's items from the early years of the coupon program. Some were so old they were crumbling and some people did not bother to clip them — they just sent the whole package.

Not all the contributors were Baptists. One batch came with a note signed "Three Methodists, one Catholic, and one Episcopalian."

The donors included children, senior citizens, civic organizations, church groups, businesses, and social clubs.

"Hundreds of pieces of mail were sent by anonymous donors," East said.

It took weeks to sort, clip, and bundle the coupons in stacks of 100 for delivery

to the company.

Mercer said he got an unbelieving gasp from the company's secretary when he called to ask for a convenient time to make his delivery.

"She said if I was calling from Monroe, I could just mail them," Mercer said. "But I said, 'You don't understand. I have more than a million of them.' I thought she was going to faint." The Baptist Home's collection is the largest turned in by any organization for redemption, according to William B. Carter, marketing manager for Community Coffee.

Carter and R. B. Trahan, district sales manager from Alexandria, presented the check in ceremonies at the home.

East said part of the money will be used to purchase a van needed to take children to church, school, and community activities.

The rest of the money will be placed in a permanent endowment with the interest earned each year used to pay for clothing and shoes for boys and girls moving into the home.

"This will help meet a real need at our home," East said. "Many children come to us with very little in the way of clothing and shoes and this fund will help us to provide these items, which add up to a considerable sum in the very beginning of their stay in our care."

The mail contained not only Community Coffee coupons, but also coupons from Luzianne, Morning Treat, Seaport, and Tex-Joy packages and hundreds of books of trading stamps, all of which the home can use to meet some of the needs of children living in its 10 cottages.

The Louisiana Baptist Children's Home was founded in 1899 by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Professor predicts raising of Titanic

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)— The Titanic, the "unsinkable" luxury liner which has been in a watery grave for 77 years after striking an iceberg about 400 miles south of Newfoundland, eventually will be raised, a Baptist college oceanography expert feels.

Donald Lovejoy, professor of oceanography at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla., said the historic interest and the value of unknown treasures aboard will spark the salvage of the ocean liner discovered by scientists Sept. 1.

Lovejoy, who has spent years studying the undersea world, said present technology is not suitable to make the salvage operation feasible. He predicted however, technology and funding will be found to undertake the task.