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Crowders file lawsuit for 'irreparable harm'

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)— A Birmingham, Ala., couple and a retired Navy chief from Windsor, Mo., filed suit Dec. 5 against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee in federal district court in Atlanta.

The suit, filed by Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, and Henry C. Cooper, claims the plaintiffs were "irreparably harmed" by rulings and events at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, June 12, 1985, concerning election of the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

The suit seeks to have the election of the SBC Committee on Boards declared illegal and to prevent the 52 persons elected at the Dallas convention from serving. It also asks "relief ... to prevent the defendants from violating the legal rights of the plaintiffs during the 1986 annual meeting, June 10-12, in Atlanta."

The Committee on Boards nominates persons to serve as trustees of the national agencies of the SBC, including the six seminaries. They are elected at one convention and bring their report to the subsequent convention.

The committee is expected to meet in March in order to complete its work in time for presentation at the 1986 annual meeting.

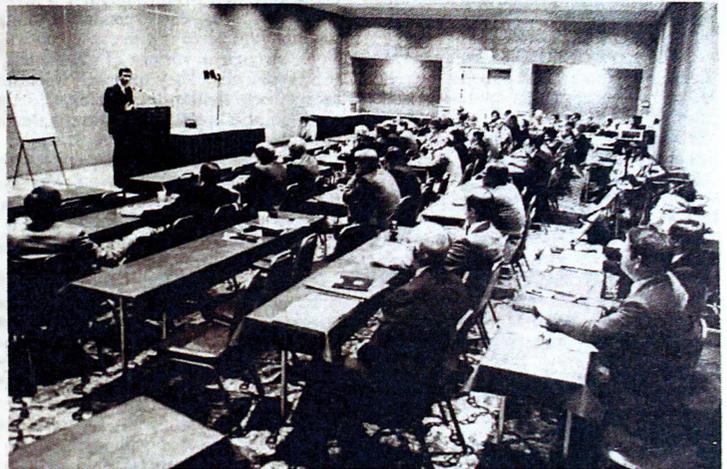
The petition claims SBC President Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, made "erroneous rulings" which "violated the rights" of the plaintiffs and "deprived" them "of the opportunity ... to vote" on matters related to election of the Committee on Boards.

"The actions of Dr. Stanley violated the integrity of the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention, were in excess of his authority as the presiding officer ... and deprived the plaintiffs and other messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention of the protection of fair and unbiased procedures which is guaranteed by the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention," the petition says.

The cause of action stems from events at the Dallas convention June 12, in which the SBC Committee on Committees nominated the 52-member Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

An attempt was made to amend the Committee on Committees' report. Stanley

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TRUSTEE ORIENTATION — Raymond Boston, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, speaks to new trustees for institutions and the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention during the third annual Trustee Orientation last week at Nashville's Maxwell House Hotel.

James Sullivan addresses Tennessee's new trustees

New trustees for institutions and the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention attended the third annual Trustee Orientation in Nashville last week. The more than 70 new trustees were elected last month by messengers to the state convention in Memphis.

The orientation was held Dec. 3-4 at Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville.

The annual Trustee Orientation grew out of the Trustee/Executive Board Interrelationship Study Committee which was authorized by the 1982 TBC. The 1983 orientation was for all TBC trustees, and subsequent sessions have been for the newly elected trustees.

This year's Trustee Orientation featured the first use of another project of the study committee — a Trustee Manual. The manual has been prepared for the committee by James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sullivan was also one of the speakers

at last week's Trustee Orientation. He noted that the Bible determines our theology which leads to our philosophy which determines our organizations, programs, and actions. "This concept applies in every decision-making process in our denomination," Sullivan said.

Sullivan declared that a church has four basic functions: evangelization; renewal or maturing; missions; and stewardship. This leads to four functions or actions: worship; proclamation; education; and ministry.

"There is a tremendous difference between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist denomination," Sullivan added, explaining that the SBC is one unit of the denomination, along with the churches, associations, state conventions, as well as individual Baptists.

"Trustees must balance sound organizational principles with sound theological principles," Sullivan commented, observing that trustees are to establish sound theological policies under which the institution's administration is to operate.

James Guenther, attorney for the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, noted that in the past a trustee was seen as an "honorary" position, to assure everybody that everything was great.

However, the Nashville attorney stated that now the churches and the institutions are expecting more from trustees.

Guenther said that federal regulations have eroded much of the protection Baptists thought they had under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

A second area of concern involves taxation and tax exemption. Citing the

(Continued on page 3)

Tax reform bill threatens Annuity Board exemption

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)— A proposed tax reform bill endorsed by the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee and currently awaiting floor action would strip the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and other church pension groups of their federal tax-exempt status.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan, who also is chairman of the multid denominational Church Alliance — an organization of church pension organizations — declined immediate comment, telling Baptist Press he was trying to sort out circumstances that led to inclusion of the provision stripping tax exemption.

Morgan and other church pension board executives were meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., to assess provisions of the bill impacting their organizations and to plan strategy for seeking changes in the measure.

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James M. Dunn, expressing concern about the church-state implications of the proposal, warned, "The taxing of church pension boards engaged properly in insuring their ministers and denominational employees is tantamount to taxing the churches themselves."

"This legislative tinkering with time-

tested principles of church-state separation flies in the face of the First Amendment and signals an abandonment of the basic American concept that the church should not be required to support the state."

Dunn added, "It is amazing that those producing the tax reform package have demonstrated such incredible insensitivity. The American people will not stand for it."

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SBC giving shows strong start

NASHVILLE (BP)— Just two months into its fiscal year, contributions through the national Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention are more than \$1.5-million ahead of last year.

November's voluntary contributions to the national SBC programs from the 37 state conventions affiliated with the SBC were \$10,770,854 which pushed the two-month figure to \$19,809,888. That represents an increase of \$1,513,675 (8.27 percent) over the first two months of the 1984-85 fiscal year.

It is the first \$10-million November in Cooperative Program history and is the third highest single month in CP history behind August 1985 (\$10,911,903) and January 1985 (\$10,812,419).

In order to meet the 1985-86 basic budget requirements of \$120.6-million, income for the present fiscal year must average \$10.05-million per month — an increase of \$3,073,309 (2,604 percent) over 1984-85 income. Income beyond that will be applied first to capital needs of \$3,340,385 which were unfunded in 1983-84, then to capital needs of \$4,500,000 for 1985-86.

Bird, Chute, O'Brien lead FMB news plan

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has selected initial personnel for a new communications plan which will feature firsthand reporting of missions through a system of four professionally trained missionary correspondents assigned to areas around the world.

Robert O'Brien, the board's overseas news coordinator, will direct development and professional operation of the system from Richmond, according to Bob Stanley, news and information services director and chief of the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Michael Chute, former managing editor of the Missouri Baptist newsjournal, Word and Way, and Craig Bird, Baptist Press feature editor at the home office in Nashville, are expected to work with O'Brien as the first two overseas correspondents.

Correspondents selected for the overseas system must meet both the professional qualifications set by the board's office of communications and public relations and all normal qualifications for missionary appointment.

The board's human resources subcommittee approved Bird and his wife, Melissa, Nov. 19 to be recommended for missionary appointment next April, pending completion of seminary study required of missionaries. Bird will leave Baptist Press Dec. 31 to enroll at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Chute, who accepted the new post in October, will begin partial duties immediately. He and his wife, Kathie, will return to the United States next August for furlough from Brazil, where they have been assigned as missionaries since September 1982. He has been news and information coordinator for the South Brazil Mission in Rio de Janeiro.

The Chutes and the Birds will have several months of orientation at the

board in Richmond before moving fully into their areawide assignments. Chute will report on missions in Latin America, working out of Brasilia, Brazil; Bird will report on missions in Africa, from a home base in Nairobi, Kenya.

The overseas correspondents' main function will be to tell the story of missions through a variety of channels to U.S. audiences. They also will work directly with field missionaries to help them improve efforts to communicate the impact of missions.

In addition, they will cooperate with traveling teams of Foreign Mission Board staff communicators who will continue to participate in the effort to increase the flow of information from 106 mission fields around the world.

O'Brien, former Baptist Press news editor in Nashville, joined the Foreign Mission Board staff in 1980 to field test the system. After two years of preparation in Richmond, Robert and Shirley Bradley O'Brien and their sons, Eric and Paul, moved to Nairobi for two years to conduct a pilot study of the overseas system. He traveled widely in Africa, covering missions and training and consulting with missionaries in communications. She was administrative and editorial assistant.

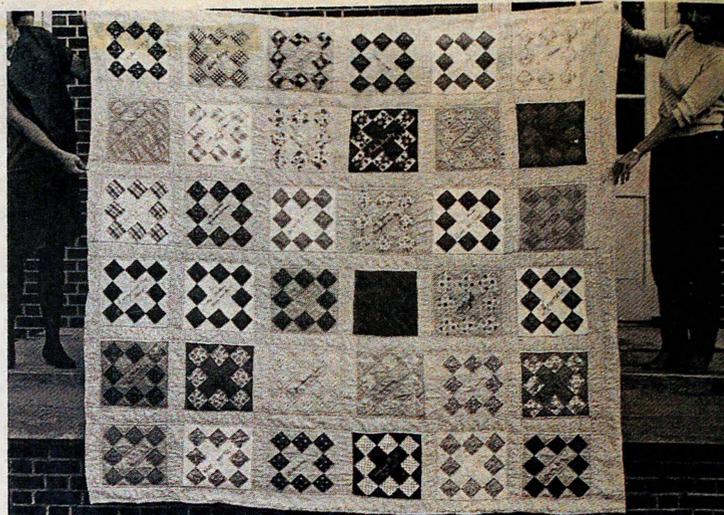
A yearlong evaluation after the O'Briens returned to Richmond revealed that intensified, firsthand coverage of missions improved efforts to communicate foreign missions to Southern Baptists and to increase awareness of their Bold Mission Thrust goal of reaching the entire world with the message of Jesus Christ by the year 2000.

O'Brien, a South Carolinian, is a graduate of Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Va.; Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Chute, born in Illinois and reared in Missouri, is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield; and attended Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Born in Arkansas and reared in Texas, Bird is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. He also did 36 semester hours of graduate study at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and Tennessee State University, Nashville.

Besides church and home responsibilities as missionaries, Katherine Benge Chute and Melissa Jackson Bird expect to assist their husbands in their professional responsibilities.



SYMBOL OF SUPPORT — Magna View Baptist Church, Jefferson City, has sent a friendship quilt to Darryl and Amy Pierce, US-2 missionaries serving in Montpelier, Vt., as a symbol of love and support. On 36 squares are embroidered the names of the 36 families who pieced and made the quilt for the young couple who attended Magna View Baptist Church while students at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Administration leaders explore shared ministry, Jackson lawsuit

NASHVILLE (BP) — The New Testament concept of shared ministry can undergird the entire issue of leadership for Southern Baptists, Joe Stacker told state church administration consultants at their annual meeting in Nashville.

Church growth, financial support, missions, and discipleship all are supported by shared ministry, explained Stacker, director of the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Stacker told the state consultants shared ministry will be a priority of the church administration department for several years, because, "We must teach Southern Baptists to be New Testament leaders.

"Shared ministry sets the pace and pattern for where Southern Baptists need to be as a people of God," he said. "If Southern Baptists do a better job with shared ministry, forced terminations will decrease and ministers will begin to trust, delegate, and share with staff members, deacons, and church members.

"We're committed to making shared ministry our banner for the indefinite future, because the emphasis doctrinally, Biblically, and theologically supports everything Southern Baptists do," he added.

Also addressing the state church administration consultants was Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder and

John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson.

Taylor, whose church is one of nine Southern Baptist churches in Jackson, involved in a class action lawsuit related to churches being perceived as political action committees, recounted his involvement in the successful effort to defeat a liquor-by-the-drink referendum.

The Baptist churches, plus four other churches, are presently appealing a ruling against them by the Chancery Court of Madison County. The ruling says the churches should be considered as political action committees, and consequently should file financial disclosure forms.

Taylor said he and the other church representatives believe liquor-by-the-drink is a moral issue to which the churches need to give spiritual leadership. He said the designation of the church as a political action committee is the basis for the lawsuit because it puts the government in the position of defining what is a church.

Resolving the issue has been made more difficult, Taylor said, because this is the first time this particular issue has surfaced in U.S. legal history. The case is now in the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Taylor advised the church administration consultants to check laws in their states to avoid a similar dilemma for some of their churches.

It has been a demanding year, physically, he said, because of the time required to deal with the lawsuit. Although the battle has taken its toll on pastors and church representatives, Taylor said the Jackson churches are determined to pursue their cause, since they see the present ruling as a potential infringement on moral, not political issues.

Kentucky Baptists meet in harmony

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP) — Messengers attending the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention elected Don R. Mathis, pastor of Corbin's Central Baptist Church as president, and adopted a \$19-million budget for 1986-87.

Of the new budget, 62.5 percent is designated for in-state work and 37.5 percent for SBC causes, an increase from the current 36.875 percent for worldwide SBC causes.

The convention agreed to continue a special committee assigned the task of studying ascending and descending liability for its agencies and institutions another year. It is expected the committee will complete its work and bring any recommendations to the 1986 annual meeting.

For the first time in the memory of longtime observers of the convention, no resolutions were offered from the floor. The Resolutions Committee, however, offered five of its own. None were controversial and all were unanimously approved. One called for "all Kentucky Baptists to pray for our beloved Southern Baptist Convention, particularly for the Peace Committee, that God will heal us and lead us beyond controversy to his marvelous future."

'Mark of the beast' appeal fails

WASHINGTON (BP) — Ezra Eli Borntrager, a Kansas City, Mo., attorney who refused for religious reasons to divulge his Social Security number in an application for admission to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, has lost his final appeal at the nation's high tribunal.

Borntrager believes Social Security numbers are the 'mark of the beast' mentioned in several passages of the New Testament Book of Revelation. Although he acknowledged in a written appeal to the high court that he was assigned a Social Security number years ago, he has stopped using it since discovering the references in Revelation.

Borntrager argued that unlike other numbers assigned to him — such as those on his driver's license and financial accounts — his Social Security number is different in that it is "mandatory, omnipresent, (and) a universal identifier."

In refusing without comment to review the case, the Supreme Court let stand two lower federal court rulings against the Kansas City attorney.

Spanish Baptists name first woman pastor

BARCELONA, Spain — The Baptist Union of Spain's first woman pastoral missionary has been appointed to serve a mission on the island of Ibiza.

Maria Amparo Montagué received a diploma in theology in June from the Spanish Baptist Seminary in Alcobendas and is the second woman to earn the degree there.

Conservative leaders ask Rogers to run

By Al Shackleford

MEMPHIS — Adrian Rogers, pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church, has confirmed that a Dec. 2 meeting in Atlanta of "conservative" leaders has asked him to be a candidate for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986.

Rogers was elected as SBC president in 1979, but decided not to be nominated in 1980 for a second one-year term, because of pressing church and personal responsibilities.

"I certainly have not decided to run and certainly have not encouraged anybody to support me as SBC president,"

Rogers told the Baptist and Reflector on Monday afternoon. "I am praying about it," the Memphis pastor said.

The possibility that Rogers might permit his name to be nominated in Atlanta next June was announced Dec. 6 in a meeting of 200 "conservatives" at First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

"Our candidate will be Adrian Rogers," Homer Lindsay Jr., co-pastor of the church, told the meeting. "He has given us the right to use his name. He is seriously praying and seeking God's face. As far as we know, he will be the man to represent us in Atlanta."

The Jacksonville meeting was report-

ed in a Baptist Press article, written by Greg Warner, associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.

Lindsay said he met in Atlanta Dec. 2 with 18 other conservative leaders who decided on Rogers' candidacy. Rogers, who was at the meeting, said, "I am committed to seeing our convention take a conservative course."

Rogers said it was a "tremendously big decision," noting that Bellevue Baptist Church is "in the midst of a tremendous program of relocating our church."

He said he is not seeking the SBC presidency, as he did not seek it in 1979. "The consensus (of the Dec. 2 meeting) was that I should run" for the SBC presidency in 1986, Rogers said.

Rogers stated that he felt the group asked him to be a candidate because the "moderate wing already has a candidate with a face and a name," explaining that "from all the straws in the wind, it appears that Winfred Moore will be a candidate." He added that "when these friends met together in Atlanta on Dec. 2, they seemed to have a spirit of unanimity and asked if I would be willing to be nominated again for president."

Rogers emphasized that he has not given anyone permission to nominate him at this point.

Since Rogers' election in 1979, the conservatives have controlled the presidency and its appointive powers. In June of this year, the conservative candidate, incumbent Charles Stanley of Atlanta, defeated a challenge from Moore of Amarillo, Texas, in what is considered the closest and hardest-fought election of any incumbent.

Stanley, who is completing his second term, is ineligible to run in 1986.

Lindsay said conservatives already are organizing in support of Rogers in many states, naming Alabama, Arkansas, and North Carolina. Lindsay is chairman of the steering committee in Florida, he said, adding, "Our goal is to

have 5,000 messengers go to Atlanta from Florida."

Lindsay said the Florida effort began with a recent meeting of 150 conservatives in Orlando, Fla. He and the other 21 members of the Florida steering committee who divided the state into an equal number of districts, will hold meetings similar to the one in Jacksonville, which was by invitation only.

Lindsay said he invited selected pastors from six Baptist associations in northeast Florida, as well as a few pastors from southern Georgia. He said other pastors whom "I felt would be uncomfortable" were not invited to the Dec. 6 Jacksonville meeting.

Another member of the Florida steering committee, Harold Hunter, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, told the pastors how to prepare for the Atlanta convention in order to guarantee each of their churches has 10 messengers committed to the conservative candidate.

"I don't want anyone going from my church that I have questions about. If they're going to go, they're going to have to vote like I vote," he said, adding, "some of them may not be certain 'what it is to be led by the Spirit of God, but I'm certain. On this issue there is no doubt.'"

Lindsay echoed that certainty. "I'm not telling you how to vote," he said, "but if you do what God wants you to do, then we'll vote the same way. He's not going to lead you to do one thing and me another."

Crowders file lawsuit...

(Continued from page 1)

ruled the report could not be amended by an alternate slate, but only one-by-one. Messengers rejected Stanley's ruling. Subsequently, on the advice of parliamentarian Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church in Memphis, Stanley ruled the report could not be amended at all.

The Crowders' petition says: "Following this erroneous ruling, Dr. Stanley refused to allow the ... motion to be voted on ... and refused to recognize any calls for a point of order from numerous messengers who attempted to appeal his ruling ..."

"Plaintiffs were present on the floor of the convention ... and attempted unsuccessfully to be recognized for the purpose of appealing (the) ruling by a point of order ..."

The petition claims the nomination of the Committee on Boards "was not lawfully adopted" and members "were not lawfully elected and are without authority to serve in that capacity."

The suit also claims there is "every likelihood that Dr. Stanley and the defendants will violate the rights of the plaintiffs and other messengers" at the 1986 annual meeting of the convention in Atlanta.

The suit seeks the court to declare: —Bylaw 16 "permits any registered messenger to propose amendments to the report of the Committee on Committees from the floor ... to nominate any individual or a slate of individuals and have the amendment voted on ..."

—Bylaw 32 "reserves to the convention the right to amend the body of any report ..."

—Bylaw 35 "requires that all propositions, decisions, and choices, including appeals on points or questions of order or any other challenges to parliamentary rulings, shall be decided by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting ... and that the chair is bound by and required to obey the decisions of a majority of the messengers ..."

—the actions of Stanley in the controversial rulings and proceedings "were and are invalid ..."

—the election of members of the Committee on Boards "was illegal and further declaring that members purportedly elected ... are without authority to serve in that capacity."

The suit seeks to permanently enjoin the defendants (and their respective officers, Executive Committee members, employees, or agents) from violating the declaratory judgments" or "permitting the members of the Committee on Boards ... who were illegally elected at the Dallas Convention to continue to serve."

The Crowders and Cooper also seek to

"recover ... their costs, attorneys' fees, and related expenses in bringing this suit."

Jane F. Vehko, an attorney with the Atlanta lawfirm of Bondurant, Mixson, and Elmore, attorneys for the Crowders and Cooper, said the plaintiffs "obviously would like to have the matter resolved before the next convention," but added it would be "very premature at this time to make any predictions" about the case.

Tax bill...

(Continued from page 1)

The bill's language repeals tax exemption for a non-profit organization if a "substantial part of its activities consists of providing commercial-type insurance," adding such insurance "shall be treated as an unrelated trade or business." Specifically exempted from the definition of "commercial-type insurance" is property or casualty insurance provided by churches or conventions or associations of churches.

But the measure specifies further that "annuity contracts shall be treated as providing insurance."

If passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, groups such as the SBC Annuity Board would lose their tax exemptions Dec. 31, 1985.

Aside from the threat to tax exemption, other provisions in the bill drew swift reaction from Annuity Board officials, including general counsel Gary S. Nash, who was particularly critical of the powerful Ways and Means Committee for not holding public hearings before voting out the measure for action by the full House of Representatives.

Among provisions drawing fire is one that would penalize a participant who designates a portion of his salary as a "catch-up" device for years in which he was able to put little or nothing into a retirement plan. This provision would forbid participants in a regular retirement plan from investing also in Individual Retirement Accounts.

According to Nash, another negative feature of the proposal would reduce contribution limits for amounts that can be contributed to denominational retirement plans.

Yet another would impose what Nash described as "regressive tax penalties" on distributions — or funds withdrawn — from retirement plans before age 59, other than for death, disability, or "life-based" annuity payments. The bill would also impose new minimum distribution rules and a 50 percent tax on those retirement funds not withdrawn at the time of eligibility.

Trustees...

(Continued from page 1)

Supreme Court decision which disallowed tax exemption for Bob Jones University for segregated dating, Guenther asked, "What other public policies will be used in the future to deny tax exemption for religious institutions and organizations?"

The third legal area involves "ascending liability" which could mean that any legal action against a TBC institution or employee could involve the total convention.

Commenting on the recently filed suit against the SBC and its Executive Committee by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crowder, Guenther asked, "Will a court be willing to take on the challenge of running the Southern Baptist Convention?"

Other speakers at the two-day Trustee Orientation were Fred Kendall II, vice-president for religious affairs at Belmont College, Nashville; James M. Porch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma; Raymond A. Boston, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dyersburg; and John D. Laida, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville. These are members of the Trustee/Executive Board Inter-relationship Study Committee.

Devotions were presented by James McCluskey, TBC president and pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, and Arthur Walker Jr., executive director of the SBC Education Commission.

Jerry Self joins agency of SBC

NASHVILLE (BP)— Jerry M. Self, public affairs and Christian life consultant with the Tennessee Baptist Convention since March 1978, has been named assistant director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, effective Jan. 2.

In his new post, Self will serve as a liaison with denominational agencies in the coordination of programs and establishing relationships defined in the program statement of the Education Commission and will provide staff support for the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

He also will aid in developing means for communications of the educational needs of Baptist conventions to pastors, church workers, and denominational leaders.

The Wichita, Kan., native is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to joining the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Self was pastor of Austin Heights Baptist Church, Nacogdoches, Texas. He also was pastor in Ada, Okla., and Hillsboro, Texas.

Self has led numerous workshops and seminars and has taught ethics at Belmont College in Nashville. He is the author of Men and Women in John's Gospel as well as 40 magazine articles on various relational issues. He also has written a column, "Citizen's Corner, in the Baptist and Reflector.

Self succeeds George E. Capps Jr., the former associate director of the commission, who died of a heart attack in June.



Self

New tax reform measure proposes restoring clergy housing benefits

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — A new tax reform plan drafted by the House Ways and Means Committee would reinstate a clergy housing policy allowing ministers to claim mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions as well as tax-exempt housing allowances.

The Tax Reform Act of 1985, which is expected to go to the House floor within days, would amend current tax law by exempting a person receiving a parsonage allowance from being denied a deduction "for interest on a mortgage on, or real property taxes on" his home.

In 1983, the Internal Revenue Service ruled to reverse a 20-year-old policy and disallow mortgage interest and property tax deductions for ministers to the extent

the deductions were attributable to a tax-exempt housing allowance. A subsequent IRS ruling delayed the effective date of the proposal from June 1983 until Jan. 1, 1985, for ministers who occupied their residence or had a contract to purchase one by Jan. 1, 1983.

Since that time, Congress twice has delayed the effective date of the ruling. The latter delay extends through tax year 1986.

The Ways and Means Committee's tax reform package also would make the revocation retroactive, meaning that ministers unable to claim mortgage interest and property tax deductions for tax years 1983 and 1984 may file amended returns.

"We are extremely pleased," commented Darold H. Morgan, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. "Pastors of all denominations are most concerned about this issue. Congress has finally heard us in our appeal for equity with the military." The IRS ruling singled out ministers from a provision that also covered military personnel who receive tax-exempt housing allowances.

Another section of the tax reform proposal would allow churches that elected to claim exemption from paying Social Security taxes for their non-ministerial employees to revoke that election.

A 1983 change in Social Security laws forced churches — as well as all non-profit organizations — to participate in the nation's retirement system. Under the 1983 Social Security Amendments, churches were responsible for paying the employer's share of Social Security taxes and withholding the employee's portion for all non-ministerial employees.

Congress, however, approved a compromise in 1984 that permitted churches — including conventions, associations, church schools, and church-controlled organizations — a one-time election not to participate in Social Security on behalf of their non-ministerial employees. In order to make the election, the church or organization was required to state that it was "opposed for religious reasons" to payment of Social Security taxes.

By law, ministers have and will continue to participate in Social Security as self-employed persons.

C-N offers campus after church fire

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College President J. Cordell Maddox reported to the Dec. 6 trustee meeting that the college had offered its facilities to First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, whose sanctuary burned on Dec. 1.

"We are part of the community," Maddox told the trustees, "and we wanted to move very quickly to offer services."

Sunday services will be held in Carson-Newman's Gentry Auditorium. The music building will be used on Wednesdays for choir practice and other services.

The board also voted to apply to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for a master's degree program in education. The earliest that such a program could be implemented would be fall of 1986. The board also voted to contract with a planner for proposed student activity facilities.

Roy Dobyns, vice-president and academic dean, reported that the Tennessee State Board of Nursing has given initial approval to the college for a proposed bachelor of science in nursing program to begin in the fall semester of 1986.

The board also elected a new slate of officers: T. Maxfield Bahner of Chattanooga, chairman; Jack Stewart of Morristown, vice-chairman; and Jeanette Blazier of Kingsport, secretary.



MISSIONS TELECONFERENCE — Talking over last minute plans for the second annual Foreign Missions Teleconference are (left to right) Jim McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville; Charlotte and Carter Davis, missionaries to Grenada; and Bill O'Brien, executive vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board, who was host for the Nov. 23 BTN telecast. Davis is native of Knoxville and Mrs. Davis is from Nashville.

Baptists assist victims of Kate

WHITBY, North Caicos (BP) — Baptists are helping about 70 families who lost homes in November as Hurricane Kate lashed the Turks and Caicos Islands northeast of Cuba.

Southern Baptist Missionaries Ed and Joyce Perimon, who work on the islands, assisted Baptist businessman Lou Hendfeld of North Caicos in distributing almost 200 food packages. Purchased with

\$3,800 in hunger relief funds sent by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the packages helped families in North Caicos, the worst-hit island.

The board sent another \$3,200 to buy roofing and other construction materials as rebuilding begins.

Hurricane Kate, which damaged Cuba extensively, caused relatively little destruction and no deaths in the other Turks and Caicos Islands. Mrs. Perimon said. But the storm hit North Caicos hard, destroying at least 70 homes and knocking down power lines.

Editor announces new book review

The Baptist and Reflector will initiate a regular book review feature to be printed in each issue, according to Editor Al Shackleford. The first book review is printed on page 5 of this issue.

"The purpose of the feature is to acquaint our readers with new books that are being released by a variety of publishers on religious subjects," Shackleford said, adding that the reviews will be a personal evaluation of such books, not advertising.

In making the announcement of the new feature, Shackleford said that he had enlisted Michael Davis, a free-lance writer and supply/interim pastor of Memphis, as book reviewer for the Baptist and Reflector.

Davis is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and earned a doctor of ministries degree from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

The Memphis native has been pastor of Kirk Baptist Church, Kirk, Texas; Valley Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky.; First Baptist Church, Dresden, and First Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

He has written Sunday School curriculum materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Baptist and Reflector.

Davis has served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the TBC Committee on Committees.

Two Southern Baptist electricians from Texas went to the island Nov. 23 to help restore electrical power, but the airline they flew lost their electrical equipment in transit. After waiting several days, the two men returned to the United States.

Snowstorm hampers Utah-Idaho meeting

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (BP) — The 143 messengers to the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention meeting at Idaho Falls, Idaho, Nov. 12-13 enjoyed a warm spirit even though snowstorms and hazardous road conditions prevented some from attending.

For the first time in the convention's history all officers were elected by acclamation. Andy Hornbaker, pastor of Holladay Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, was elected president.

Because of budget deficits during 1984-85, a decreased budget in the amount of \$1,258,568, representing a cut of \$173,438, was presented and adopted by the messengers. The 1986 budget calls for gifts from Utah-Idaho churches in the amount of \$315,556, or \$168,386 less than the amount required by the 1985 budget. Most of the remaining budget will come from contributions from the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Contributions to the SBC Cooperative Program for 1986 will remain at 21 percent, the same as last year.

Four new churches were seated at the annual meeting, bringing the total of local churches cooperating with the convention to 90.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 75,163

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BOOK REVIEW

By Michael Davis

A new story for Christmas

Trevor's Place by Frank and Janet Ferrell with Edward Wakin; Harper & Row; 138 pages; \$12.95.

This true story is about Trevor Ferrell, his life, his family, the price they paid for their involvement with the homeless of Philadelphia, and the birth of Trevor's Place — a hotel home for the homeless. This story, which began in December 1983 is a story worth telling because it takes us behind the stereotyped images of the homeless. We are drawn into the lives of real people and are compelled to see them as more than a group of derelict strangers, ill-clad con-artists and alcoholic panhandlers.

In Trevor's Place the homeless lose their anonymity and individuals emerge, each with composure and charm, coping with street life.

Consider June: she does not remain a stranger long. Her introduction indicates something about her age, why she is sitting in a subway entrance, and the significance of her two shopping bags — they are different from those of holiday shoppers.

Trevor and his parents, Frank and Janet Ferrell, first saw her during the Christmas season in downtown Philadelphia. Shoppers were going home, and traffic was heavy. Trevor saw her first. His father recalls the events of that night in a well-written scene, "We quickly double-parked amidst the angry stares, shaking fists, and complaining horns of the drivers who had to swing around us. Trevor climbed out of the car, barely visible behind the bulky coat he had in his arms. Tonight we brought a special prize — Janet's old synthetic fur coat. ... Trevor handed the coat to the welcoming woman. She inspected the coat as if she was in Wanamaker's fine

fur department."

The fur, the linings, the pockets, and even the arms were scrutinized the way a shopper examines clothing before a purchase. The expression on her face as she thanked Trevor remained with them.

"That old coat," said Trevor's father, "became the most wonderful gift we gave the entire Christmas."

There are other stories: Carlos and Juan, the Hispanic cousins; Chico, a panhandler; Big Bob, the acting house manager; and Skinny John. Their backgrounds vary, but they share a common search for dignity and independence that is much a part of their struggle for survival as food and shelter. It is their stories that engage our sympathies for the homeless — told in such an authentic way that we intellectually identify with real people and emotionally come to see them as much like ourselves, when it would be so easy to see them as different.

That Trevor's Place makes us uncomfortable with such a view is a real tribute to this book; for if we see the homeless as people with feelings like our own — if only briefly — this story which had its beginning at Christmas will have made a difference.

Texas WMU leader dies after illness

DALLAS (BP) — Eula Mae Henderson, a Texas Baptist mission leader for more than three decades, died Dec. 5 at her home in Garland, Tex., following a lengthy illness. She was 70 years old.

Services were Dec. 6 at First Baptist Church, Dallas, where Pastor W. A. Criswell officiated. Charles McLaughlin, director of the state missions commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, brought the message. Henderson had been a worship leader in an elementary Sunday School department at First Baptist Dallas for more than 30 years.

She was executive director-treasurer of Texas Woman's Missionary Union from 1947-80 after being young people's secretary for Texas WMU in 1946.

Following her retirement, she spent more than two years as a Mission Service Corp volunteer for the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio. The seminary honored her for significant contributions to Hispanics by naming a chapel after her.

During her 34 years of denominational work, she was instrumental in expanding mission work in Texas, especially among Hispanics. She helped launch the Rio Grande River Ministry, which has involved hundreds of Texas Baptist churches and thousands of volunteers in sharing talents and faith with people along the Rio Grande (the border between Texas and Mexico).

She also led Texas Baptists to begin scholarships for ethnic students through the annual Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions. The program has helped more than 1,100 Hispanic, black, and Asian students attend Texas Baptist universities.

The Oklahoma native attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., and received honorary doctor's degrees from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas.

Henderson requested memorial gifts be made to the Mary Hill Davis State Missions Offering or the Eula Mae Henderson State Missions Memorial Fund through the Woman's Missionary Union or the BGCT treasurer, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, 75201-3355.



C-N WELCOME — Carolyn Weatherford (second from left), executive director of Woman's Missionary Union (SBC), is greeted after speaking in chapel at Carson-Newman College by (left to right) Beth Harris, president of Campus Baptist Young Women; Margaret McKinney, a member of the C-N advisory board; and Kathleen Manley, former missionary to Africa and head nurse at C-N for many years.

Belmont elevates nursing, fees

NASHVILLE — Trustees of Belmont College voted to increase student charges for the 1986-87 school year and to elevate the department of nursing to the "school of nursing" during a Dec. 5 meeting on the Nashville campus.

Tuition will increase about 8 percent and campus housing about 5 percent effective with the summer 1986 term, which will increase the charges for a full-time student about \$350 per year, it was explained.

President William Troutt said that the administration is "committed to keeping this college accessible to students and to maintaining a high plane of academic excellence." He observed that Belmont College is one of the lowest priced private colleges in the state, adding that Tennessee state schools are increasing their fees 15-18 percent this year.

Effective June 1, 1986, the department of nursing will become the school of nursing, with the chairperson of that department becoming the dean of the school. This will be the fifth school of the college.

Wayne Brown, dean of Belmont's school of business, commented on the recent action of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to allow master's degree programs in business and education. Brown said that the possibility of a master's program in business administration is under study and a recommendation perhaps will be made to the next trustee meeting on March 27, 1986.

The trustees were told that all major contracts have been awarded for the renovation of the North Front, and the project is expected to be completed by late spring.

George West, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, was elected trustee chairman. Other officers are vice-chairman, Criswell Freeman, a

Florence church calls James Gill as pastor

Florence Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, has called James Gill as pastor. He began Dec. 2.

Gill comes from Millersville Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, where he served as resident evangelist and assistant to the pastor, Harold Gregory.

He has been involved in full-time evangelism for five years, headquartered in Nashville.

Previous pastorates include churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. Gill attended Hinds Junior College, Raymond, Miss., and Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.

member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, and secretary, A. O. Buck, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
IBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



It appears to me that the New Testament gives us two views of Christmas.

One is the view with which we are all so familiar and that we love so much. Luke puts it like this, "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger."

The center in this picture includes the stable, Joseph and Mary, and the virgin-born Jesus. Standing by them are the shepherds with the wisemen on the way and the angels above. Surrounding all of this are the hills of Bethlehem.

The other view could be summarized best in Paul's statements, "When the fullness of time has come, God sent forth His Son."

I take this to mean that at the earliest possible moment in the unfolding of God's will, Christ came to this earth. This would put Bethlehem then as only a part of God's unfolding will. Instead of the hills of Bethlehem, we would be surrounded with the eternal purposes of God.

I believe it was this view that John was thinking about when he said, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as the glory of the only begotten Father, full of grace and truth."

When we look at both of these views, we are reminded that while Mary was striving to bring forth a Son, God from His side was sending forth a Son into the world so that Mary's activity was a marvelous response to God's activity. I like the close view because I like the tenderness but I also like the other view because of its sense of God's unfolding plan and His power.

One view helps us to be tender and generous and the other helps us to see the eternal purposes of our God. Both share with us God's great love for us.

Colombian toddler's picture — —stirs queries about adoption

IBAGUE, Colombia (BP) — The toddler was crying, "Mami." He had been separated from his mother for a week; perhaps he will never see her again because of the wall of mud and debris that buried the town of Armero in Colombia's Andes Mountains.

His picture, taken by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board photographer Joanna Pinneo, has stirred national attention. It was distributed by the Associated Press and carried in newspapers in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and 600 to 700 other cities.

"NN" (no name) is the only way he is

Union welcomes 10 new trustees

JACKSON — Union University's trustees heard committee reports, met faculty members, and welcomed 10 new members to their ranks during their annual two-day fall session.

The 48-member board heard an updated report on the college's endowment campaign from Larry Stewart, vice-president for development. To date, the two-year-old campaign has netted over \$6.5-million in cash and pledges.

Orientation of 10 new members, who were recently approved during the annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Memphis, included Ernest Apple, Collierville physician; Mrs. Thomas Freels, Memphis homemaker; Phillip Jett, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson; and William Sewell, pastor of Berclair Baptist Church in Memphis.

New members who have previously served terms with the board are William Adcock, Newbern businessman; Jerry L. Glisson, pastor of Leawood Baptist Church in Memphis; Kenneth Leathers, Jackson businessman; Jesse Price, Somerville businessman; and Powers Smith, Henning businessman.

Clark to direct seminary studies

NASHVILLE (BP) — Kirby L. Clark has been elected director of the seminary studies department of the Seminary External Education Division, effective Jan. 1.

Clark, a doctoral candidate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will oversee six off-campus theological education programs operated by the department on behalf of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. Master's level courses are offered in Baltimore; Chicago; Jackson; Little Rock, Ark.; New York City; and Orlando, Fla.

Clark has been a teaching assistant in adult education at Southwestern seminary. He is scheduled to receive the Ed.D. degree there in December. He also is minister of education in the Birdville Baptist Church in Fort Worth. His previous work experience includes service as a church administrator and as an officer in the United States Army.

The Illinois native is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green; and Southwestern seminary.

Clark succeeds Michael D. Johnson, who resigned in May to become minister of education and outreach at First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.



CRYING 'MAMI' — This toddler, apparently orphaned by Colombia's mudslide, cried for his mother as Missionary Mary Nell Giles entered his hospital room. The child continued to cry until Giles took him in her arms. This photo, carried nationwide by Associated Press, prompted inquiries about adoption.

identified in the state hospital at Ibague, 70 miles south of Armero, where 25,000 to 40,000 people lost their lives when a mudslide roared down the slopes of volcano Nevado del Ruiz after its Nov. 13 eruption.

Numerous inquiries were received at AP bureaus from people wanting to adopt him. But children who lost their parents in the mudslide are likely to be assimilated into Colombian families, according to Bryan Brasington, FMB director for western South America, who visited Colombia in late November.

"It's much better for them to be in an environment where their language is spoken and they do not have to make additional adjustments so abruptly," Brasington said.

"There still is some hope for some of these to be reunited with family members or close relatives," he said. On Nov. 26, for example, a mother, who thought her husband and several children were dead, was reunited with a 12-year-old son, who also had thought he was alone.

Students from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali in southwest Colombia are engaging in a ministry of hope to survivors young and old.

Each week, teams of about 10 students are traveling to Ibague in west central Colombia, where many of the injured and homeless are located.

The seminarians are "trying to give (the victims) assurance and hope that there is a future, that God loves and has a great concern for them personally," Brasington said.

The first team arrived Nov. 25. Working with each group are several Southern Baptist missionaries.

The students are visiting in hospitals and shelters and, when addresses are available, homes and apartments where victims have taken refuge with relatives.

The teams are looking for opportunities to provide food and other assistance, Brasington said.

Assessing the outlook of many victims, Robert Edwards, Southern Baptist missionary physician, said, "They seem to be in a state of hopelessness. They don't know where all their family is — or if they're still alive. They're concerned about having a home again and finding work." Edwards traveled from Barranquilla, where he directs the Baptist Clinic, to treat patients in Ibague's state hospital.

For some victims, prayer has been their best help, said Adriana Robledo, chief nurse at the Baptist Clinic's emergency room who came with Edwards to Ibague. "They feel that God is hearing them, God is going to help them," she said. "They're not going to give up."

The seminarians' help is needed because there is just one Baptist congregation in the Ibague area, a sad fact as far as James Giles, Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator in Colombia, is concerned. "In all our efforts to share the gospel in Colombia, we Southern Baptists hadn't gotten to Armero in 44 years," the length of time missionaries have been assigned to the country.

It might have taken another 20 years before missionaries or a Colombian Baptist church had started a mission there, "because of limited personnel and resources," he said.

A request for a missionary to work in a nearby region in west central Colombia has gone unfiled for eight years, Giles said.

In Ibague, rehabilitation looms as a major need for survivors who lost limbs after gangrene set in and for others "in their physical, emotional, and spiritual adjustment," Brasington said.

"We should get together and talk about the future of these people," Ramiro Lozano, a gynecologist who heads Ibague's Red Cross, told Giles. To date, no statement has been issued by the Colombian government concerning needs that evangelical groups may fill as the recovery continues.

To brighten the Christmas season for children who survived Armero, Brasington took more than 200 musical toys to Ibague donated by Sunday School classes at First Baptist Church, Richmond.

Scholarship at Union honors W. Warmath

JACKSON — Relatives of the late William Walter Warmath of Jackson have established a scholarship in his name at Union University. The funds will be placed in endowment to benefit worthy and needy students.

Warmath, a native of Humboldt, served as vice-president for development at Union from 1963-1978. He died on Sept. 5, 1983, following a brief illness. He was preceded in death of his wife, the former Frances Vineyard Snider of Knoxville.



A HEALING TOUCH — Don Pearson treats an amputee at the state hospital after a volcanic eruption and mudslide in Colombia. He comes with a special purpose to help.

Photos by Joanna Pinneo

TEEN-AGER'S AGONY — This 16-year-old amputee (photo on right) asks many questions about coping with life with one leg.

Hardeman County honors Robertson



Robertson



Watson

Deryl G. Watson was elected to become director of missions and DOM Fulton Robertson was honored at the annual meeting of Hardeman County Baptist Association Oct. 21 and Piney Grove Baptist Church in Henderson and Oct. 22 at West Memorial Baptist Church in Saulsbury.

An associational office secretary was also elected and five workers were honored.

Robertson, who has served for 24 years, will retire at the end of the year with his wife, Emogene, who has served as associational secretary. Louise Miller will serve as secretary beginning Jan. 1.

Associational workers recognized were William R. McCommon, clerk for five years; Travis Fawcett, treasurer for five years; Vivian Wilson, WMU director for three years; C. E. "Bill" Whitman, chairman of the missions/finance committee for three years; and Allan Houston, Brotherhood director for two years.

Joe Thomason, pastor of Hornsby Baptist Church, Hornsby, was re-elected as moderator. New officers elected were Robert L. Gibson, pastor of Shandy Baptist Church, Bolivar, vice-moderator; Mike Rowland, member of First Baptist

Baptists enlarge witness as Colombians ask 'Why?'

By Art Toalston

IBAGUE, Colombia (BP) — The questions are inevitable when 25,000 to 40,000 people are killed after a volcano erupts: "Why us? Why, God?"

In countries where Roman Catholicism is prevalent, "people recognize the hand of God in things," said Southern Baptist Missionary Dan Rupp. Colombia's Catholic bishops urged the nation to return to God after the Nov. 13 eruption and deadly mudslide which left a death toll roughly equal to the thousands of injured and homeless.

The bishops also cited the 28-hour shootout at the Palace of Justice in Bogota, Nov. 6-7. About 100 people were killed as the army and national police regained control of the building seized by leftist guerrillas.

"What sin are we paying for?" a newscaster asked over a Bogota TV station.

In the rural village of Guayabal, not far from Armero, an elderly Pentecostal pastor told of "the judgment of God for the sins of the people" as he visited with Southern Baptist Missionaries Larry Booth and Howard Atkinson.

Adriana Robledo, a nurse from the Baptist Clinic in Barranquilla who traveled to Ibague to work with survivors of the mudslide, recounted, "They have asked so much, 'Why did something like this have to happen?'"

"I told them, 'Many times, we do not understand why these things happen. There's a God Who can give us strength and power. We can hold on to Him and He will hold on to us and help us,'" said Robledo, a member of Barranquilla's Genezaret Baptist Church.

Christians cope better than non-Christians in tragic times, said Rupp, of Bogota. "They realize how God can work through the tragedies."

"Certainly history shows that people respond in a quest for faith, a desire to know God, in the wake of disasters," said Booth, also in Bogota.

Jose Zabala, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ibague, the closest Baptist congregation to Armero, has told his members, "Life has two sides. There is the good side, happiness and satisfaction. There's the other side, sadness, pain, tragedy."

The Armero crisis has stirred Zabala to do more teaching on "spiritual resources" so First Baptist members "won't be caught so off guard they won't know what to do as believers ... in whatever kinds of circumstances come to them."

For Southern Baptist missionaries, the crisis has underscored the importance of disaster relief preparedness.

Southern Baptist relief funds allow Baptists to respond quickly and effectively to crises, while missionaries with many other groups have no such resources, said James Giles, the Colombia mission's disaster relief coordinator. For example, missionaries spent \$25,000 to help the Colombian Red Cross fill acute shortages in medicine, medical supplies, portable power generators, and powdered milk.

Disaster relief "opens doors that would never be opened in any other way," said Giles, who also is president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali. To the injured and homeless and to Colombian government officials and relief workers, Baptist disaster response gives "depth to what being a Baptist means," Giles said. It shows Baptists are "willing to respond to

physical suffering as well as spiritual needs."

It demonstrates Baptists are "a caring group and one that can help," said Robert Edwards, director of the clinic in Barranquilla who traveled to Ibague's state hospital to help treat injured survivors. He added, "It gives us direct contact with people in need, to whom we can give a word of hope, a direct witness of God's mercy in spite of such terrible conditions."

"There's absolutely no way we can call ourselves Christians and not respond," said Giles' wife, Mary Nell. "The Bible says Jesus went about doing good. Ours is the type of help that changes people,"

she noted. "That's why we're spending so much time and resources to help."

"You may not be able to go back and count numbers of conversions," said Don Pearson, an orthopedic surgeon from Orlando, Fla., who also worked at Ibague's state hospital, "but it's a long-term statement" of "love and concern ... because of Christ."

Among the 85 Baptist churches in Colombia, a number collected food and clothing. The Colombian Baptist Convention donated about \$700 from its limited budget and a 20-member mission in the city of Tunj took \$150 out of its budget. Few individuals in the churches make as much as \$100 a month.

Volunteers reshape 'missions,' Parks tells conference on laity

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A new kind of "missions" is taking place because Southern Baptists in the pew are beginning to assume responsibility for home and foreign missions, says Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks.

"If that continues to happen it will not only change what's happening on the mission fields, it will radically change what's happening in our churches," Parks told about 70 Southern Baptists who gathered in Richmond, Va., Nov. 20-23, to look at Southern Baptist lay volunteer involvement overseas.

The Foreign Mission Board brought together key volunteers and denominational leaders with an interest in the program to help evaluate their working relationships and talk about ways Southern Baptists can use volunteers overseas more effectively, said Ed Bullock, associate director of the board's volunteer enlistment department.

The fast growth in the program, the rapid influx of hunger and relief funds and the increased number of Baptists going from traditional "mission fields" to do missions in other countries are some of the most significant happenings in missions in the last four or five years, Parks told the group.

Owen Cooper, Yazoo City, Miss., industrialist and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, issued a call for "activating the pew into mean-

ingful involvement in the things that Christ put upon our shoulders to do."

Instead of classifying Christians as ordained and unordained or professionals and volunteers, he suggested that there are only two kinds of Christians, those who are involved in Christian ministry and those who are "AWOL" (Absent Without Leave).

If Christians followed Jesus' example of servanthood, it would place an awesome responsibility on the unordained, said Cooper. "We are all ministers, all of us, and we have a tremendous responsibility."

Christians may have different functions, but all have the same responsibility, he said, citing Jesus' mission to His followers to be His witnesses in all the earth. "He (Jesus) didn't put a geographical limitation on my responsibility."

Besides hearing from other denominational leaders like Carolyn Weatherford, Woman's Missionary Union executive director, and James Smith, Brotherhood Commission executive secretary-treasurer, conference participants heard testimonies of former volunteers and pastors whose churches had been changed through overseas volunteer activities.

Frequently during the conference, participants broke into study groups to discuss the volunteer program and make suggestions for improvement.



DISCUSSING VOLUNTEERISM — Bob Oxford (right), a Southern Baptist layman from Lakewood, Colo., makes a point in a discussion group during a conference on lay volunteer involvement overseas. Also pictured is Bill Peacock, who works with the Foreign Mission Board's evangelism and growth section.



Orthopedic surgeon from Orlando, Fla., in Ibague, Colombia. Victims of the eruption, Pearson noted, "know that we've



lects new DOM, five workers

Church, Bolivar, treasurer; and Orville McMahan, pastor of Dixie Hills Baptist Church, Bolivar, clerk.

The 1986 meeting will be Oct. 20 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Whiteville and Oct. 21 at Shandy Baptist Church.

Watson, who is director of education for west Tennessee for the United Tennessee League based in Jackson, will begin his service Jan. 1. A U.S. Army chaplain for more than 20 years, Watson has earned degrees from Union University, Jackson; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

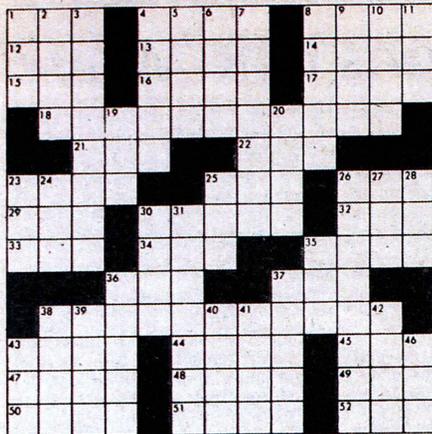
The native of Bemis has served as pastor at Mooring Baptist Church, Tiptonville; Calvary Baptist Church, Parsons; First Baptist Church, Gleason; First Baptist Church, Rutherford; Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Lexington; and churches in Missouri and Kentucky. He also has served as moderator of Weakley Baptist Association; on the board of religious affairs of Union University; as seminary extension teacher in this state and Kentucky; and on the Committee on Boards of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Baptists in Scotland continue 'Scotreach'

GLASGOW — "Mobilization" is the 1985 emphasis of Scotreach, a three-year effort adopted by the Baptist Union of Scotland to win converts and strengthen congregations.

With 140 of the union's 160 churches participating, various forms of outreach have been undertaken, including door-to-door visitation, home Bible studies, men's breakfasts, and street theater.

Bible Puzzle Answers on page 10



DOWN

- 1 "— the head" (Lam. 2:15)
- 2 "hid from —" (Col. 1:26)
- 3 "— my faults" (Gen. 41:9)
- 4 Cook uses it
- 5 "it is —" (Psa. 90:10)
- 6 Russian weight
- 7 "and in —" (Acts 1:8)
- 8 "people of —" (Amos 1:5)
- 9 Weight, Asiatic
- 10 Palm leaf
- 11 Swordsman's dummy stake
- 19 "part of a —" (2 Ki. 6:25)
- 20 "— on the Lord" (2 Ch. 16:8)
- 23 "shall he —" (Prov. 20:4)
- 24 Caleb's son (1 Ch. 4:15)
- 25 Alder tree
- 26 "not be —" (Lev. 26:23)
- 27 Son of Jeter (1 Ch. 7:38)
- 28 "son of —" (1 Sa. 14:50)
- 30 "— unto them" (Isa. 8:19)
- 31 "hither to —" (Matt. 8:29)
- 35 "— there any" (Jer. 14:22)
- 36 "dust and —" (Gen. 18:27)
- 37 Reconcile
- 38 "and a —" (Job 18:10)
- 39 "half — of land" (1 Sa. 14:14)
- 40 Acidity
- 41 Deer, Tibet
- 42 "within the —" (Ezra 4:15)
- 43 "Pispah, and —" (1 Ch. 7:38)
- 46 "of his —" (Amos 3:4)

ACROSS

- 1 "men of —" (Num. 31:49)
- 4 "venom of —" (Deut. 32:33)
- 8 "— the noses" (Ezek. 39:11)
- 12 "he is of —" (John 9:21)
- 13 Hemp shrub, India
- 14 Eastern U.S. university
- 15 Muffin
- 16 "is there —" (Gen. 24:23)
- 17 Genuine
- 18 "— prophets" (1 Cor. 12:28)
- 21 "—servant" (Ex. 20:17)
- 22 Turmeric
- 23 Side timber: nat.
- 25 Trouble
- 26 "living creatures —" (Ezek. 1:14)
- 29 "— it was chewed" (Num. 11:33)
- 30 To wander
- 32 "— they attain" (Hos. 8:5)
- 33 Sugar, crude
- 34 Eternity
- 35 "— country" (Jer. 8:19)
- 36 Air: comb. form
- 37 Orinoco tributary
- 38 "their —" (Ex. 3:7)
- 43 Roguish
- 44 Reverberate
- 45 "make thee —" (Acts 26:24)
- 47 Not done
- 48 "down at —" (Amos 8:9)
- 49 Uncle: Scot.
- 50 "ivory, and —" (2 Ch. 9:21)
- 51 "it is —" (Ruth 3:12)
- 52 "— of lions" (Dan. 6:7)

CRYPTOVERSE

JDC UBSV MQ GMYD XGJB HUU

JDCW JDHJ LHUU XNBG DMW

Today's Cryptoverse clue: D equals H

BWA dedicates building

WASHINGTON (BP) — The president of the Baptist World Alliance has challenged the worldwide organization of Baptists to view its new building as a "means, not an end" in its service.

BWA President G. Noel Vose asked those attending the Nov. 24 dedication to think of the facility "not as a clerical clearing house dispensing an interminable ticker tape of memos and letters, but as a place where a group of international Christians exercise a deeply Biblical prophetic role in a world convulsed with the agony of its self-inflicted wounds." Vose is principle of Baptist

Theological College of Western Australia, Bentley.

Following an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the BWA building, located in McLean, Va., participants — including representatives from Yugoslavia, Romania, Nigeria, Australia, Mexico, and Canada — moved to McLean Baptist Church for the dedication ceremony.

Gerhard Claas, BWA general secretary/treasurer, described the dedication as "a coming true of many dreams and an answer to many prayers." He pledged the building would be used to further "work for the sake of the kingdom of God."

The dedication ceremony program included two longtime BWA leaders — Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary emeritus, and Duke K. McCall, BWA immediate past president.

The BWA formerly occupied a building jointly owned with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. Expansion of BWA ministries necessitated additional space.

Halsell to retire from W. Va. post

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (BP) — Immediately after the opening gavel of the 14th annual session of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, Executive Secretary-treasurer Thomas E. Halsell announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31, 1986.

Halsell, who came to West Virginia as executive secretary-treasurer in October 1979, will reach his 65th birthday in June 1986. West Virginia convention employment policy requires mandatory retirement at the end of the calendar year of the 65th birthday.

With the exception of one recommendation, all the business of the convention was carried on without serious discussion or controversy.

A motion was presented which would make the pastor of the church hosting the convention each year a member of the Order of Business Committee of the convention. The motion grew out of a pre-convention problem when the scheduled host church withdrew its invitation to host the convention because it objected to two of the program personalities (James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and Fisher Humphries, professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) and did not want them to speak in their church.

The site of the convention meeting was changed less than two months before its meeting date.

The original motion was rescinded because of Constitution and bylaw complications. A second amended motion was adopted which provided: "The pastor of the church hosting the state convention or a representative from his church be invited to attend the meetings of the program committee. He would serve as an advisor on arrangements without the power to vote."

Resolutions expressed support of the SBC Peace Committee, hope for spiritual awakening, and concern for West Virginia flood victims. There were about 200 messengers and 100 guests attending the session, below the attendance figure set last year.

The convention adopted a record budget of \$1,408,800, with 24.5 percent of the Cooperative Program receipts from the churches going out of the state for world mission causes. This is an increase of 1 percent.

There was one proposed Constitutional change which would allow directors of missions, church planters, and pastors receiving aid from the Home Mission Board to be on the Executive Board, but not on the state missions or finance committees. This was read to the convention, but no action could be taken until the next annual session.

Lester Hall, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Beckley, was re-elected convention president without opposition.

New York accepts Vision 2000 plan

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (BP) — The annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of New York, Nov. 7-8, approved a long-range strategy plan, entitled BCNY: Vision 2000, which provides direction for the convention to the year 2000.

All convention officers were re-elected, including: Ed Hewlett, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Rochester, president; Sam Simpson, pastor of the Bronx Baptist Church, vice-president; and Conrado Navarro, pastor of William Carey Baptist Church, second vice-president.

The convention unanimously approved a resolution affirming the Cooperative Program and set as a goal 50-50 distribution of Cooperative Program gifts between the Baptist Convention of New York and the Southern Baptist Convention causes.

The 1986 budget includes a 1 percent increase in the convention's voluntary contributions to the national Cooperative Program to 24 percent. The total 1986 budget is \$2,167,473.

Also adopted was a resolution urging prayer and support for the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee. A resolution reaffirming the partnership between the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Baptist Convention of New York was enthusiastically adopted as a new covenant of cooperation was presented to both conventions.

Other resolutions dealt with the need for spiritual awakening and evangelism with special emphasis on "Good News America," and appreciation for local hospitality.

Spanish adult home gains 'legal' status

VILAFRANCA DEL PENEDES, Spain — Thirty years after Spanish Baptists opened the first evangelical senior citizens' home in Spain, the institution has been recognized as a legal entity with full rights and privileges.

In a recent property census, for example, the buildings and grounds where 33 senior citizens now reside were valued at 35-million pesetas, but local authorities recorded a zero valuation so that no property taxes are levied.

D.C. Baptists agree to avoid resolutions

WASHINGTON (BP) — In response to recent controversies within the Southern Baptist Convention, messengers to the District of Columbia Baptist Convention opted not to deal with any resolutions during their annual meeting Nov. 7-8.

The recommendation to suspend resolutions came from the convention's Executive Committee as an attempt to avoid divisive controversies, explained James A. Langley, convention executive director.

Messengers elected Gary Javens, pastor of Clifton Park Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md., as convention president.

A budget of \$696,811 — including \$238,220 in support from the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board — was adopted. The convention is expected to give 32 percent of receipts to world mission causes sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and American Baptist Churches in the USA.

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LEADERSHIP . . .

Debbie Carter is serving as interim minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. Richard Smith is interim pastor of the church.

Gathrin Gallimore has resigned as pastor of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Buchanan.

The pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Paris, Ronnie McClure, has resigned.

James Castleman, pastor of Gearin's Chapel Baptist Church in Greenfield, has resigned.

Glenn Orr, pastor of Palmersville Baptist Church, Palmersville has accepted a call as pastor in Murray, Ky.

O. M. Dangeau, director of the Co-operative Program and stewardship department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, began as interim pastor of First Baptist Church in Lobelville on Dec. 8.

First Baptist Church, Wrigley, has called Bob Freeman as minister of music. Joe Christopher is the pastor. Freeman comes to the church from First Baptist Church, Centerville.

Tony Wilson began as minister of youth at Avondale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Oct. 1. Jim Davidson is the pastor.

Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, has called Jim Watson to serve as minister of music. A graduate of Belmont College, Nashville, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, Watson came to the church from Hattiesburg, Miss., where he was minister of music at Temple Baptist Church. Ken Story is pastor of the Germantown church.

Tony Jones, a sophomore at Union University in Jackson, is now associate pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church, Lexington. The Olive Branch, Miss., native is assisting the pastor, David Cooper, with youth outreach and music.

Mike Young, Baptist Student Union director at Chattanooga State Technical Community College, Chattanooga, will begin as interim pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Red Bank, Dec. 15. Young was previously pastor of Alpine Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

PEOPLE . . .

Michael Chatham was recently ordained as deacon of Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown. Ken Story is pastor of the church.

Robert Graves Jr., Jim Williams, and Homer Lunsford were ordained as deacons at Antioch Baptist Church, Humboldt. Participating in the service were

the pastor, Dennis Lunsford, and Kenneth Sparkman, director of missions for Gibson County Baptist Association.

Frank P. Hughes III, Harold Stewart, and Dwight McMurray were ordained as deacons on Nov. 24 by South Knoxville Baptist Church, Knoxville.

First Baptist Church, Whitwell, recently ordained Donald Roberson and Kenneth Webster as deacons. Bob McFarland is the pastor.

CHURCHES . . .

Nolensville Baptist Church, Nolensville, held a note-burning service Dec. 8. Thomas E. Bryant, director of missions for Concord Baptist Association, was the speaker at the church where Lowell Thompson is pastor.

A note-burning service was held Nov. 24 at Northside Baptist Church, McMinnville, in conjunction with homecoming services. Jerry Plaster is the pastor.

REVIVALS . . .

A revival team from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, led weekend revival services at Surgoinsville Baptist Church, Surgoinsville, recently. Phillip Henry and Keith Hayworth preached at the church where R. Bruce Hulette is pastor. There were two professions of faith and several rededications.

Revival services were held Oct. 13-19 at Calvary Baptist Church in Smithville. Michael Christian, pastor of Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville, was the evangelist. Jimmy Posa and Mary

Minnesota-Wisconsin holds second meeting

RACINE, Wis. (BP)— Messengers to the second annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention adopted a \$1,362,910 budget; re-elected Frank Hamby, pastor of Highland Crest Baptist Church, Green Bay, Wis., president; and honored executive director Otha Winningham for 10 years' service.

The 1986 budget reflects a 7 percent increase over 1985 with 25 percent again earmarked for national SBC causes. An anticipated \$264,000 will come from the churches affiliated with MWSBC with the remainder from the Home Mission Board, Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Bold Mission Thrust goals for 1986-90, including a target of 190 congregations and 16,500 church members, were adopted. Currently there are 115 congregations and 12,000 members.

Resolutions commended the launching of The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist (the new state Baptist newspaper) and creation of a long-range planning committee.

Sue Wood directed the music. There were three baptisms, several rededications, and one addition to the church by letter. John H. Norman Jr. is pastor of the Smithville congregation.

Howard to address Belmont graduates

NASHVILLE — Massey Auditorium at Belmont College will be the setting for winter commencement ceremonies for 110 members of the 31st graduating class, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

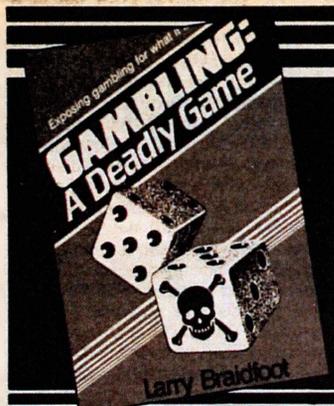
With the 230 graduates in the spring commencement, this number brings the 1985 graduation total to 340.

Samuel H. Howard, senior vice-president for public affairs at Hospital Corporation of America, will deliver the commencement address. A health-care professional for 12 years, the Oklahoma native has been a financial analyst with General Electric Company, White House fellow with Ambassador Arthur Goldberg, director of educational computer services at Howard University, and founder of the Phoenix Communications Group Inc., which owns and operates broadcasting properties.

A reception in Belmont Mansion for graduates, families, and friends will follow the ceremonies.

Ruschlikon seminary enrolls 55 students

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland — Fifty-five students from four continents have enrolled for the 36th academic year at the International Baptist Theological Seminary here.



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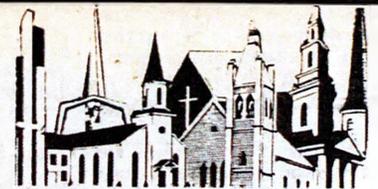
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Dr. Larry Braidfoot is general counsel and director of research for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Dec. 15

Visions of kingdoms

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

Basic Passage: Daniel 7:1 to 8:27
Focal Passages: Daniel 7:17-22; 8:19-25

The second half of Daniel contains four sections which give visions of the prophet concerning the future.

The writer wanted to assure his readers that God's program of history could not be thwarted by man's efforts.

English theologian Charles Spurgeon said, "Human nature anxiously desires to know something of the future... This anxiety... and that credulity which gives heed to every species of portent and augury, have caused men and women to be the easy dupes of designing imposters in all ages."

We should be cautious about interpreters who try to identify present-day rulers with some of the symbolic figures mentioned in Old Testament Scriptures. Passages such as the one we study this week and on Dec. 29, like the Book of Revelation, give not a blueprint of history but a philosophy of history.

A healthy concern for the future can be profitable, but when one becomes obsessed unduly with wanting to know the secrets God has reserved for Himself, serious personality problems can develop.

We shall approach these visions with a desire to find spiritual truth to help us in daily living, not as a "secret key" to unlock mysteries that shall satisfy our curiosity or give us a feeling of superiority.

The kingdom belongs to God (7:17-22)

Four great world dominating kingdoms arose from 605 B.C. until the days of Christ: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The second is sometimes called the Medo-Persian Empire because Cyrus the Great united the two to form one great empire.

Scholars have disagreed as to whether the four beasts in chapter seven are Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome or Babylon, Media, Persia, and Greece.

If the latter, we have a picture of God delivering the Jews from oppression by the Greeks under Antiochus Epiphanes, the cruel ruler who sought to eliminate Judaism and replace it with Greek culture and religion, an occasion which our Jewish friends celebrate at Hanukkah.

If the former, we have the eternal Father symbolized by the Ancient of Days (vv.9, 22) and Jesus Christ symbolized by the Son of Man (v.13).

Although some aspects of verses 23-28 may apply to the Greek period, I believe

they best fit the Roman period and an emperor, or the collective force of the emperors, that sought to eliminate Christianity in its early years. Of course, the basic principle of this vision applies in all generations concerning those who would oppose God's kingdom.

We should be very careful about trying to locate people today who fit an "end time antichrist" since so many in other generations and centuries have been "red faced" with embarrassment at some of the identifications they have suggested.

The relevant truth of this vision is that nothing or no one will destroy God's spiritual kingdom. We need to live with courage in the light of this glorious fact!

Opposition to God is folly (8:19-25)

The visions in chapters seven and eight have been called doublets, but the latter is more specific and concrete in technical matters while the earlier one is more imaginative and apocalyptic in nature. The second is an enlargement on the first.

The kingdoms represented by animals in the second vision are plainly identified.

Verses 1-14 give the facts of the vision. Daniel saw a ram with two horns, one higher than the other, moving west, north, and south. A goat with one horn between his eyes came from the west and threw him to the ground, breaking his horns. He grew more arrogant, but, at his height, his horn was broken and four prominent horns came up. One of the four horns produced a "little horn" that became defiant against the army of heaven, stopped the sacrifices offered, and sought to destroy the Temple.

Verses 15-27 give the interpretation. The ram with the two horns is Media and Persia. The goat is Greece, the one horn is the first king, who was Alexander the Great, and the four kings that followed are the four divisions of Alexander's kingdom after he died as a young man at the height of his career. Thus, the "king of fierce countenance" (v.23) is Antiochus Epiphanes who sought to destroy Temple worship and eliminate Judaism. This vision, however, tells how he will be destroyed and is accurate in every detail with historical facts.

What great comfort this must have been for those Jews who were familiar with Daniel's prophecy when the Greek madman came! What comfort for us to know that this same principle still applies today!

God takes care of his own! No matter how hopeless the situation seems, when it gets dark enough, the stars come out! Nothing can happen to God's people of which He is not aware. He will deliver us when He decides the time is right.



Wood

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for Dec. 15

The joyful news

By William L. Palmer, president
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour

Basic Passage: Luke 2:8-20
Focal Passage: Luke 2:8-20

All people like to hear news which stirs their minds to rejoice, but much of the news we hear in these days is not good news.

For some reason people seem to be more interested in the bad news than in the good news. I suppose we can weep with people who weep quicker than we can rejoice with people who rejoice.



Palmer

We surely can rejoice in the knowledge of the good news which we consider anew at Christmas. In ancient days in the vicinity of Bethlehem, the angel of the Lord came to shepherds and said to them, "I bring you good tidings of great joy" (v.10). Those good tidings were the beginning of recurring good news.

The angel told the shepherds that the joyful news was to be to all people. "All people" included people of the past, present, and future. No greater news had ever come to mankind than the word, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David (Bethlehem) a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (v.11).

That joyful news was fulfillment of prophecy. Old Testament writers had anticipated a Saviour. God became man. Incarnation was reality. Jesus, of the seed of David, was Saviour. He was the Christ, the Messiah. He was the Lord. That is joyful news.

The good news was brought by the heavenly messenger to the humble shepherds. I have seen the shepherds on the hillsides around Bethlehem. They were faithfully caring for their flocks as in the days of Jesus' birth. I can imagine the fear that would strike them if they encountered an angelic being and if they were engulfed in the "glory of the Lord" (v.9).

The heavenly voice and the "multitude of the heavenly host praising God" (v.13) were more than enough to add anxiety to those shepherds! The angel said, "Fear not" (v.10). Saying "fear not" was easier than fearing not, I suppose.

Undoubtedly these shepherds were very simple men. They lived in the country. They performed their appointed tasks. They were alert. They were confronted with the person and words of the angelic messenger.

They were told of a "Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (v.11). They also had an identification of appearance and location, "And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (v.12).

The birth of this special Child was reason for the heavenly hosts to be involved in "praising God" (v.13) and proclaiming "Glory to God in the highest," peace on earth, and "good will toward men" (v.14).

These words and thoughts have been shared again and again across the centuries. We praise God for the great gift of His love, Jesus Christ, and we know by experience the peace and good will which come to all kinds of people through Him.

Amazed, astonished, and having been fearful, the shepherds saw the disappearance of the angels and began to talk with one another. They said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us" (v.15).

Without further questioning, without developing excuses, and without delay, "they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe" (v.16). The Babe was lying in the manger just as they had been told. They saw what the Lord had made known to them.

What they saw they could not keep. They had to share this miraculous event. They had to tell about the Babe in the manger. They had to let others know about the "Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (v.11). What they had heard and seen they had to declare. They had joyful news to share. A Babe had been born. He was a special Child whose birth had been announced by the heralds of heaven. Good news, joyful news like this had to be spread abroad.

The recipients of the news "wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds" (v.18). I am sure they wondered at the messengers as well as the message. Mary, the mother, undoubtedly heard the amazing revelation through the shepherds of their heavenly visitation and the divine revelation. "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart" (v.19).

No further wonder then that "the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them" (v.20).

Joyous news is to be shared news.

Baptist supplements Augsburg's history

AUGSBURG, West Germany — On the 2,000th anniversary of Augsburg's founding, Baptist Pastor Hans Guderian has written a book, *The Anabaptists in Augsburg: Their History and Legacy*.

The illustrated 156-page book makes note of such historic Anabaptist leaders as Hans Denck, Balthasar Hubmaier, and Pilgram Marbeck and of various Augsburg congregations in the Free Church tradition: Baptist, Methodist, Mennonite, and Free Evangelical Church.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Dec. 15

Accepting responsibility

By Paul Woodford, pastor
First Baptist Church, Lewisburg

Basic Passage: Ezekiel 18:1-32
Focal Passages: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-21, 31-32

Although the doctrine of the responsibility of the individual is a recognized tenet of the Christian religion, it was not always so in Hebrew thought. In fact, the radical departure of Ezekiel's thinking from the thought patterns of the time has been referred to as "a new current in Hebrew thought" and "a watershed" in the prophetic understanding of the nature of God and man.



Woodford

Certainly a complete reading of Ezekiel will show that he was not teaching as universal an approach as "the gospel for all men" set forth in the New Testament, but many of his concepts came to full fruition in the life and teaching of Jesus.

Specifically, Ezekiel 18 is a reply to the people's claim or disclaimer of no responsibility for their present condition. The exiled Hebrews were making the claim by their frequent quoting of a familiar proverb, "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge." Ezekiel dares to dispute this claim and to show that individual responsibility must be accepted by each generation.

The truth of God is greater than a proverb of man (18:1-4)

The exiled Hebrews were comforting themselves by shifting blame for their condition to the sins of their fathers, repeatedly quoting the concept that the sins of the fathers will be visited upon the children, a valid teaching found in the Mosaic writings. Ezekiel made it clear that God is His own best interpreter and that the God of truth can supersede one truth with a greater truth: "Behold, all souls are mine; ... the soul that sins shall die."

The present generation could well

Carson-Newman sets December graduation

JEFFERSON CITY — On Dec. 19, Carson-Newman College will hold its first winter commencement since World War II.

In recent years, the college has held commencement exercises only at the conclusion of the spring and summer terms.

The Dec. 19 commencement will be in Gentry Auditorium at 8 p.m. Cordell Maddox, college president, will be the commencement speaker.

Degrees will be awarded to about 50 graduates during the commencement service.

identify with the principles involved in this passage. Since the beginning of time, guilty persons have resorted to "blaming" others to avoid their own deserved guilt. In the world of sociology, psychology, and psychiatry we have noted such a tendency for decades.

But in recent years there has been a turning to what has been labeled in various ways as integrity therapy, reality therapy, and other philosophies which emphasize individual responsibility.

One well-known New Orleans psychiatrist once said to a middle-age patient who was blaming his parents for all of his difficulties, "Assuming that all you say is true; what are you going to do about it now?"

Even so, Ezekiel seems to be confronting his fellow Hebrews with their personal responsibility.

The standard of God is consistent (18:19-20)

These verses seem to summarize what has gone before. Ezekiel reiterates his theological position with a very clear statement after having used three illustrations: that of the righteous man

Baptists in Wyoming adopt vision campaign

CASPER, Wyo. (BP) — Buddy Hinze, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Casper, Wyo., was elected president of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention during the convention's annual meeting, Nov. 13-14.

Messengers at the meeting adopted a budget of \$796,000 for the coming year. Contributions from local churches affiliated with the convention are expected to provide \$299,000, with most of the remainder coming from the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board. The percentage of income from local churches which will go to Southern Baptist causes outside the state was increased from 22 percent to 23 percent.

Messengers also adopted a campaign called Vision/Mission Wyoming, an effort to increase the number of churches from the present 62 to 100 and the membership from 12,000 to 25,000 by 1995.

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(vv.5-9), that of the sinful son of the righteous man (vv.10-13), and that of the righteous son of the sinful father (vv.14-18).

Clearly there are three generations involved and God deals with each generation on an individual basis. This is consistent with Ezekiel's claim of individual responsibility in light of God's revealed truth that "the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

The God/man relationship is personal (18:21)

In God's dealing with man in light of the covenant laws, it was natural to think of the God/man relationship in terms of a law court or legal system. But the total picture of God's revelation to man shows God as the personal God Who reveals Himself to man and Who seeks fellowship and right relationship with man.

Such a concept removes the relationship from a legalistic or static setting to a dynamic interpersonal relationship of love, forgiveness, mercy, grace, and real living. In such a relationship, the persons are the key rather than some past failings determining the present or future relationship.

Guilty man does not face a mere code of law; he is faced with a very personal God Who says, "If the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep my statutes, and do what is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die."

The guilty do have hope of life. That life is to be a life of obedience which is not dependent upon the temple, nor the priest, but upon the promised presence of the living God. Such life was available to all who were faithful to God's statutes.

God's purpose is redemptive (18:31-32)

In the truest sense, these verses are the climax of Ezekiel's sermon to his fellow exiles. True guilt has not been passed over lightly. The reality of God's punishment has been sent forth. Most importantly, hope of life has been offered.

When repentance and faithful obedience are elicited, there is life after sin for the repentant sinner. But a decision is called for and is necessary. "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit ... wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."

Turn and live is still a possibility, for God "takes no pleasure in the death" of any man!

Vincent accepts call from Union church

Union Baptist Church in Hampton extended a call to Burgess Black Vincent to come as its pastor.



Vincent

Vincent comes to the Hampton church from Dry Valley Baptist Church in Ross-ville, Ga.

A native of Gastonia, N.C., he also served as pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Bessemer City, N.C.

Previously, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Tracy City.

Vincent is a graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in Hendersonville, N.C.

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Mrs. Pang offers hope to homeless women

By Erich Bridges

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — They arrive daily at the Seoul train station: wide-eyed country girls in their teens, wives or daughters estranged from their husbands or families, unskilled women looking for work.

To these awe-struck rural women, Seoul at first sight is "like heaven or Hollywood," observes Southern Baptist Missionary Don Jones. That is understandable, considering the contrast between rural South Korea and Seoul, now one of the world's largest cities.

But for a woman with no money, no job, no place to go, Seoul is more like hell. Her career options are poverty or prostitution.

Pimps watch the train station for arriving women. The helpless ones are easy to spot; they step off the trains and stand around gawking at the big city. The pimps approach them and offer shelter, food, clothing. The price is revealed later.

But police watch the train station, too, and guide some of the homeless females to Mrs. Pang's shelter in one of the city's factory districts. There they find safety and support, job training, sometimes family reunion, always the love of Christ.

Mrs. Pang (Pang Ho Sun is her full name) is a small, gray-haired Baptist widow with delicate hands and gentle eyes. Almost single-handedly, she has helped nearly 40,000 Korean women in need of a friend.

Now 70, she founded the Suzanna Christian Trust Foundation in 1967 and bought land for her current shelter in 1975. "The first year I built the basement," she remembers. "The second year I built the first floor. Then the second floor. For the last three stories, the government gave some money, but not enough."

Southern Baptist missionaries also have given some time and money, and the Foreign Mission Board has agreed

this year to help finance a new building. Other aid has come from churches in Japan, where Mrs. Pang studied in seminary. The Korean government assistance stems from official interest in Mrs. Pang's work and her own former career as a public social worker, which began among the ruins and refugees of the Korean War.

She also has found time over the years to help begin and lead the Korean Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and to rear four children. One son now attends Harvard University; a daughter teaches music at the Baptist seminary in Seoul.

The sudden death years ago of her second son, whom she had "dedicated" to God as a future pastor, emotionally

devastated Mrs. Pang. "I asked God, 'Why did You take him away from me?' At that time I heard the question, 'How could you give your son to the Lord when you will not give yourself to Him?'"

Her answer to that inner question was a profoundly deeper faith and commitment, which resulted in the Suzanna foundation.

Today her rambling building offers not only emergency shelter for homeless women and girls but education programs, Christian counseling, worship services, a day-care center for children of women factory workers, shelter and training for unwed mothers, and vocational training — including a bustling clothes factory in the basement. Mrs. Pang oversees it all and scrambles for the resources to keep it going.

Her first goal for every homeless woman is family reconciliation and reunion. If that proves impossible, she teaches women to take care of themselves, first by developing self-respect.

"She's someone who sees a human being as very precious," Jones explains. "(These women) begin to feel a sense of worth just by being around her." Job training follows until her students are ready to join the more than 50,000 female factory workers in the district surrounding the shelter.

Mrs. Pang sustains her vision with faith, guts, and fund raising. Korean Baptist churches excel in evangelism but have not yet shown much interest in her ministry, so she looks to Japan and elsewhere for help.

"Her work seems to be very lonely," observes Baptist worker Kang Su Do, who counsels and preaches at the shelter. "But she has a very strong will."

—Adapted from the October-November 1985 issue of *The Commission*, magazine of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.



MRS. PANG'S WORLD — Mrs. Pang Ho Sun, a Korean Baptist, romps with kids at the day school housed in her women's shelter in Seoul, Korea.

Mission board camera crew films documentary in China

NANJING, China (BP) — A Southern Baptist film crew is producing a documentary on the Christian church in China which is expected to premiere at the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta.

The seven-person crew visited eastern China recently to interview Christians and document church life in the cities of Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Nanjing.

Sent by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the team interviewed both older Christian leaders who were trained before the Communist era began in 1949 and younger believers who represent the new generation of Chinese Christians.

The interviews will serve as background for "extensive visual coverage of the day-to-day life of Chinese Christians," said film producer Van Payne. The documentary will emphasize the diversity of Christian worship, ranging from church services in cities to rural home meetings, with added coverage of the Christian seminary in Nanjing and the work of the China Christian Council. The council encourages religious education for church leaders and publication of Christian materials.

As much as possible, Payne said, narration and information in the film "will be relayed to the audience directly by the persons involved." That approach reflects the philosophy of the project, according to William R. O'Brien, Foreign Mission Board executive vice-president.

O'Brien described the documentary as "an attempt to gain insight on the church through the eyes of Chinese Christians, both older and younger ... an effort to help raise the level of understanding of Christians outside China about what the Chinese church is, where it is, how it sees its future."

The documentary idea developed through a series of contacts between Southern Baptists and leaders of the China Christian Council. Besides communicating with Christians overseas, Chinese Christian leaders may use a Chinese-language version of the film to educate Christians in widely separated parts of China about the church as a whole.

The producers anticipate the completed documentary will run 30 to 40

minutes. Production will be completed next spring. The film, or portions of it, likely will be shown at the June 1986 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta and later at the annual Foreign Missions Conferences at Ridgecrest, N.C., and Glorieta, N.M. It will be available for screening by local churches and other groups through Southern Baptist Film Centers. The 16-millimeter film may also be transferred to videotape for distribution.

O'Brien hopes the documentary will attract the interest of the "larger Christian community" in the United States. "We view a 30-minute documentary as a window through which we can glimpse a bit of reality in the church in China today," he said. "Hopefully enough light will come through that window for real rejoicing because of what's happening, a better understanding, and a renewed commitment to pray for our brothers and sisters in China."

Chilhowee Baptists meet in Maryville

The 101st annual meeting of the Chilhowee Baptist Association was held in Maryville Oct. 24 at Monte Vista Baptist Church and Six Mile Baptist Church and on Oct. 25 at Madison Avenue Baptist Church.

The new officers, each representing a different church, are Charles Bailey, pastor of Oakview Baptist Church, Walldale, moderator; Fred Garner, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Maryville, vice-moderator; Bruce Yates, pastor of Armona Baptist Church, Alcoa, clerk; Joe Ingram, a member of Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville, treasurer; Allan T. Bright, a member of East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville, assistant treasurer; and Dwight Guy, pastor of Forest Hill Baptist Church, Maryville, assistant clerk.

Broadway Baptist Church and Zion Chapel Baptist Church, Louisville, will be the locations of the 1986 meeting on Oct. 23 and Grandview Baptist Church, Maryville, will be the site on Oct. 24.

Interpretations

Facing death

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand" (2 Timothy 4:6).

Paul's message to Timothy is finished. Now he turns to his own immediate situation. As a leader in the Christian cause, he has been sentenced to death. A Roman citizen, he will be beheaded. Now he is in a dungeon awaiting the time, though apparently the date of execution had not been fixed (vv. 9, 11, 13).

Paul does not mention the headsman's

sword. Instead, he uses two metaphors. One is that of sacrifice in the Temple.

"To be offered" renders the verb meaning to be poured out as a libation. The only other use of this verb in the New Testament is in Philippians 2:17, written during Paul's first Roman imprisonment. Then it was a possibility. Now it is a certainty.

Here the verb is a present passive form. Literally, "I am already being poured out." In Hebrew sacrifice, wine was poured on the victim just before it was sacrificed (Exodus 29:40; 30:9; Numbers 28:7). The present tense shows progressive action. The passive voice denotes that Paul himself is the wine being poured on his final sacrifice unto the Lord. The "wine" was already being poured, preparatory to sacrifice.

The other metaphor relates either to military or naval life. "Departure" translates a verb meaning to unloose, such as an army taking down its tents to move on or loosing a ship from its moorings in order to sail into the open sea. Either makes sense, but probably the latter was in Paul's mind.

Said Paul, "The last drops of my own sacrifice are falling" (Moffatt), and "the time has come for me to sail away" (Williams). What a noble way to face death!

Yugoslavian Baptists prepare commentaries

NOVI SAD, Yugoslavia — Fifteen of 20 volumes in the first New Testament commentary series in Serbo-Croatian since 1902 will be in print by the end of 1985.

Five remaining volumes in the Yugoslavian language are scheduled for publication in 1986. The series, published by the Baptist Theological Seminary of Novi Sad, is based on the English-language Tyndale commentaries.

An Old Testament series based on the Broadman commentaries is scheduled from 1987 to 1993.