

Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 152/No. 10/March 12, 1986

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Speakers call for commitment to Christ



OVERFLOW CROWD — Texas Evangelist Knox Talbert preaches to more than 15,000 youth in the Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville during the annual Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference. More than

30,000 youth attended the meeting, as youth from west and middle Tennessee alternated with youth from east Tennessee to fill the gym during each of the four sessions held there. Photo by Charlie Warren.

By Al Shackelford

NASHVILLE — More than 30,000 Baptist young people from Tennessee and adjoining states attended the 17th annual Youth Evangelism Conference last weekend and were reminded of the importance of committing their lives to Jesus Christ.

The conference was held March 7-8 at Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium and at churches in the Nashville area. Duplicate sessions were held on Friday and Saturday to accommodate the large attendance.

David Ring, full-time evangelist from St. Charles, Mo., asked the youth, "I have cerebral palsy — What's your problem? Why are you crying the blues or down in the dumps?"

Ring said, "God does not want my ability, but my availability."

Suffering cerebral palsy from birth, Ring told of his struggles to find meaning and purpose in his life. "I was a lonely cripple bound for hell, but Jesus made me a new creation."

When God called him to preach, he resisted because "I talk funny, and people can't understand me." Claiming Philippians 4:13, Ring determined, "I'm not going to let a dumb, stupid handicap slow me down!"

Ring continued, "Don't feel sorry for me. I have Christ in me, the hope of glory."

He received a standing ovation from the young people when he declared, "I count it a high privilege to have been born with cerebral palsy, so that God's glory can be shown in my life."

Ring was the closing speaker at the Saturday duplicate sessions.

The main speaker at the Friday duplicate sessions was Knox Talbert of Dallas, director of youth evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Sharing his testimony, Talbert recounted how God had saved him from a

(Continued on page 5)

Tennessee increases gifts to hunger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Eleven of the 37 state Baptist conventions last year more than doubled their world hunger contributions of 1984, helping to boost Southern Baptists to a record-shattering \$11.8-million in gifts to the denomination's program of worldwide hunger relief.

Of the 11, Tennessee was a leader with a 230 percent increase over 1984.

Only two state conventions in 1985 failed to surpass the previous year's total, according to a state-by-state analysis prepared by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Other conventions recording dramatic increases over 1984 were Arkansas (521 percent), Utah-Idaho (262 percent), and Nevada (224 percent). Seven other states at least doubled the amount given in 1984.

Conventionwide, the total of \$11.8-million represented an increase of more than \$4.6-million — or 65 percent — over the previous record, set in 1984.

The Christian Life Commission, which is responsible for coordinating hunger awareness and action among Southern Baptists, compiled the statistics based on data provided by the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission boards.

In Arkansas and Tennessee, the percentage increases continued a pattern begun several years ago.

In 1983, Arkansas Baptists gave \$28,345

to the world hunger funds. In 1984, they more than doubled that amount, contributing \$63,253. And in 1985, they gave \$392,842 — more than five times the 1984 total.

Tennessee Baptists gave \$62,220 in 1983, \$171,966 (a 176 percent increase) in 1984, and \$567,269 (a 230 percent increase) last year.

In terms of total dollars, Texas, the largest state convention, led once again

with \$1,921,962. That amount accounted for 16.2 percent of the total contributions to the hunger relief funds administered by the two mission boards.

While Texas was the only state convention to give more than \$1-million in 1984, three other state conventions topped the \$1-million mark in 1985 — North Carolina (\$1,309,421), Georgia (\$1,067,411), and Virginia (\$1,036,285). South Carolina was fifth in 1985 with \$904,120.

Ring relates story of life's victories

By Connie Davis



Evangelist David Ring

At first, the more than 30,000 youth in the two Saturday sessions of the state-wide Youth Evangelism Conference listened to the speaker because he was different. But when they got past that, they kept listening.

Teasing the youth about their response to his differences, David Ring, full-time evangelist from St. Charles, Mo., said, "I know you've been looking me up one side and down the other," adding that he had been doing the same to them.

Ring explained that he walked with a limp and talked "funny," because when he was born, oxygen could not get to his brain, which caused him to have cerebral palsy.

Ring brought bursts of laughter and applause from the audience as he told

how as a PK (preacher's kid) he had been to church all of his life, even nine months before he was born because his mother went while she was pregnant.

The youngest of eight children, Ring maintained that he was not ashamed to be an "A-number-one momma's boy" because his mother and father died of cancer when he was about 11 and 14 years old.

"It tore me up ... I didn't want to go to school ... Everyone in my family gave up on me but one sister," stated Ring. He went to live with her.

"I didn't want to go to church either ... If God loved me, why did God pick on me?"

When Ring finally went to church to "get my sister off my back," the Lord

(Continued on page 3)

BJCPA adopts statement on government infiltration

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)— Noting an emerging pattern of government insensitivity to the rights of churches, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has adopted a position statement on government infiltration of churches.

The infiltration statement was approved during the annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee, which is made up of 42 members representing eight U.S. Baptist denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to approving the position statement, the committee also authorized a task-force study on the teaching of religion and values in public schools, adopted a proposed budget for 1986-87, and heard reports on ongoing work by Baptist Joint Committee staff.

In its position statement, the committee pointed to an increased willingness of the government to infringe upon the free exercise of religion and to intrude into churches without regarding separation of church and state.

According to the statement: "The BJCPA condemns the use of paid informants, undercover agents, and surreptitious tactics by any government agency investigating religious organizations as improper and illegal when less intrusive means of investigation or fact

gathering are available. We lament the chilling effect upon worship, prayer, faith, and fellowship freely exercised when worship services are invaded through the use of electronic eavesdropping equipment. We abhor government agents' fraudulent use of the name of

Jesus Christ to gain access to the household of faith."

The task force that drafted the position statement was set up last year following a report on alleged church infiltration by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agents and paid informants, who

tape recorded worship services in Phoenix, Tucson, and Scottsdale, Ariz.

The position statement also calls upon Baptists to be alert to government intrusion into churches and to report any such intrusions to the Baptist Joint Committee.

A proposed resolution introduced by Albert Lee Smith, a Southern Baptist representative from Birmingham, Ala., sparked the authorization of a task-force study on the teaching of religion and values in public schools.

Smith's resolution, which cited a research study conducted by Paul Vitz for the National Institute of Education, called for recognition of the lack of references to "the history, heritage, beliefs, and values" of religion in American social studies and history textbooks. Smith also asked the committee to "affirm that religion has made a valuable contribution to the formation and development of our country and that it still does today."

Following discussion on the proposed resolution, Robert Tiller, director of governmental relations for the American Baptist Churches, USA, called for the formation of a task force to study the issues raised by Smith's resolution. Tiller's motion was approved by the committee with one dissenting vote.

The committee adopted a proposed 1986-87 budget of \$598,200, of which \$435,700 would come from the SBC Cooperative Program budget.

James M. Dunn, Baptist Joint Committee executive director, presented a report on denominational Bible chairs at state universities. Dunn said the Baptist Joint Committee is working with Phil D. Strickland, director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, in developing guidelines that would maintain such chairs in that state without violating the First Amendment. The need for such guidelines was precipitated by an opinion issued last year by Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox expressing the view that current practices involving Bible chairs on campuses of state universities in the state run afoul of the First Amendment's establishment clause.

The committee elected each of its current officers to a second term. They are Wes Forsline, American Baptist pastor in Minneapolis, chairperson; Lloyd Elder, SBC Sunday School Board president from Nashville, first vice-chairperson; Violet Ankrum, Progressive National Baptist layperson from Washington, second vice-chairperson; and Donald Anderson, Baptist General Conference editor from Arlington Heights, Ill., secretary.

BSSB Shared Ministry effort draws reaction from Criswell

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)— Lay leadership of the church is unbiblical when it weakens the pastor's authority as "ruler" of the church, said W. A. Criswell.

Criswell offered his view in answer to a question about "Shared Ministry" during the closing session of the "School of the Prophets" at First Baptist Church of Dallas, Feb. 20. Criswell is pastor of First Baptist Church and chancellor of Criswell Bible College, co-sponsors of the annual seminar in church dynamics.

Although Criswell was not familiar immediately with the term "Shared Ministry," a current emphasis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, a pastor in the audience who had attended a Shared Ministry conference said he believed it is

an attempt to take away pastoral authority. Criswell expressed his opposition to any such effort.

"A laity-led, layman-led, deacon-led church will be a weak church anywhere on God's earth," Criswell said. "The pastor is the ruler of the church. There is no other thing than that in the Bible."

"Shared Ministry promotes on a Biblical basis the development of healthy relationships between pastors, church staff, deacons, and church members," said Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department.

"The emphasis affirms the pastor as the overseer/leader of the church who equips the saints for ministry," Stacker said. "This multiplies the ministry of Christ through persons who lead by example as taught in 1 Peter 5:1-4."

The Scriptural foundation for Shared Ministry is the priesthood of all believers and servant leadership as taught by Jesus, he added. A study of the Biblical basis for Shared Ministry is found in the book, *Shared Ministry: A Journey Toward Togetherness in Ministry*, by Stacker and Bruce Grubbs, also of the church administration department.

In response to other questions, Criswell also was critical of what he perceives as "liberalism" within the Southern Baptist Convention, and he specifically applauded the efforts of Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis; Oklahoma evangelist Bailey Smith; and others within the fundamental-conservative movement.

When asked to comment on rumors that attempts are being made to place Patterson as president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., Criswell turned to Patterson.

"If you were asked," Criswell said, "I would say you're stepping down."

"There are no attempts being made to do that," Patterson said.

Paige Patterson notes 'progress' in Southern Baptist Convention

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)— By acknowledging theological differences between opposing factions in their convention, Southern Baptists have made substantial progress in the last year toward solving their problems, said fundamental-conservative leader Paige Patterson.

Patterson offered that evaluation during a question-and-answer session on convention issues that opened the 1986 "School of the Prophets" Feb. 17 at First Baptist Church of Dallas.

"I am tremendously encouraged by the progress made by the (Southern Baptist Convention) Peace Committee," said Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies. The undergraduate arm of the center, Criswell Bible College, co-sponsors, along with First Baptist of Dallas, the annual "School of the Prophets" seminar in church dynamics.

Characterizing as "forthright" and "frank" the Peace Committee's discussions, Patterson said, "Though the consequences are not altogether apparent, the committee seems to have reached agreement that there are substantive theological problems."

Differences center on the "Baptist Faith and Message" Article One, dealing with the Scriptures, he said. He encouraged seminary professors, in particular, to avoid semantic games and forthrightly accept or deny Biblical inerrancy.

"Everybody ought to declare himself," he said. "Southern Baptists ought to be able to know where every professor stands on the factual accuracy of Scripture."

Patterson dealt primarily with the six Southern Baptist seminaries. However, in answer to a question about colleges and universities controlled by state conventions, Patterson said that Southern Baptists should be alert to any attempts

to surrender control and ownership of Baptist schools.

Patterson added he could not accept entirely the argument that colleges and universities are strictly investigative institutions, not tools of indoctrination. "As Baptists, we don't have any business doing anything in which we don't indoctrinate, whether it's our schools or our Baptist hospitals or whatever," he said.

In response to a question concerning reporting of the convention controversy by the denominational press, Patterson replied that, with a few exceptions, articles had been slanted and biased against the fundamental-conservatives.

"I would say that press coverage has been nearly four times more fair in the secular press than in the denominational press," he answered. "Too often the denominational writer has a position to defend."

Angolan rebels free missionaries

HUAMBO, Angola (BP)— Two Brazilian Baptist missionaries are expected to return to freedom within two weeks after being kidnapped by Angolan rebels on New Year's Eve.

Miriam and Margarida Horvath, who are sisters, were seized Dec. 31 near the city of Huambo in Angola by guerrillas of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

UNITA has agreed to release the two women to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said Jean-Jacques Surbeck, a Red Cross delegate to international organizations.

"They are in excellent health and ready to leave as soon as the International Red Cross provides the necessary logistical means," said a statement issued in Portugal by UNITA.

The two nurses were sent to Angola by Igreja Batista de Santo Andre, an independent Baptist church in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, said Houston Greenhaw, a Southern Baptist missionary in Santo Andre. The nurses have no ties with the Southern Baptist Convention or the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

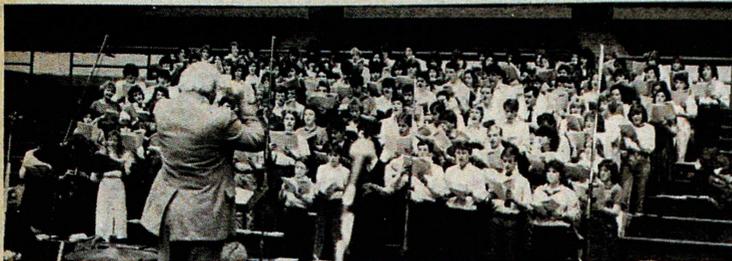
The Red Cross will transport the missionaries to South Africa, where representatives of the missionaries will meet them to take them to Portugal or Brazil, he said.

Golden Gate names Graves as interim

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)— President Emeritus Harold Graves has been named interim president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary as the executive committee of the school's board of trustees searches for a successor to former president Franklin Pollard.

The executive committee, acting as the presidential search committee, met Feb. 26. Graves was president of the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary from 1952 to 1977.

Pollard resigned the Golden Gate presidency effective March 1 to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.



YOUTH CHOIR — A 140-voice All-State Youth Choir sang during the Saturday sessions of the Youth Evangelism Conference. Richard Hamm, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky., directed the choir.

Ring relates story...

(Continued from page 1)

"knocked at my heart," he said. "That night I came to the altar and said, 'I'm a nobody, but I want to be a somebody.'

"Now joy floods my soul. I have something worth living for... The Bible says God's grace is all I need.

"What is normal? You think you're normal?" he asked, as the crowd responded with laughter. "I want to be just like God made me."

"God not only changed my life, but God changed my attitude. I've been told all my life, I'm a cripple, I'm a cripple, I'm a cripple."

In his high school of 1,400 students, Ring was named the most popular boy. Mr. School Spirit, vice-president of his senior class, and manager of the football and basketball teams.

When Ring was about 18 years old, God called him to preach. Discouragers kept coming his way.

A government rehabilitation worker told him he would never graduate from college. Preachers told him he could never become a preacher. Others told him no one would want to marry "his

kind" and that he would never become a father.

Ring became a college graduate, husband, father to two daughters, and at the age of 20 began the David Ring Evangelistic Association. Ring has preached in over 40 states in churches, state and conventionwide meetings on evangelism, and for youth and pastors.

This year he has 70 engagements, including the Pastors' Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention June 8-9 in Atlanta. Ring has also recorded his testimony on cassette tape.

The evangelist encouraged the youth to be themselves instead of trying to be somebody else. I've been bought with a price. I'm not my own.

"I have celebral palsy. What's your problem? ... I can't even say 'Jesus' plain, but hallelujah, I get the job done.

"I count it a privilege to be born with celebral palsy so that God's glory can be shown in my life. Folks, if God can use somebody like me, surely God can use somebody like you," said Ring.

Youth responded by giving a standing ovation and then nearly half of the crowd stood to make decisions for God as Ring led a commitment service in each session.

Trustees at Union set record budget

JACKSON — Union University Board of Trustees approved a record \$8.9-million operating budget for the college during their annual spring meeting.

The budget, which goes into effect June 1, is the largest in the college's history, according to President Robert Craig. The budget, which will total \$8,924,960, will increase by \$525,695 or 6.3 percent.

The board also voted to continue the study of a senior citizens housing facility that would be located on the Union campus.

Vice-president for Development Larry Stewart reported that the college's endowment campaign has now passed the \$7-million mark.

In other business, the board approved the promotion of several faculty members. Promoted from instructor to assistant professor were Scott Bennett, music; Teresa Hawkins, psychology; Sandra Morgan, health and physical education; Nancy Ross, business administration; and Jim Swope, health and physical education.

Walton Padelford, business administration, and Don Richard, mathematics, were elevated from assistant to associate professor, while Pat Taylor, education, was upgraded from associate to professor.

Two faculty members, Max Pugh, music, and Regina Saffel, nursing, were granted tenure.

Beverly Hearn, Pat Morris, and Richard Rogers were recommended for faculty status.

U.S. Postal Service announces another non-profit rate increase

WASHINGTON (BP) — Non-profit mailers — including state Baptist newspapers and some church newsletters — will experience an additional postal rate increase of about 7 percent on March 9, the U.S. Postal Service board of governors has announced.

This additional rate increase follows closely behind an increase that took effect Jan. 1 for non-profit mailers. The governors pointed to a last minute reduction in postal subsidy appropriations approved by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan as the major reason for the additional increase.

In December, the board of governors approved the initial increase of about 30 percent. That increase, however, was based on the governors' assumption that the Postal Service would receive \$820-million in federal funds to subsidize non-profit mailing rates during 1986.

Following that decision, however, the president vetoed the bill that contained the \$820-million figure and instead signed a substitute measure that contained only \$748-million. That final figure fell \$233-million short of what the Postal Service said it needed to maintain the 1985 level of subsidized rates.

Also affecting the overall postal rate picture is the implementation of a new budget-balancing act — the "Gramm-Rudman-Hollings plan." That measure further reduced the non-profit subsidy by about \$24-million.

The Jan. 1 rate increase prematurely

Crowders answer criticism concerning SBC lawsuit

By Dan Martin

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Robert and Julia Crowder have responded to four associations and two churches who were critical of the Birmingham couple for filing suit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee.

In December, the Crowders and a Windsor, Mo., layman — Henry C. Cooper — filed suit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, claiming their rights had been violated during the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC because of what they claim were violations of the SBC Bylaws during election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

The Crowders later were joined by a Vero Beach, Fla., layman, H. Allen McCartney.

In January, a parallel lawsuit was filed in Fulton County (Atlanta) Ga., by five laypersons from five states, who were represented by the Crowder's attorneys, Bondurant, Mixson, and Elmore, and which sought the same relief as the federal suit.

Crowder said four associations and two churches have taken official action, citing Scriptural admonitions against Christians suing Christians, which have been communicated to him. The actions ask that the lawsuit be dropped, he said.

The retired Birmingham layman told Baptist Press he has "tried to stay as low key as I can, without ignoring them (the associations and churches). I have answered because I do not feel I have the right to ignore them."

In the letter, the Crowders note they "share your desire to resume our emphasis on Bold Mission Thrust and see our home and foreign mission efforts

grow as souls are won to Jesus Christ."

"We feel the lawsuit is indeed a tragedy," they write. "Unfortunately, if the inappropriate and illegal actions which occurred in Dallas are not corrected, a greater tragedy will take place: the Southern Baptist Convention will be ruled by the whim of the person who holds the gavel and those who advise him."

The letter adds: "Tragically, during the 1985 convention, the will of the majority was ignored and tyranny was the result. Just as Martin Luther was willing to incur the wrath of the Catholic Church when he asserted the just are saved by faith, Julia and I feel we have no choice but to encounter the disapproval of those who have not personally heard or seen the tyranny that transpired in Dallas."

The Crowders, the letter says, "totally subscribe to 1 Corinthians 6:18... and prayerfully considered our actions for 145 days while we tried to get this matter resolved within the SBC." It adds the Executive Committee and its president "not only refused to deal with the violation of the bylaws but also chose to release the news of the possible suit to the press."

They conclude their letter by noting they have, to date, received no response from convention officers, the Executive Committee, or the Peace Committee "to settle this injustice. Julia and I continue to agonize as we pray that those who committed the violations will bring forth meaningful proposals to resolve this matter."

They ask those who have been critical of their action to "join us in prayer for our convention and in the commitment to do all within our power to retain the grass-root support of the local church and the strength of a denomination led by the Holy Spirit."

According to the letter, the Crowders received letters informing them of official action by four associations: Indian Creek in Waynesboro; Santa Rosa in Milton, Fla.; Friendship in Oneonta, Ala.; and Troup County in LaGrange, Ga.

Two churches also passed resolutions which were forwarded to the Crowders: Macedonia Baptist Church, Jonesville, Ky., and First Baptist Church, Remlap, Ala.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 74,772

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Telephone: (615) 373-2255

Baptist and Reflector (USPS 041-780) is published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$6.25; church budget, 10.9¢ per family per week when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood, Tennessee, and at additional mailing office.

Space forbids printing of resolutions and obituaries. Advertising rates on request.

Member of Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

News Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
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One of 18 conferences

Milan youth lead witnessing conference

By Mona Collett

"In the next 30 minutes, 29 children and adolescents will attempt suicide; 57 children will run away from home; 14 teen-age girls will give birth to illegitimate babies; 22 teen-age girls under the age of 19 will receive abortion due to unwanted pregnancies; 685 young people will take narcotics — all of whom are regular drug users; 285 will become victims of broken homes; and 228 will be beaten or otherwise abused."

Bobby Mullins, associate pastor/minister of youth at First Baptist Church in Milan, read these statistics about the 65.2-million young people in America to about 500 youth and their leaders at Crieveewood Baptist Church in Nashville. The church hosted one of 18 personal witnessing conferences on Saturday of the Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference.

The session, led by the Milan church youth group, included an open forum that allowed leaders and youth to share programs on their school campuses that allow young Christians to fellowship and reach out to one another. The ideas shared during the forum emphasized the importance of student-led Bible studies, devotions, and prayer groups.

The most likely person to lead a 15-year-old to Christ is another 15-year-old, said Mullins. He also pressed the importance of respecting individual school principals' interpretations of the laws governing religious-related groups meeting on public school property.

Mullins stressed the importance of reaching teen-agers on their school campuses by stating that 80 percent of Christians accept Christ before leaving high school. Fifteen percent respond after graduating, but first heard the gospel while still in school. Only 5 percent become Christians after hearing the gospel for the first time as an adult.

Assisting Mullins during the morning session was Bryan Powers, president of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Tennessee, Martin. Also a member of First Baptist Church, Milan, Powers shared in testimony and song. He also followed through with his assignment of keeping the group awake, after most revealed by a show of hands that they had had little or no sleep since the Friday session at Vanderbilt Gym.

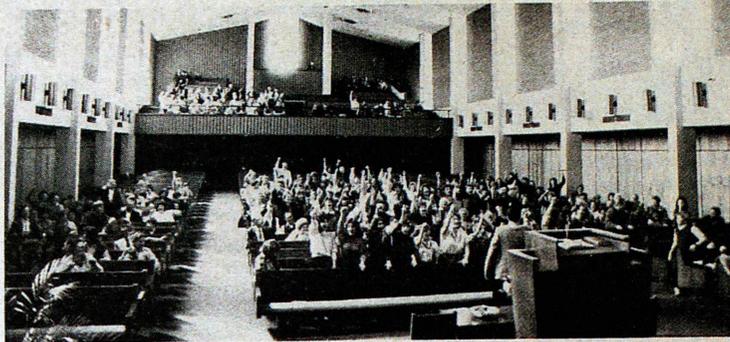
de'Ann Gullatt sang "Love, Crucified, Arose" after expressing the depth of the blessings received by the Milan youth during the three years they have led in the personal witnessing conferences.

In setting the pace for the conference, Mullins stated that though he is proud of the youth of First Baptist Church, Milan, they are not necessarily "any more spiritual than anyone else." He opened the share time by referring to Romans 1:12 where Paul says, "that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine."

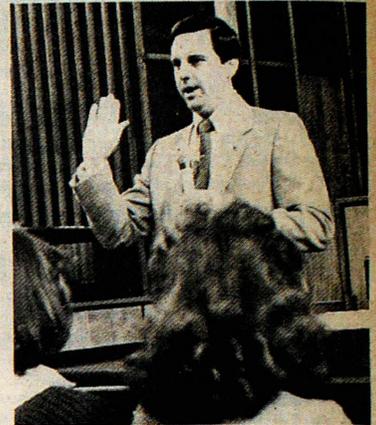
Don Whitt, pastor of the Milan church, closed the session with a sermon based on Philippians 3:10 where Paul reveals the purpose of his life — to get to know Jesus better each day.

According to Whitt, Paul desires three things: (1) to know the person of Christ; (2) to know the power of Christ; and (3) to know the passion of Christ.

In response to the question, "Is the goal of your life to know Jesus better and better?" eight to 10 teen-agers came forward making commitments of faith and rededicating their lives to the purpose of growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.



WAKE-UP SONG — With little sleep after the Friday session, youth attending this personal witnessing conference Saturday at Crieveewood Baptist Church, Nashville, participate in rousing "action" songs.



CONFERENCE LEADER — Bobby Mullins tells the conference of the need for sharing Christ's message with troubled teen-agers.



MUSIC — The youth of First Baptist Church, Milan, sing during the personal witnessing conference.

COMMITMENTS — At the end of the conference, Bobby Mullins (left) and Don Whitt lead the time for prayer and decision-making (picture at right).



Letters to the Editor

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

BSSB music ministry

Dear editor:

I was glad to see an inquiry from J. W. Gill (letters, Feb. 26) concerning the Sunday School Board's action to expand its music publishing ministry. I am happy to respond to the concerns raised.

This action taken by the elected trustees in their February meeting continues and expands the music mission which the board has continued over the last 45 years. In fact, the board is committed to provide Christian music in keeping with the mission and purpose of the Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention.

This concern was raised by requests from the churches for more music products and a wider variety.

The new department will continue to provide these music-related products that are meaningful and helpful to churches and to individuals. For the first time, there will be resources to provide Christian music materials for families. These dedicated musicians will be sensitive to the musical needs of all our constituents.

This department will not compromise its position in the commercial world, but

will be in tune with Southern Baptists as we seek to strengthen our efforts in Bold Mission Thrust. As we move toward our goal of "Touching Lives — Growing Churches," we ask for prayer support in this new venture.

Lloyd Householder
127 Ninth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37234

Need for new churches

Dear editor:

It was my privilege recently to attend and serve as a member of two exciting committee meetings that relate to the work of Tennessee Baptists.

A large part of one of those meetings and the entire agenda of the other was to plan backing and undergirding for starting new churches in the State of Tennessee. We are no longer a rural people! We are fast becoming urbanized and industrialized. (Saturn, Nissan, and others). We are, I believe, in the top 10 growing states in the United States. We are being discovered as a great place to live and work. We must prepare for the exciting opportunities that are just now developing here in our State.

In the past 10 years Tennessee Baptists have just averaged four and one-half new churches per year. I believe the time has come for a new surge in starting new churches. In the next few months plans will be revealed that may even startle some of us, but I believe the time is ripe for a new, great leap upward in the work of our Lord.

I hope pastors, directors of missions, and church members feel as excited as I

do about the challenge and future of Tennessee Baptists.

Clay Frazier
145 St. John's Road
Morristown, TN 37814

Questions decision

Dear editor:

I think that your decision to terminate (letters about) the Hinson controversy best serves the non-conservative faction. This is exactly what they want you to do. Their greatest wish is to remain in the dark where they can breed and eventually destroy the truth of the gospel.

If you think that opposition to Satan is not "advancing the cause of Christ," then I feel very sorry for you. . . . You are certainly losing your spiritual alertness. That's terrible.

J. W. Gill
1233 Radnor
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Disturbed by labels, labelers

Dear editor:

I have come to realize something that disturbs me.

If someone questions the teaching of a seminary professor as being contrary to clearly defined convention parameters: he is on a "witch-hunt."

If someone accuses the president of our convention as un-Christian motives: he is a "denominational loyalist."

Mike McGinnis
901 Woodmore Ln
Chattanooga, TN 37411



GABRIEL — Gabriel, a music group from Texas, leads youth in singing.

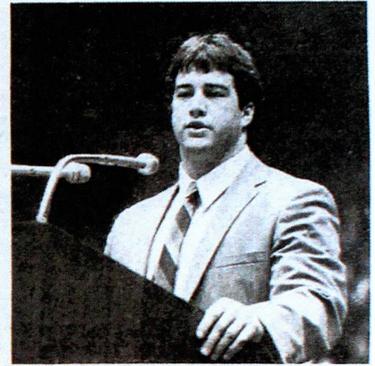
CALL TO COMMITMENT — Knox Talbert, director of youth evangelism for Texas Baptists, urges Tennessee youth to totally commit their lives to Jesus Christ.



Angela Kelley testifies.



PROCLAMATION — Union University musical ensemble, Proclamation, sings.



Brent Johnson testifies.

Speakers call for commitment to Christ...

(Continued from page 1)

lifestyle in which he had turned his back on God. "I tried everything. This gave me short-term happiness, but not lasting peace," he stated.

"I know God loves me in spite of what I have done," Talbert said. "God began to do some great things in my life."

The Texan noted that "the Christian life is not to stop doing what you want to do and to start doing what you don't want to do. It is a life that is pleasing to God," he added.

Calling on the young people to totally commit their lives to Jesus, Talbert said, "You don't have to be a 'star.' You are already a star through Christ, if you are 'real' for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Concerning the future of the world, Talbert told the young people, "You are the year 2000. What happens in your life today will determine what your life — and our world — will be like then."

Also speaking at the Friday sessions was Brent Johnson, All-American football player at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. "There is nothing greater than being a Christian," Johnson said.

"Becoming a Christian is an important first step, but then you have to live the Christian life," which he said is not impossible "because you have God on your side. God will be there all the time," Johnson declared.

"In sports, you must give 100 percent, whether you win or lose," the athlete added. "That is exactly what God asks of you."

Johnson encouraged the young people to ask Jesus Christ to come into their hearts, "because as a Christian, you will be destined to win. God has a perfect plan and purpose for your life."

Johnson said he thinks God is going to allow him to be a Christian influence in professional sports, which has many negative influences, such as the current drug investigations.

Angela Kelley of Cleveland, state win-

ner of the 1985 Youth Speakers' Tournament, presented her winning speech at Saturday sessions, entitled "How Will I Serve Him?"

The Lee College student said there are at least three characteristics of a servant for Christ: a willing spirit, a genuine humility, and an absolute honesty.

"The world tells me to do something either for myself, to myself, or with myself," Kelley said. "This is so different from Christ's message and model."

She noted that "Jesus Christ offers a fresh and much-needed invitation to the 'self generation,' to be a servant and to give to others. So as a Christian, I must learn to serve the One Who has given me eternal life."

Kelley continued, "God expects each Christian to use his or her talents for Him. When we do use our talents for the Lord, they are not wasted."

Also on the Saturday sessions' program was a testimony by Mike Thornton, a US-2 home missionary serving in Gatlinburg.

"If we are ever to reach this world for Christ, we are going to have to be a 'missionary' people," Thornton said, adding that "putting a couple of dollars in the offering plate at Christmas is important, but it is not enough."

He urged the young people to grasp a vision that they are in the hand of God right now. "Don't limit God by telling Him that you are not important enough to serve Him."

The Home Mission Board's US-2 program involves college graduates in mission work for two years. Thornton, who is working in resort missions, spent his first year at Yosemite National Park, and is serving this year in Gatlinburg and with the Ocoee River resort.

"Our purpose is to introduce Jesus Christ to those involved in leisure settings and lifestyle," he said.

"Love will only reach out as far as you take it," Thornton said. "It is very easy to tell someone that God loves them, but

it is more difficult to live out that love day by day."

Scripture and prayer were presented at the opening of each session by Cherie Carson of Frazier and Tim Spencer of Germantown. Carson is a member of the Acteen National Panel, and Spencer is state Royal Ambassador president for Tennessee.

Closing prayers were offered by Tom Madden, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Carroll Owen, TBC convention ministries division director.

Greetings were presented to the young people by Paul Montague of England, chairman of the youth department for the Baptist World Alliance.

After reminding the Tennessee youth that they have counterparts scattered throughout the world, Montague invited them to the July 1988 Baptist World Youth Conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

For the third consecutive year, special music was presented by the All-State Youth Choir, composed of singers from across the state. This year's choir numbered 140. The choir was directed again by Richard Hamm of Richmond, Ky.

Leading congregational singing and providing special music was a three-member group, Gabriel, from Arlington, Texas. The youth also heard special music from Rick Swett, music evangelist from South Carolina who often works with David Ring.

Featured at the Friday sessions was Proclamation, a 12-member musical ensemble from Union University, Jackson.

In addition to the sessions at the Vanderbilt University gymnasium, the young people also attended personal witnessing conferences on Saturday at 11 different locations in Nashville.

The annual Youth Evangelism Conference, which is said to be the largest attended regularly scheduled Baptist event in the nation, is sponsored by the evangelism department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Mike Thornton testifies.



Paul Montague brings greetings.



Youth prays during commitment time.

Tennesseans leave lasting impression

By Leland Webb

Due to efforts of the first work team in Baptists' three-year Venezuela-Tennessee Partnership Mission, New Hope Baptist Mission on the outskirts of Maracaibo, Venezuela, has five new Sunday School classrooms and a large multipurpose room.

The five families in the partnership team — wives of three of the men were included — represented five different churches in northwestern, southwestern, central, and eastern Tennessee.

The laymen, who had 10 working days in January for the building project, encountered the usual volunteer need for flexibility, adapting to the job and the equipment at hand.

The Maracaibo neighborhood is so new that electric lines had not yet been installed, and lack of adequate electric power frustrated the team's efforts to complete welding roof girders in place, but they finished as much as possible of the project.

"Sometimes we have to do with what we've got," said James Duncan of Lavinia, a member of First Baptist Church, Milan, were Don Whitt is pastor.

The men labored alongside Venezuelan workers, and the Venezuelans finished roofing the addition the week after the team left.

None of the team knew just what kind of work they would be doing, "but they're flexible," noted Clarence R. (Buck) Smith, career Southern Baptist missionary who directs special projects for the Venezuelan Baptist Mission.

"They've worked hard and they've had a good spirit," declared Missionary Stan Parris, who serves at New Hope mission along with Venezuelan Home Missionary Pedro Palmera. "And they've got the building up," he concluded.

"You do whatever has to be done," reflected volunteer Harvey L. Ivie, who is in the construction business. "The Lord just has a way — whatever there is to do, He sees that there's a way for it to be done."

Ivie contrasted the project in Maracaibo with earlier volunteer service in Upper Volta, where he went twice, once accompanied by his wife, Lorraine, who also went to Maracaibo. The Venezuela project was "entirely different," he noted — living in a city and traveling to the job site, rather than living at the job site as in Upper Volta. The Ivies attend First Baptist Church, Concord, where C. Glenn Sullivan is pastor.

The volunteers were "a great bunch," Ivie said, "congenial, caring, and concerned with one another." He added, "Stan and Buck are just fantastic."

The responsiveness of Venezuelans to the gospel impressed the volunteers.

Luton W. Lewis of Dover, who brought 500 tracts in Spanish with him from Tennessee, reflected, "It's been a blessing to me to see the difference (from response in the United States) — the eagerness of some of these people to grab up some of God's Word."

On his first volunteer mission — each of the other four men had served on teams in Upper Volta — Lewis was struck by the response of those attending the mission.

"I could feel God's love in the crowd as much as in any church service I'd been to," he said of the first Sunday at the mission. "If the people at home could get the 'want to' like these people, we could win the community," he added.

The trip also was the first participation



AUTOGRAPH — After an appreciation service for the Tennessee volunteers at New Hope Baptist Mission in Maracaibo, Luton W. Lewis of Dover signs an autograph requested by a little girl. Photos by Joanna Pinneo

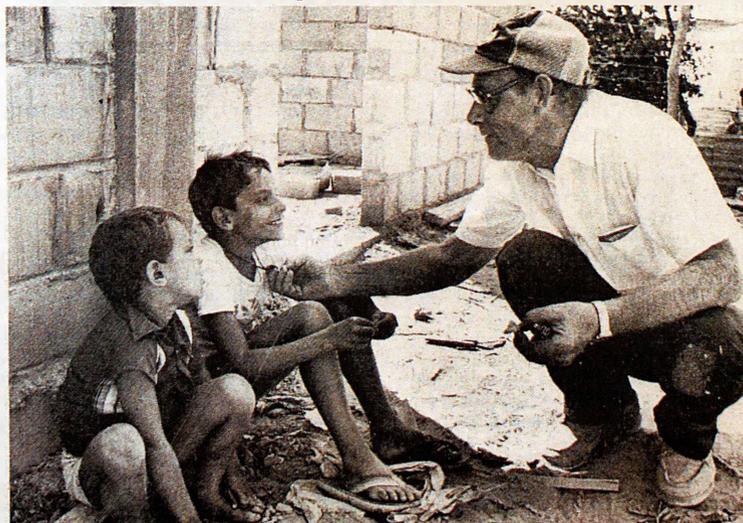
in volunteer missions by the church where Lewis attends, the 195-member Cross Creek Baptist Church in Indian Mound. When Pastor Steve Murphree presented the project to the deacons, there was agreement to bear the expenses so that Lewis could take part. Said one deacon enthusiastically, "The least thing our church could do is to pay his way."

"For the church to reach out past the

county line, you might say, this is the first time," said Lewis, who runs his own welding firm in Dover.

For Ray Rickman, accompanied by his wife, Jane, it was also his third volunteer mission. He had served on a team in Upper Volta, and in 1985, he and Jane took part in a partnership evangelism project in Brazil.

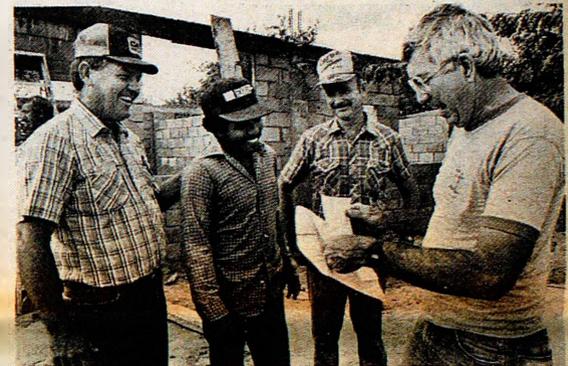
"I'm sold on the volunteer mission program," said Rickman, a member of



TIME TO CHAT — Ray G. Rickman of Greenbrier chats with boys outside the multipurpose building erected by the Tennessee volunteers at New Hope Baptist Mission in Maracaibo.



HARD WORK — James Duncan of Lavinia lugs a bucket of cement at the work site where concrete mixing was done the simplest way. One of the new structures, a multipurpose room, is in the background.



BREAK TIME — During a break in the construction job, Missionary Buck Smith (right) jokes with (left to right) Lance Bailey of Jacks Creek; Venezuelan Missionary Pedro Palmera, who leads the New Hope Baptist Mission; and James Duncan of Lavinia.

First Baptist Church, Ridgetop. "I had planned to go (to Venezuela) from the time I heard the rumor that Tennessee and Venezuela were going to get together on a partnership." Rickman, who is in construction work, has shared his volunteer experiences by speaking to about 50 churches after previous trips.

Rounding out the volunteer team were Lance Bailey and his wife, Ann, of Jacks Creek, who own a heavy equipment business. They are members of Unity Baptist Church, where Fred J. Ward is pastor. (See story on the Baileys on page 7.)

New Hope mission and its sponsoring First Baptist Church honored the eight volunteers and presented them plaques at a service at the mission on the Tennesseans' last night in Maracaibo.

"Members of First Baptist Church have been asking us, why do these people from the United States come so far to work here, to do work so physically hard?" a spokesman from the sponsoring First Baptist Church reported. "The only conclusion you can come to is that it is the love of God in your hearts that prompts you to come and do this work that we will never forget." He added, "The whole church is indebted to you."

"Your being here really has been a testimony," Parris told members of the team as he drove them to the airport. "The whole neighborhood has been talking about those 'gringos' working in the hot sun."

Responded Lewis, recalling those at the mission, "I didn't realize people could grow on you so much in two weeks."

Volunteers to Venezuela respond, receive blessings

By Connie Davis

When Lance and Ann Bailey learned that Tennessee had a new foreign mission project, they responded so quickly that they became a part of the first team to participate.

While attending a reunion of mission volunteers of the Tennessee/Burkina Faso (Upper Volta) project several years ago, they learned about the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership which was to begin in November 1985.

The Baileys, who live near Jacks Creek and attend Unity Baptist Church there, said it was "seeing the need and what volunteers can do . . ." in Burkina Faso that led them to respond to the new opportunity for foreign mission service.

They joined six other laypersons from across the state for the Jan. 11-25 trip. The men began construction on two L-shaped buildings for Sunday School classrooms and rest rooms for the Mision Bautista Nueva Esperanza, which is the name of the New Baptist Mission in the Esperanza area in Maracaibo. The three women on the team cooked meals for the builders.

The volunteers were responsible for collecting their own expense money, which totaled about \$1,200. The mission provided the building materials from Southern Baptist and Venezuela Baptist funds.

The Baileys, who own a heavy equipment business, reported that after long hours of hard work in 100-degree temperatures, the cement block walls were complete and the metal roofs were on the buildings. January is during the summer season in Venezuela.

The most meaningful part of the trip to the Baileys was working with the missionaries every day and getting to know them. They described their love, patience, and dedication.

Ann Bailey attended the "most enthusiastic WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) meeting I've ever been to," she explained, even though she could not understand what was being said.

Missionary Ila Mae Smith took her to a women's Bible study, which grew out of the English-speaking congregation. She saw the problems of isolation and full-time care for their children that these women often face.

Lance Bailey admitted that he had "laid a few blocks around the farm," before he went to Venezuela. When Missionary Buck Smith asked him after several days of building how he felt, he remarked in his unemotional manner, "I'm not exactly sure, Buck. I've never felt this way before."

Mrs. Bailey's talents also were stretched as she led music during a worship service for the English-speaking congregation. A missionary called on her after seeing on her application that she was a choir member.

The Baileys fondly recalled the Venezuelan friends they made. Three members of the mission always worked longer hours than the volunteers as they helped them build. The men were unemployed, a chronic problem of this area of the city, Bailey explained.

Another new friend was a lady who started a Bible study that became the mission. A Colombian, the woman had been living in Venezuela for eight years illegally because she could not afford the fee for a new visa.

She believed that God saved her from being separated from her family in Venezuela as she stood in line to board the truck that would take her back to Colombia. The mission helped her pay the visa fee and she is paying it back with the little income she makes at her small store near the mission.

She gave each volunteer a pound of coffee before they left, a huge expense for her, the Baileys observed. They were also honored before they left at a dinner given by the mission's sponsoring church. They received a plaque.

The Baileys saw many needs in Venezuela including two missions without pastors in the area and the many needs of the people there.

One of the missionaries told the Baileys that few North Americans had ever been in this area of Maracaibo. Crime, especially crime involving drugs, is a big problem.

The people live in homes made of tin with dirt floors, and they must buy their water, which is sold on the streets. The parents keep their children very clean, though. Most are unemployed.

Although the needs in Venezuela are great, the Baileys are glad they helped. "We're open to go back someday," they planned, as they continued to share their many memories they will not soon forget.



A CAREFUL EYE — Lance Bailey checks alignment of a roof girder on a building providing five classrooms for New Hope Baptist Mission in Maracaibo, Venezuela. Photos by Joanna Pinneo



VENEZUELAN HUG — Leaving the Maracaibo airport for home, Ann Bailey receives a goodbye "abrazo" from Missionary Stan Parris.



SALAD SAMPLER — At a lunch-making session for the volunteer work crew, Jane Rickman (right) of Greenbrier gets Missionary Charlotte Parris to sample the salad while volunteers (left to right) Lorraine Ivie of Knoxville and Ann Bailey of Jacks Creek look on.

Missionary from Tennessee receives honor in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP) — The mayor of Taipei has honored Tennessee Southern Baptist Missionary Angie Golmon for her ministry to teen-age prostitutes, orphans, and the elderly.

Golmon, a Jackson native, received the Golden Camel Award from Taipei Mayor Hsu Shwei-De in recent ceremonies in Taipei, the nation's capital. About 3,000 guests assembled at the Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall to honor her and 19 other men and women involved in government and private social service. Golmon and a Spanish Catholic nurse were the only non-Chinese honorees in the group.

The awards were presented for only the second time, Hsu said.

"Camels are of non-descript outward appearance but are known for their inner strength, perseverance and ability to suffer under the burdens of others," the mayor observed, holding up one of the

camel trophies. "They seek not praise but are faithful in rendering service to others. These are apt descriptions of the actions and motives of those we honor with the Golden Camel Awards today."

The awards, sponsored by the city government and the organization of volunteer social workers in the city, honor individuals nominated by social agencies and encourage public participation in social service. The mayor noted government alone cannot meet all the needs of more than 4-million people living in the Taipei area, noting all citizens must join in the effort.

The honorees included workers with the mentally ill, the elderly, orphans, prisoners, juvenile delinquents, prostitutes, and the poor.

Golmon, the mother of three children, has worked in Taiwan with her husband, Music Missionary Bob Golmon of Moss

Point, Miss., since 1981. For more than three years, she has joined Chinese Baptist women who visit retirement homes and orphanages.

More recently she began work at a detention home for young girls arrested for prostitution. Beginning with English conversation classes, she has developed relationships with several teen-age girls, talking and listening. She gives additional time helping those released make a new start in life.

The director and other counselors at the detention center sometimes ask Golmon's help in advising girls with special needs. The missionary also has enlisted the aid of Mrs. Wang, a Chinese Christian psychologist. Wang has become a supporter of the girls and has invited some to live temporarily in her home.

Golmon said she thinks the key to rescuing some of these girls is having a place — a halfway house — where girls

released from detention can go. If they go back home or return to the hotels where they worked before, there may be no escape from the same trap, she explained.

In consultation with the Chinese Baptist women and several Baptist pastors, Golmon has developed the idea of a halfway house to help the girls make a transition back into society.

Several Baptist groups are considering this project. So is Taipei's Social Welfare Department. Planners hope the city can provide a facility while Baptists supply the volunteer staff for the halfway house.

The Golmons were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1971. They studied Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan from 1972 to 1974, then worked in Malaysia and the Philippines before returning to Taiwan in 1981. She is a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

Directions 2000 Forum focuses on SBC's future

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists will go "back to the future" — maintaining traditional values while adapting to a changing environment — as they minister in the closing years of the 20th century, according to a consensus report developed by denominational planners.

About 200 Southern Baptist leaders formulated the report during Directions 2000 Forum, a long-range strategy session designed to help formulate denominational plans for the final decade of the century.

"Our purpose was to involve church, association, state convention, and SBC agency leaders in the development of the 1990-2000 SBC Bold Mission Thrust Emphasis Plan," said Reginald M. McDonough, executive vice-president of the SBC Executive Committee and chairperson of the workgroup which coordinated the forum.

Bold Mission Thrust is the convention's campaign to present the gospel of Christ to every person on earth by the year 2000.

Although forum participants stressed their plans were preliminary and their

wording unpolished, they developed a consensus document which should give direction to Bold Mission Thrust activities during the decade. The document included 11 principal areas of concern: the authority of the Bible, the need for

non-Christians to find faith in Christ, "authentic" worship of God, Christian nurture and discipleship, commitment to missions, support for families, creation of new churches, ministry in cities, service to people in need, Biblical doctrine

and Baptist polity and heritage, and stewardship of resources.

The list of concerns was formulated following two presentations that prepared participants to think about upcoming world needs and what Southern Baptists can do about them.

The first presentation, "Trends Toward 2000," focused on global changes which will affect ministry during the next 15 years. It was prepared by Doran McCarty, professor of ministry at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and presented by O. D. Morris, research director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

The second presentation was an explanation of the "Bold Mission Thrust Planning for the 1990's" questionnaire, analyzed and presented by J. Clifford Tharp Jr., research associate for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The survey's findings were based on 7,081 responses from Southern Baptists in 33 state Baptist conventions, Tharp said. Respondents were asked to rank 87 concepts in importance on a four-point scale. The concepts dealt with how churches should respond to changing population, the "world getting smaller," the information era, diversity and specialization of education, the income gap, technological advances, social issues, and religious diversity.

Forum participants took information provided by Morris and Tharp and divided into 20 groups to analyze the data and rank Southern Baptist priorities. Their group reports were synthesized by a panel headed by William R. O'Brien, executive vice-president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. This group articulated the 11 basic concerns which comprised the final consensus findings.

Those findings will be drafted into a report to be considered by the SBC Inter-Agency Council in May. After further fine-tuning, the report will be circulated among state convention and SBC agency leaders in the next step in a process designed to develop the convention's primary emphases for the 1990s.

Missionary thanks Tennesseans, reports prayers were answered

Prayers for land for Grand Anse Baptist Church in Grenada can cease, reported Missionary Charlotte Davis, who requested the prayers at the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in November 1985.

Davis, a Knoxville native who serves in Granada, West Indies, shared about the congregation that had been seeking land in its area for more than four years. The only available land was owned by the government. Through the years, the church had continually made application to purchase property, but each time it had been denied.

The congregation had faithfully given to its building fund and met once a month to pray all night for land. It is the only congregation in the community of 1,000 persons.

On returning to Grenada Jan. 8 after furlough in the U.S., Davis and her dentist husband, Carter, who have served for nine years in Grenada, received a phone call the next morning from Pastor Clarence Henry of the Grand Anse Baptist Church to welcome them home. His main purpose in calling, though, was to tell them about some land in the area that was for sale.

The next day missionaries and church leaders were meeting with the owner at the land site. The one-half acre of land is on the major road from the new airport and is directly across from a housing community where the church ministers. Agreements were reached and plans were made to buy the land, Davis noted.

"There is no way for you to know the amount of rejoicing that is taking place here," wrote Davis in a newsletter to share the news with friends in the U.S.

"We did everything humanly possible to purchase land, but it was God Who provided the opportunity to purchase prime land in a prime location," she continued.

"It was with their (the church members') funds along with funds from Southern Baptists made available through the Foreign Mission Board — Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, in addition to personal gifts from some of you — that we were financially able to purchase land."

For the prayers and money, Davis said, "From the depths of our hearts we say, 'Thank you.'"

Davis, who might feel her work never ends, reminds Southern Baptists that their work also never ends by making another prayer request: "Pray for this church as they begin this week to make plans to construct their building."

Moore tells MWBTS students that SBC will be strengthened

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Winfred Moore believes the Southern Baptist Convention will emerge from its current controversy with a renewed spirit of cooperation.

Moore, SBC first vice-president and pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, was "Pastor of the Day" at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., in late

February. He spoke during chapel and in seminary classes while on campus.

"Young people, it is a conviction of my heart that when you get out of seminary there's going to be a Southern Baptist Convention, operating institutions like this one, agencies that send missionaries around the world," he said.

"There's going to be a convention praying for you, working with you, sending you wherever God has called you to go. Don't give up on it for one minute," said Moore, a member of the SBC Peace Committee.

"We're going to come out of all of this stronger than we've ever been before — stronger in the faith, stronger in spirit, stronger in our cooperativeness, one with the other," he stressed.

Basing his chapel sermon on Luke 9:57-62, Moore urged seminarians to commit themselves fully to Jesus Christ and to His church. "This is what we need for the church in this hour — not people who are connected to the church, but people who are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and His church," Moore said.

Students prepare for C-N revival

JEFFERSON CITY — As part of "Good News Tennessee: God Loves You," the Ministerial Association and the Baptist Student Union at Carson-Newman College are teaming up to produce the annual student-led revival.

Each spring several senior ministerial students are chosen to speak at the revival services, while others are chosen to sing or read Scripture. All students are encouraged to participate in the many other preliminary meetings leading up to "Good News Carson-Newman: God Loves You," March 24-27.

The BSU worship team committee is working on continuous prayer support during the week before the revival. The dorm Bible study groups are making a special effort to support and encourage the revival. Seed Company, one of the BSU-sponsored music groups, will present a concert March 20 at 8 p.m.

Preparation will culminate March 22 with a retreat at Camp Carson. Ex-pro football player John Bramlett will speak.

Speakers for this year include Steve Frye of Altoona, Pa.; Marvin Hill of Montgomery, Ala.; Greg Johnson of Seymour; John Sharp of Morristown; and "Sonny" Strange of Dandridge.

All revival services will be March 24-27 in Gentry Auditorium in the C-N Henderson Humanities Building. Services begin Monday at 8 p.m. and continue with 9:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday services, Wednesday and Thursday services are at 8 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. respectively.

The public is invited to attend all services.



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

(Each week the *Baptist and Reflector* will print specific prayer requests related to the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership. Please clip these out and pray diligently for God's blessings on this exciting opportunity.)

—Pray for the eight-member team that is building the Agua Larga mission building and leading revival services in Churuguara March 8-22.

—Pray for Tom and Iris Watson, missionaries who help people in high-rise apartments in Caracas.

—Pray for Patsy Davis, missionary who is director of Woman's Missionary Union of Venezuela. Patsy celebrates her birthday on March 15. She is presently in North Carolina with her father who has just undergone heart surgery.

—Pray for Jacobo Garcia as he serves as executive secretary of the Venezuela Baptist Convention.

Union enrollment hits new record

JACKSON — Union University has topped another record for spring enrollment as the number of students registering for classes reached 1,384.

The school's total headcount is up by 80 students (6.1 percent), according to President Robert Craig. Enrollment of full-time students (FTE) is up by 53 over last year. Union's current FTE is 1,221 as opposed to last fall's 1,168. FTE is the figure on which the college predicated its operating budget for the academic year.

Students registered in the evening program increased from 19 to 71, a 36.5 percent increase.

C-N receives grant from Sears-Roebuck

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Morristown College, Morristown, will receive grants this month from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, totaling \$1,600.

The foundation will distribute unrestricted grants totaling \$1.75-million to 956 privately sponsored colleges and universities across the nation.



JACKSON CHURCH BREAKS GROUND — Malesus Baptist Church in Jackson held ground-breaking ceremonies on Jan. 26, for their new education and enrichment center. The building will include day care facilities, a gymnasium, a racquet ball court, a full kitchen, and education space. Participating in the ceremony were: (left to right) the pastor, Adrian Knipper, Larry Marberry, E. B. O'Neill, Jimmy Jordan, Dennis Cooper, Malinda Wilson, Jimmy Worsham, Louise Futrell, and Nancy Nanney.

Baptist Hospital, Nashville, sponsors wellness conference

NASHVILLE — Baptist Hospital will host the first major wellness conference in Tennessee designed especially for Christians.

Presented March 21-22 in association with First Baptist Church, Nashville, special attention will be given to help lay-people and ministers alike develop positive lifestyles that will enhance both their lives and their ministries.

Dick Couey, health and fitness professor at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, will be the keynote speaker for the conference. His opening address, "Happiness is being a physically fit Christian," will be presented at a banquet on Friday night.

In addition to Couey's address on Saturday, a number of workshops covering a wide variety of wellness topics will

be led by health professionals.

On Saturday morning a blood draw will be held for anyone interested in assessing his risk for coronary heart disease. The procedure will cost \$15, and participants must fast for 12 hours before the test.

For people interested in learning how to prepare tasty healthful meals, a natural foods nutrition and cooking seminar will be conducted on Saturday evening by James Scheer, nutritionist for the Center for Health Promotion.

In special services at First Baptist Church on Sunday, immediately following the conference, Couey and Pastor Charles Page will continue the Christian wellness emphasis. Page's morning sermon will be "Wholeness in Christ."

The cost of the complete conference is \$20 per person, or \$15 for Saturday only and \$7.50 for Friday evening only (includes banquet). Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Baptist Hospital Center for Health Promotion.



Couey

TBC trains 519 people to lead VBS in state

To meet the demands of an increase in enrollment in state Vacation Bible Schools in 1985 from 232,160 to 234,135, the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Sunday School department led training for 519 persons recently.

The persons trained in sessions for leadership, age-groups, and work with mentally retarded persons, will make up VBS associational teams who will conduct clinics in their associations.

Leaders from the TBC Sunday School department were Greer Ruble, department director; Lyn Brasfield, director of youth work; Liz Lee, director of children's work; and Martha Couch, director of preschool work.

Other leaders included Stanley Johnson, minister of music and education at Calvary Baptist Church in Kingsport; Hollis Marshall, minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church in Greeneville; Lib McCluskey and Candy Macon, members of Knoxville's Wallace Memorial Baptist Church; Lucy Rudolph, preschool coordinator at Creeview Baptist Church in Nashville; and Jerri Brown, a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Lenoir City,



VBS TRAINERS — The trainers of 519 Tennesseans who will train VBS workers in their associations were (first row, left to right) Lyn Brasfield, Candy Macon, Martha Couch, and Lucy Rudolph, and (second row, left to right) Greer Ruble, Stanley Johnson, Liz Lee, Hollis Marshall, and Lib McCluskey. Jerri Brown is not pictured.

Baptists play role in recovery as Haitians begin to rebuild

By Erich Bridges

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Haiti still is picking up the pieces after months of upheaval, and nearly everyone — Baptists included — agrees the job of national recovery will take a long time.

"Now it's time to start going back up the hill," said Southern Baptist Missionary Jack Hancox. "That's where we are."

The mass movement which toppled the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier in February still rumbles, sending aftershocks through the country. Authorities reimposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in late February as new looting and protest demonstrations resulted from the attempted departure of a former Duvalier secret police chief.

Information on Baptists continues to trickle in from various parts of the country. Hancox said about 90 percent of the more than 60 Haitian Baptist pastors have been accounted for and no Baptist deaths have been reported, although reports have not been received from churches in some remote areas.

Meanwhile, Hancox is buying and distributing food and materials for the numerous Baptist churches, schools, and food storehouses damaged or looted during the height of the unrest. More food, bought with Southern Baptist relief funds, will be distributed this month to 60 Baptist schools after the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's regular shipment of food arrives in Haiti. Hancox oversees a school nutrition program which feeds about 15,000 children.

Fearing theft at the docks in Port-au-Prince, Hancox had asked earlier that the food shipment be delayed.

Closed since before Christmas, schools in Haiti finally have reopened, after a fashion. "The big problem with most of the schools is that the food that was to feed the kids is not in the country," Hancox explained. "So why should a kid walk three, four miles to school and not have anything to eat and then have to walk back home where they haven't got much to eat?"

To make matters worse, looters sacked many government and church schools,

taking benches, chairs, and other furniture. Little money exists to pay the teachers who return to their jobs.

As a nation, Haiti still faces the economic problems which helped make it the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, compounded by months of turmoil and a reportedly empty treasury left behind by Duvalier. The U.S. government is assisting with immediate food and petroleum needs, but government officials have said it may be difficult to provide other major aid this year since foreign aid funds already have been allocated.

"Not much (food) is going to be up in the (rural) country," said Hancox. "They're not going to get it. So we're going to have to make some kind of arrangements to get some food distribution points back inland where the people really are going to be hit hard. A lot of crops have spoiled with no trucking and all the fighting and destruction."

Hancox, who works with Haitian Baptists in a variety of social ministries, hopes to assist Baptists in putting together a "national plan" for relief. But he said the effort will require participation from all religious groups, as Roman Catholic leaders acknowledged in a recent appeal for national unity and reconciliation.

"It's going to take all the religious leaders working together now for the first time . . . It's going to take a real team effort, and all the old historic jealousies are going to have to be thrown away if we are going to have a country we have every right to believe we can have," Hancox said.

Richard Holden accepts Mountain City pastorate

Richard Holden accepted the call of First Baptist Church, Mountain City, to serve as pastor and began his ministry there Jan. 19.

Born in Athens, Holden graduated from Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Previous pastorates include Salem Baptist Church, Tylertown, Miss., and First Baptist Church, Huntsville. He also served on the staff of Parkway Baptist Church in Knoxville as staff evangelist and minister of youth and education. Holden was interim pastor of Central Baptist Church in McComb, Miss.

Associational service includes a term as chairman of evangelism in Tylertown, Miss.

Woodbury Road church calls J. Harold Harris

J. Harold Harris has been serving as pastor of Woodbury Road Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, since Jan. 5.

He comes to Murfreesboro from Ooltewah, where he was pastor of High Point Baptist Church. Other pastorates include Lake Drive Baptist Church in Sale Creek; Smyrna Baptist Church in Evensville; Popular Springs Baptist Church in Zebulon, N.C.; Rosewood First Baptist Church in Goldsboro, N.C.; and Salem and Rock Baptist churches in Elizabeth City, N.C.

A native of Cullowhee, N.C., Harris is a graduate of Bryan College in Dayton. He also attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

TBC committees seek nominations

The guidelines adopted by the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees give all Tennessee Baptists the opportunity to make nominations by filling out a form printed in the Baptist and Reflector.

Some people may not understand how names come before committees. The head of each of the TBC institutions submits at least three names for consideration for each position to be nominated. They receive names from people interested in their particular work and pass these along to the Committee on Boards. The convention guidelines direct them to work with the heads of the institutions.

If a person wants to recommend a person to any of the convention's boards or committees, a letter or this form can be sent to Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027, or to the temporary chairman of the Committee on Boards or the Committee on Committees, or to the head of a TBC institution or agency.

The Committee on Boards will meet May 1, 10 a.m. The temporary chairman is Rev. Paul Woodford, P. O. Box 130, Lewisburg, TN 37091.

The Committee on Committees will meet May 8, 10 a.m. The temporary chairman is Rev. William Swafford, P. O. Box 830, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

GUIDELINES

1. Members of these committees should not nominate themselves to fill any vacancies existing on any convention standing committee or convention board.

2. Individuals over the state should be encouraged to send suggestions for nominees to these two committees, including supporting data as to their qualifications and availability.

3. A form should be printed in the Baptist state paper by which suggestions could be made to these committees, the form bearing the signature of the person making the suggestion.

4. The initial meeting of these committees each year should be announced as an "open" meeting when individuals or heads of institutions or agencies could appear before the committees to offer suggestions of and about possible nominees.

5. The head of each institution should be asked to submit the names of three persons for each vacancy to be filled on his board, with supporting data on why these persons would make suitable board members, a practice that is now being followed.

6. If the Committee on Boards considers someone else, other than a person suggested by the head of an institution, for any vacancy on a board, the committee should confer with that official concerning the qualifications of the person being considered, it being understood that the final decision on the nomination rests with the committee.

7. The Committee on Boards should be aware of any requirements of the accrediting agencies which are related to our hospitals, colleges, academy, or children's homes as these requirements affect the work of the committee.

keeping in mind the requirements of the Tennessee Baptist Convention constitution and bylaws. If and when conflicts develop in this area, the committee shall so advise the convention and the convention shall consider ways of reconciling the conflicts.

8. These two committees should keep in mind the desirability of the following principles in making nominations: a broad representation of geographical areas, differing sizes and types of churches, a variety of professional and educational backgrounds, different age groups, with both lay men/women and ministers included.

9. These committees should not nominate a person to a convention board or standing committee who receives a part or all of his salary from the Tennessee Baptist Convention or one of its subsidiary units.

10. The Committee on Boards should no longer feel that all of its nominations should be confined to the geographical area where an institution or agency is located, but their nominees should be residents of Tennessee and members of churches affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

11. In implementing Bylaw 4.(2).A of the Convention's Bylaws in reference to board members for Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis, the hospital should be required to show to the Committee on Boards that there is a demonstrable need for a board member proposed for service on the hospital board of trustees to serve on the board while also serving on another board as permitted in Bylaw 4.(2).A.

12. Trustees must be active in support of their local churches.

RECOMMENDATION TO 1986 COMMITTEE ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Deadline for submitting recommendations is April 4.

Believing in this person's moral integrity, spiritual commitment, and other qualifications for service as a director, trustee, or committee member,

I RECOMMEND (Name): _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ ZIP code _____

Ordained minister _____ Layperson _____ Occupation _____

Church membership _____

Association _____

Involvement and work within the Association _____

Prior service on state boards and committees _____

Training, skill, experience which would qualify this person for service _____

Check board, agency, or committee which you believe this person could best serve:

- Executive Board
- Tennessee Baptist Foundation
- Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes
- Belmont College
- Carson-Newman College
- Union University
- Harrison Chilhowee Bapt. Academy
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System
- Baptist Health Care System
- East Tenn. Baptist Health Care System
- Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes
- Committee on Arrangements
- Committee on Audits
- Committee on Boards
- Committee on Committees
- Committee on Credentials
- Church Staff Compensation Study Com.
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Historical Committee
- Committee on the Journal
- Committee on Resolutions

Please understand that this recommendation does not assure nomination. However, your recommendation will be given serious consideration. No contact will be made by the Committee on Boards or the Committee on Committees until nomination has been approved.

Signed _____ (name of person making recommendation)

(mailing address) _____ (zip code) _____

(area code, telephone) _____ (date) _____

Tractor accident becomes miracle story for doctor

EKU, Nigeria (BP) - Tim McCall thought he was going to be crushed to death.

McCall, a Southern Baptist missionary doctor, recalled working in hospital emergency rooms in the United States and seeing other victims who had been fatally injured when tractors they were working on "stood straight up in the air on (their) back wheels."

As he was thrown to the ground and the tractor fell backward, he thought, "I sure hate to leave my wife and three children, but God, I'm ready to die if it is Your will."

The physician, who is from Memphis, had been rebuilding a landing at the Ethiopie River, which runs behind the Eku Baptist Hospital in Nigeria. He was trying to pull up a palm tree stump when the tractor went out of control.

But when the tractor smashed to the ground on top of him, he felt intense pain only in his left leg.

His relief was only momentary, though, as fuel and oil began spilling out. "I feared I would burn to death, a much worse death, in my opinion, than being crushed."

McCall tried to turn the engine off but could not.

"Then it happened ... an unbelievable peace ... that God was going to spare my life, because people all over the world had been holding me up in prayer,

some calling my name specifically, and others just saying, 'Bless the missionaries.'"

Within minutes, hospital personnel were at the site. As they struggled to move the heavy tractor, McCall began thinking that his leg would have to be amputated, "but I began thanking God for at least sparing my life. In the next instant, the tremendously heavy tractor went straight up in the air, and I was pulled free."

In the X-ray room came news of a miracle. The muscles and some blood vessels in his leg had been crushed, but no bones had been broken. Nor were there any lacerations needing sutures.

With an inward peace that "nothing happens to a Christian that is not 'Father-filtered,'" McCall began to ask God "to show me how He was going to use this accident to glorify His name among Nigerians."

News of more miracles came. Among his many visitors in the hospital was a Nigerian who said a number of his friends began to believe in "our God" after hearing how McCall had been spared.

"Pray that these doors God has opened will lead many to a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ," urged the physician.

McCall was released from the hospital after four days. He anticipates a full recovery after physical therapy.

Seminaries announce program at Belmont College this fall

NASHVILLE - Plans for a seventh seminary studies program, offering master's level seminary courses on the Belmont College campus, have been approved by the six seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

First classes for the jointly sponsored program will begin with two courses to be offered in the fall of 1986. Credits earned through the program will be recorded at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., but may be applied toward degree credit at any of the sponsoring institutions.

Courses will be taught by professors commuting from the seminaries and a limited number of adjunct professors from the Nashville area.

The new program will be administered by the Seminary Studies Department, part of the Seminary External Education Division operated cooperatively by the Southern Baptist seminaries. Six other programs already have been established in New York City, Chicago, Baltimore, Orlando, Little Rock, and Jackson. The

Jackson program, which meets on the campus of Union University, has been in operation since the fall of 1980.

Belmont President William E. Troutt hailed the new program. "We are delighted that Belmont has been approved to host a seminary studies program. Belmont always strives to meet the needs of its Baptist constituency, and this opportunity for seminary study on our campus will be a real blessing to many middle Tennessee pastors and staff members."

W. Fred Kendall II, Belmont's vice-president for religious affairs, will serve as local coordinator for the Nashville program. He will be assisted by a local advisory committee appointed by Troutt.

Specific courses to be offered this fall will be announced later. Classes will be held on Monday afternoon and evenings.

Students wishing to apply for the program may write to Kirby L. Clark, director, Seminary Studies Department, Southern Baptist Convention Building, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37203.

Attorney exhorts Baptists to avoid diversion by suit

NASHVILLE (BP)— Southern Baptists were urged "not to be diverted" from their task of presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ because twin lawsuits have been filed against the Southern Baptist Convention.

James P. Guenther, attorney for the SBC and its Executive Committee, made the remark during the February meeting of the Executive Committee as he reported on lawsuits filed in federal and state courts in Atlanta by nine laypersons concerning events at the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC in Dallas.

"I urge you not to be diverted by this case," Guenther told the 69-member committee. "While I take this case as seriously as any for which I have ever had responsibility, and while it represents a case of grave importance in the history of church-state relations in this democracy, this case is, in the context of what Southern Baptists are about, a mere flash in the pan."

Guenther, of the Nashville law firm of Guenther and Jordan, along with former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell of the Atlanta law firm of King and Spaulding, is defending the SBC and Executive Committee in the two courts.

"Let the lawyers man the judicial battlements," Guenther told Executive Committee members. Then, he said, "you may continue the focus of your

prayers, your wisdom, and your efforts on the real needs of our convention, seeking new commitments to old truths, growing tolerant and exhibiting fairness, adding breadth to minds and size to hearts, discovering humility in servanthood, and concentrating on becoming radical disciples of a radical Saviour in a world in desperate need of His good news."

On Dec. 5, Robert and Julia Crowder and Henry Cooper of Windsor, Mo., filed suit in federal court in Atlanta. In January, a Vero Beach, Fla., layman, H. Allan McCartney, joined them.

On Jan. 23, a parallel suit was filed in Superior Court of Fulton County, Ga., by five laypersons from five states: Katherine F. White of Atlanta; Lucy Azlin of Alexandria, La.; Betty Ann L. Upshaw of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and brothers Terry Black of Louisville, Ky., and Jim B. Black of Lewisville, Texas.

Both suits seek to have the convention bylaws interpreted, to declare the election of the 1986 Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees declared invalid, to rule that SBC President Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta violated the bylaws with rulings at the 1985 annual meeting, and to enjoin the SBC and Executive Committee from "further violations" of the bylaws during the 1986 annual meeting in Atlanta.

Guenther told committee members he and the other five attorneys involved will "defend the convention and this Executive Committee with whatever professional skill we can muster. But, more importantly, we will defend this case as

Christ's church ought.

"With all our might," he said, "we will fight any intrusion of any court of any government into the ecclesiastical governance of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Ultimately, he said, "either in federal or state court, the fundamental defense ... will be that no civil court has the power to decide disputes which are, as the United States Supreme Court has said, 'strictly and purely ecclesiastical in character.' The court's lack of power is an essential attribute of the religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment."

Guenther said the election of the 1986

Committee on Boards "was one of a series of votes in the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years which can only be significant to those of us within the four walls of the church. The theological controversy within the convention and the struggle for control of agencies ... give the only meaning to those votes. These are religious disputes involving ecclesiastical but not civil rights."

Spelling out that under the SBC system, "the messengers control by majority vote," Guenther said the "duly elected president ... interpreted the bylaws, messengers elected the Committee on Boards by a majority vote, and then voted to quit talking about it."

Sociologist chides SBC churches for erecting barriers for aging

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)— In spite of all the church is doing to minister to the aging and elderly, local congregations often unconsciously erect barriers to hamper participation by senior citizens, a sociologist told a Baptist conference at Colonial Williamsburg, Va.

Some churches sustain prejudices that are demeaning to the self concepts of the elderly and indulge in discriminatory practices which shunt the elderly aside, thus unwittingly violating Biblical ideals, said David Moberg, professor of sociology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

Moberg spoke to the Southern Baptist

Association of Ministries with the Aging as the group celebrated its 10th anniversary at the three-day conference in mid-February.

"Both in terms of scheduling and content, the programming of church activities often fails to consider the capacities, needs, and interests of aging members," the sociologist said. Most adult activities typically are held at night when people with diminished eyesight are reluctant to leave their homes, he added.

"Too often the subject matter is oriented toward 'the family,' interpreted to mean husband-wife units who still have children living at home," he continued.

Moberg urged conference participants to be sensitive to needs of the elderly and to help them utilize the talents which they have developed over a lifetime.

Ben Dickerson, director of the Institute of Gerontological Studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, encouraged Southern Baptists to increase their ministry to the nation's aging population.

"Every day in the United States, 1,600 adults become age 65. Every week, nearly 125 Americans reach their 100th birthday. God has given us life, and we must look seriously at maintaining the quality of that life," he said.

During the meeting, W. L. Howse III of Lewisville, Texas, and the late Agnes Durant Pylant of Jacksonville, Fla., were honored for service to senior adults by the Southern Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging. Each was awarded the Adkins-Kerr Award.

Pylant, who died last year at age 85, was the first salaried youth director in the Southern Baptist Convention and wrote the first study course book on recreation for the Baptist Young People's Union.

In the 1930s, she taught church recreation at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and later taught at Wayland College in Plainview, Texas. In 1954 she was named first director of the church recreation department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Howse, currently minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church of Lewisville, Texas, has served on church staffs in Texas, has been employed by Buckner Baptist Children's Homes in Dallas, and was director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and director of the alcohol and drug abuse section for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health, both in Nashville. He also was director of the Hurt Gerontology Center of Virginia Baptist Homes in Culpeper.

Stoney Creek church calls Jones as pastor

Basil Jones is now pastor of Stoney Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethton. He began Feb. 7.

Jones has been pastor of Vernon Heights Baptist Church in Kingsport; New Victory Baptist Church in Jonesboro; Happy Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethton; East Rogersville Baptist Church in Rogersville; and Hickory Cove Baptist Church in Rogersville.

Active in the Holston Valley Missionary Baptist Association, he has been moderator, chairman of the executive board, and a member of the evangelism committee.



Jones

Christian Life Commission hosts national seminar on moral values

NASHVILLE — Leaders in the field of Christian ethics, education, and public policy will address a variety of issues at a conference on "Recovering Moral Values," March 17-19 in Nashville.

The national seminar, sponsored annually by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, will include perspectives on current moral concerns such as child abuse, teen-age pregnancy, the family and moral development, economic justice, apartheid and racial injustice, pornography, integrity in public policy,

and morality in the media.

The three-day seminar at Nashville's new Music City Sheraton is designed to provide practical help for Southern Baptist pastors, other church staff members, and laypersons in dealing more effectively with contemporary moral issues.

Major speakers are Tom Anderson, Missouri Baptist layman and psychiatrist; Hodding Carter III, chief correspondent for a weekly PBS series and former U.S. assistant secretary of state; Norman Cavender, Georgia Baptist layman and farmer; Marian W. Edelman, president of Children's Defense Fund; Tipper Gore, activist for moral responsibility in popular music and wife of U.S. Sen. Albert Gore Jr.; and Stanley Hauerwas, author and professor of theological ethics, Duke University.

Also, Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Ron Sider, author and professor of theology, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Leon Sullivan, Baptist pastor and author of the "Sullivan Principles"; and Kenneth Wooden, investigative reporter for ABC News "20/20," founder of the National Coalition for Children's Justice, and author of several books on child abuse.

Christian composer and performer Darrell Adams of Louisville, Ky., will provide theme interpretations through music at each of the sessions. The closing sermon will be delivered by William L. Turner, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

Registration is \$35 per person and \$17.50 for spouses of registrants and for students.



OUTREACH TRAINING — Walter Taylor of Jackson, Jack Smith of Chattanooga, and Greer Ruble Jr., director of the Sunday School department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, make plans to implement Outreach Bible Study in Tennessee churches during a training session at the Baptist Sunday School Board. The Tennesseans will lead training sessions on outreach in churches across Tennessee.

Court upholds zoning regulations to limit adult movie theaters

By Stan Hasty

WASHINGTON (BP)— The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the right of cities to impose zoning restrictions on adult theaters, provided such establishments are not banned altogether.

In a 7-2 decision announced Feb. 25, the high court held that municipalities do not do violence to the First Amendment's free speech clause by imposing "a form of time, place, and manner regulation" on adult theaters but stop short of outlawing them.

The decision, written by Justice William H. Rehnquist, endorsed a 1981 ordinance of the city of Renton, Wash., a Seattle suburb, stating adult theaters may not be located within 1,000 feet of any residential zone, single- or multiple-family dwelling, church, park, or school.

Such "content neutral" regulations, Rehnquist wrote, "are acceptable so long as they are designed to serve a substantial governmental interest and do not unreasonably limit alternative avenues of communication."

Renton's ordinance was written, he added, "not to suppress the expression of unpopular views," but "to prevent crime, protect the city's retail trade, maintain property values, and generally 'protect and preserve the quality of neighborhoods, commercial districts, and the quality of urban life.'"

In a related action announced the day before the Renton decision, the high court summarily affirmed a federal appeals court that struck down an Indianapolis law seeking to ban pornography on the basis it violates the civil rights of women. The law allowed any woman claiming she had been harmed by pornographic materials to seek damages from businesses selling or exhibiting them.

The 1984 law — reportedly similar to statutes in a dozen other cities — has not been enforced under court orders pending final disposition. A federal appeals court in Chicago ruled earlier that the Indianapolis law violated the First Amendment's free speech clause.

Mission families escape from fire

AMMAN, Jordan (BP) — Six Southern Baptist missionaries and two children in Amman, Jordan, escaped injury in a nighttime fire that was extinguished before it ignited five 2,000-liter fuel tanks, most of which were full.

Damage was limited to three furnaces in their apartment building.

The Feb. 7 incident reminded mission-

aries in Amman "of God's protective care," said Alta Lee Lovegren, press representative of Jordan's Southern Baptist mission.

Residents in the mission-owned building are Missionaries Pat Frost, Lynn Smith, Geraldene Volkart, Wilson and Cheryl Tatum and their two children, and Missionary Journeyman Patricia Raffield.

One missionary noticed billowing smoke and alerted others in the building to evacuate. Tatum and fellow missionaries Bernie Fairchild and Graydon Hardister and Hardister's son, David, fought the fire with portable extinguishers after the others had evacuated to the Hardister home next door.

It was only the second fire on mission property since Southern Baptist work in Jordan began in 1952. Cause of the fire was thought to be an electrical problem.

Tennessee Baptist Foundation



By Earl Wilson
President

If only I could be sure...

To be sure of something means to be confident, certain, free from apprehension, anxiety, and worry. We often use the expression, and yet there are relatively few things in life about which we can be sure. Because of this we have insurance of all kinds to help us meet the emergencies of today and the uncertainties that tomorrow could bring.

We could cancel our hospitalization, home, accident, automobile, and disability insurance if we knew for sure we would never need them. It is not knowing that keeps us paying the premiums.

While we cannot be sure about these things, we can be sure, through faith in Christ, that our sins have been both cleansed and forgiven. And, that upon death, we will be welcomed into the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:1-8).

By preparing a Christian will, we also can be sure that upon death, our family and loved ones will be provided for, our estate will be distributed according to our wishes, and the Christian cause or causes of our choice will be given financial support forever.

Faith is essential to salvation. A Christian will is essential to support the Christian cause of your choice after death. For helpful information in preparing a Christian will, write the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Ray accepts pastorate with Eastland church

Eddie Ray has been named pastor of Eastland Baptist Church in Ripley.

He comes to the church from Kirk Baptist Church in Collierville, where he also served as pastor.

Ray will graduate from Union University in Jackson this June.

J. Haynes joins staff of Gainesboro church

James Edward Haynes leads First Baptist Church in Gainesboro as pastor. He began March 2.

Previously, he was pastor of Brush Creek Baptist Church in Brush Creek; Nash Grove Baptist Church in Baxter; and First Baptist Church in Algood.

On the associational level, Haynes has served as moderator of Stone and New Salem Baptist associations.

A native of Lebanon, he is a graduate of Emmanuel Bible College in Nashville.

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Personal Perspective



By Tom Madden
TBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

As our Lord was preparing His disciples for His departure, He talked to them about a strange legacy. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14:27).

He could have left them some land, houses, and money, but He left them a better gift. The peace He talked about would give sweeter and more during joys than all the earth's material treasures.

The peace He spoke of pre-eminently characterized His own life. Jesus was continually patient, unruffled, calm, unresentful, and possessed a peace that the world could neither give nor take away. The storms and trials that ebbed and flowed around Him did not disturb Him. Persecutions, injustice, abuse, mockery, suffering, even death could not deprive Him of His peace.

It is this kind of peace that He offers to provide us. Through His sacrifice on the cross He brought about the terms of agreement between God and man whereby sinful humans can find acceptance and forgiveness from our Heavenly Father and He thereby provides the peace that passeth all understanding.

He is the only one Who can bestow it. There is no one else who can give rest, calmness, and peace in the midst of this world's trials, struggles, suffering, disaster, and death.

We obtain this peace as a gift of God's grace through Christ. We obtain it by receiving personally Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, trusting fully and living in His fellowship and service.

"Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

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Mercer's liberal arts faculty attacks president's credibility

By Jack U. Harwell

MACON, Ga. (BP) — A simmering dispute between the faculty and administration of Mercer University over the role of its college of liberal arts has resulted in a resolution from the faculty charging the administration with a "lack of credibility."

By a vote of 46-28, the faculty of the liberal arts college in Macon, Ga., drafted a three-sentence resolution aimed at President R. Kirby Godsey. The resolution, approved Feb. 24, says:

"Be it resolved: That it is the sense of the faculty of the college of liberal arts that because some of the recent trends in central administration policy and governance practice have not altered, further serious deterioration of faculty-administration relations is inevitable.

"We therefore urge the central administration to recognize that its lack of credibility with the faculty of the college

of liberal arts reflects a lack of stable direction of leadership that honors promises, matches its words with action, and shows respect for the traditions and procedures of participation which are the lifeblood of a genuine academic community.

"However, the college faculty will reciprocate any genuine efforts to improve the situation."

The faculty vote came after almost a year of discussion between Godsey and the 10-member "blue-ribbon" committee elected by the faculty last spring to study complaints against "central administration."

When the blue-ribbon committee presented its report to the full liberal arts faculty on Feb. 24, two members — Carlos Flick and Henry Warnock — presented dissenting reports. They sought to have their reports made a part of the final resolution, but the faculty rejected that appeal.

The resolution from the liberal arts faculty was supported by a 17-page document detailing eight "important grievances and problem areas." The grievances involved such matters as relations with other schools, academic programs, finances, faculty vacancies, and faculty-administration trust.

After listing these grievances, the committee document observed, "the committee regrets that, after having held more than 30 meetings, it is unable to point to meaningful steps toward resolution of this crisis in leadership. It is therefore not able to give an encouraging report on the prospects for genuinely meaningful participation of the faculty in administrative decisions."

Following the blue-ribbon committee's report, Godsey told the Christian Index,

news journal of the Georgia Baptist Convention:

"The university has outstanding faculty who speak with integrity and a strong voice. I respect their views, applaud their freedom to speak, while at times genuinely disagreeing with some of their conclusions. Yet we are an academic community, and the diversity between their views and my own remains a part of the essential strength of the university.

"I want this administration always to be sensitive to the voices of the faculty from any on the nine colleges, but in the final analysis, administrative decisions must be reached in the context of the will of trustees. We will always seek to be attentive to concerns of faculty as those concerns bear on our decisions."

Executive Committee

elects new bookkeeper

NASHVILLE (BP) — Bettie Marie Stevens has joined the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee as chief bookkeeper.

Stevens, who has been supervisor of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's business office since December 1981, succeeds Ada Ruth Kelly, who is retiring after more than 20 years as the Executive Committee's chief bookkeeper.

In her new job, Stevens works with Vice-president for Business and Finance Tim Hedquist in recording and maintaining all accounting records of the Executive Committee. Her employment was effective March 1.

In addition to her work with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Stevens was data processing specialist and assistant to the director of business services for the Florida Baptist Convention from March 1968 to November 1981.

John Davis accepts Cleveland pastorate

John W. Davis was called to be pastor of Cohulla Baptist Church in Cleveland. He began his ministry there Dec. 15.

Davis was previously pastor of Wetmore Baptist Church in Delano.

Denominational positions include associational Brotherhood director and president of Polk Association Preachers' Fellowship.

A native of Conasauga, Davis attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for March 16

Need for qualified leaders

By Ray Newcomb, pastor
First Baptist Church, Millington

Basic Passage: Titus 1:1-16
Focal Passages: Titus 1:1-16

The description given by Paul

Paul describes himself (v.1) in three ways.

First, he was "a servant of God." He was a bondman of God, for God owned him. Paul's commitment was totally to the Lord.

Second, he was "an apostle of Jesus Christ." Here Paul gives us his official authority for the ministry in which he is engaged. He was a "sent one." He was the envoy of Jesus Christ, for Jesus Christ Himself had entrusted him with the gospel.

Third, Paul identifies himself as a "believer." The expression, "the faith of God's elect," indicates that Christians are believers. We are saved by believing, by faith, by trust in God. Those are also the principles by which we are to live. We, by the grace of God, are "God's elect," believers, those who trust in the living God.

Paul describes the gospel in two ways (vv.2-3).

First, it is the eternal gospel. God promised us eternal life before the world began. God's gracious and merciful plan of saving men and women was no afterthought in His mind. It is important to remember that the gospel we love, the gospel by which we have been saved, and the gospel we preach is an eternal gospel.

Second, it is a declared gospel. The great and glorious message of God has been "manifested by preaching." The gospel has been committed to us as a solemn trust and our responsibility is to preach and declare it, so that others may be saved.

Paul describes two particular things about the Lord: He cannot lie and He is our Saviour (vv.2-3). Every promise God has made, He will fulfill. The word "Saviour" is the most precious name we give to our Lord. The word "Saviour" means "deliverer." We can rejoice in the God Who cannot lie and in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal and all-sufficient Saviour.

Paul describes Titus (v.4). Titus was Paul's "child." He refers to him as "my son." Paul was his spiritual father. The words "mine own" quite literally mean "my genuine" child, or "my true" child. Paul greeted him with warm and loving words of comfort, "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour."

The duty of leaders (vv.5-9)

One reason Paul left Titus on the island of Crete was that he might organize the local assemblies and "set in order" the things that were lacking. The leadership in the church will determine whether a church is strong or weak, a living force or a dying cause, powerful or lacking in vitality. Paul knew Titus could appoint leaders that would honor God and build a strong church.

He mentions three words to describe leaders in the church. In verse 5, "elders" conveys to us the idea of maturity and dignity. In verse 7, the word "bishop" means "overseer," so a leader in God's work is one who "sees over" that work. "Steward" is one who acts on behalf of another. He works under God's directions.



Newcomb

Paul listed for us the qualifications of these leaders. Several of the qualifications have already been discussed in our study of 1 Timothy 3:2-3: "Blameless, the husband of one wife ... not given to wine, no striker (not violent), not greedy of filthy lucre ... given to hospitality ... sober." The fact that these standards applied to Christians on the island of Crete as well as to those in the city of Ephesus proves that God's measure for leaders does not fluctuate. Every church needs godly men in leadership.

We have listed nine additional qualifications. A leader must "have faithful children" (v.6b). "Faithful" means "believing." They must not be accused of "riot" (wild living) or disobedience ("unruly," unable to be ruled).

The leader must be a steward of God (v.7a). The most important characteristic of a steward is faithfulness. He will not be self-willed (v.7b). This means "not overbearing," always pushing to have his own way. He will not be "soon angry" (v.7c). He must not have a quick temper.

One who is "a lover of good men" (v.8a) is a person who is "just" (v.8b). "Upright" is a good translation. Also, he will be "holy" (v.8c). "Unstained" gives the idea. He will be "temperate" (v.8d). "Self-controlled" is the meaning, and it applies to a man's appetites and actions.

A leader will "hold fast the faithful word" (v.9). There is a twofold ministry of the word: (1) building up the church with sound doctrine, and (2) refuting the false teachers who spread unsound doctrine.

The demand to silence false teachers (1:10-16)

Verse 10 tells us there were "many" people who were unruly in the church. They refused to submit to authority, that is, the authority of the Scriptures, and they were insubordinate and ungoverned. They were disobedient and this affected the way they lived. They spoke a lot of things that achieved no useful purpose, so by what they were and by what they said, they were "deceivers." Their "mouths must be stopped," because they subverted whole houses.

Their motive was impure. Verse 11 tells us their motive was "unworthy gain." Some people long for the esteem of others; they are self-centered and crave recognition. They were especially susceptible due to background and temperament. According to verses 12 and 13, "no people ever had a worse reputation in the ancient world than the Cretians." These people were famed as an insolent, untrustworthy, and lying people; they were known to be drunken and gluttons. Paul had this in mind when he quoted in verse 12, one of the ancient poets: "men of Crete are always liars, evil and beastly, lazy and greedy."

What was Titus to do? He was to "exhort and to convince" them by means of "sound doctrine" (v.9). He was to stop their mouths (v.11) and to prevent them from teaching and spreading false doctrines. They were to be "rebuked sharply" (v.13). His main purpose was to convince these teachers and get them to be "sound in their faith" (v.13).

The attitude of so many today is, "it makes no difference what you believe, just as long as you believe something." It makes all the difference between life and death, whether or not you believe the truth of the Word or believe a lie.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for March 16

A hope worth waiting for

By Al Shackleford, editor
Baptist and Reflector, Brentwood

Basic Passage: 2 Peter
Focal Passage: 2 Peter 3:1-13

Unlike most of the New Testament epistles, 2 Peter does not mention a specific locality to which this letter was addressed. However, since it was referred to as the "second letter" (3:1), it is safe to assume that it — like 1 Peter — was addressed to the scattered believers in Asia Minor.

Both letters contain similar themes: authority of the apostles and prophets; God's deliverance of Noah and his family; the sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus; the second coming of Christ; and the believer's living, confident hope.

This second letter, however, gives more emphasis to the rise of false teachings (2:1-22) and the second coming (3:1-18). The warning of false teachers is of such importance that it is treated throughout the New Testament by Jesus (Matthew 7:14, 24:11, 24), by Paul (1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:1-9), by John (1 John 4:1), and by Jude (vv.4-19).

Second Peter gives the most intense warning, as the apostle not only attacks these teachers' message, but also their immorality. These who have promised freedom are themselves "slaves of corruption" (2:19).

God's promises are true (3:1-8)

The purpose of this second letter is to stir up the believer's mind, causing a remembrance of the true message of salvation and deliverance (v.1). Peter had dealt with this in the first chapter (1:3-11), reminding them that God's divine power is all that is necessary for the believer's life and godliness.

What is the criteria by which we are to judge all teaching? Peter urges those first-century believers (and us) to examine all "knowledge" by the standard of the words spoken by the holy prophets and by the commandments of Jesus which had been shared with them by the apostles (v.2).

I like the Acts 17 report of the attitude of the people of Berea who apparently were reluctant to even believe Paul unless his message agreed with the Scriptures. "They received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Too often in our day, I fear that we depend on humans "to tell us what we believe," rather than the Scriptures.

As these believers are reminded of the teachings of Christ and the prophets, they should remember that scoffers (mockers) were predicted to come — advancing their own ambitions and lust for power (v.3).

The scoffers' main attacks would seem to be, "Where is the promise of His (Jesus' second) coming?" (v.4). The believers had been told to live in expectation that Christ's return might be at any moment, but the world continued as it had from the time of creation.

Peter reminds his readers to compare their situation with the time of the flood (vv.5-7). The water was there, ready for the time when God chose to send the destructive flood. Likewise, God is prepared to bring destruction (this time by fire) upon the ungodly. That destruction will be unleashed when God is ready.

The believers are not to be concerned by any timetable (v.8). God is an eternal God. He has always existed and always will. We live by time schedules and deadlines — but not God.

God's promises fulfilled (3:9-10)

Peter again assures the believers that God is not slack nor slow about fulfilling His promises. He has not been delayed, nor are His promises any less true because they have not been fulfilled (v.9).

Why has God delayed the destruction of the world and the redemption of His people? The answer is the grace and mercy of God. What was thought to be a "delay" was God's patience with sinners. Not wanting any to perish because of unrepentance, God is patiently waiting to give unbelievers every opportunity to experience salvation through repentance and faith.

But, just as in the time of Noah, God's patience and mercy will end. That day of judgment and destruction will come "like a thief" who slips in when we are unaware (v.10). The method of destruction will be an intense fire that will "burn up" the earth.

Living under these promises (3:11-18)

Believing that judgment cannot be escaped, Peter wonders, "What sort of people ought you to be?" (v.12). Our lives are to be characterized by "holy conduct and godliness" (v.11), by "peace, spotless and blameless" (v.14), and by growth "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (v.18).

Our attention must not be on false teachings which challenge the promises of God, but rather on His promise of a "new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (v.13). This is that hope worth waiting for!

Peter commends the writings of Paul, who wrote "according to the wisdom given him" (v.14-16), an affirmation that his letters were inspired by the Holy Spirit and rest upon the Scriptures.

Knowing the promises of God which produce a living, confident hope, Peter warns believers to be on guard lest these promises be replaced "by the error of unprincipled men" (v.17). Such teachings destroy — rather than generate — hope, as we wait for "the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:13-14).

Ed Bullock joins Brotherhood staff

MEMPHIS (BP) — Joseph Edwin (Ed) Bullock has joined the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission staff in Memphis, as executive director of the Fellowship of Baptist Men. For the past five years, he has been associate director of the volunteer enlistment department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

The Fellowship of Baptist Men is designed to bring together men with similar vocational skills and interests and provide a forum for them to exchange ideas and to help them use their abilities to serve Christ through their denomination.

Prior to his employment at the Foreign Mission Board, Bullock directed North Carolina Brotherhood work for 16 years. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Lesson for March 16

Hope from the Supper

By Thom H. Bartlett, youth and recreation minister
Highland Heights Baptist Church, Memphis

Basic Passage: Matthew 26:1-35

Focal Passage: Matthew 26:19-30

It is amazing what people think about Christianity and the church, both "inside" and "outside" the church.

A devout Communist called it the "opiate of the people." Others look on it as a panacea (go to a church and everything will be OK). Still others view it as an idealistic, other-worldly place devoid of the reality of the world. Many see it as "theirs" — for their family, their friends, people like them.



Bartlett

The church is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ who have been offered hope in the midst of this world and in turn are offering hope to others.

The next three lessons on the Lord's Supper, the crucifixion, and the resurrection demonstrate that. Where the crunch comes, where the water hits the wheel, the cutting edge of life — Christ is there and so we should be as believers.

Sometimes people avoid problems (such as terminal illness, tragic accidents, or the breaking up of homes) because they are scared, or they do not know what to say or do. Nothing on earth could have been more problematic than the last week of Jesus' earthly walk. But, in the midst of it, there is found hope and love and faith. It is not the kind of faith, hope, and love that just says "it will be OK" or buries its head in the sand or says "I'm fine" when it is dying inside.

This kind of faith, hope, and love deals with the sometimes ugly reality of life, with the selfishness, pettiness, and cruelty that can be found within us all. Yet, Jesus still saw it through. Jesus showed His followers throughout His ministry (and especially this week) that to be His child is to be a part of people's lives (good, bad, or otherwise), not to be insulated from them.

The way Jesus does things sometimes surprises me. In my 20th century mentality, I think about God making a big production of something important, like a "made-for-TV docu-drama."

Rather, He uses the everyday sort of people in everyday situations to bring His message to us with such startling clarity. The Supper is no exception.

At this time in history, Jewish hope for a messiah, a "second Moses," to deliver them from Rome was great. Thus many misconstrued Jesus' "kingdom" messages. The Supper, on the Day of

Unleavened Bread (part of the Passover celebration), was meaningful.

Traditionally groups of 10 or more ate the meal together. Jesus and the disciples were no different. The purpose of the meal was to be reminded of and to celebrate the deliverance from Egyptian captivity because of God's intervention on behalf of His people.

This Supper was to become to the believers our remembrance and celebration concerning our deliverance from sin because of God's intervention on our behalf.

We must not forget the reason for the Hebrew children's deliverance — to make them a nation of priests to the world. They became too interested in becoming like the world to fulfill God's purpose. Our deliverance, that His Supper celebrates and commemorates, involves the same purpose. Have we fallen victim to the same trap into which we are so quick to condemn the Jews for falling?

Jerusalem's population doubled for this week as pilgrims came. The Roman procurator and his troops from Caesarea were billeted in the city to maintain order. There were people from every known country in the world and of every race and color, from the richest to the poorest. Businesses of every sort were booming. All of the priests of the country were at the Temple to handle the sacrifices (as many as a quarter of a million lambs).

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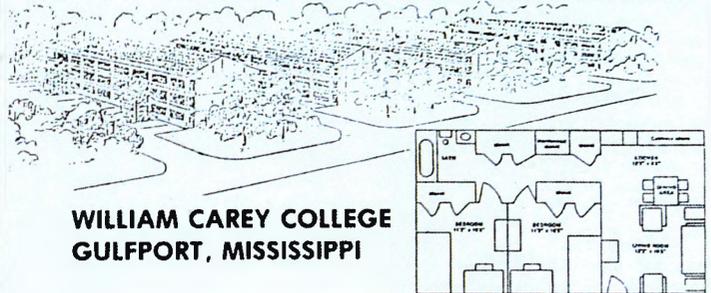
With all of this activity, Jesus and His disciples observed a traditional Jewish meal. So began the most fateful week in human history.

With an undercurrent of messianic hope, the world had come to Jerusalem for Passover — a passover with special ceremonies, meal, group festivities, all culminating in a sacrifice, just like every year. But this Passover would be differ-

ent. Little did they know that this Passover would change the world forever.

We should beware that we do not become so comfortable in our lives as to fall victim to what Judas did. We can betray Christ in our own way by lack of concern, contempt, lack of love, or selfish attitudes. If we do not do what we know is right, we betray the One we claim we follow. It is our decision, just as it was Judas'!

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Owner of Chick-fil-A practices his faith

By Terri Lackey

HAPEVILLE, Ga. (BP) — A small grin splashes Truett Cathy's face when his notoriety is mentioned, but it disappears quickly with a wave of his hand.

The 64-year-old owner and founder of the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain is not one to dwell on his fame and fortune. He would rather talk about his two sons, his daughter, his wife, his mother, his father, the Sunday School class of 13- and 14-year-old boys he teaches at First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga., anybody but himself.

Cathy is no newcomer to publicity. His face has embellished the covers of *Business Atlanta*, Atlanta's monthly business magazine, and *Sky*, a Delta airlines in-flight magazine. His success story has hit the pages of magazines such as *Forbes* and *Restaurant News* and has received attention in newspapers throughout the nation.

But it is Cathy's personal Christian testimony — his compassion and generosity, rather than his business acumen or financial wizardry — that has captured the hearts of his friends, acquaintances, and especially the boys in his Sunday School class.

Cathy represents Christian laypersons highlighted through Southern Baptists' 1986 Baptist Doctrine Study on the doctrine of the laity. Baptist Doctrine Study, scheduled April 21-25, is sponsored by the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Cathy says he derives a special pleasure from teaching a Sunday School class of 13- and 14-year-old boys, a task he has undertaken for more than 30 years.

"I'm hooked on that age, and I intend to stay with it," Cathy says of the class. "That's a critical age, and it's the last opportunity to establish values.

"At that age, the kids will give you all the time you want, but at 15, 16, or 17, well, you might as well forget it. They're more interested in girls, cars, and going out with their friends," he explains.

For Cathy, ministering to the young boys does not begin and end on Sunday mornings.

It is not unusual to find him driving a Chick-fil-A van or station wagon to the front doors of the boys' homes on Friday afternoon and shuttling them off for the weekend to his 260-acre farm outside of Atlanta.

"I'm out of town quite a bit, and I feel that if I miss a Sunday or two, I owe them something. So I take them to the farm," he notes.

Here he becomes one of the gang, speeding over hills and valleys on motorcycles or galloping through pastures on horses, Cathy says.

His more-than-just-a-passing interest in the boys of his Sunday School class is evident not only through counseling and concern, but through concrete financial assistance. He sometimes helps the boys' families with medical bills, clothing costs, college expenses, and jobs.

Cathy recalls a phone call near Christmas several years ago from a boy who needed transportation to get to and from work.

"I didn't know the boy at all, but he had courage enough to call, so I told him whatever money he earned he could save. I would match it, and he could buy a bicycle. I would get calls from him often, telling me how much he had saved," Cathy says.

He invited the boy to spend Christmas with him and his family.

"Needless to say, there was a bright, shiny bicycle under the tree," Cathy remembers. The young man, now in college, still is a frequent visitor to the Cathy household, "and is just like one of the family."

Stepping into the Chick-fil-A headquarters and talking with Cathy, it is hard to imagine that this pioneer of express-service chicken sandwiches sprang from such humble beginnings.

"My mother ran a boarding house, and my father sold insurance," Cathy says of his childhood days in Eatonton, Ga. "My dad never really recuperated from the experience of the Depression."

In 1946, Cathy and his brother pooled their resources, borrowed money, and purchased a tiny, 24-hour restaurant just outside Atlanta, called The Dwarf House.

Because the restaurant was located on a heavily-traveled highway to Florida, Cathy learned that customers wanted food, and they wanted it fast. The Dwarf House, in 1963, is where Cathy perfected the four-minute chicken sandwich. By 1985, it had paved the way to 315 Chick-fil-A stores in 31 states, one of the nation's largest privately-held restaurant chains.

Cathy's faith is evident in his operation of the chain whose stores are closed on Sundays.

Although Cathy has received numerous religious and civic awards and recognition, he says he is most proud of the opportunities he offers to "ambitious" young people.

One of those is Camp WinShape, a foundation located in North Georgia and established in 1984 to promote the religious growth and education of boys, ages 7 through 16.

Another is WinShape Center, where Chick-fil-A employees "who establish good work habits and attitudes" are given an opportunity to qualify for college scholarships.

"I'm motivated," he says, "by young people who are out there working hard."

Interpretations

Paul's emotional trauma

By Herschel H. Hobbs

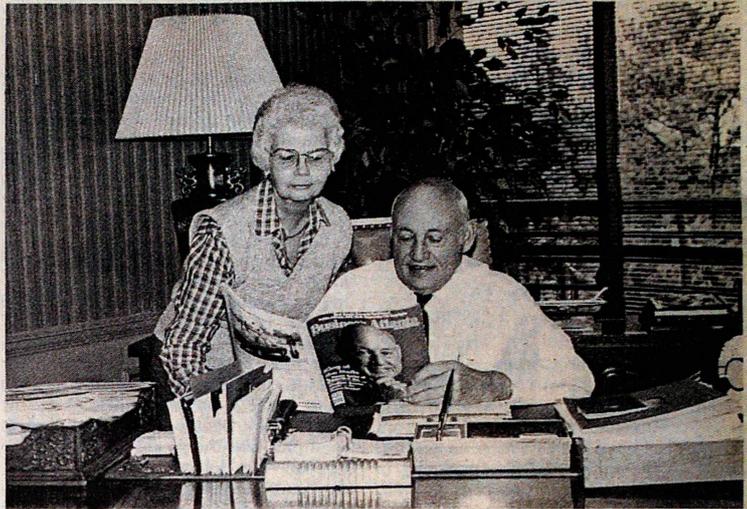
"Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels" (Philemon 12).

There was a very close bond between Paul and Onesimus. As a runaway slave, Onesimus arrived in Rome frightened, friendless, and alone. But somehow he found his way to Paul.

Perhaps he knew of Paul and his imprisonment by overhearing his owner's conversations with other of the apostle's friends. Though he had run away, perhaps Onesimus in his forlorn condition was homesick for familiar faces and haunts. The nearest thing to that was to seek out Paul, who was a friend of his owner.

At the same time Paul was under house arrest, but was permitted to receive guests. So when the runaway slave of his friend Philemon came to him, he received him also as a friend. Instead of condemning or lecturing him, Paul led him to become a Christian. And Onesimus responded by serving Paul.

Much of this is supposition. But they did get together and the basic facts are



LAYMAN ON THE COVER — Truett Cathy and his secretary of 21 years, Brooksie Kirk, look over a February 1986 *Business Atlanta* magazine that features the Chick-fil-A magnate who is also a committed Baptist layman.

Unstable world conditions send refugees, expert says

MIAMI (BP) — Ethnic and language groups not presently in the United States will become a part of the American scene if world conditions fail to stabilize, participants at a Southern Baptist language missions conference were told.

The new breed of immigrant and the American ethnic will provide Christians with a challenge heretofore unimagined, speakers told nearly 200 Baptist language missions leaders from throughout the nation.

"The refugees you see on your late-night newscast could well be candidates for resettlement in your community,"

said Nicholas Van Praag, public information officer for the United Nations high commissioner for refugees.

Nearly 60-million refugees have been displaced since the end of World War II, double the number for the 50 years prior, Van Praag said. One-million refugees have been resettled from Southeast Asia since the fall of Saigon in 1975, with 700,000 of those finding their way to the United States, he added.

Oscar Romo, director of the language missions division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board which sponsored the conference, said an estimated 30 percent of the persons born in Third World countries between now and the year 2000 eventually will migrate to America.

"The Central America crisis is already impacting our nation," Romo said. "The Hong Kong Treaty of 1997 is bringing thousands to our shores. And the continuing turmoil following the Philippine election will impact us as will other world crises."

Churches need to see ethnics in their communities as the unique individuals they are and seek to minister to their needs, Romo added.

Gerald Palmer, vice-president for missions at the Home Mission Board, called for more ethnic diversity on the leadership level of the denomination.

"Differences in culture must not disenfranchise persons from associational, state, and agency leadership positions," Palmer said. "Most of our leadership meetings are not representative of the ethnic diversity of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The denomination must continue to channel its massive power into new missions ventures to reach all people, regardless of their cultural heritage, Palmer warned. A fragmentation of that power could be disastrous, he said.

"With a failure to use power appropriately, as in the tragedy of the space shuttle, the debris of Southern Baptists could be scattered across the nation and the world," he added.

correct. Their souls were knitted together as spiritual father and spiritual son.

Now Paul is sending him back to Philemon, the only honorable thing he could do.

"Thou therefore receive him" is not in the best texts. But the idea is understood (see v.17).

Paul wants his friend to know the emotional trauma he is experiencing in parting with Onesimus. The ancients used the word for "bowels" to refer to the vital organs — heart, liver, and lungs. They regarded them as the seat of the emotions.

This, within itself, was a telling argument calling for Philemon to deal kindly with his repentant slave. In Onesimus, Paul was sending a part of himself. It was a real sacrifice to him. In it he gave to Philemon a witness of his faith and love. This calls for Philemon to demonstrate the same toward both Paul and Onesimus.

The result of this would be the strengthening of all three.