

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Robert Craig resigns as Union's president

JACKSON — Union University President Robert E. Craig has announced his resignation, effective July 1. Craig, Union's president for 19 years, has accepted the presidency of his alma mater, East Texas Baptist College, Marshall.

Craig announced his decision during an April 4 meeting of the executive committee of Union's board of trustees.

"This was the most difficult decision of my professional career," Craig said. "I consider the presidency of Union University as the most ideal one in the United States. I have only love, respect, and appreciation for the fine trustees, faculty, staff, students, and friends of Union. No earthly reason could cause me to leave this divinely led and blessed institution."

However, Craig added, "Most of the goals set when I came here have been achieved. It appears my alma mater needs me more."

Since he became president in 1967, Union has grown from an enrollment of 828 to more than 1,500. During his tenure, the college relocated from its old downtown location to its new facilities on Jackson's Route 45 bypass. Six major additions have been completed since the move.

The Tennessee Baptist college's operating budget has increased from \$1.5-million to almost \$9-million and the physical assets have grown from \$3-million to \$16-million. Four major fundraising campaigns have been conducted, including a recent \$5-million endowment campaign which has drawn pledges of more than \$7-million.

Craig, a native of Mena, Ark., came to Union from Southwest Baptist College

(now University), Bolivar, Mo., where he was president from 1961 to 1967. During that time, that school's enrollment grew from 378 to 1,178. Earlier, Craig was academic dean of California Baptist College, Riverside.

Craig also has been a teacher, coach, and principal in public school systems in Arkansas and Texas, and was chairman of the teacher education division and director of the demonstration school at the University of Corpus Christi (Texas).

He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College; East Texas State University, Commerce; and North Texas State University, Denton.



Robert E. Craig



GOOD NEWS FOR TENNESSEE — Billboards (like the one on the right) tell travelers on Tennessee roadways that there is "Good News America, God Loves You." During this month, many Tennessee Baptist churches are conducting crusades and other evangelistic ministries as a part of nationwide simultaneous revivals throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Projections show shortfall in Christmas offering gifts

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists may fall as much as \$3.6-million short of the \$70-million goal they set for their 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The projected shortfall, reported by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials, could be the biggest since 1982, when the offering fell almost \$4-million short of the goal.

The annual Lottie Moon offering supports a hefty portion of the work of more than 3,600 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries worldwide. The 1985 goal of \$70-million already has been budgeted to finance 43 percent of the Foreign Mission Board's \$162-million budget for 1986.

The size of the shortfall projection, based on a poll of selected state Baptist conventions, came as a surprise to the Foreign Mission Board.

"It was unexpected, to say the least,"

said Carl Johnson, vice-president for finance. "There are several states that show actual decreases in giving. I don't have an answer why."

The 1984 offering of \$64.8-million totaled more than 98 percent of that year's goal of \$66-million. It represented almost a 12 percent increase over the previous year, three times the U.S. inflation rate in early 1985. The increase for the 1985 total offering, if the projection proves accurate, will reach only about 2.4 percent, below the current 3.2 percent inflation rate. An 8 percent increase was needed to meet the \$70-million goal.

Actual Lottie Moon receipts forwarded to Richmond, Va., at the end of March totaled about \$59.2-million, or 84.5 percent of the goal, with more money coming in from state conventions. The Foreign Mission Board calculates the final total May 31.

"There may be more money out there," Johnson said. "I'd like to miss this (projection) by a mile."

The forecast usually is accurate, however. Foreign Mission Board finance staffers developed it to give overseas mission planners a realistic projection of how much Lottie Moon money actually will become available.

The projected shortfall will not cut personal missionary support but is sure to affect overseas capital budgets, which provide funds for missionary houses and cars, aid for church buildings, and other needs.

The 1981 Lottie Moon offering was the last to exceed its goal. Southern Baptists have surpassed their annual goal only three times since 1975, but the target amount has nearly tripled in the same period.

Oak Ridge church responds to forsaken stillborn girls

The phrase, "sanctity of life," has a new, deeper meaning for the members of Calvary Baptist Church of Oak Ridge after last week.

It all began on Easter morning as the church members arrived at the church building for worship services. They noticed police cars and ambulances parked at the self-service car wash across the street. The emergency vehicles had been called by the car wash maintenance man.

As the maintenance man was emptying the garbage cans, he found the bodies of twin girls in a shoe box. The two girls apparently had been stillborn, prematurely.

When Pastor Gale Lyon arrived at the church for the evening service, one of the deacons was waiting for him with the question, "What will become of these babies?"

Lyon responded that he did not know —

perhaps the bodies would be given to some hospital for research, or cremated,

(Continued on page 2)

Seminarians favor 'It Is Well'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — "It Is Well with My Soul" remains the favorite hymn of students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

William J. Reynolds, associate professor of church music, polled students for the annual favorite hymn day in chapel March 26.

Seminary students, many of whom have made financial and career sacrifices to prepare for ministry, have chosen this hymn of commitment "for the past several years," Reynolds said. The hymn's words were written by Horatio Spafford in 1873 after his family drowned at sea.

Reynolds, editor of the 1975 Baptist Hymnal, leads the hymn day each spring. Students vote for their favorite hymns and then sing them in a special chapel service.

Students' second through sixth choices this year were "Victory in Jesus," "Amazing Grace," "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "How Great Thou Art."

Planned Growth in Giving brings new church vitality

NASHVILLE (BP) — Renewed spiritual and financial vitality highlight earliest reports from churches participating in Southern Baptists' Planned Growth in Giving emphasis.

"First messages from churches always tell what Planned Growth in Giving does for their people — the excitement of spiritual growth, fellowship, and ongoing church visitation," says Cecil Ray, national director of the emphasis. "A few weeks later they begin to talk about how much it affects the income of the church."

Planned Growth in Giving is a 15-year stewardship enrichment emphasis initiated throughout the Southern Baptist Convention last fall. From a financial standpoint, it is designed to raise annual receipts of Southern Baptist churches from \$3-billion to \$20-billion by the end of the century.

Specifically, Southern Baptists are challenged to increase the percentage of their contributions to worldwide mission causes every year of the time period.

The system begins with individuals giving to their churches, which pass a portion of their receipts to state Baptist conventions. The states then channel funds to the national SBC Cooperative Program budget, through which money is distributed to worldwide mission and ministry endeavors.

But Ray describes Planned Growth in

Giving as more than a financial development campaign. "It's a spiritual journey," he says, explaining Southern Baptists who seriously consider whether they should increase their church gifts find they examine their entire spiritual commitment in the process.

Church reports sent to state Baptist stewardship leaders support Ray's assertion.

"Planned Growth in Giving is one of the best things that ever happened to our church," says Gary W. Flynt, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Guymon, Okla. "Almost everyone in our congregation grew in the area of personal worship. I could share many testimonies of good things that came from Planned Growth in Giving."

R. D. Baker, pastor of Larkin Avenue Baptist Church in Elgin, Ill., believes Planned Growth in Giving's "long-term effect will be to help Baptists come to appreciate more fully our heritage and mission." He also praises the program's emphasis on stewardship visitation in church members' homes, noting members who conducted the visits grew spiritually and were the "prime beneficiaries" of the emphasis.

"The greatest impact of the program was not the 28.31 percent (increase) that was pledged," insists Doug Boucher, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif. "Rather, it was the spiritual commitment that was made by several in the congregation."

Planned Growth in Giving has provided a variety of benefits to First Baptist Church of Okmulgee, Okla., reports Pastor Alton Fannin. "A new spirit of unity and vision has become very evident," he says. "A new sense of healthy pride has returned for what Southern Baptists are doing. People look more at the Lord's will as opposed to the dollar weight. We have entered a new era of progress in all directions."

Those are the kinds of positive, spiritually oriented responses for which convention leaders hoped, says Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Speaking as a church member, Planned Growth in Giving was well-received in my own church," Bennett notes of First Baptist Church of Nashville. "People responded to the program and the commitment to growth opportunities in excellent fashion. The greatest impact spiritually related to the new realization that stewardship should be a growth experience — growing each year, month and week."

That realization also has brought financial growth in churches.

Okmulgee's First Baptist Church has enjoyed a \$25,000 checkbook balance, compared to recent annual deficits of up to \$30,000. First Baptist Church of Damascus, Md., has had offerings averaging 15 percent above the same time a year ago. Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Live Oak, Fla., had a 22.8 percent offering increase for five months following its Planned Growth in Giving emphasis.

Such responses seem to support leaders who contend Southern Baptists gain by giving.

Says Rodney W. McGlothlin, pastor of First Baptist Church West in Lawton, Okla.: "We live in a day when Baptists are debating what the minimum requirements are for being a Baptist. Our only avenue out of this deadly tendency is to focus on maximum sacrifice to meet the needs of a lost world."



Akin



Meron



Simmons



Pemble

WMU selects Gatlinburg, program for Baptist Women

Two Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, a retired foreign missionary, two home missionaries, and two ministers of music will lead the annual Baptist Women Get-Together April 18-20 at the W. L. Mills Convention Center in Gatlinburg.

Peggy Pemble, retired missionary who served in Brazil for 33 years as director of a Baptist medical clinic and regional representative for the Brazilian Woman's Missionary Union, will speak to the Baptist Women.

Marty Smith Akin, who is on furlough in Nashville and has served in Tanzania for the past 17 years, is also on the program. She and her husband, who is the pilot of the mission aircraft, have two children. Akin also serves as the Master-Life contact person for the country.

Ronnie Wheeler Erwin will speak about serving with her husband for 16 years in Brazil, where she helps a local church in their music ministry. Presently on furlough in Morristown, they have two children.

Ron and Amy Huan-Shyun Meron will share about their work as catalytic language missionaries in Huntsville, Ala. He is a native of Israel and she is from Singapore.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Patricia Fay Ervin will speak about her work as a home missionary at a Baptist center in Savannah, Ga., for the past 23 years. Ervin also taught public school in Knoxville.

Music and a concert will be led by Camille Bishop Simmons, minister of

music at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Rochester, Mich., and Phyllis Clark, interim minister of music at Gordon Heights Baptist Church in Cairo, Ga.

Tennesseans on the program include Katharine Bryan, executive director of Tennessee WMU; Donna Maples and Carrol Kelly, associates of the state office; Judy Trivette, president of Tennessee WMU; Linda Knott, state chairman of the national WMU VISION '88 enlistment campaign; and three members of the WMU team who went to Venezuela.

Registration begins at 2 p.m. Friday at the Holiday Inn of Gatlinburg, the headquarters hotel. The meeting will end at 11:30 on Sunday morning. Persons interested should contact WMU church or associational leaders or TBC, WMU, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Acteens teams grow in number

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The 1986 Acteens Activators program has reached an all-time high — up 11 teams from last year. This year Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, reports 64 teams from 15 states will be ministering in 27 states.

Acteens is the WMU missions education organization for girls in grades 7-12. Acteens Activators is a program in which groups of Acteens and their leaders participate at their own expense in mission tours to meet needs within the United States. It began in 1978.

The teams, made up of active Acteens at least 15 years old and one adult sponsor per five Acteens, serve at least one week. They must complete a training program of at least 50 hours.

SBTS receives gifts of over \$1-million

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Two donors who died recently in Florida and Missouri have provided more than \$1-million for the work of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Irene Hale Skinner of Tampa, Fla., made a bequest of \$821,677 to Southern seminary, along with gifts to four other Baptist institutions — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Fla.; Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, Ky.; and South Florida Baptist Hospital, Plant City.

A. P. Stone Jr. of Springfield, Mo., created a testamentary trust which will provide more than \$250,000 to enlarge a \$500,000 endowment he previously established. The trust is named in memory of his father, an 1895 graduate of Southern seminary. The A. P. Stone Fund is used for student aid, with a preference for those preparing for foreign missions.

Myrtis Keller Cobb, wife of DOM, dies

Myrtis Keller Cobb, the wife of retired Director of Missions Clyde Cobb, died March 24 in Jackson from cancer.

The Cobbs were married 38 years. Clyde Cobb retired in 1978 after serving 30 years as DOM in seven associations in Tennessee.

Mrs. Cobb, who was born in Hardeman County, taught school for 32 years. She was a member of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, the Tennessee Education Association, and the National Education Association.

John Lee Taylor, pastor of the Jackson church, officiated at the funeral services held March 26. She was buried at Highland Memorial Gardens in Jackson.

Besides her husband in Jackson, Mrs. Cobb is survived by two brothers: Harry W. and Joseph R. Keller.

Broadman salesman dies April 1 in Texas

NASHVILLE — Ed Farmer, a Broadman trade sales representative for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board since 1977, died April 1 in Dallas, Texas, of leukemia. He was 61 years old.

During his nine years at the Sunday School Board, Farmer called on bookstores for Broadman Press in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, and New Mexico.

Farmer, a native of Arkansas, was on the staff of several Texas churches and recently served on a church staff again.

Farmer is survived by his wife and three children. Funeral services were held April 3 at Lockwood Baptist Church, Dallas, where Farmer was a member.

Oak Ridge . . .

(Continued from page 1)

or be disposed of in some manner.

During the evening service, Lyon made a statement about the incident, noting that he and the church had often made statements about the sanctity of life — even unborn life. Although it was not a church business meeting, the members voiced and "voted" their desire to give a proper burial to these twin girls.

The next day Lyon went to the police and asked for the two little bodies, so that the church could bury them in a local cemetery.

On Wednesday morning the medical examiner turned the bodies of the two infants over to Lyon. Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. on April 2 at Oak Ridge Memorial Park.

Lyon said that the church's strong conviction about giving proper burial to the two abandoned girls was met with wide community support. The funeral home, the cemetery, and the florist all participated in the burial without charging for their services.

The ribbon on the floral wreath expressed the motive and the meaning of the experience. It simply said, "Jesus cares."

Tennessee BSUs commission 64 student missionaries

The 450 attending the Tennessee Student Spring Conference in Nashville participated in the commissioning of 64 student missionaries sponsored by Baptist Student Unions in Tennessee.

The conference was April 4-6 at the Baptist-Sunday School Board.

The student missionaries are appointed by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's student department in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board. Other students to be appointed by the Home and Foreign Mission boards were also recognized.

Students also elected the new BSU officers for 1986-87. The new president is Kris Thacker, Union University in Jackson; and the vice-president is Bill Booth, Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

Other officers include representatives from three regions of the state. Students elected Jackie Yokley, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, east; Ken Gibbs, Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, middle; and Lorrie Twitchell, Union University, west.

Also elected were members-at-large from the regions: Jennifer Axley, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, east; Sharon Adkerson, Tennessee Tech, middle; and Robin Briggs, Memphis State University, west.

The theme of the conference, "A Faith That Works," was interpreted in Bible studies led by Bill Lee, assistant director of the special mission ministries department of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta; and Jack McEwen, acting dean of Chattanooga State Technical Community College in Chattanooga.

Other leaders included Lance Hower-

ton, minister to students at First Baptist Church in Knoxville; Raye Nell Dyer, BSU director at the medical branch of University of Texas, in Galveston; and BSU music groups.

Semester missionaries already serving in the spring follow:

Japan: Dawn McKenzie, Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City;

Louisiana: Para Mullins, University of Tennessee, Knoxville;

Texas: LaRonda Cochran, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; Libby Sayer, Union University in Jackson.

Semester missionaries commissioned to serve the summer and fall follow:

Western Europe: Walter and Elisa West, Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville;

South Brazil: John Walker, CNC.

Summer missionaries commissioned to serve in other countries follow:

Zimbabwe: Victoria Sadler, Union;

Philippines: Donna Kittrell, CNC; Trudy Ingram, Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; Brad Bull, CNC; Stuart Cocanougher, Belmont College in Nashville;

Israel: Lee Ann Lockman, Union; Howard Shirley, Vanderbilt University in Nashville;

Western Europe: Bill Booth, CNC;

Canada: Pam Graves, Vanderbilt;

Kim Stanley, Union.

Summer missionaries commissioned to serve in states other than Tennessee follow:

Alaska: Keith Draper, Vanderbilt;

Ivan McAfee, Belmont;

California: Jon Duffey, Union;

Stephanie Tramel, CNC;

Colorado: John Hicks, Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland;

Tim Stewart, Vanderbilt; John Hunn, Cumberland University in Lebanon;

Diane Praytor, East Tennessee State University



BSU OFFICERS — Elected at the conference were the 1986-87 officers (from left to right, back row): Ken Gibbs, Kris Thacker, Bill Booth, (front row) Lorrie Twitchell, Jennifer Axley, Sharon Adkerson, and Jacqueline Yokley.

ty in Johnson City; Tom Vowell, UTC; Michelle Kent, Union;

Hawaii: Tim Noe, CNC;

Kansas: Art Garrett, TTU;

Louisiana: Ben McGinnis, Austin Peay State University in Clarksville;

Maryland: Tina Servis, UTK;

New England: Lisa Batchelor, CNC;

Kirsten Eddings, Union; Diane Thompson, CNC;

South Carolina: Bill Eason, Vanderbilt;

April Parham, UTC; Mary Jane Wallis, Union; Connie Cruise, CNC; Jill Hitson, UTK;

Texas: Donna Rhodes, Memphis State University in Memphis.

Summer missionaries commissioned to serve in Tennessee follow:

Baptist children's home in Franklin: Kelly Bilderback, Union; Hiram Lutt-

mers, Union;

Baptist children's home in Johnson City: Jill Payne, APSU;

Baptist children's home in Memphis: Jennifer Ogg, Columbia State Community College in Columbia;

Baptist children's home in Chattanooga: Denise Styers, MSU;

Jefferson City: Doug McDurham, TTU; Carol Meadows, Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin; Jennifer Cheatham, APSU;

Dyersburg: Linda Burdick, University of Tennessee, Martin; Carolyn McKin-

ney, APSU;

Nashville: Teresa Foster, ETSU;

Dawn Bromley, Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg; Leslie Parks, Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma; Travis Forsythe, Union;

Knoxville: Shirley Thomas, UTM; Melinda Morris, Union;

Gatlinburg: Jeannie Diggs, Jackson State Community College in Jackson; Sherry Cothran, UTM; Charlie McCoy, TTU; Ken Jones, UTM;

Crossville: Dawn Tyler, ETSU;

Daphne Dalton, CNC;

Waynesboro: Melissa Johnson, UTK; Margie DeWeese, CNC.

Meningitis hits 21-month-old MK

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— Philip Newberry, 21-month-old son of Southern Baptist Missionaries Randy and Jan Newberry, is in critical condition in a Richmond, Va., hospital with meningitis.

Doctors have noted a slight improvement since the child became ill March 27. He was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit of the Medical College of Virginia that night, after running fever, vomiting, and being listless during the day.

As late as March 31, doctors gave him less than a 50 percent chance of surviving. But circulation appeared to be improving in his hands and feet by April 4, according to Bill Damon, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's associate director for eastern South America.

"His feet and legs had been purple up to his knees, one hand was purple, and one hand was black," Damon reported. "Now his parents say they are turning pink."

His fever, which had reached 107 degrees earlier, is down and doctors have lowered the concentration of pure oxygen he is receiving through a respirator, Damon said.

The Newberrys were attending a furloughing missionary conference at the board's Missionary Learning Center, just outside of Richmond, when Philip became ill.

Missionaries to Brazil since their appointment in 1982, the Newberrys have two other children: Amy, 15, and Joel, 12.



COMMISSIONED MISSIONARIES — These students, sponsored by BSUs across the state, were recognized during a special service of the Tennessee Student Spring Conference in Nashville before going to serve as missionaries around the world.



GROUP TIME — Students met in faith/work groups to discover how faith can work for them.

Honor society names members

JEFFERSON CITY — Fifteen Tennessee students at Carson-Newman College were selected by the college's Alpha Chi National Honor Society as members for the 1986-87 academic year.

The members must be college seniors who have a minimum 3.65 grade point average and are in the upper 10 percent of their junior and senior classes.

New members from Tennessee include Sherri E. Buckner, Etowah; Amy R. Burton, New Market; Cynthia L. Day, Talbott; M. Katherine Dellinger, Morristown; David A. Delozier, Jefferson City; Linda A. Farah, Chattanooga; Karla L. Hearon, Oak Ridge; Jennifer A. Johnson, Cleveland; Shelley J. Patterson, Hixson; F. Ward Phillips Jr., Knoxville; S. Michael Snell, Cleveland; Patricia L. Snowden, Morristown; Whitney M. Williams, Farragut; Amy R. Williamson, Knoxville; and Annette D. York, Cleveland.

The 1986-87 officers are Farah, president; Snowden, vice-president; and Burton, secretary.

Correction

Editor's Note: The article, "Appellate court rejects case on Vatican envoy," (April 2, pages 1-2), the last two paragraphs contained inaccurate and incomplete information. The following would replace the last two paragraphs. We regret any misunderstandings which resulted from the original article.

Although the Southern Baptist Convention is not a plaintiff in the case, it is listed as a friend-of-the-court party in a brief opposing the appointment of an ambassador filed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Action authorizing joining the Baptist Joint Committee brief was taken by the SBC Executive Committee in February 1985.

At the 1984 meeting of the convention in Kansas City, Mo., messengers took two actions protesting restoration of diplomatic relations with the Vatican. A resolution pledged "support of actions which challenge diplomatic relations with the Holy See." And in a motion referred to the Executive Committee, the convention requested that body "to see that this convention's position against a U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See ... comes properly before any court adjudicating a lawsuit challenging the Constitutionality thereof, in whatever manner legal counsel recommends as most effective to serve Southern Baptists' interests, it being understood that the Executive Committee may work in concert with other interested parties."

During its September 1984 meeting following the June convention, the full Executive Committee adopted without debate a recommendation from its administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee that a decision on joining the lawsuit be delayed until the following February. The recommendation to delay originated in the by-laws workgroup, where discussion focused on refraining from any action that might embarrass President Reagan during his bid for re-election in November 1984.

**BAPTIST
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Tennesseans support Venezuela effort; TBC continues to seek more volunteers

The response for volunteers in the partnership mission relationship between Tennessee and Venezuela has been excellent, according to Clarence K. Stewart, TBC foreign mission ministries consultant.

Already volunteers have participated in construction projects, as MasterLife teachers, in WMU missions camps, and in evangelism. "These foundational labors have provided just the impetus needed to successfully meet the challenge ahead," Stewart said.

There will be two major thrusts in the latter half of 1986 and in all of 1987 — evangelism and construction. In August, 40 witnessing teams will be going to Caracas and the surrounding area to assist churches in crusades. Team leaders have been enlisted and are preparing their team members for the August crusades, Stewart stated.

During the September-December period, there will be a continuous flow of construction teams who will construct or update facilities for churches and missions. "One of our most pressing needs is for men and women volunteers to complete these construction teams," Stewart noted.

He added that there has been a change in the dates for the 1987 Partnership Evangelism Crusades. Originally, 200 teams were scheduled to participate in a concentrated evangelistic emphasis throughout Venezuela in August 1987. However, this has been changed to hold crusades in different parts of the nation at different times.

The new schedule will be: Feb. 13-24, 1987, eastern Venezuela, 39 teams; Aug. 7-18, central Venezuela, 48 teams; and Oct. 16-27, 1987, western Venezuela, 44 teams.

Stewart said that each team should include a preacher as team leader, a musician, and one or more laypeople to assist in witnessing.

"The need is obvious for volunteers skilled in construction, teaching, preaching, music, and witnessing," Stewart said.

Additional information can be secured from Tennessee-Venezuela Partnership Mission, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Tennessee-Venezuela Partnership Mission

1986

Event Description	Date	Length
Construction teams	September, October, November, December	15 days
WMU leadership training	September 6-18	13 days
MasterLife conferences (Co-leader training)	June 2-8 October 13-26	7 days 14 days
Partnership Evangelism	May 23-June 3 August 15-26	12 days 12 days
Music/maintenance team	August 15-26	12 days

1987

Event Description	Date	Length
Construction teams	January, February, March, April, May September, October, November, December	15 days
Partnership Evangelism (Eastern)	February 13-24	12 days
RA and GA camp	February 14-21	8 days
Partnership Evangelism (citywide crusades)	March 27-April 7	12 days
Tenn. Bapt. Chorale tour	March 27-April 7	12 days
Stewardship training	May 3-10	8 days
Music/maintenance team	July 9-20	12 days
Partnership Evangelism (central)	August 7-18	12 days
WMU leadership training	September 1-5	5 days
Partnership evangelism (western)	October 16-27	12 days
Stewardship conferences	October 4-17 November 15-22	14 days 8 days

1988

Event Description	Date	Length
Construction teams	January, February, March, April, May September, October, November, December	15 days
Bapt. Young Women camp	February	
Royal Ambassador camp	March 10-15	6 days
Music/maintenance team	July 7-18	12 days
Partnership Evangelism	August 19-30	12 days
WMU leadership training	September 6-10	5 days
WMU regional training	September 11-19	9 days

To be determined:

- Church Music — choral presentations, music workshops, instrument repair, instruction in instruments
- Church Training
- Sunday School
- Theological Education

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TRUSTEE-FACULTY CHAT — Mr. and Mrs. Ron Lewis of Nashville visit with Daniel Sanchez (center), associate professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, during a recent trustee meeting. Lewis, a seminary trustee, also spoke in chapel during the meeting. He urged the students and leaders to "keep the main thing the main thing."

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.

The SBC's main thing

Dear editor:

I recently read a statement which seems to sum up what we must do to solve the present controversy within our convention. It reads, "The main thing is to keep the main thing as the main thing."

The SBC Peace Committee, having concluded that the current controversy within our convention is theological and not political, is a breath of fresh air! It appears we are closer to solving our problems by identifying what they are.

Sifting through the verbal barrage of accusations, obviously carried to extremes by both sides, the committee not only concluded that our main problem is theological, but the main theological controversy centers on the inspiration of Scripture.

Using the Baptist Faith and Message as a guideline for discussions will help the Peace Committee to further narrow the elements of the controversy. Differences will center on the Baptist Faith and Message, Article I, dealing with the Scriptures. They will receive excellent input from Herschel Hobbs who was chairman of the committee that revised the Baptist Faith and Message in 1962-63.

The main problem is very basic, almost simple. The solution to the problem will not be. Even though the consequences are not yet apparent, we need to be bold enough to address the main issue which divides our convention.

Mike Gass

Box 40-A, Stewarts Chapel Road
Flintville, TN 37335

The doctrine of inerrancy

Dear editor:

It may be further help to Robert S. Thurman (letters, March 26) to know that the unlimited inerrancy of the Biblical autographs is a Bible doctrine; just as the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are Biblical doctrines.

The basis of the doctrine of unlimited inerrancy is found in Matthew 4:4; 5:18. We may soon be hearing, among a host of other fallacies, that we cannot believe the Bible doctrine of unlimited inerrancy of the Biblical autographs because we do not have any of the Biblical autographs.

Well, then if this is true, we cannot believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ either. In fact, we cannot believe in any Biblical doctrine, because all Biblical doctrines are based on the Biblical doctrine of unlimited inerrancy of the Biblical autographs of the Holy One of Israel.

If this spins your brain, just remember that unlimited inerrancy is a Biblical doctrine and not a mere abstract thought.

John W. Gill
1233 Radmoor

Chattanooga, TN 37421

Contradiction in articles

Dear editor:

I was interested in two articles in the March 19 issue of Baptist and Reflector that seemed to contradict each other.

On page 2, W. A. Criswell is quoted as saying, "A laity-led, layman-led, deacon-led church will be a weak church anywhere on God's earth. The pastor is the ruler of the church. There is no other thing than that in the Bible."

On page 6, another article states "church-type missions conceived by laity are twice as likely to constitute into self-supporting churches as those begun by clergy." This report from a study of 3,963 churches by Jack Redford of the Home Mission Board went on to support the strength of the laity.

Criswell has many gifts, and they've seemed to "work" for his personality in his situation, but the Bible and history would seem to prove his theory wrong for most churches. Jesus said we were all to be servants, and the word "pastor" means "shepherd" not "ruler."

I wonder, too, about Criswell's definition of a "weak" church. From some of our smallest, least noticeable churches have come many dedicated missionaries, ministers, and laymen. The Bible says "when we are weak, we are strong" and "His strength is made perfect in weakness." I'm glad God alone is the judge of strength and "success" here on earth, and I'm thankful my pastor is my minister, not my ruler.

Diane Jordan
6251 Forest Trail
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

Priesthood of the believer

Dear editor:

All Scripturally informed Southern Baptists acknowledge the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer in Jesus Christ. We believe that this doctrine includes the believer's direct access to God through Christ, along with acceptance with God in Christ, and accountability to God for Christ's sake.

I have observed tendencies toward using this doctrine to ignore some personal responsibilities in our highly organized church and denominational life of mutual interdependence, obligations, and loyalties.

The doctrine of personal direct access to God must not be stretched so far as to become a means of escaping responsibility toward those in elected positions of leadership in our churches and denomination.

Does the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer remove responsibilities from the employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board to their president? Does this doctrine enable missionaries to violate the rules of the presidents of the

Home or Foreign Mission boards, or of their respective boards? The same question may be raised concerning faculty members and other employees of our seminaries.

Does this doctrine enable staff members and lay members of a local church to feel no responsibility toward the pastor as church leader?

Are we headed for the day when every person is a law unto himself in our churches and denomination on the grounds of the priesthood of the believer? If this practice is pursued to its ultimate, we might some day have as many beliefs, practices, and teachings as we have individual members, and the "rope of sand" would vanish.

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

Why fewer baptisms?

Dear editor:

Neither fundamentalism, liberalism, conservatism, moderatism, nor any other "ism" is primarily responsible for our fewer baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention. Our problem is not politics.

The number one reason for fewer baptisms is a low priority by many pastors to lead their churches in evangelism.

During the past five years I've had the privilege of leading Sunday School enlargement campaigns in many churches. Of the churches that I worked with or observed there has been no direct correlation between ratio of baptisms and Baptist political theological persuasion. There has been a direct correlation between baptisms and an emphasis on winning the lost to Christ by the pastor and thereby the church.

Numerical goals may turn into a numbers racket as some pastors have expressed, but what about a goal to make one evangelistic visit per week? What about a goal to train one person per year to make an evangelistic visit?

Pastors call their congregations to accountability. They ask, "Have you shared your faith with your grocer, your service station attendant, the waitress where you sip coffee?" Who is going to ask our pastors these same questions?

Baptisms will increase as more of our pastors involve themselves in personal evangelism and lead through example their congregations.

People learn by example. Our churches do reflect their pastors.

Pastoral priority, not politics, is our reason for fewer baptisms.

Name withheld by request

Report from Nicaragua

Dear editor:

I had the opportunity to visit by phone with the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Managua, Nicaragua, Gustavo Parajon. Parajon is a medical doctor and former president of the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention.

In our conversation, Parajon and his wife, Joan, expressed strong opposition to the policy of military and humanitarian aid to the contras in Nicaragua. They both said that this was a misguided approach to their struggling nation. Mrs. Parajon, who is from Chicago, said that she found it difficult to believe that her own native country was having such a devastating effect on the lives of the people she served. She said that she has attended so many funerals of members of her church who have been murdered by the contras, and these victims were non-combatants, innocent of any military action. Mrs. Parajon stated categorically that "it is the contras who are the terrorists in this country."

How do we approach this dilemma? Some Christians are taking the view that giving support to contras is what we must do if we are to retain national security. Does this mean that we ignore all the Bible's teaching regarding human rights and justice? So I am alarmed as I hear such Christian leaders as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell giving support to this heinous policy of contra support.

When I hear the impassioned pleas of such Christian brothers and sisters like Mr. and Mrs. Parajon, I can only conclude that this is a profound theological, moral issue. This is an issue where misinformation, apathy, or misguided nationalism could have devastating consequences for thousands of God's children in Nicaragua.

Their fate is in our hands and our influence.

Al Staggs
100 S. Avenue C.
Portales, NM 88103

Redford leaves HMB for associational post

ATLANTA (BP)— R. Jack Redford, director of the church extension division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, has been named director of missions for the Cisco Baptist Association in Texas, effective July 1.

Redford, who will take early retirement following 26 years with the board, will return to the West Texas association where he was reared as a boy.

He was pastor of churches in Texas, Arkansas, and Colorado, and was a chaplain in the U.S. Army for six years.

In 1960 he began his career with the Home Mission Board as an area missionary to southeastern Indiana. He also has been director of missions for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, associate secretary of the Home Mission Board's department of pioneer missions, and director of the agency's church extension efforts since 1971.



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for the 45 church leaders who participated in their first Master-Life workshop which Tennesseans helped lead in February, and for Mike Pennington, Southern Baptist missionary from Columbia, Tenn., who is directing the workshops.

—Pray for the 30 students at the Baptist seminary in Venezuela that they can help many people in their country.

—Pray for Raymond Kendrick from Bayside Baptist Church in Harrison who is leading six laypersons to Margarita April 12 and Travis Fawcett and Pastor John Tolbert from Hickory Valley Baptist Church in Hickory Valley who are leading two others to Los Guayabitos April 13. Both teams are doing construction and evangelism work.

Keep up with the world
—and what God is doing
in the world...

Read
Baptist and Reflector
every week.

News is our priority

BSSB seminar probes needs of single parents, children

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)— Southern Baptist churches are beginning to understand the ministry needs of single-parent families, and therefore are better able to do something about those needs, a counselor of Christian singles said during a March 21-23 weekend singles seminar in Ridgecrest, N.C.

"As single-parent families become more prominent in our society, churches are beginning to exercise a clearer understanding of the theological needs of single parents," said Charles Smith, director of CharlAnn Christian Growth Ministries in Asheville, N.C. "Churches are more likely today to ask, 'What can we do in the form of ministry to help these people?'"

Smith was one of the speakers at the annual Spring University of Single Living Conference sponsored by the family ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Smith, author of the resource guide, "Helps for Single-Parent Christian Families," said by 1990, the number of single-parent families will make up 30 percent of all family units in the country.

"At least 50 percent of the average congregation will experience fragmentation of some kind before the children involved in those families reach adulthood," Smith predicted.

But because statistics show the

divorce rate in the country has been declining for about three years, Smith said, "we expect the percentage of single-parent families also to decline."

Smith said churches can minister to single-parent families by appointing church members to act as a model of the missing parent for the children.

"For instance, if an organization sponsors a father-son banquet, but the father of the family is not around, a church member could attend the banquet with the son," Smith said.

Although the spring singles seminar has been held for about eight years, this is the first year separate conferences were held for single persons and their children, said Tim Cleary, single adult consultant in the family ministry department.

"The response of the single-parent families was excellent," Cleary said. "There is a real need to minister to the child as well as the parent." The family ministry department established the conferences for single parents and their children when "single parents called us and told us we weren't doing as much for them as for other singles," he explained.

The conferences gave the children a chance to share with other children from divorced families and learn about common problems they face, he said.



Magill



Thornton



Emmert

Christian Career Conference set for youth, young adults

The annual Christian Career Conference for youth and young adults ages 15 and older will be May 2-3 at Camp Carson in Newport, announced the church training department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Speakers include Milton Smith, a Southern Baptist missionary to Spain who is currently on furlough; Alice Magill, vocational guidance specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; and Alan Duncan, a former professional football player and missionary kid from Africa who is now minister to

singles and students at Manley Baptist Church in Morristown. Richard Emmert, pastor, and Mike Hodges, minister of music, both from the Morristown church, will lead the young people.

Other leaders include Mike Thornton, a US-2 missionary serving in Gatlinburg for two years; Beverly Smothers, director of Christian social ministries for Holston Baptist Association; and representatives from the three state Baptist colleges.

Small-group conferences on God's will, church vocations, and mission opportunities, and a leadership conference for adult leaders will also be a part of the meeting.

The cost is \$18 for the meeting, which begins at 3 p.m. on Friday and ends at 6 p.m. on Saturday. For registration information, persons should contact TBC, church training department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Brazilian Baptists await effect of currency change

By Eric Miller

BRASILIA, Brazil (BP)— Brazilians hope their economy will get a boost from a recent currency change and price-salary freeze. But it is too early to tell whether Baptist churches' offering plate collections will be affected.

In late February, the Brazilian government switched the nation's unit of currency from the cruzeiro to a new currency, the cruzado. In essence, the change crossed off the last three zeros of the cruzeiro, making a 1,000 cruzeiro bill worth one cruzado.

Before the change 13,800 cruzeiros equaled one U.S. dollar; now 13 cruzados and 80 centavos add up to a dollar.

Annual inflation in Brazil has been running about 200 percent, said Southern Baptist Missionary Kathie Chute in Brasilia. The dollar has risen steadily to compensate for inflation, she said, noting, "We came in July of 1983. When we came, it took 600 cruzeiros to make a dollar. Now it takes 13,800 to make a dollar."

Despite the high inflation, Brazilian Baptists consistently have given to continue their church and denominational programs.

Missionary work budgets probably will get tighter, said Missionary Glenda Miller in Recife. If the Brazilian monetary measures succeed in slowing the nation's inflation, the dollar will have less purchasing power than expected when the budgets were planned.

Missionary support will hold steady, however, since the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board adjusts cost-of-living supplements for missionaries to reflect changes in the purchasing power of the dollar.

The currency switch has resulted in some confusion, stockpiling of groceries and isolated looting and damage to stores which illegally raised prices, said Missionary Mike Chute. Government officials have "asked that everybody in Brazil police the prices and report to the federal government anybody that is raising prices," Miller added.

Newspapers release a daily list of prices approved by the government. Any consumer finding a violation is asked to contact the government, which will send auditors to investigate claims. Store managers are fined when they raise prices.

After finding prices raised, shoppers in one grocery store dumped products onto the floor and circled around the products until government officials arrived, Mrs. Chute said.

Equipment and tables in a hamburger restaurant were damaged when an angry group of consumers re-entered the restaurant after the management raised prices, she noted. The employees waited in a basement storage room during the upheaval.

Some food items are hard to find in stores, Chute said: "That first day, you could hardly get to some of the big grocery stores. The lines were wrapped around the buildings. People were trying to get in and buy whatever they could find. You couldn't get in the banks those first few days, either."

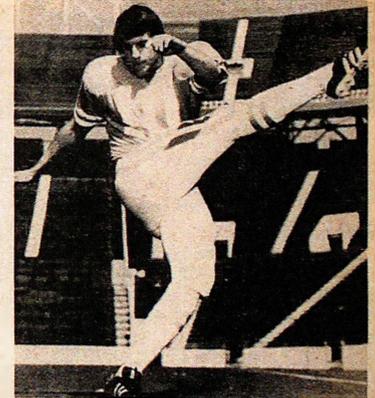
But Brazilians are optimistic, hoping the changes will remedy inflation. "They've suffered so under the inflation," Miller said. "We're hoping it will bring some stability to prices."

Government officials predict the annual inflation rate during the next two or three years will be only 3 percent.

Read: Open Your World



MEDIA LIBRARY WEEK — "Read: Open Your World" is the theme for Church Media Library Emphasis Week, observed in Southern Baptist churches during April.



Duncan



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT — Katharine Bryan (left), executive director of Tennessee WMU, and Judy Trivette (right), president of Tennessee WMU, honor Accteen Judy Bryan of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church in Nashville, at the Accteen Summit in Gatlinburg March 27-29 as a recipient of a \$400 Accteen Student Scholarship.

Missionary sets priority to join unemployed ranks

By Charles Willis

MT. SHASTA, Calif. (BP) — Philip Nall worked himself out of his last two jobs and hopes he can do that again.

While planning to lose a job may seem an unusual goal for a young husband and father, Nall sees it as successful completion of mission effort.

In 1982, Nall resigned his seven-and-one-half-year position as minister of music and youth at Del Cerro Baptist Church in San Diego. He and his wife, Gay, sold their home and furniture, bought a motor home and moved with their two small children to Pleasant Hill, Calif.

Such a drastic change in lifestyle was a dream come true for Nall. He had been touched by the needs he saw as he took youth and adults on mission trips over the years. Now he would do full time what many experience for only a week or so each year. But for such a full-time endeavor, Nall has had to find churches and individuals who would help support him.

Nall typifies the spirit of "Musicians on Mission," a five-year Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Through the emphasis, musicians are urged to use their gifts to share the gospel of Christ on mission fields in their communities and in mission service in the United States and around the world. It is all part of the Bold Mission Thrust plan to tell everyone on earth about Christ by the year 2000.

"There are not too many people who should do what I'm doing," he acknowledges. "Financially, it doesn't make any sense. I was comfortable in my job and had a good salary. I lost 70 percent of my income."

But Nall saw the benefits in terms other than money. "The need is so great and the people are so appreciative of what you do," he says. "I went into it knowing the churches each would have their own set of needs."

Nall says working in churches that cannot afford a second staff person provides "a training program for the churches. It shows them what another staff person can do, what it is like to have a greater variety of programs and what the cost would be."

At Pleasant Hill, he worked at Grace Community Baptist Church, a mission whose pressing need was for property. In addition to establishing a children's choir, worship choir, adult ensemble, a church training program, and helping lead all Sunday School teachers to earn leadership diplomas, Nall spent a lot of time working with the city government to meet zoning and permit requirements for church property. "That freed the pastor to visit, study, and preach," he says. After a year, he moved again.

At First Baptist Church of Arleta, Calif., Nall worked on the "rebirth" of a church that had dwindled to a handful of members. For two years he helped remodel the too-large sanctuary to obtain added classrooms and was music, youth, and education minister.

He reports now the church has grown and supports three part-time leaders — one for each of the roles he had.

Today, he is at First Baptist Church of Mt. Shasta, Calif., a small congregation in a town of 3,500 people. Although there are several other evangelical churches in town, Nall says First Baptist is the only church that has a choir. He has helped establish a church council and a full Wednesday night program, complete with fellowship supper, Sunday School weekly workers' meeting, and choir practice.

"I want to be able to walk away from this church knowing it is strong enough to support the staff it needs," he says.

When his work as a Mission Service Corps volunteer in Mt. Shasta ends in another year and a half, he plans to return to a full-time church position. While his family has supported the economic hardships and short-term friendships that have come with their style of mission service, Nall feels his children will need a permanent home for their teen-age years.

"I love what I'm doing," he reflects. "I've worked in 12 Southern Baptist churches. That experience needs to be used in whatever the Lord calls me to do."

But for now, Nall continues working toward a goal "to create a position in this church that I would want, and then to be able to walk away."



VISIT FROM 'DOWN UNDER' — G. Noel Vose (left), new president of the Baptist World Alliance, and Gerhard Claas (right), BWA general secretary, pose with Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, during a visit at the board's offices in Richmond, Va. Vose, a native of Perth, Australia, is principal of the Baptist Theological College in Bentley, Australia.

TBC names Grossman 'missionary'

Paul Grossman, Southern Baptist missionary to Burkina Faso (Upper Volta), will serve as missionary in residence for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, according to Orvind Dangeau, TBC Cooperative Program and stewardship director.

Paul and Peggy Grossman will arrive in Tennessee on Aug. 1 for their one-year furlough. They will be living in the missionary house of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, and will work out of the TBC Executive Board Building in Brentwood.

Dangeau said that the missionaries will be available to speak in churches, in Baptist activities throughout Tennessee during their one-year furlough.

Appointments are being scheduled already for the Grossmans' calendar through the Cooperative Program and stewardship department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

State lottery ban faces crucial test

A resolution which could lead to amending the Tennessee Constitution to delete the prohibition of a state lottery is scheduled for consideration Wednesday in the House of Representatives.

The resolution has been read in the House of Representatives on two different occasions, but no vote has been taken. It is scheduled for its third reading on Wednesday of this week, after which a vote could be taken.

According to Tennessee law, the resolution to amend the state Constitution must be approved by both houses of the General Assembly at two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly — in the second one by a two-thirds vote. The proposed amendment must then receive a majority vote in a general election which selects the state governor.

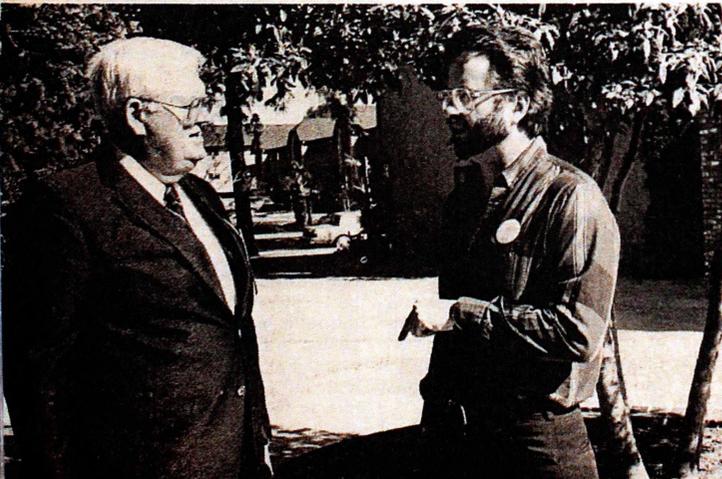
In 1984, both houses of the 93rd General Assembly narrowly passed the resolution by the required majority votes. In order to be on November's ballot, both houses must now pass the resolution by a two-thirds vote after three readings.

Last month, the Senate voted 22-11 (two-thirds) after the first reading to approve the resolution. Later, the resolution was read two additional times, but no vote was taken. The attorney general has advised that the vote must come after the third reading.

As of Monday of this week, the Senate has not voted again, apparently waiting for Wednesday's vote in the House of Representatives.

In 1984, the 100-member House of Representatives voted 50-35 (with 15 representatives not voting) to give the resolution its first approval.

At issue is Article XI, Section 5 which states, "The legislature shall have no power to authorize lotteries for any purpose, and shall pass laws to prohibit the sale of lottery tickets in this state."



MUSIC VOLUNTEER — Philip Nall (right), a music missionary who provides his own financial support, describes his current work in Mt. Shasta, Calif., to LeRoy McClard of the Sunday School Board's church music department. Nall was available during the Musicians on Mission Workshop in Van Nuys, Calif., to talk with potential music missions volunteers.

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SBC bookkeeper retires to new set of figures

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP)— Twenty years and \$2-billion later, Ada Ruth Kelly and Southern Baptists are ready for a new set of figures.

Kelly is only the third bookkeeper in the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's 69-year history. Since 1965, she has distributed more than 2-billion Southern Baptist dollars, sending money to mission and ministry points worldwide.

But following her retirement March 31, Kelly will trade SBC Cooperative Program budget figures for figures of speech. She intends to earn a college degree in English, with a minor in French. Instead of signing SBC checks, she will be writing term papers.

Her friends and co-workers will not be surprised if she graduates at the head of her class. They recognize the enthusiasm, intelligence, and integrity that has marked her work with the Executive Committee for more than 30 years, since she signed on as a part-time secretary in 1951.

Her adaptability has carried her through more than one-quarter of the convention's history, and about half the Executive Committee's lifespan. She has seen changes, even as some elements have remained the same.

For an example of change, some of her new textbooks will cost more than her weekly wages when she started with the Executive Committee. Eighty-five cents an hour does not add up very quickly, even though it was "not bad" almost 35 years ago.

And wages are not the only things which have changed during those years.

The Executive Committee has known four homes, starting in six or seven rooms on the second floor at the Baptist Sunday School Board, and finally the seventh floor of the one-year-old SBC Building, back across the street from the Sunday School Board, in Nashville.

The committee's staff has doubled from the 10 members it had back then. Stewardship promotion has been taken up by the SBC Stewardship Commission.

The Executive Committee no longer sends checks to the convention agencies that receive Cooperative Program funds. Now the committee's bank wires the money to the agencies' banks.

In just the two decades since she has been bookkeeper, SBC Cooperative Program receipts have climbed from \$22,570,858 in 1965 to \$117,526,691 in 1984-85. All together, \$2,014,703,120 — including Cooperative Program and desig-

nated funds — has passed through the Executive Committee during her bookkeeping tenure.

But changes do not tell the whole story. For every summer except one since 1957, the soft-spoken belle of Baptist bookkeepers has traveled to the SBC annual meeting. One of her primary tasks has been to help publish the Daily Bulletin which is provided to messengers each day of each convention meeting. A consistent memory of SBC meetings — blurred by its repetition — is of blinding hours in printshops around the country, proofreading copy, she jokes.

"When I came to the Executive Committee in 1979, almost immediately I felt she was a person in whom I could place a great deal of confidence," says Harold C. Bennett, president of the committee. "She is trustworthy and reflects a great deal of responsibility," noting financial records Kelly has kept for the convention always have received unqualified audit reports.

"Her personal outlook on her work with the Executive Committee has been positive and enthusiastic," he says.

"This has not been just a job, but a calling for Ada Ruth," adds Porter Routh, Bennett's predecessor who worked with Kelly for 28 years. "She also always has been very faithful to her church."

Bennett, Routh, and others rest assured Ada Ruth Kelly will remain the same in retirement as she has in her career. Even with a new college degree in the future, that is not likely to change.

SEBTS professor, John Steely, dies

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)— John Edward Steely, professor of historical theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1956, died March 28 of heart failure. He was 63 years old.

A native of Arkansas, he was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Steely was pastor of five churches in Arkansas and Illinois. From 1948 to 1956, he was head of the department of Bible and religious education at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark. In 1956 he began a 30-year tenure on the faculty of Southeastern seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Steely translated 18 theological books from German and Dutch and was the author of numerous articles and pamphlets.

BOOK REVIEW

By Michael Davis

Learning through experience

Reflections in the Son by Mary Irwin; Broadman; 96 pages; \$6.95.

When nationally known personalities and their families open a door of their lives for readers, it is usually appreciated. This book by Mary Irwin, wife of former astronaut James B. Irwin, will be viewed by many readers in this way.

Through this collection of 36 reflections drawn from the everyday experiences of the author, readers get to know something about her interests, feelings, and growing faith. Mary will be seen as an artist mixing gesso with water, a gardener digging potatoes, a mother relating to her children's needs, and a wife standing by her husband during bypass surgery.

She has a way of learning from her experiences that enriches her own relationship to God and provides inspiration for others.

What she learned while caring for her

African violets reveals the kind of insight that readers will discover throughout this book. The house plant had not bloomed in over a year even though Mary moved it several times and regularly kept it fed and watered. She could not figure out what was wrong.

"One day I decided to move the plant one more time," she writes, "to a different location where it had plenty of company and sunshine all day long. I fertilized the little monster again and watered it, then promptly forgot about it. A week or so later, as I was watering the others in the same area, I looked down to see this little violet in full bloom."

Through this experience Mary heard God speak to her heart. She saw herself as the little plant who had opportunities to bloom in the places where God had planted her. How the Holy Spirit used this experience to help Mary grow in her relationship to God will inspire her readers.

This book shows how daily experiences and ordinary observations can yield a harvest of spiritual insight for those open to the Holy Spirit's guidance. It is the kind of devotional reading that will appeal to many.

BSSB names Kung to language unit

NASHVILLE (BP)— Peter Chung-Hong Kung, a national consultant on language/ethnic missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named supervisor of the special ministries department's language section at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Kung's diverse experience in various cultural and ethnic groups is an asset to help guide the work of the language section, said Bill Banks, director of the special ministries department.



Kung

"We needed a person with balanced judgment and a long-range approach to all language groups," Banks said. Kung, 40, was selected from a field of 43 candidates, he added.

Oscar I. Romo, director of the Home Mission Board language missions division, said Kung is the first Asian named to a leadership position in an Southern Baptist Convention agency.

Kung hopes to help churches reach more ethnic persons and to help ethnic leadership develop religious education work, he said, adding, Southern Baptists work with 84 ethnic and language groups, but the language section has identified eight for priority attention.

There are Spanish, Korean, Chinese, basic English including deaf, international ethnic, American Indian, French, Hmong/Cambodian/Laotian, and Arabic.

Kung has been a missionary of the Home Mission Board's language missions division since 1975. Since 1979, he has been a consultant for the Home Mission Board working with the Sunday School Board.

Previously, he was a catalytic missionary associate to Chinese in Illinois, pastor of the First Chinese Southern Baptist Church in San Diego, and pastor of the Chinese mission at First Baptist Church of Dallas.

A native of China, he was a high school teacher in Hong Kong before moving to the United States in 1973.

Kung is a graduate of Hong Kong Baptist Seminary and Hong Kong Baptist College. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



The Book of Joshua contains the story of Caleb, who at the age of 85 stepped out of the ranks of Israel to claim the portion of land God had provided at Kadesh-barnea 45 years before.

Caleb said, "Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day."

Several lessons emerge from the life of this Old Testament man who "wholly followed the Lord."

Across the years his faith never wavered. Forty-five years before, he and Joshua brought a minority report and said, "If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land" (Numbers 14:8). Caleb had a great God and saw "little" giants. The majority see great giants and have a little God.

Caleb's physical strength never weakened. He said, "I am as strong this day as I was in the day Moses sent me." A faith that never wavered enabled him to lay hold on a physical strength that did not weaken.

He had a blessing that he never wasted. He gave to his daughter and her husband the "upper and lower springs." His life overflowed to other people.

I would like to suggest that the secret of all his qualities rested on one foundation — Caleb had a love for God that never wavered. Forty-five years before, the milk, honey, and fruit had not appealed to him but Hebron had. Hebron was the place Abraham had pitched his tent and God had spoken to Abraham face to face. It was there that God had given to Abraham the promise of the land. I understand Hebron conveys fellowship, love, and communion with God. Caleb's love never wavered.

Join me in asking God to give us a love that will never waver, blessings that we pledge we will never waste, a strength that will not weaken, and a faith that will never waver.

Crosspoint, a Christian Sports camp for older children and early adolescents (Grades 4-8) is coming this summer to

Wake Forest University, July 28-August 2 and August 4-9,
Mercer University, July 14-19,
Mississippi College, June 30-July 5, and **Ouachita Baptist University**, July 7-12.

Baseball/softball, basketball, tennis, soccer, gymnastics, and football will be offered.

Also: Bible studies — fellowship — worship — group recreation — swimming. Space still available — Promotional videos and slide shows available upon request.

Contact: the Church Recreation Department, MSN 166, Nashville, TN 37234 or call 615-251-2711. **Crosspoint** is brought to you by the creators of Centrifuge



Tennessee Scene

REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

West Main Baptist Church in Alexandria is having a "Good News America, God Loves You" revival April 13-20 led by the pastor, Amos Jarman.

Former pastors will preach during the revival April 7-12 of Chestuee Baptist Church in Calhoun. Those participating include Frank Yoder, Jerry Campbell, Benny Thomas, F. H. Patterson, and J. Edward Firestone. The current pastor is Lynn Moreland.

On April 20-25 a "Good News America, God Loves You" revival will be led by Ray Tate, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Tellico Plains, at Antioch Baptist Church in Athens. Wayne McKenzie will lead the music. The pastor of the church is Kenneth E. Elkins.

Oakland Baptist Church in Springfield will have a revival April 11-13 led by Don Elmore, pastor of First Baptist Church in Alexandria, and Johnnie Harris, who will lead the music. The pastor is Charles Gallaher.

PEOPLE . . .

First Baptist Church, Smyrna, ordained Lee Currie, Ed Hamblin, and Kenny Pierce as deacons on March 23. W. D. Thomason is pastor of the church.

On March 2, Adams Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Dresden ordained Chauency J. Adams, Guy Bynum, Marshall Lamb, Charles Pettit, and Tony Thompson as deacons. James Holt, retired former pastor, gave the charge to the candidates and Bobby Conley, former pastor and currently pastor of Oak Grove No. 1 Baptist Church in Gleason, gave the charge to the church. Bob Copeland, pastor, and Richard Skidmore, director of missions of Weakley County Baptist Association, also participated in the service.

W. J. Purdue, director of the Bible School at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, presented the diploma in Christian ministry to William J. Kendrick, pastor of Greenvale Baptist Church in Church Hill, in a ceremony during the morning worship service in the church March 30. Kendrick completed 62 hours of class work to graduate.

Bethlehem Baptist Church in Greenfield had a special recognition service March 16 for their pastor, Roy Auvenshine, on his 10-year anniversary as pastor.

Joel Dethloff was ordained to the ministry on Feb. 21 at New Prospect Baptist Church in McKenzie, where Billy Joe Patterson is the pastor.

CHURCHES . . .

Chestuee Baptist Church, Calhoun, celebrated its 100th anniversary April 6 with a homecoming emphasis for former members at the morning worship service and afternoon activities. Carlin Crabtree, pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Englewood, was the morning speaker and Oran Creasman, pastor of the Eastanalle Baptist Church which sponsored the Calhoun church, was the afternoon speaker.

LEADERSHIP . . .

First Baptist Church in Gallatin has called W. Fred Kendall II, vice-president of religious affairs at Belmont College in Nashville, as interim pastor. He began serving March 19.

Huel Moseley, director of student services at Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis, has been called as interim minister of music at Trinity Baptist Church in Memphis.

Dean Armour has been called as minister of music and youth by First Baptist Church in Greenfield. Dan C. Farmer is the pastor.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Invitation to attend CONSERVATIVE FUNDAMENTAL SOUTHERN BAPTIST MEETINGS

Johnson City - Monday, April 21, University Parkway Baptist Church, 209 West University Parkway, Donald Strother, Pastor.

LUNCHEON - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. **Speakers:** Judge Paul Pressler and Dr. Bill Hancock. Lunch available.

EVENING MEETING - 7:30 p.m. **Speakers:** Dr. Paige Patterson and Mr. Lee Roberts.

Knoxville - Monday, April 21

LUNCHEON - Noon until 2 p.m. Calvary Baptist Church, 3200 Kingston Pike, Bob Burch, Pastor. **Speakers:** Dr. Paige Patterson, Dr. Laverne Butler, and Mr. Lee Roberts.

EVENING MEETING - 7-9 p.m. Bell Avenue Baptist Church, 4615 Asheville Hwy., 2 blocks west off I-40, David Walker, Pastor. **Speakers:** Judge Paul Pressler and Dr. Bill Hancock, who is pastor of the Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

Nashville - Tuesday, April 22, Park Avenue Baptist Church, 44th and Park Ave., Dr. Bob Mowrey, Pastor.

LUNCHEON - Noon until 2:30 p.m. **Speakers:** Mr. Lee Roberts, Dr. Bill Hancock, and Dr. Paige Patterson.

EVENING MEETING - 7-9 p.m. **Speakers:** Dr. Bill Hancock, Dr. Paige Patterson, and Judge Paul Pressler.

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Interpretations

From slave to brother

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord" (Philemon 16).

In both cases "servant" translates *doulos*, a bondservant or slave. When Onesimus ran away, he was only an item in Philemon's inventory - and on the debit side at that.

Now he had become a Christian. One term Christians used to denote other Christians was/is "brother." Paul enhances this relationship by adding "beloved" (*agapeton*). "Brother" renders *adelphos*. A kindred word is *adelphus*, meaning out of the same womb or source of life.

As Christians, Philemon and Onesimus have the same source of life, God. So they are no longer master and slave; they are brothers in Christ. This is how Paul now regarded Onesimus. It should be more so with Philemon, because of their continuing relationship. Paul adds that it should be so "both in the flesh, and in the Lord."

Philemon should not simply regard Onesimus as a Christian-slave-brother but as though he were his own brother in the flesh. It is unthinkable that one would enslave his own brother or fellow Christian. So this is a definite appeal for Philemon to set Onesimus free from slavery.

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Potosi Southern Baptist Church
Clark and Mine
Potosi, Missouri 63664
(314) 438-2276

SATANISM IN ROCK MUSIC

Dr. Mathis discusses the occultic influences that are found in much of the rock music of today. He proves this by doing a slide presentation that is filled with satanic symbols found on the album covers of most of the popular groups.

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Dr. Mathis relates shocking photographs and illustrations of how rock music is influencing our teenagers to do bodily harm not only to themselves but to others around them. He cites the group Police, whose song "Murder by Numbers" advocates the killing of people. Also, Van Halen's hit "Jump" which promotes suicide.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for April 13

Rebuilding the Temple

By Mike McGinnis, pastor
Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Basic Passage: Ezra 4:1 to 6:22

Focal Passages: Ezra 4:1-6; 5:2-3; 6:14

The first three chapters of Ezra make it apparent that God wanted the people of Judah to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. However, nothing that is attempted for God will go unchallenged.

Neither should the believer be amazed at any tactic used by the opposition. This is the situation introduced in chapter four.

Ezra presents the people of Judah as being under a clear mandate from God; yet, opposition came.

The persecution was severe and consistent, lasting until the reign of Darius. This persecution was initiated because the Jews refused to violate God's command for His people to remain free from the taint of other faiths. Those who wanted to join God's people in the task of rebuilding the Temple were not true "Yahweh" worshippers.

One of life's inevitabilities is that a price must be paid for following God's commands.

Judah was discouraged

The verb used in verse four indicates that strong emotions prevented the people from continuing with their work. Discouragement always relies on the subtle weapons of suggestion and sneers; intimidations and threats. Hostility is hard to understand, especially when we are seeking to do God's work. Satan will always bring his worldly forces to bear against those who seek to serve the Lord.

Discouragement is the natural reaction to such confrontation. To avoid this, the Christian needs to have a clear understanding of why God allows persecution in the life of His children, and what He ultimately intends to accomplish out of it.

Persecution is promised. Jesus told us in John 15:20, "Remember the word that I said to you, a slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My Word, they will keep yours also."

Persecution is painful. We are naive if we think the Christian life is a stroll down a rose petal-strewn pathway. It was not so for Jesus and it will not be so for us. However, as Christians we are not restricted to the temporal. We recognize that God has an eternal purpose in everything He allows in our lives.

Persecution has purpose. James 1:2-4 tells us, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Certainly, every Christian wants to be "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Judah was disdained

We are commanded to always be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within us. However, we should never fall into the trap of defending ourselves before our accusers. If someone needs an answer for clarity's sake, yes; but if they

have determined to disdain you, no answer will be adequate. The Bible teaches us to contend for the faith (Jude 3). However, this does not indicate that we should contend with people. Jesus certainly set an adequate example concerning this truth.

The enemies of Judah started a very sophisticated smear campaign. It is sad, but true, that some are going to believe what you know to be obvious lies. Ultimately, an evil report will always find a listening ear. The child of God must remember that God, in His time and in His way, will take appropriate action to protect the reputation of His children.

Judah was dismayed

The letter written by Rehum and Shimshai appeared to be credible. It was logical, sensible, and reasonable. However, it was also false.

Nothing is more painful than accusations that have no foundation, yet, are received as being absolutely reliable. Often, added to this misery is the fear that the work of God will be hampered by what we recognize as a Satanic conspiracy.

However, this is impossible. God never loses control. "The heathen may rage and imagine a vain thing. The kings of the earth may set themselves, and the rulers take counsel against the Lord and His anointed" (Psalm 2:1-2), yet, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision" (Psalm 2:4).

Judah was delayed

Because of the threats of the enemies of Judah, the work was delayed, but it was destined. God had determined it so. The people had been discouraged and eventually had forsaken their project. However, like every spiritual advance from Abraham's to the missionary expansion in Acts, this venture was rekindled with a Word from the Lord. God raised up His prophets. These men of God brought a dead situation to life.

People need a vision to proceed in God's work. This was the task of Haggai and Zechariah. Verse two of chapter five says that the people were able to proceed as "the prophets of God were with them supporting them."

What God's Word had set in motion had, as ever, no lack of His care. Once again God uses a foreign dictator to accomplish His purpose. Darius' words are extremely strong. There was poetic justice intended in making a man's own house his instrument of execution for tampering with the house of God. As the Lord "blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning," so He blessed these ancient Temple builders. The task was able to be carried out with diligence and with the financial support of the monarchy of Persia.

After an entire generation, the Temple was finally rebuilt. The task was begun when the Lord "stirred up the spirit of Cyrus" (1:1), and it concluded with His turning the heart of one of that king's most powerful successors. Once again the theme of God's sovereignty is substantiated.

Our passage ends with another celebration. Judah began the task with a time of praise and rightfully ended the task with a time of praise. No matter how severe the opposition or persecution, remember, there is a time of rejoicing coming.



McGinnis

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for April 13

A hope worth guarding

By Robert O. Byrd, professor of religion
Belmont College, Nashville

Basic Passage: Jude

Focal Passages: Jude 1-4, 17-25

The Book of Jude has close ties with 2 Peter.

First of all, there is such a strong similarity between such passages as Jude 5-16 and 2 Peter 2:1-19 and between Jude 18 and 2 Peter 3:3 that some are convinced that one borrowed material from the other.

Secondly, the error against which both struggled was a similar form of Gnosticism. These false teachers were involved in the denial of the genuine humanity of Christ. For many of those who accepted this view, its results was an extreme form of libertinism which recognized no boundaries for human actions. This was a radical shift from the earlier errors of the Judaizers who attempted to impose severe moral and ritual restrictions on both Jews and Gentiles. In contrast, the Gnostics disavowed any authority which would restrict life.

This letter is a warning of the potential damage caused by an irresponsible unrestrained pattern of life.

Salutation (Jude 1-2)

The author of the letter identified himself by name only as Jude. This is an abbreviation of the name Judas, which was quite popular among the Jews during New Testament times. It was a name that had a noble history from Hebrew times until the more recent heroic exploits of Judas Maccabeus. The name fell out of favor with Christians because of the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot.

Jude identified himself further as "a servant of Jesus Christ." This could reflect the honorific manner in which the prophets were considered the servants of God. Finally, he designated himself "brother of James."

There are several persons referred to as Jude (Acts 5:37; 9:11; 15:22) in the New Testament. One of those apparently was fathered by a James (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13). Only one is mentioned with a brother named James, and that occurs in the listing of the brothers of Jesus (Mark 6:3). Apparently some of them later became Christians (see Acts 1:14). It may be that Jude could identify himself in such a way in the confidence that his role as a servant (slave) of Christ and his relation to James was sufficient.

The readers are identified as "those who are called." This assumes two ideas. The first is the initiative of God in redemption. In the New Testament, "the called" are those who have responded to God's initiative in obedient faith in Jesus. The author used two modifiers to describe those who are called. They were "beloved" by God and in the presence of God. They were also "kept." That is, they were being protected from harm.

The third part of the salutation was a prayer for three graces to be multiplied. His hope is not that they will simply possess them, but that they will be increased many times.

Need for the letter (3-4)

The writer apparently had been engaged in composing a message for them when necessity compelled a change. The original essay was concerned with what he described as "our common salva-

tion." This reference is not clear. However, it likely was that divine redemption which was equally available to all and which granted no special privileges to any.

This letter was an appeal to them to "contend for the faith." This term was used to describe athletic or military encounters of a face-to-face nature. "The faith" was apparently a reference to a body of doctrine. This doctrine was formed as a result of having reached what Jude thought of as the final stage.

This encounter was necessary because of the unbridled licentiousness of some as a result of their erroneous views of the Christian faith. The consequence of their views was to twist God's grace into something perverse and to deny Christ.

Encouragement to faithfulness (17-25)

The central section of the letter (5-16) is both a rebuttal and indictment of the false teachers. Using primarily Old Testament examples, Jude asserted that God's judgment was as inevitable as it had been in the past.

In verse 17 he addressed his readers for the second time as "beloved." Jude reminded his readers that the actions of the troublemakers was not wholly unexpected. The scoffers apparently made no connection between morality and spirituality. In addition, they "set up divisions" or caused separations. They were troublemakers. In so doing, they showed they were "devoid of the Spirit" who brings unity.

Verses 21-23 are composed of a series of admonitions. The first are concerned with the internal devotion of the readers. The latter are concerned with their dealings with others.

The book closes with a doxology in praise of Christ as Saviour (24-25).

SWBTS names Denton to development staff

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — R. Frank Denton has been named associate director of development at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, effective June 1.

Denton has been executive director-treasurer of the Missouri Baptist Foundation since 1979. Prior to that, he was director of development and public relations for Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Texas and secretary of the endowment and capital giving department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

As one of SWBTS' three associate directors, Denton will be responsible for coordinating development activities in Houston and southeastern Texas.

Denton is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southwestern seminary.

East Tennessee pastors to explore missions

JEFFERSON CITY — The East Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference April 24 at Carson-Newman College, will feature Mel Torstrick and Douglas Waterson.

Torstrick, manager of furlough ministries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will discuss global missions in the 21st century.

Waterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, also will speak.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Lesson for April 13

Growing in Christ

By Danny Bush, associate minister
First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge

Basic Passage: Colossians 2:1-23
Focal Passage: Colossians 2:6-15

During my days as an elementary school pupil, I once had a science project assignment. We were to plant sunflower seeds, properly care for the ground covering the seeds, and observe the growth of the flower.

I thought that sunflower was never going to grow! As several days passed, I watered the ground, waited, watched, and worried about the growth of that sunflower. Finally a green stalk poked its head up through the ground. What a thrill it was to see that tiny beginning turn into a giant stalk taller than my father. Even more thrilling was the huge flower at the top of that long stalk. As a child, it appeared to me that literally thousands of seeds were embedded in the heart of that giant yellow flower.



Bush

Of course, God made the plant grow. But I had many things to do in cooperation with God in order for growth to happen.

I cannot help but compare my childhood experience to our growth as children of God.

For that sunflower not to have grown would have been a real disappointment to me. Our lack of growth is a disappointment to God. A lot of work, time, and concern went into the successful growth of that flower. God has put a lot of time, hard work, and concern into the growth of His children, working out a foolproof pattern for abundant living and allowing His only Son to die in our place. He died for our sin even though He has no sin.

If we do not grow where the Creator has planted us, it is not His fault. He has done everything possible to help us grow into mature servants.

Flowers are programmed to grow. They have no choice nor the ability to make choices. Unlike flowers, Christian disciples have the privilege to choose to grow or not to grow.

What then is the problem? Why are so many of us so immature? How come many servants remain dormant and never bloom?

Recently our church's annual Christian Arts Festival featured Faye Burgess, a blind musician whose talents for humor and beautiful piano and voice performance are superb.

While talking with her before and after the inspiring presentation at our church, I relearned some things about Christian growth. First, a person must place faith and trust in Christ for eternal life to begin and continue. Second, after the initial encounter with Christ, the individual must keep deciding on his or her

own whether or not growth in the faith will take place.

Burgess said people often suggest to her that her blindness must give her extra insights into the spiritual life which persons with normal sight do not possess. She believes this is ridiculous. Burgess says a person's spiritual growth is a choice whether or not to be spiritually blind or have clear vision. Her faith in God plus determined hard work carried her through high school and onto college and then seminary and then into a career of Christian entertainment. Burgess has grown in Christ and continues to grow in Him and urges fellow Christians also to grow.

Of course, your spiritual growth requires more than willingness on your part. Personal willingness is essential. You must also be willing to depend on Christ. Who is the source of salvation. You must also be willing to think, study, and work at your faith. Salvation is a process and not a fixed condition. Salvation is a growing experience, not a static existence. A true Christian life is real, not a fictitious problem-free fairy-tale adventure. You cannot fabricate Christianity and have the results be a solid structure.

The existence of even a few non-resident church members would be evidence of a poor understanding of Christian growth on the part of Christians. In fact, it is alarming that literally thousands of Southern Baptists are non-resident members, cluttering thousands of church records across this "Christian" nation.

Added to this fact is the host of so-called "active" members whose part in the work of the kingdom either does not exist or is feeble at best.

It is just as alarming for vast numbers

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of "active" members to substitute high levels of church attendance or intellectual-philosophical capabilities for real applied Christianity in the home, school, work place, and tragically even at church.

Those often blamed for all these conditions are ministers, parents, peers, world conditions, the "leaders down at the church," inadequate literature and programs, and the devil.

All or a combination of these can contribute to lack of growth in Christ. But the real culprits in stunted spiritual growth are individual Christians themselves! Right environment can be help-

ful, but thousands of followers through the centuries have come from the bleak-est of spiritually negative circumstances simply because they responded in faith to the Word they heard. All of us must ultimately decide for ourselves to begin the walk of faith and then to either stumble around, walk slowly, walk briskly, or to run the course!

What evidences in your personal life reveal solid Christian growth? Are you a negative complainer and non-participant in your family and church or do you live a life of unselfish love, humble servanthood, and positive mutual support?

Are you growing in Christ?



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Chapel in Arizona closes doors in summer

By Karen Merrick

FLORENCE, Ariz. (BP) — The people of Caliente Florence Gardens Community Chapel will not despair when services are discontinued this spring. They know the mission ministry of First Baptist Church has a history of closing its doors as the desert air changes from mild to hot and resuming services as the weather cools again.

The community chapel is in its sixth year of providing ministry to winter visitors. Hundreds of retired men and women who live at least part of the year in Florence's adjoining Caliente Casa de Sol and Florence Gardens RV parks attend the 9 a.m. Sunday services. The weekly worship services are held November through April in the Caliente park's clubhouse.

Truman Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Florence, heads the community chapel. He saw the need for this work while serving as director of missions for Gila Valley and San Carlos Baptist associations, a position he held for 20 years. He noticed the RV area's development while driving by and decided to investigate the possibility of beginning services there.

Webb knew most of the parks' residents would not leave the trailer area to attend church. However, he also knew that "if you bring it to them ... a great number will go."

The activities director at the Caliente park, along with her husband, who was chairman of the homeowners' board, gave Webb immediate consent to begin the work. The couple, both Christians, told the pastor that they had been contemplating the possibility of holding worship services in the park.

"It looked like the Lord just had it ready for us," Webb said.

Services began in Caliente's pool hall in December 1979, a month after the ministry was approved. With about 30 in attendance the first Sunday, the work "took off right from the start," Webb said.

Attendance at the weekly services now averages about 350, peaking at several hundred in mid-winter and measuring about 100 at the beginning and end of the chapel's six-month season, according to Webb. Attendance reached over 500 on this year's high attendance day, Feb. 23.

Although the people involved are all retired senior adults, they make up a di-

verse group. Their permanent homes are in a variety of locations — as far east as New Jersey and as far north as Canada — and, according to Webb, they represent every evangelical religious denomination.

Those of denominations other than Southern Baptist attend because of the convenient location of the services, said Webb, or because they enjoy the relaxed fellowship.

"A lot of people feel ill at ease in a formal church building," Webb said. They do not feel "threatened" in the relaxed clubhouse services, he added.

Some women of the congregation have told him that their husbands will not attend services "at home" but will participate in the park's services. And some people who spend a winter in the Florence RV area return specifically because of the trailer park ministry.

Webb's ministry to the part-time Arizona residents is not limited to once-a-week preaching. He makes his way to the RV area each Wednesday morning to lead a Bible study and to share lunch with the people of the congregation. In addition, he makes hospital visits and has held memorial services for people

whose final winter was spent in Arizona.

The Caliente park management's response to the program has been favorable. Webb said the management is supportive and has told him it is the park's "best activity."

Many trailer parks, according to Webb, will not allow a group to conduct a continuous ministry. He explained that some parks require different denominations to be represented on different Sundays.

In Florence, however, "nobody has ever questioned why Southern Baptists have this work," he said.

Still, there are park rules under which Webb must operate. He is not allowed to give formal invitations during services, but he does present the gospel each Sunday. He includes a decision period in the services and encourages those making decisions to share them with himself or with congregation leaders.

One 60-year-old man who participated in the ministry became a Christian and surrendered to preach. Since then "the Lord has really used him" Webb said. The man now preaches on a supply basis and is in charge of the Florence church's senior citizen's work. He has also won his entire family to the Lord, the pastor said.

Another man, on his way to Los Angeles for a cancer operation, attended a Sunday morning service and became a Christian. He told Webb that morning that he had peace for the first time in his life and said, "Whatever happens, I know I'll be with the Lord."

Florence's community chapel provides more than simply once-a-week services for people who spend winter months in the Arizona town. The seniors who are involved, Webb said, feel it is "their church away from home."

"It's a life-changing ministry for many, many people."

—Karen Merrick is on the staff of the Baptist Beacon, news journal of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

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Stetson names Lee as new president

DELAND, Fla. (BP) — Stetson University trustees have named Executive Vice-president H. Douglas Lee president-elect of the university. He will succeed President Pope A. Duncan June 1, 1987.

When Lee assumes the presidency, Duncan will become chancellor of the university. Lee will continue as executive vice-president, the second-highest administration position at Stetson, until Duncan leaves office.

As chancellor, Duncan will serve as a goodwill ambassador for Stetson, which is the oldest university in the state of Florida. Duncan, 65, who in 1977 said he planned to be Stetson's president for 10 years, will be only the second chancellor in university history. The first was J. Ollie Edmunds in 1967.

Lee studied at the University of Richmond, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the University of Iowa.

As a professor of religion from 1971 to 1973, Lee taught ethics, politics, and religion at Virginia Interment College, where he also was director of educational development. From 1973 to 1978, he was director of university relations at Wake Forest University.

He came to Stetson in 1978 as vice-president of development and later was named vice-president of planning and development. He was chosen Stetson's first executive vice-president in 1984.