

# Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



Mr. and Mrs. Barron



Mr. and Mrs. Bird



Mr. and Mrs. Brown



Mr. and Mrs. Chism



Mr. and Mrs. Graham



Mr. and Mrs. Martin



Mr. and Mrs. Nowell



Mr. and Mrs. Worley

## FMB appoints eight Tennessee couples

DENVER, Colo. — Eight couples with Tennessee connections were among the 69 missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 11 at Downtown Auditorium Arena, Denver.

Denver is the farthest west the board has conducted an April board meeting and appointment service, which are held

in different states each year. About 4,000 people gathered for the service.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Barron will work in Mexico, where he will be an agricultural evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He currently attends Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

A native Texan, Barron also lived in

Nashville while growing up. He considers Nashville his hometown and First Baptist Church of Donelson his home church. A graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, he also attended Volunteer State Community College, Gallatin, and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Barron has been a farm worker for MTSU, a feeder pig program assistant for an agricultural extension service in Murfreesboro, and a vocational agricultural leader in Lexington. He has been a mission volunteer in Mexico.

An Alabamian, Mrs. Barron, the former Lisa Stockard, also lived in Nashville and Waynesboro while growing up. She considers Nashville her hometown and First Baptist Church of Donelson her home church.

A graduate of Union University, Jackson, Mrs. Barron also attended Belmont College, Nashville, served as financial and educational secretary at First Baptist Church, Lexington, and was a volunteer missionary with her husband in Mexico. The Barrons have one child, Christopher Glen, born in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Bird will live in Nairobi, Kenya, where he will serve as a news correspondent covering mission work in 19 countries of eastern and southern Africa. She will be a church and home worker and assist him in his

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he is a writer in the news and information services office and she is a secretary in the

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## SBC leaders anticipate huge crowd in Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP)— "Love never fails," a Scripture reference from 1 Corinthians 13:8, will be the theme of the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 10-12 in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

"Our hope is that love will be the prevailing atmosphere of our convention," said Fred Wolfe, chairman of the 1986 SBC Order of Business Committee, which is responsible for planning the meeting.

"We do have honest differences," said Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. "But with the convention theme, we are saying we can walk together in love."

The 1986 meeting — similar to the 1985 convention in Dallas — faces the possibility of a record number of messengers, logistical problems, and the likelihood of controversy.

Wolfe said the six-member Order of Business Committee "is committed to assisting the president and the messengers to have as easy a time as possible. We want the messengers to be able to express themselves and to feel they have had an ample opportunity to participate."

Wolfe estimated there will be more than 50,000 messengers at the convention, topping the record 45,519 registered in Dallas. Prior to Dallas, the record was set in 1978 in Atlanta, when 22,872 persons registered.

"I believe we can handle 50,000," Wolfe said, "although it will push us. Some predict we may have 60,000, but if we reach that it will really surprise me."

The chairman noted the Georgia World Congress Center — a sprawling facility in downtown Atlanta — "is adequate to handle us, but moving 50,000 or 60,000 people into the meeting hall is going to be difficult and time consuming."

Convention planners estimate it will take two hours to move that many people from the entrance down two escalators and into the large halls. It will not take an individual messenger that long, but from start to finish, two hours will be required to fill the hall.

It was pointed out that it took 90 minutes to fill the Dallas Convention Center with 45,000 people, and that was all on the same level and did not require travel down stairs and escalators.

"This is going to require a lot of patience on the part of the messengers," Wolfe said, urging people to be "courteous, kind, and Christian" in their behavior toward one another and toward ushers and others responsible for assisting them in getting into the convention.

Wolfe said the convention center will

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## Tennessee legislators recess without vote on state lottery

Tennessee legislators left Nashville last week for a four-week recess without voting on the proposed amendment to the state Constitution which would delete a prohibition against a state lottery. The lawmakers will return to the State Capitol on May 14 to consider any bills which might be vetoed by Gov. Lamar Alexander.

Last Wednesday (April 16) the House of Representatives deferred action on the measure at the request of the resolu-

tion's sponsor, Mike Kernell of Memphis, who acknowledged that he did not have enough votes committed to pass it by the required two-thirds majority. The Senate did not take any action on the state lottery resolution.

It is possible that the resolution could be brought up at the one-day May 14 session.

According to Tennessee law, a resolution to amend the Constitution must be approved by both houses of the General Assembly at two consecutive sessions — 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 vote. In order to be on November's ballot, both houses of the current 94th General Assembly must pass the resolution by a two-thirds vote after three readings.

If the lottery resolution is not passed during the May 14 session, the proposed amendment to the state Constitution could not be placed on the ballot until November 1990 — the next scheduled gubernatorial election.

The proposed amendment would delete 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."

## Tornado strikes Baptist homes

A tornado that cut a three-quarter-mile swath through Marion County and injured six people Sunday night, April 20, damaged the property of two Southern Baptists and caused an electrical power outage during the evening services of Baptist Hill Baptist Church in Jasper.

Of the persons injured, only one remains in the hospital in South Pittsburg. The tornado hit one home, skipped two, and then hit two more homes, according to the Nashville Banner. It also reported that trees and power lines were damaged in Fentress and Putnam counties.

Glenn Blevins, pastor of Baptist Hill Baptist Church, reported that a church member, H. E. Dixon, owned a house that was destroyed in a residential area one mile east of Jasper. Gaye Quarles and Leon Quarles, members of Mineral Springs Baptist Church in Whitwell, both had tree damage on their property in the same area.

Blevins said the tornado struck at about 6 p.m. during church training at Baptist Hill Baptist Church causing them to use candlelight for the rest of the services.

No plans for Baptist disaster relief response had been formulated at press time.

# FMB appoints eight Tennessee couples...

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School of Religious Education.

In July, the family will move to Richmond, Va., where Bird will work out of the board's news office for about a year before the family goes through eight weeks of orientation at the Missionary Learning Center, Rockville, Va. They will leave for Kenya in the summer of 1987.

Prior to enrolling in seminary to prepare for missionary service, Bird was feature editor for Baptist Press in Nashville and they were members of Walker Memorial Baptist Church, Franklin.

Born in Arkansas, Bird lived in several cities in Arkansas, New Mexico, Texas, and Virginia, and in Keflavic, Iceland, while growing up. He is a graduate of San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas; the University of Texas, Austin; and attended Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas.

He has been a reporter and editor for newspapers in Lawton, Okla., and Corpus Christi and Beeville, Texas; director of communications and houseparent for South Texas Children's Home, Beeville; and director of news and information at Hardin-Simmons.

Born and raised in Texas, Mrs. Bird, the former Melissa Jackson, is a graduate of San Jacinto College and attended Hardin-Simmons. She has been a teacher's aide, a secretary, a houseparent, a sales and service representative, manager of an in-home sales service, and manager of her own house cleaning business. The Birds have two children, Coby Alan, born in 1973, and Brant Michael, 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Brown will work in French Guiana, he as a general evangelist and she as a church and home worker. Currently, he is pastor of Tennessee's Rock Springs Baptist Church, Columbia.

Born and raised in Kentucky, Brown is a graduate of Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, and Southern seminary. He has been pastor of Woodcock Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville; associate pastor of Una Baptist Church, Nashville; and a summer missionary in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Brown, the former Kathryn Sneed, was born and raised in Columbia and consider Highland Park Baptist Church there her home church. She has been a day-care teacher at Woodcock Memorial Baptist Church School and an insurance senior inspection clerk, both in Nashville; and a radio telephone operator. She attended Columbia State Community College. The Browns have three children: Elizabeth Anne, born in 1975; Timothy James, 1977; and Alan Neeley, 1982.

Mr. and Mrs. V. David Chism will work in Ecuador, he as a religious education consultant and she as a church and home worker. Currently, he is minister of education at First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.

Born and raised in Mississippi, Chism lived in Nashville while serving as editor of youth Sunday School materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1976 to 1978. He has been an associate in the Sunday School department of the Missouri Baptist Convention, a teacher, an associate editor for a publishing company, and served on several Louisiana church staffs.

Chism is a graduate of the University of North Alabama, Florence; Southwestern seminary; the University of Ala-

bama, University; and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

A Louisiana native, Mrs. Chism, the former Melissa Swain, is a real estate associate. She is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and New Orleans seminary. The Chisms have two children: Kara Melissa, born in 1974; and Blake McClure, 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. V. Maurice Graham will work in Liberia, where he will be a school chaplain and she will be a church and home worker. Graham has been director of pastoral care at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. They are members of Second Baptist Church, Memphis.

Born and raised in Shelbyville, Graham considers Southside Baptist Church there his home church. He has been a pastor and an HMB Christian social ministry intern in Missouri; associate minister of church and community missions at Second Baptist Church, Memphis; and a summer missionary in Tennessee.

Graham is a graduate of Belmont College, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and expects to receive the doctor of ministry degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., in May. He also attended the University of Tennessee Center of Health Sciences School of Social Work, Memphis.

Mrs. Graham, the former Laurie Nuzum, is a native of Kansas. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and also attended Memphis State University. She has been a piano and music teacher at Memphis State. The Grahams have two children: Peter Michael, born in 1977; and Aaron Lee, 1980.

Mr. and Mrs. Asbury H. Martin Jr. will work in Argentina, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He is now pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Cleveland, Miss.

Born in South Carolina, Martin also lived in Mississippi, Texas, and Iowa while growing up. He is a graduate of East Mississippi Junior College, Scooba; Blue Mountain (Miss.) College; and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He also attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Martin has been pastor of churches in Mississippi, a welder for a corporation in North Carolina, and a distribution technician for a blood center in Memphis.

A Mississippi native, Mrs. Martin, the former Hope Clements, is a graduate of Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss., and attended Blue Mountain College. She has taught school in Mississippi, North Carolina, and Memphis, and was a summer missionary in New York. The Martins have two children: Justin Asbury, born in 1983; and Adrian Graham, 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Nowell will work in Taiwan, he as a general evangelist and she as a church and home worker. He is pastor of Sullivan (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Born in South Carolina, Nowell also lived in Oak Ridge, Nashville, and Chattanooga. He considers Nashville his hometown and Criewood Baptist Church there his home church. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and Southern seminary.

Nowell has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Chillicothe, Ill., and a summer

missionary in New York, New Jersey, Jamaica, and Cayman Islands.

A Kentuckian, Mrs. Nowell, the former Deborah Moody, is a graduate of Murray (Ky.) State University, attended Georgetown (Ky.) College and Southern seminary, has been a credit analyst, and was a summer missionary in California and Kentucky. The Nowells have three children: Christopher Luke, born in 1978; Ryan Thomas, 1981; and Jonathan Clay, 1984.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Roy Worley will work in Venezuela, he as a general evangelist and she as a home and church worker. He currently attends New Orleans seminary.

Born and raised in Memphis, Worley considers Towering Oaks Baptist Church there his home church. He has been pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Moscow; Liberty Baptist Church, Som-

erville; and First Baptist Church, Keiser, Ark. He is a graduate of Memphis State and Mid-America seminary.

Born in Arkansas, Mrs. Worley, the former Rebecca Taylor, also lived in Memphis while growing up. She considers Memphis her hometown and Towering Oaks Baptist Church her home church.

Mrs. Worley, a graduate of Memphis State, has been a piano teacher and music teacher in Memphis, a teacher in Rossville and Somerville, and a music teacher in public schools in Wilson, Ark. The Worleys have two children: Wendy Farrell, born in 1980; and Sara Elizabeth, 1983.

All of the new missionaries will go to Rockville, Va., in August for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field, with the exception of the Birds who will attend orientation later.

## SBC leaders anticipate...

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be open Sunday afternoon and all day Monday for preliminary meetings — Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting and the Pastors' Conference — and to allow messengers to register.

At 7 a.m. Tuesday, the convention center will open, but admittance will be limited to those who are registered messengers, program personalities, and the news media. Persons wishing to register also will be allowed to go to the registration area on the main floor.

"Persons who are not in one of those categories should not even come to the World Congress Center," Wolfe said. He added there is expected to be no overflow space for the seating of non-messengers, particularly Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Wolfe said non-messengers may be admitted Wednesday night.

Wolfe said getting to the convention center through downtown Atlanta will present additional problems, particularly since the opening times of the SBC coincide with traditional rush hour.

"Messengers should give themselves plenty of time and come prepared," he said.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the convention will have seating space for 45,000 persons and standing room for another 20,000. On Thursday, 11,000 seats will be eliminated, leaving only 34,000 seats.

Wolfe said the "interest level in the convention is the highest it has ever

been. That is good; I just hate it that controversy had to bring us here."

He noted Atlanta is perhaps the most accessible city for the majority of Southern Baptists and said: "I believe people have strong, strong feelings about what is going on in the convention. It is genuine concern and a desire that we come together and get on about the work God has called us to do.

"Both sides have strong convictions and both love the convention and want to see it be what God wants it to be."

Wolfe said the Order of Business Committee has taken several steps to help ensure the meeting is conducted properly.

Basic parliamentary procedure will be printed in the first Convention Bulletin, helping messengers "understand the proper way to go about making motions, resolutions, points of order."

About 30 laymen from across the nation have been appointed "microphone monitors" for the 13 microphones on the floor. In addition, a special device has been designed, allowing the monitors to indicate whether a person is for a motion, against it, raising a point of order, or asking for a point of personal privilege. The device will allow the presiding officer to determine the order of appearance and whether a person at a microphone is for or against an action.

"The monitors will find out who is for and who is against and line them up in that order," Wolfe said. "We have had situations in the past that were not good and we came up with this method of recognition that we think will assure fairness," he added.

Wolfe said six other persons were appointed to assist the Order of Business Committee in the three overflow halls, to help in seating people, recognizing messengers at the microphones, and taking the vote, whether it is by ballot or by voice or hand.

Much of the business of the convention will be conducted during the first day's session, including election of a president, deliberating on a proposed change of controversial Bylaw 16, and receiving the reports of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees and the Committee on Committees.

Wolfe noted other highlights of the program include home missions night on Tuesday and foreign missions night on Wednesday, as well as the convention sermon by Adrian Rogers of Memphis, on Wednesday morning.

## R. Stanwell accepts Chapman Grove post

Chapman Grove Baptist Church in Kingston recently called Ron Stanwell as pastor. He began his ministry there March 30.

Stanwell comes to the Kingston pastorate from Baldwin, Miss., where he served as pastor of the Jericho Baptist Church.

A degree from the Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky., is included in his educational background.

Savannah is Stanwell's place of birth.



Stanwell

# Winfred Moore announces four-point SBC peace plan

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)— Winfred Moore, first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has announced a four-point "peace plan" calling for "fairness" in the 14.4-million-member denomination.

Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, would not say he is willing to be nominated as convention president when the SBC meets in Atlanta next June, but added, "As far as I know, I've never run out on a friend or a cause I believe in."

Moore, in Atlanta to preach at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., met with several Atlanta-area pastors, attended a luncheon sponsored by a dozen laymen, and held a small news conference following the luncheon.

In none of the meetings or news conferences did he publicly list the four points of his "peace plan," although he

covered all four points in detail during the news conference. Moore disclosed his four-point plan in a telephone interview with the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press after the meetings.

Moore's plan is:

1. There must be a fairness in the distribution of power and the inclusion of small churches by allowing no more than two individuals from the same church to serve on SBC boards and agencies.

2. There must be a fairness in the appointment process by asking each state convention president, WMU president, executive director, and chairman of the state convention Executive Board for names. The SBC president and officers should make appointments from these suggestions.

3. The people asked to serve on SBC boards and agencies should be from churches who have shown a history of support for Southern Baptist Cooperative Program efforts.

4. There must be a fairness in the conducting of business at our national conventions by calling for an official parliamentarian and requesting proper identification when the ballots are received by the messengers.

Moore said he did not plan to present his four-point proposal to the SBC Peace Committee, of which he is a member, because the committee has too much to do between now and the convention. "I just hope everyone will take a look at the idea and come to the convention in Atlanta with a more peaceful approach."

The Texas pastor said he covered all four points in his meetings with Atlanta area pastors and laymen "who share my philosophy," but that he did not list them one-two-three-four until his interview with Baptist Press.

"I'm not a politician," he insisted. "I'm a novice at this sort of thing, so I probably didn't handle the press conference very well."

Although he repeatedly denied he is a candidate for SBC president, Moore said, "It is very important that we have a change in style of leadership in the SBC."

"We have two different philosophies of how you do church in the SBC," Moore added. One is that the pastor is a ruler who makes the decisions for the church; the other is that the church should have a "shared ministry" between pastor, church staff, and laity. Moore strongly advocated the second philosophy, but said the SBC presidents for the last several years have followed the first philosophy.

Saying he was not surprised at the announcement that Adrian Rogers is willing to be a candidate for SBC president, Moore added he felt Rogers is "misusing" the statement on theological diversity issued by the SBC Peace Committee.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis and also a Peace Committee member, said in his announcement that the Peace Committee's "diversity statement" has "clearly said" there is a theological problem in the SBC.

Moore, however, denied that the Peace

Committee statement is a so-called "smoking gun" proving there are theological problems.

"That's not what the Peace Committee voted to say," said Moore. "We were just acknowledging what everyone has known all along — that we have diversity in the SBC."

Moore said he feels "our diversity has been a great part of our strength" in the SBC. Emphasizing his own theological conservatism, Moore explained that he did not want to make everyone fit into the same mold.

"I've said all along if someone is teaching heresy, we ought to deal with that person on a one-to-one basis; but we shouldn't throw a cloud of suspicion over everyone," Moore said. "We need teachers in our seminaries who expand our minds; not who walk in the same ruts we are in."

Amplifying the points in his "peace plan," Moore said he felt amendments to the SBC Bylaws and Constitution should be adopted by the convention in Atlanta to limit the power of the SBC president in appointing the SBC Committee on Committees.

Moore said he and SBC second vice-president Henry Huff of Louisville, Ky., had met with SBC president Charles Stanley of Atlanta on the previous Friday to talk about SBC committee appointments. Moore said he and Huff had made suggestions to Stanley on committee appointments, but that Stanley said he would add their suggestions to the computerized list along with names suggested by others.

"We'll have to wait until the committee appointments are announced (by Stanley) to see if our suggestions were taken seriously," Moore said.

Moore said Stanley had asked him and Huff to preside during business sessions of the SBC at two of the overflow auditoriums in Atlanta's World Congress Center. "I don't think I'll be asked to preside over any of the business in the main hall on Tuesday," Moore said.

He said there has been no change in his plans declining to publicly announce his candidacy for SBC president. "I've hoped all along someone would rise to the occasion and emerge as a strong candidate to bring the convention together, but that has not happened."

## Rogers reacts to peace plan

NASHVILLE (BP)— Adrian Rogers, who has announced his willingness to be nominated as president when the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Atlanta in June, told Baptist Press he could "say Amen" to a four-point peace plan proposed by SBC first vice-president Winfred Moore, the likely moderate-conservative nominee for the top SBC office.

The plan urges increased participation by small churches by allowing no more than two persons from the same church to serve on convention boards, asks that nominations be sought from four state convention officials before making convention appointments, calls for persons nominated to be from churches with a history of support for Southern Baptist Cooperative Program efforts, and requests an official parliamentarian and proper identification when messengers register at the annual meeting.

Regarded as the fundamental-conservative choice, Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, commented, "I basically think his plan is a very fine plan," adding that he sought and received nominations from state leadership in the nominations he made during his presidency of the SBC (1979-80).

"I certainly believe a president should ask for suggestions from leadership across the convention, but would modify his plan because I do not believe it should be exclusively from these. I think the president should have his ears and heart open to every area and exclude no one."

He noted he "wholeheartedly agrees that a person (nominated) should show a history of support of the SBC, not in narrow parameters, but also in support for evangelism and love for the Word of God that has made us the great convention we are."

He added he also favors "fairness in all our parliamentary procedures. I would be dead set against anything that would disenfranchise anyone or which would skew our convention processes."

Rogers said he would add a fifth item to the plan "which would be to nudge us back to our historic belief in a conservative view of the Word of God. I believe that the new theological diversity in the SBC is at the root of much of our problems."

Other reactions to Moore's proposal have been mixed, splitting for the most part along "party" lines.

## Ethicist urges other stores to follow Southland lead

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE (BP)— The head of Southern Baptists' moral concerns agency hopes Southland Corp., the giant parent company of 7-Eleven stores, will be "only the first of many" convenience store chains and other businesses to pull pornographic magazines from the sales racks.

The Dallas-based company announced April 10 it will discontinue sales of Playboy, Penthouse, and Forum magazines at its 4,500 stores and will encourage independent owners of another 3,600 7-Eleven franchises to follow suit.

Foy Valentine, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, joined a cross-section of religious leaders in commending Southland's decision.

"The convenience store in America has become a major pipeline for pornography," Valentine said. "Whatever the motive, I earnestly hope and now cautiously expect that this decision by Southland will help others to see that pornography does not pay."

"Christians," he said, "have a moral responsibility to exercise good steward-

ship in spending their money with those businesses that themselves exercise moral responsibility."

In announcing its decision, Southland denied it was bowing to pressure from anti-pornography groups such as the Moral Majority (now Liberty Foundation) and the National Federation of Decency which have been pressing for removal of the magazines from the stores. In many communities, 7-Eleven stores have been the targets of picket lines organized by local churches.

In a prepared statement, Southland President Jere Thompson said the company's decision was based on concern about the links between pornography and crime. He said Southland has closely monitored hearings conducted by the U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. "The testimony before that commission indicates a growing public awareness and concern over a possible connection between adult magazines and crime, violence, and child abuse," Thompson said.

Company spokesman Doug Reed said Southland representatives have attended all of the commission's hearings which have been held in major cities throughout the nation since last June.

The Christian Life Commission is one of the groups invited to testify at the hearings.

At the initial hearing last year in Washington, CLC staff member Harry N. Hollis Jr. included in his testimony the resolution against pornography adopted by the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. He called attention to the "consensus of concern" among Baptists about pornography and obscenity, noting that Christians "oppose pornography not because it deals with sex but because it exploits and degrades sex."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Sears of Louisville, Ky., a Southern Baptist layman and a member of the SBC's Executive Committee, is executive director of the 11-member pornography commission, which expects to make a final report on its year-long study in June.

## Gallup explores views on AIDS

WASHINGTON (BP)— Pollster George Gallup has reported that most Americans do not believe the deadly disease AIDS amounts to God's punishment upon sexuality.

Survey results show 55 percent of the public holding that view, with 21 percent believing the disease — formally known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — is God's judgment. Nearly one-quarter (24 percent) say they are undecided.

Half of those surveyed describe homosexuality as a sin, with 32 percent disagreeing and 18 percent having no opinion.

## Witt accepts pastorate with Oak Grove church

Frank Witt, interim pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Chattanooga, has accepted the pastorate of the church, effective April 6.

Aside from churches in the Chattanooga area, Witt has pastored churches in Virginia, Georgia, and California.

## EDITORIAL

## People, program to crowd June's SBC in Atlanta

The Order of Business Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced the tentative program for the 129th annual meeting of the convention, which is scheduled June 10-12 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The agenda for the program will not become official until approved by the church-elected messengers as one of the first items of business at the June 10 opening morning session.

Program highlights include the president's address by Charles Stanley on Tuesday morning; Home Mission Board reports on Tuesday night; convention sermon by Adrian Rogers on Wednesday morning; Foreign Mission Board report on Wednesday night; and five miscellaneous business sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The selected theme for this year's convention — "Love Never Fails" — is most appropriate in view of the huge crowd expected and the heated debates anticipated.

Convention leaders have estimated that there may be upwards to 60,000 messengers at the Atlanta SBC — shattering the record 45,519 messengers who registered at the 1985 SBC in Dallas.

We met in the same Atlanta facility in 1978 — before the current controversy erupted — with 22,872 registered messengers. This was the largest attendance before last year's session in Dallas. Those who attended that convention will recall that, to reach the convention hall, messengers had to go down two levels by escalators. Center officials estimate that it will take two hours for 60,000 people to get in or out of the facility. This will require a lot of patience and that "love" that never fails!

The messengers will gather in three separate rooms — all which will have closed circuit television and microphones for messengers' use. A computer system will automatically decide the order in which microphones requested to be recognized.

These three areas will provide seating for 45,000 with standing room for an additional 20,000, for the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions. Because of a previous commitment for one of the rooms, 11,000 of these seats will not be available for the Thursday sessions.

Another factor that will require some patience is that, because the facility is basically an exhibit hall to which visitors come for a brief time, there are a limited number of rest rooms.

And, will it be possible for 60,000 people to leave the hall, find something to eat, and be back in their seats in the two hours between sessions?

Parking in the area of the convention hall is said also to be very limited, so convention officials are suggesting that messengers use the Marta transit system in getting to and from the convention hall.

Hotel rooms in the downtown area have all been reserved, although there are still some rooms available away from downtown.

Because of the expected large number of messengers, visitors will NOT be admitted to the convention hall on Tuesday and Wednesday — although non-messengers may be admitted to the Wednesday night session if space is available.

Deliberate or not, the Order of Business Committee has proposed an agenda which will allow a messenger to come ONLY to the Tuesday sessions and vote on most of the expected controversial matters.

Scheduled for Tuesday's sessions are:

— The SBC Executive Committee report, which includes 11 recommendations — one dealing with an amendment to Bylaw 16. Another of these recommendations concerns the proposed \$136-million Cooperative Program budget allocations to various SBC agencies and institutions.

— The election of officers. As scheduled, Tuesday-attending messengers will participate in the election of the SBC president and both vice-presidents.

— Committee on Boards nominations. This report has drawn challenges in recent years.

— Committee on Committee nominations. Until this year, this report has normally been scheduled on Wednesday. Last year's nominations from the Committee on Committees proved to be the most controversial issue at the convention, even leading to a lawsuit. This year, the committee's report has been shifted to the crowded Tuesday agenda.

— Peace Committee report. Slated for Tuesday night, the Peace Committee will give its report — with any recommendations.

After the busy Tuesday sessions, the only major business item scheduled will be the recommendations from the Resolutions Committee. Of course, there may also be motions presented by messengers which cannot be considered until Wednesday or Thursday.

Perhaps the Order of Business Committee decided to get as many of the controversial issues out of the way as quickly as possible, so that we would use the next two days emphasizing our unity and that "Love Never Fails." If this is their motive, we sincerely hope and pray that it succeeds.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## A caring retirement provision requires planning now

By James McCluskey

Many of the ministers who have served our Tennessee Baptist churches all of their adult lives are reaching the age of retirement without provision for an income sufficient to live with any security or dignity.

Why?

Is it that they have not been frugal?

Is it because congregations they served did not care about them?

Will this situation continue in years to come?

A caring provision for retirement (or disability) requires planning. Inadequate planning in the past puts many ministers and churches today in embarrassing positions. Planning must be done by both churches and ministers.

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is encouraging ministers and churches to make a caring provision for the future by joining together now to care for retirement. Tennessee Baptists will find that the Expanded Church Annuity Plan challenges both the minister and the church to participate in a plan to adequately provide for the retirement years ahead.

Such provision is wise and Scriptural. Good stewardship requires planning. A minister is worthy of his hire. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:13-14, "Do you not know that those employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

The Expanded Church Annuity Plan encourages a church to provide a contribution to the minister's annuity of 10 percent of the minister's compensation; the minister to contribute 5 percent; and the state convention to contribute \$420 per year. This level of contributions from three sources will provide a caring provision for the retirement years of our church leaders.

For the plan to be most effective, participation needs to begin in the early years of a minister's service.

I encourage every church and every minister to plan now for a caring provision for the retirement years.

—James McCluskey is pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, and the current president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

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### CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 75,036

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Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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# 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.

## Praise for students

Dear editor:

As a part of the Youth Evangelism Conference, we attended a personal witnessing service at Belmont College. I praise the Lord for the Christian maturity and commitment of those Belmont students who led in a joyous time of praise and recommitment. It was obvious to all that their hearts overflowed with the love of Christ. Their ministry to us spoke volumes concerning the quality Christian education they are receiving.

I agree with others that there are problems in Baptist life that must be acknowledged, confronted, and prayerfully corrected. Yes, we have some serious problems that must not be swept under the rug. The Lord would have us correct our "wrongs." He also would have us support and promote "rights."

There are many facets of Baptist life that are so right! The Belmont students who led us in worship are just one example of the many "rights" in our convention that are led and blessed of God.

While we are compelled to point a finger of recognition and disapproval at the "wrongs," it is also imperative that we clap our hands in praise to our Lord Jesus for the many "rights" He is bringing forth from the lives of His people and His convention. "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together" (Psalm 34:3).

Bruce Yates  
2211 Louisville Road  
Alcoa, TN 37701

## No 'conservative' letters

Dear editor:

I was not too surprised that you declined using my last two letters. Your long delay in giving your reason, "don't believe it would be of interest to our Baptist and Reflector readers," poses two more questions: (1) do you have to submit to some liberal hierarchy for permission? and (2) is it the present Baptist and Reflector policy to withhold any personal views favorable to conservative right?

Perhaps I used too many names and exposed too many instances of ridicule coming through the liberal press (SBC Today). However, I'm inclined to believe the content of the last letter would have been of interest to the 80 percent (my estimate) of the Scripturally conservative readers.

Please permit me to say that I firmly believe that SBC Today was conceived, designed, and produced for the prescribed purpose of deriding and ridiculing the conservative and fundamental leadership; especially Jerry Falwell, Charles Stanley, and Adrian Rogers.

For a refresher course — in condensed form — concerning liberal political science, political origin, and political maneuvering in SBC, just read March copy SBC Today and note the production staff.

I have no problem, qualm, or quarrel with any liberal advocate or their belief or allegiance. I don't question their sincerity or faith. I am, however, much disturbed by the mass exodus from the

liberal led to the rapidly growing conservative and fundamental churches. Perhaps there's a lesson to be learned — if anyone's listening.

W. T. Barner  
3655 Rhodes #4  
Memphis, TN 38111

My replies to both of your letters were within 12 days of their receipt, which is about average based on my schedule. In these replies, I did not give the reason which you quoted me as writing. I don't know where you got that quotation.

Your first letter was mostly a direct quotation from an unidentified person who wrote directly to you. I explained in my reply that we do not print anonymous letters, and I suggested that you have your unnamed friend to write to me and I would print his letter if his name was attached. This was not done.

Your second letter questioned articles printed in SBC Today and its editorial policy. As I explained to you, "Since your letter specifically concerns that publication, I am forwarding your letter on to the editor of SBC Today." I also wrote, "Printing it in the Baptist and Reflector would confuse our readers, since many of our readers do not receive the publication and would not know what you are writing about."

To answer your first question, I do not submit letters to anyone for permission to print them.

To answer your second question, I do not withhold letters favorable to the "conservative right" or any group. Any fair-minded reader of these letters can easily see that letters are printed from every faction. In fact, this is the 15th letter I have printed from you.

Anyone wishing to receive SBC Today to check your opinions can send \$15 for a one-year subscription to 222 East Lake Dr., Decatur, GA 30030. (editor)

## Articles about conferences

Dear editor:

I am not accustomed to writing to the editor, however, I do feel something needs to be said about coverage of state conferences. Our TBC folks hold excellent training conferences, seminars, and etc. I seldom, if ever, see a report (the Special Friends Camp report was an exception and was great) on what happens in these training sessions.

I recently attended a Small Church Sunday School Seminar at Camp Linden that would have been a great news story of interest to over half of our TBC churches.

There was a small article in the Baptist and Reflector prior to the conference which was helpful. However, since the Baptist and Reflector is a newspaper for and about Tennessee Baptists, let's promote and report more about what Tennessee Baptists are doing and less of what comes from other places.

James A. Growden  
Box 291, Highway 25 E  
Hartsville, TN 37074

There are indeed many outstanding conferences held each year of interest to individuals and churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff nor travel budget to provide news coverage for many of these meetings. Perhaps we can find some other way to get the information for publication. (editor)

## Working for our enemies

Dear editor:

Some statements made by missionaries and Southern Baptist leaders with regard to the situation in the Philippines

and Central America are truly astounding. The support some are giving to Corazon Aquino and the Sandinistas is incredible.

I am old enough to remember when Castro came into power in Cuba. Some Southern Baptist missionaries vigorously supported Castro and openly said so. They joined William Atwood when in 1959 he wrote in Look magazine, "We can thank our lucky stars. Castro is no Communist."

Others agreed with Herbert Matthews as he wrote in the New York Times in July 1959, "This is not a Communist revolution in any sense of the word and there are no Communists in position of control. The only power worth considering in Cuba is in the hands of Premier Castro, who is not only not Communist but decidedly anti-Communist."

Corazon Aquino is another Castro. One of her first acts was to release all Communists that were incarcerated and disbanded the Philippine Constitution, and now she is the dictator. In due time there will be no missionaries in the Philippines just as there are none now in Communist China or Cuba.

When Daniel Ortega overthrew President Samosa, one of his first official visitors was Fidel Castro and with a "bear hug," Ortega welcomed Castro. TV's Ed Sullivan did the same in 1960 and in a TV interview proclaimed Castro to be the "The George Washington of Cuba."

One wonders if church leaders and others who are happy with what took place in the Philippines and are now promoting the Sandinistas are naive or deliberately working for enemies of the U.S., Daniel Ortega and Corozon Aquino.

Harold B. Key  
276 Old Malesus Rd.  
Jackson, TN 38301

## Yarborough receives Truman scholarship

Julie Yarborough of Nashville, has been selected as a 1986 recipient of a Harry S. Truman Foundation Scholarship.

Yarborough was nominated for the award by the faculty of Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., where she is a sophomore majoring in human development/social relations. Selections for the scholarship were made on the basis of academic achievement, community service, public-service career goals, and an interview by a regional review panel.

The four-year grant may be used at any approved institution in the U.S. or abroad in undergraduate and graduate work leading to a career in public service and policy-making. The award will be presented May 11 at the Truman Library in Independence, Mo.

A member of Glendale Baptist Church, Nashville, Yarborough is the daughter of James Yarborough, manager of the Nashville Baptist Book Store, and Joan Yarborough, director of public relations at Belmont College, Nashville.

## Terry Bradshaw called to lead Memphis church

Terry Bradshaw has been called to serve as pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Memphis. He comes to the Rose Hill church from Oak Grove Baptist Church in Milan.

Bradshaw is a graduate of Union University in Jackson.



## Tennessee-Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Venezuela Baptists invite Tennessee Baptists to join them for a special DAY OF PRAYER, May 1, for revival services scheduled for May 18-25 in Maracaibo. Nelson Fenini of Brazil will be the evangelist.

## Legislators offer 'skull cap' bills

WASHINGTON (BP) — In response to a recent Supreme Court decision, two U.S. senators and a U.S. congressman have introduced bills that would allow military personnel to wear certain religious apparel.

Senators Alfonso M. D'Amato and Frank R. Lautenberg co-authored a bill — S. 2269 — that would "permit members of the Armed Forces to wear, under certain circumstances, items of apparel not part of the official uniform," if such action is part of the member's observance of his religious faith and the apparel is "neat, conservative, and unobtrusive."

The other bill, sponsored by Rep. Charles E. Schumer, would prohibit the United States from forbidding any individual acting under its authority from wearing "any inconspicuous religious symbol, such as a yarmulke."

Both bills came in reaction to the Supreme Court's decision in *Goldman vs. Weinberger*, a case involving an Orthodox Jewish Air Force captain's right to wear a yarmulke — or skull cap — while on duty as a psychologist. In a 5-4 ruling, the high court held the First Amendment does not require the military to accommodate religious practices that in its judgment would violate uniform dress-code regulations.

## Family ministers meet in Gatlinburg

The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Association of Family Life Ministers will be held in Gatlinburg, April 24-26.

The speaker for the Thursday evening banquet is Richard L. Hester, professor of pastoral care at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Hester will deal with the theology of family.

The meeting will conduct the business of the organization, build a growing image and identity of one of the newer church staff positions, provide fellowship, and allow sharing of ideas with peers. The organization offers helps and guidance to churches who are considering establishing a family ministry or counseling or both.

**BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR**  
brings you news first

## Southern trustees commend faculty's 'quest for truth'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — After investigating all concerns raised by the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., commended the seminary faculty as teaching and writing in accordance with the seminary's statement of faith.

Meeting in annual session April 7-9, trustees voted 39-12 to adopt a unanimous report by the 11-member trustee Academic Personnel Committee. The report concluded "the faculty members cited in the concerns have both taught and written in accordance with and not contrary to the Abstract of Principles."

The Abstract of Principles is the 1858 statement of faith included in the seminary charter and is signed by all faculty at Southern.

The report added "all faculty members should be commended for their sincere quest for truth and should be encouraged to continue such quest in the years ahead."

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said the committee, in its discussion, "recognized many of the concerns raised to be legitimate questions of individual Southern Baptists which deserved serious consideration. The committee sought to act redemptively in each situation, and determined, following extensive examination, that all faculty are teaching and writing within the guidelines of the Abstract of Principles."

While maintaining the Abstract of Principles as the governing statement of faith for Southern seminary, the trustees joined the seminary faculty in affirming the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement and requested it be used in the recommendation of faculty to teach at the seminary. In a unanimously-adopted 1984 declaration, the seminary stated, "We further support and commend with

other Southern Baptists the 1963 'Baptist Faith and Message,' specifically its statement on the Bible."

In one of their final actions, trustees adopted a resolution of thanksgiving in which they expressed appreciation to Honeycutt, theology dean G. Willis Bennett, and faculty members about whom concerns were expressed by the Peace Committee for the way in which they "took seriously their need to respond cooperatively and openly to the concerns."

In other actions, trustees:

- designated the chapel in the proposed Campus Center Complex as the Badgett Dillard Memorial Chapel, honoring the 33-year service of the seminary's executive vice-president who died on March 29. They also announced establishment of a memorial fund for this purpose and invited contributions of persons wishing to honor the veteran administrator.

- heard Honeycutt's president's report, in which he announced major gifts totaling more than \$3-million in the first quarter of 1986, and reported a rise in spring enrollment, including a 20 percent jump in entering students at the master's level.

- adopted an operating budget of \$13,226,805 for the 1986-87 fiscal year, and a \$650,000 capital needs budget.

- increased the salary scale for all seminary employees by 3 percent.

- elected new officers for the board — Perry Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., chairman; Emil Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark., first vice-chairman; George Steincross, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo., second vice-chairman; and Fred Pfannenschmidt, president of Gibson/Pfannenschmidt Realtors, Louisville, secretary.



**ACTEENS ACTIVATORS ABROAD** — Included in the first group of Acteens Activators ever to serve outside the United States is a team from Tennessee. Team members are (left to right, standing) Meredith Sammons, Bluegrass Baptist Church in Hendersonville; Linda Ryan, Acteens director in the Nashville Baptist Association; Lisa Lane, First Baptist Church in Hendersonville; (seated) Teresa Crosby, Bluegrass Baptist Church; Laura Stratton and Monica Allie, First Baptist Church in Hendersonville.

## Tennesseans join first group of Activators going abroad

Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union announced the appointment of 88 Acteens to serve on Acteens Activators summer missions teams in the U.S. and, for the first time, in another country.

A team from the Nashville Baptist Association will be going to Jamaica as a part of a pilot project begun this year named Acteens Activators Aboard.

Girls who are members of Acteens, the missions organization in Southern Baptist churches for girls in grades 7 through 12, must be 15 years of age and pay their own expenses as activators. They and their sponsors also undergo at least 50 hours of training to prepare them for their work overseas.

The program is directed by WMU, SBC, in coordination with the Home Mis-

sion Board and Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

Tennessee's Acteens Activators were commissioned at the Acteens Summit in Gatlinburg March 27-29.

In addition to the team going to Jamaica, 10 teams from Tennessee churches and their U.S. assignments follow: Ardmore Baptist Church in Memphis to Wichita, Kan.; Beech Grove Baptist Church in Chilhowee to St. Louis, Mo.; North Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson to Oklahoma City, Okla.; Bluegrass Baptist Church in Hendersonville to Bambi Lake, Mich.; First Baptist Church in Sevierville to Boldwater, Mich.; First Baptist Church in Hendersonville to Bambi Lake; Oak Grove Baptist Church in Chilhowee and Somerville Baptist Church in Somerville both to Wilmington, N.C.; Oakview Baptist Church in Chilhowee to Falls Church, Va.; and First Baptist Church in Hixson to Akron, Ohio.

## MK with meningitis shows slow progress

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Philip Newberry, the Southern Baptist missionary child who contracted meningitis in late March, was scheduled to be transferred to the Children's Medical Center of Dallas April 22.

His condition remains serious, but improvements have been noted, said William Gaventa, a physician and director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's medical services department.

The Newberry child appears to be responding to visual stimuli and perhaps to sound, although as of April 18 he had not spoken. He no longer is on a respirator and is taking small amounts of nourishment by mouth.

The illness has caused circulation in his hands and feet to be restricted, and amputation of parts of his extremities is probable, Gaventa said.

The child is the 22-month-old son of Missionaries Randy and Jan Newberry of Gordon, Texas. They were attending a furloughing missionary conference at the board's Missionary Learning Center outside of Richmond, Va., when he became ill.

The transfer from Medical College of Virginia Hospital in Richmond will put him closer to his parents' hometown, where they had been on furlough since December.

## BTN plans live coverage of SBC meeting in Atlanta

NASHVILLE (BP) — The 1986 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta will be televised for the second consecutive year with live, gavel-to-gavel coverage by BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network).

Coverage will begin at 8:30 (EDT) Tuesday morning, June 10, with music by the choir from First Baptist Church of Atlanta. The first item of business will be the call to order at 9 a.m.

The coverage will conclude at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. All of the transmission will be unscrambled so any church or individual can view the proceedings if they have a satellite receiving antenna.

Anchor for the coverage will be Gomer Lesch, anchor of SBC NewScene and senior BTN consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and Dick McCartney, editor of the Baptist Messenger, news journal of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

NewScene updates will be offered to viewers at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday. The five-minute updates will provide a capsule look at the events which have occurred most recently and provide insights into potentially significant events during the next sessions.

Joe Denney, manager of the telecommunications department at the Sunday School Board, urged all BTN subscribers, churches, associations, state conventions, and SBC agencies to open their facilities and encourage persons in the area to watch the annual convention.

An SBC Programming Guide outlining ways to promote viewing of the convention is available to all BTN subscribers upon request from the office of communications of the Sunday School Board. All subscribers will receive a letter with information about the guide.

Two programs will be offered to help churches as they prepare to participate in the SBC. "SBC Preview" will air May 14 at 11:15 a.m. (EDT) to provide information to persons planning to be messengers in Atlanta. This program will repeat at 3 p.m. May 20.

"Viewing the SBC" will be telecast May 28 at 11:15 a.m. as a help for persons planning to watch the annual convention in their churches. This also will be shown June 4 at 4:15 p.m.

The convention will be broadcast on the Spacenet I satellite, channel 21, at 120 degrees west. Satellite receiving systems still are available at no charge to churches interested in signing a five-year subscription agreement to BTN.

## Venezuela needs speciality skills

As a part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership mission, volunteers with specific skills are needed to help complete two jobs at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Los Teques, Venezuela. These repairs have been started, but volunteers are needed for their completion, according to Clarence Stewart, partnership coordinator.

Three cabinet workers are needed to finish remodeling and installing cabinets in the seminary's kitchen and dining hall. This involves constructing of some cabinets and covering them with formica. Also, tile would be installed on serving counters.

There is also a need for an experienced welder to help replace a roof above the washroom. The new roof will consist of asbestos sheets placed on steel tubing rafters.

These four volunteers are needed July 15-26. The team will also have opportunities to witness and share in worship services of churches in the area.

Anyone desiring more information should contact Clarence Stewart, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027. The telephone number is (615) 373-2255, ext. 333.

# FMB elects chairman in split 'party' vote

DENVER (BP) — By a vote of 38-32, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board elected Robert E. Smith of Weslaco, Texas, as its new chairman April 11.

Smith, retired director of missions for the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association, edged out C. Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. Both are veteran members of the 83-member board, which supervises the work of more than 3,700 missionaries in 106 countries.

It was the closest the board has come to a division resulting from the theological controversy which has gripped the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years. Corts, while a strong supporter of missions and the SBC Cooperative Program, was viewed by some board members as representing fundamental-conservative viewpoints. Smith would be viewed by most as falling within moderate-conservative ranks.

M. W. (Buck) Buckalew, a layman from Falls Church, Va., was elected first vice-chairman, 40 to 31, over Howard Baldwin, a multimedia evangelist from Richmond, Va. The other two officers, Claude Kirkpatrick of Baton Rouge, La., second vice-chairman, and Mary Dalton of Asheville, N.C., recording secretary, were elected by acclamation.

Contacted for comment, Corts said the similarity of the votes both for the chairman and the first vice-chairman indicated to him that people were voting along "party lines."

"My sense of concern lies not with the results — I can live with that — but with the process which some of the board members evidently employed in injecting politics, accusations, innuendo into the process," Corts said. He added, however, he respects Smith and in no way

was trying to implicate him in this process. "I will support him fully," he said.

At the same meeting, members of the board's Human Resources Committee rejected a bid to appoint graduates of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary directly without their having to do a year's study at one of the six seminaries sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a report to the full board, the committee reaffirmed the board's long-standing policy requiring that, for career missionary assignments where a seminary degree is necessary, "the degree must be from an SBC seminary or an accredited seminary plus one year of study (26 semester hours) at an SBC seminary."

Mid-America, located in Memphis, is supported directly by that city's 16,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church and other churches which accuse Southern Baptist seminaries of becoming too liberal in their theology. Mid-America's faculty includes former Southern Baptist missionaries and places emphasis on missions.

Proponents of the plan to appoint Mid-America graduates without further training at an SBC seminary emphasize that many of its preachers feel called to missions but face financial obstacles in being required to do an additional year's study at an SBC seminary.

The board's guideline statements, which were in effect before Mid-America was founded, were adopted primarily to deal with candidates from Princeton, Yale, Fuller, Vanderbilt, Dallas Theological Seminary, and others. The board has said through statements that it believes its missionaries, supported by Southern Baptists, need the strong identification with the denomination and its

goals which attendance at an SBC seminary helps provide.

At the close of the three-day meeting, the board's outgoing chairman, Harrell R. Cushing of Gadsden, Ala., warned that board members need to unite in developing a "genuine and high level of real and honest-to-goodness trust in each other and staff and in what we're doing."

Cushing said he could remember the day before Southern Baptists became embroiled in the recent theological controversy "when we didn't ask, 'Whose side is this person on?' and I regret that we're asking that question today."

He said he believes God has entrusted Southern Baptists with "the greatest missionary force the world has ever seen in all of Christendom."

The devil, he warned, is always pleased when he can create problems and difficulty in the cause of Christ. "If we're not careful," he said, "we'll let the devil undermine the confidence, the trust, the commitment we ought to have in this which God really wants to bless in a great way."

Cushing also called on board members personally to become involved in working to provide stronger financial support for foreign missions, from the local church level up to the convention's Executive Committee.

The board's April meeting was the first held in Colorado. It ended with an appointment service at Denver's Downtown Auditorium Arena, where Baptists from Colorado and neighboring states witnessed the naming of 69 new missionaries. Hundreds of people came forward at the close of the service to get pins signifying they will pray daily for world missions.

One former missionary was reappoint-

ed and 64 journeymen were employed pending medical clearance and successful completion of training July 25. These additions will bring the total new personnel added so far this year to 158.

Davis Saunders, director for work in Eastern and Southern Africa, presented an oval plaque on which the Ethiopian government expressed its appreciation for relief and rehabilitation aid which Southern Baptists have provided to Ethiopian drought victims.

Recently the board allocated another \$1.6-million for hunger relief in Ethiopia, where Baptist missionaries and volunteers are operating five feeding centers.

The board also voted \$10,000 as "seed money" for an endowment to help provide scholarships for Southern Baptist black students wanting to enter seminary or blacks wanting to do volunteer work overseas. The board hopes black churches and others will contribute to the fund to make it possible for more blacks to participate in foreign missions.

## H. H. Harwell dies

MOBILE, Ala. (BP) — H. H. Harwell, a retired Baptist pastor and father of Christian Index Editor Jack U. Harwell of Atlanta, died of leukemia April 17. He was 83 years old. Funeral services were held April 19 at First Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Harwell had been pastor of churches in Alabama, Georgia and Florida for almost 40 years before retiring in 1967. He was a former vice-chairman of the Alabama Baptist Executive Board, moderator of the Mobile Baptist Association, and was a columnist and correspondent for the Mobile Press-Register.

# Lawrence County responds to needs of music leaders

LAWRENCEBURG — In an area with only one paid minister of music, Lawrence County Baptist Association has taken a step to help the many volunteer music leaders.

For nine weeks this spring, the Seminary Extension course, "Fundamentals of Music," was offered in the associational office, with 41 persons enrolled.

Among the students were music directors, accompanists, choir members, pastors, and pastors' wives, according to Jere Adams, program associate in the church music department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, who taught the course.

"Some of those in the class were leading the music in their churches because there was no one else there to do it," said Adams. "They have just done the best they could. Some of them had some music background, but there were areas they were not really clear on. I think the course has helped them clarify what they were trying to do."

One of the things Adams stressed in the course was how to direct a correct pattern of music. Midway through the course, one choir member in the class "told" on her director who was also taking the course: "Last Sunday he directed with his hands — he didn't hold on to the pulpit!"

Several students told Adams, "For the first time I know how to read the keys — the sharps and flats."

Charles Ingram, bivocational pastor of Gum Springs Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, who often leads congregational singing in the church, said he probably learned more than anyone else. "My

song directing consisted solely of saying the first word of a hymn and hoping someone would pick up on it from there," Ingram said. "Seriously, I did not know a quarter note from a half note. I guess you could say I learned more than probably anyone else in the course because I knew less than anyone else to begin with."

Pastor Drew Hayes, of First Baptist Church, Loretto, brought the pianist, organist, and volunteer minister of music from the church to the class and also enrolled himself.

"Our church is like a lot of others," Hayes said. "We've grown a little bit past the 'small church' stage, but our music has stayed back there. It is time for us to begin to have choir rehearsal.



**PLANNING** — Jere Adams (right), TBC church music program associate, reviews music course curriculum with Jarvis Hearn, TBC consultant for Seminary Extension work.

teach some basic music reading to our people, and begin to do more than sing in unison."

Hayes came to the class looking for some help in knowing how to administer a music ministry. Specific help in that area may be on the way if the association follows through with earlier plans to offer a second Seminary Extension course, "Leading a Music Ministry in a Smaller Church." Interest in further study was high among the individuals who complet-

ed the course with Adams this spring.

Adams felt he was able to accomplish a great deal in this nine-week course, especially in comparison with one-night conferences. "In two or three hours you can hardly get started. I really wish we could do something like this in several other associations."

Jarvis Hearn serves as Seminary Extension consultant on the state convention staff. In that role, he works with associations in setting up such classes.



**TEACHING MUSIC** — Jere Adams, program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention church music department, teaches the volunteer music leaders.

# Church members express shock over murder suspect

By Greg Warner

MIAMI (BP)— Members of Miami's Riverside Baptist Church knew Bill Matix as a quiet, hardworking man struggling to overcome his first wife's violent death. They are hard-pressed to explain the 34-year-old's role in the death of two FBI agents in a shootout that also cost Matix his life.

Matix and Michael Platt, a close friend, neighbor, and business associate, were shot to death April 11 in the Miami

suburb of Kendall after what was labeled the bloodiest gunfight in FBI history.

Police say Matix and Platt, suspects in six Miami bank and armored car robberies and four murders, were overtaken by seven FBI agents pursuing the pair in four cars. Matix, an ex-Marine armed with a semi-automatic rifle, emerged from his disabled car and, according to police, killed two FBI agents. The other five all were wounded.

As the suspects then tried to flee in one

of the cars, a wounded agent crawled to the car window, stood, and shot them both.

Even police had difficulty linking such violence to the lifestyles of their two chief suspects in the robberies — men they described as "good fathers" and "family men."

"We thought we would find a bunch of neo-Nazi survivalists who didn't care if they lived or died," Metro-Dade Sgt. Tony Monheim told the Miami Herald. "This was a real shock."

Both Matix and Platt lived in comfortable suburban Miami homes and were described by neighbors as quiet and hardworking. They were partners in a landscaping business.

Emit Ray, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, where Matix was a member until about a year ago, told the Herald he counseled the young man several times

about his grief over his wife, who was stabbed to death in an unsolved robbery/murder in Ohio in 1983. "We thought William Matix was a man who needed help," Ray said. "We didn't know then how much."

Members of Riverside's singles group recalled that Matix, who had a two-year-old daughter, dated several women from the church and seemed eager to remarry. Last summer he met and married a woman from Wayside Baptist Church and moved his membership there, though he reportedly seldom attended. The marriage lasted only a month.

Platt, whom Matix met in the military, also lost his first wife to a violent death. Regina Platt's death, from a shotgun blast to the head in 1984, was ruled a suicide. Platt also remarried and lived with his wife and four children.

Matix was featured last month in an article in Home Life, published by the Baptist Sunday School Board, in which he told of his conversion to Christianity in 1979, his wife's murder, and his effort to recover.

The article, by free-lance writer Doris Miller, was based on Matix's personal testimony, which he reportedly had delivered often in revival services during the past few years. Reuben Herring, editor of the magazine, said the article was accepted for publication 15 months ago.

One unidentified woman who dated Matix said he was a gentle man who doted over his daughter.

"What bothers me about this whole thing is this was somebody I met in church, not in a bar," she told the Herald. "He would date someone a short time and right away want to make a commitment. I felt sorry for him. I thought he wanted to replace his wife because he was hurt so badly."

One Riverside member told the Herald Matix "always had something nice to say ... He talked the whole religious lingo like we do. I thought he was a very nice man, but I thought there was a lot of hostility in him."



ALUMNI ADVICE — Dennis Pulley (center), pastor of First Baptist Church, Ripley, and Tennessee state alumni president for Southern seminary, participates in a discussion during a recent meeting of the seminary alumni advisory council on the Louisville, Ky., campus. With Pulley are Don McGuire (left) of Missouri and Bob Parsley of Arkansas.

## Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden  
TBC Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer



We are hearing a great deal these days about making financial investments for our future. I certainly do not quarrel with that, but with that in mind I turned to 1 Peter 1:4 where it talks about spiritual investments: "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

I started thinking about some of the things that believers already have in heaven. We have a wonderful Saviour Who is at the right hand of God, interceding for us and Who also is very active in our own lives. As the risen Christ, He walks all the roads of life with us.

Also, we have our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Once written, they can never be erased. In 1 Peter 1:5 we read, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

We have many loved ones and friends who have preceded us in death and are waiting for us to join them. When we leave this earth, it is a separation that brings heartbreak and grief to our loved ones and friends here, but awaiting us is a wonderful welcome and renewed fellowship with those who have preceded us.

We have a beautiful home. In John 14, our Lord tells us He is going to prepare a place for us. He was a builder on this earth. He is still in the construction business.

We have those investments that we have made in God's kingdom through stewardship in this life. The Lord tells us in the Sermon on the Mount, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 7:20). Among the treasures we will find in heaven will be those to whom we have witnessed and prayed and those with whom we have shared Christ through our missionary efforts at home or around the world.

I also believe awaiting for us is an eternal task in heaven. I believe heaven will be a busy place where there will be no failures and we will have a wonderful sense of fulfillment and joy.

I join with you in thanking God for the privilege of making eternal investments.

## Baptist health center names administrator

Carl S. Burkhalter of Maryville has been appointed as administrator of Baptist Health Care Center in Lenoir City, according to J. L. (Pete) Ford, interim executive director-treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc. The appointment was effective April 15.

Burkhalter has been serving as administrator of Care-Inn of Maryville.

He is a graduate of Mississippi State University, Starkville, and has served in health care administration for 20 years. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Maryville.

The Burkhalter family includes his wife Joyce and two sons, Don and Mike.

## Computer users elect Davis as president

NASHVILLE (BP) — Don Davis, lead systems analyst in the Baptist Sunday School Board's systems department, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association, during their recent meeting in Dallas.

Mike Overcash, supervisor of the BSSB church information system section of the Broadman sales department, was elected to the program committee.

The 14-year-old organization includes computer users from SBC agencies, state conventions, and churches.

**Don't Miss  
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# Tennessee Scene

**GOOD NEWS AMERICA.**  
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## REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

First Baptist Church, Jackson, will have revival services April 27 through May 4. Billie Friel, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Juliet, will lead the services at the church where R. Trevis Otey is pastor.

Revival services are scheduled for May 4-11 at Highland Heights Baptist Church in Memphis. Henry Linginfelter will be the evangelist and Dick Barrett, the guest musician. Ray E. Fowler is pastor of the church.

Ken Chafin will lead Crieveewood Baptist Church, Nashville, in revival May 4-5. Dwayne Cole is the pastor.

First Baptist Church, Erwin, will be led in revival services May 4-7, by Clay Frazier from Morristown. Music will be led by Tony Spencer from Forest City, N.C. Aubrey Hay is the pastor.

Cross Creek Baptist Church, Indian Mound, will be led in revival May 4-11, by Bill Penley, from Fletcher, N.C. Steve R. Murphree is the pastor.

## REVIVALS . . .

Delano Baptist Church in Delano held revival services April 6-9. Robert Phillips, pastor of Huron Baptist Church in Oscoda, Mich., served as the evangelist. Gene Choate, from Etowah, was director of music for the week. Results include two professions of faith, one addition to the church by letter, and four rededications. Pat Fife is the pastor.

There were 13 professions of faith, 55 rededications, and several other decisions at the revival at Gravelly Baptist Church in Kingsport. Ralph Crawford is the pastor.

## LEADERSHIP . . .

Jim Whitmire assumed the position of senior minister of music at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis on April 13. He fills the staff vacancy left by the retirement of Thomas P. Lane. Whitmire has been a part of the Bellevue church staff since 1975 when he began as minister of youth music. Adrian Rogers is pastor of the Bellevue church.

Daryl Randall has accepted the call to serve as minister of music and youth at Leaclair Baptist Church in Memphis. He comes to the church from Hernando Baptist Church, Hernando, Miss. He is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. Buck Morton is pastor of the Memphis church.

Longcrest Baptist Church in Memphis recently called Marcus Tilley as assistant pastor. He has been on the church staff for two years serving as director of Sunday School and bus ministries. Donald Abernathy is the pastor.

Charles Lowery resigned as pastor of Point Pleasant Baptist Church in Newport, effective May 31.

Bob McConnell has accepted the call to serve as minister of music at Cherry Road Baptist Church in Memphis. He comes to the church from First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La., where he was minister of music/associate pastor. Bob Carpenter is pastor of the Cherry Road church.

First Baptist Church, Etowah, has called John W. Parker as minister of youth and music. Parker comes from Charlotte, N.C., where he served as associate pastor in music and education at Midwood Baptist Church. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He began his ministry with the church where John E. Pennington Jr. is pastor April 1.

Black Oak Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville has called Rodney Burnette as minister of evangelism and education. He comes from Hopewell Baptist Church in Kuttawa, Ky. He is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky. J. C. Parrott is pastor of the Black Oak Heights church.

James A. Denney has been called as minister of education, youth, and outreach at Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville. He is a graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He began his ministry March 16 at the church where Curtis E. Woods is pastor.

## PEOPLE . . .

On April 13, Maplewood Baptist Church in Paris ordained Dale Aston and Gary Dunn as deacons. Lynn King, pastor of the church, led the service along with the other deacons.

Bill and Louise Tipps were honored for their 50th wedding anniversary (March 11, 1936) on March 9, by Center Grove Baptist Church in Tullahoma. David Wall is their pastor.

## Jerry Winfield accepts pastorate in Bolivar

A native of Memphis, Jerry L. Winfield, has returned to Tennessee to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, as of March 30.

Winfield has served as a staff member of churches in Tennessee, Texas, Mississippi, and previously as pastor of First Baptist Church in Ashdown, Ark.

He is a graduate of Blue Mountain (Miss.) College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. In Arkansas, Winfield was moderator and vice-moderator of Little River Baptist Association and on the board of directors of the Christian Civic Foundation.



Winfield

## Philip Dougan accepts call to Madison Creek church

Madison Creek Baptist Church in Goodlettsville called Philip Dougan as pastor. He began April 1.

Dougan comes from the pastorate of Gath Baptist Church in McMinnville.

South Knoxville Baptist Church proclaimed April 6 "Eloise Walker Day" in honor of the one who has served the church as librarian for 48 years. Walker, who is retired from the Baptist Book Store in Knoxville, was presented a plaque, and James H. Rose, consultant for the church media library department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, was present to express appreciation to Walker for services rendered on the state level.

Tyrone Crouch was recently licensed by Eastside Baptist Church in Burns, where Virgil Peters is pastor.

On March 23, First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, ordained Chris Whitaker as a deacon. Greg Long is the pastor.

## CHURCHES . . .

Glenlock Baptist Church in Sweetwater recently dedicated a new building. Jerry Vittatoe is the pastor. The \$170,000 addition includes an auditorium and Sunday School classes.

Buchanan Baptist Church held a note-burning service on April 6. James A. Luffman is pastor of the Buchanan church.

South Harriman Baptist Church dedicated their new family life center on April 6. Edsel West is pastor of the Harriman church.

## Braidfoot attacks legalized gambling

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "If we think we will ever proclaim the gospel to the entire world while lacking the moral commitment to keep legalized gambling out of our own states and homes, we're kidding ourselves," said Larry Braidfoot in a chapel address at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

The director of Christian citizenship development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said gambling is "resorting to short-range solutions to problems that can only be solved by long-range planning. We are being encouraged to care for our own needs and not look out for the needs of others."

Braidfoot, author of *Gambling: The Deadly Sin*, said Americans wagered \$152-billion in legalized gambling in 1985, and there are an estimated 8-million impulsive gamblers in the nation today.

"Impulsive gambling is the same as alcoholism," he said. "The only difference is that impulsive gambling is harder to cure."

"The temptation of the state is to look out for its own needs and not others," said Braidfoot. However, he emphasized a basic concern of the United States government as set forth in the Constitution is "to promote the general welfare."

"That's something Christians and non-Christians alike can certainly agree on more than we've been able to," he said.

Nevertheless, many people do not oppose legalized gambling for fear of being labeled as "meddling, conservative, bleeding-heart, do-gooders," he said.

## TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Remembering the Franklin Home

I do not remember many names from my acquaintances at Franklin. But I do know the superintendent was named Stewart. We children were very fond of him, and when we saw him coming we hurried to him, grabbing a hand or a leg. We craved a lot of his attention.

My mother was struggling so hard to complete her education that when someone recommended the Franklin Home for my brother and me, I'm sure she must have felt it a Godsend. I appreciate what the home did for us the short time we were there. I am thankful for institutions such as this that fill a need not met otherwise and are operated by dedicated people who care.



MRS. CALBERTA BOWDEN  
TBCH Resident 1922-25

Mrs. Bowden is a retired art teacher from Lenoir City High School. She has been active in First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, for the past fifty years as a teacher, WMU leader, and young people's worker. Her brother, Ray R. Baird, served in the Tennessee General Assembly for 24 years before retiring.

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**Sunday, May 11, 1986**  
**Statewide Goal \$680,000**

Dr. Gerald Slow, Executive Director-Treasurer

## BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for April 27

# Repentance, correcting sin

By Mike McGinnis, pastor  
Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Basic Passage: Ezra 9:1 to 10:44  
Focal Passages: Ezra 9:1-3, 10-11; 10:2-5

We do not preach or teach in a vacuum; Ezra indicated no desire to do so. He had already committed himself to learning the Word and doing the Word. Now, he was called upon, in a difficult situation, to fulfill that commitment.

These chapters do not indicate any form of racism. Israel had been called as a missionary nation. It was vitally important that she maintain her doctrinal purity. Nothing was to contradict this purpose.

God had chosen Israel, not to simply maintain religious form, but to introduce the pagan nations to the Holy God of Israel. Certainly, the entire Bible is a missionary book. The compromises of Judah were putting their calling in jeopardy. Ezra's statements in verses five and six may appear to be extreme; yet, in light of the potential undermining, or destruction of Israel as God's missionary people, his sentiments are appropriate.

The people had transgressed a clear command (Deuteronomy 7:3). Perhaps even more vital than the preservation of Israel as a missionary nation was the pre-eminent purpose of God to produce the Messiah through the direct lineage of His chosen people. God had a redemptive purpose that could not be violated.

The danger of Israel's action was not hypothetical. King Solomon illustrates this. With all his wisdom, he had succumbed to the temptation to marry foreign women. As a result, his wives had turned his heart away to other gods (1 Kings 11:1-8).

### Contrition over sin

Ezra's prayer in chapter nine is a picture of humility (9:5-15). Note how he often uses the first person plural. Although Ezra had no foreign wife, he identified with the people in their sin. This is characteristic of a genuine spiritual leader.

Ezra's extreme brokenness over Judah's sin was certainly understandable. He rent his outer garment, fell on his knees, and stretched his hands out to God. The plucking of one's own hair is a manifestation of grief not recorded elsewhere in the Scripture; however, all of this indicates Ezra's humble identification with the people and his extreme guilt and dismay over their sin.

His prayer contains no requests. It is simply the outpouring of a broken heart before a gracious God.

### Confrontation of sin

Shechaniah's challenge for Ezra to confront Judah's sin was appropriate and Ezra was not reluctant to do so. The pastor who buries his head in the sand, hoping that sin among the people God has appointed him to pastor will simply go away is playing with fire.

The Bible offers several vivid warnings concerning the surety of sin's consequences. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Proverbs 19:3 says, "The foolishness of man subverts his way, and his heart rages against the Lord." It is common to blame God for our own self-inflicted misery.

This concept does not imply that God will not judge sin. He most definitely will. However, it is not His desire to

judge the sinner. He longs to forgive sinners. It is only when we refuse to release our sin and receive this forgiveness that we become a subject of God's judgment.

It is interesting that only two laymen rejected the plan toward repentance, and two others agreed with their rejection. No pronouncement is made concerning these four men. Ezra did not need to verbally condemn them. They determined their own judgment.

### Confession of sin

Ezra's sermon was short and to the point. As a faithful teacher of the law of Yahweh, he detailed the people's sin, commanded confession, and ordered the offenders to separate from their foreign wives.

The confession commanded by Ezra (10:11) clearly implies repentance. The Greek word translated "confess" is taken from two words which mean "to speak with." The word literally means "to agree with." Therefore, when I confess my sin to God, I am agreeing with God concerning my sin. The result of genuine confession will be repentance. Repentance literally means "to change one's mind."

### Covenant to sin no more

The Bible encourages spiritual vows, however, it warns "when you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the Lord your God surely will require it of you" (Deuteronomy 23:21).

Actually the people of Judah were already a covenant people. There is no doubt that they understood this foundational truth. Shechaniah was calling for a renewing of their vow, a rededication of their lives.

Publicly doing this was essential for two reasons. First, it served as a public testimony and challenge to their brothers and even to the heathen about them. Second, it concretized their attitudes into action.

Concerning this Biblical passage, one last issue should be addressed. Although divorce was common among the Israelites (Leviticus 21:7-14; Deuteronomy 22:19, 29; 24:1-4), it was not God's original intention and had no part of His initial plan for marriage (cf. Genesis 2:24). Due to Israel's hard-hearted rejection of the Biblical concept of marriage as permanent, Moses had to speak to the issue of divorce (Matthew 19:8). Malachi clearly identifies God's attitude toward divorce (Malachi 2:10-16).

The divorces commanded by Ezra were for two unique purposes. First, the children of Israel were to maintain the distinctiveness of the nation with a view to the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies. Second, they were to prevent the contamination of the Hebrew faith as a result of mixed marriages with adulterous, idolatrous heathen.

These verses teach some very important spiritual truths. First, God's people are to be a pure people (Titus 2:14). Second, as the children of God, we must be diligent to maintain a strict adherence to the clear commands of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Third, the only correct response to sin is immediate and absolute repentance (Revelation 2:16).

Finally, the spiritual leader must assume a bold, yet gentle posture toward his people concerning sin. His leadership should be the catalyst toward repentance (2 Timothy 2:24-26).



McGinnis

## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for April 27

# Holy Spirit, Jesus' calling

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

Basic Passages: Luke 3:15-22; 4:16-30  
Focal Passages: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; 4:16-19

The Gospel of Luke (3:1) fixes the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Augustus, the predecessor of Tiberius died in A.D. 14. That means that the beginning of John the Baptist's work occurred about A.D. 28 or 29.

The ministry of Jesus emerged shortly afterward. The activities of John coincided with the hope of the people sufficiently that many began to wonder if he were actually the Messiah.

The "Coming One" and the Holy Spirit (3:15-17)

John clearly denied the role of messiahship for himself. He was so far from being the Messiah that he could only acknowledge his unworthiness even to untie the sandals of the Messiah. The menial task of removing shoes of a guest was, according to certain ancient Jewish writings, assigned to a slave. John realized he was not competent to become a slave of the Messiah.

What John could do very well was to announce the approach of the One Who would bring the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The new kind of baptism brought by the Messiah is related to fire. Thus, baptism is characterized by judgment (3:9). This element is clearly expressed in 3:17 by means of the image of the "winnowing fork." This was an implement used to separate the grain from the husks that covered it. This was accomplished by using the "fork" to pitch both of those into the air. It resulted in the husks to be carried away from the grain kernels by the wind.

The preaching of John is characterized as "good news" by Luke (Acts 3:18). It was good news because it was an announcement of the One Who would come bringing to His people the power of the Holy Spirit (3:16).

The Beloved Son and the Holy Spirit (3:21-22)

The gospel accounts of Jesus' life consistently link the beginning of Jesus' ministry with His baptism by John. This is done in spite of the fact that the episode could be used by the followers of John to assert that the Baptist was superior to Jesus. Luke emphasized the outward signs that attended the event.

The depiction of the Spirit coming as a dove may reflect the creation account in Genesis 1:2. There, the Spirit of God is described as "brooding" on the waters. The rabbis came to compare that to the brooding of a dove.

The message given by the heavenly voice bears strong enough similarities to Isaiah 42:1 (see Matthew 12:18) that it links Jesus with the Suffering Servant. The descent of the Spirit marks the inauguration of Jesus for His ministry as a "Suffering Servant-Messiah."

As the church constantly refines its self-understanding, it must always seek to be reshaped in the image of the Lord.

The messianic ministry and the Holy Spirit (4:16-19)

The baptism marked the initiation of the ministry of Jesus. The event in Nazareth signified a major shift in His

work. The mission of Jesus and His followers would ultimately go beyond Israel and on into the larger world. It came through One Who found His place in the highest hopes and dreams of the traditions of His own people.

It was customary to request that one of the congregation read and explain a Scripture passage. Jesus was called on for this honor. He read from Isaiah chapters 58 and 61. He saw the outlines of His ministry anticipated in the words of the text. The Spirit in His life caused Him to be willing to direct His energy toward those who were helpless and in trouble.

The Spirit of the Lord had led Jesus to a ministry that majored in people. He did not express any sense of call to simply be involved in the outward forms of religious actions and institutions. Instead, His work was to be focused on the deepest and most essential needs of persons.

May it ever be true that His people, the church, will strive to make this the central reality of its commitment and service.

## Mercer wins suit, secures \$2-million

MACON, Ga. (BP)— A Federal Court jury has awarded Mercer University \$2.4-million in damages against two manufacturers of asbestos-containing material discovered and removed from Mercer's buildings.

The jury's April 11 award includes compensatory damages for the costs Mercer incurred in removing the products from three buildings on Mercer's Atlanta campus and \$1-million in punitive damages against each of the two defendants — National Gypsum Company and W.R. Grace and Company.

Mercer brought suit in April 1985 to recover the costs of removing and replacing the asbestos materials in buildings on both its Macon and Atlanta campuses. The materials of concern have the potential to release respirable asbestos fibers which have been associated with cancer and other diseases. The Macon buildings were excluded from the case in March because of the statute of limitations.

## C-N student group sets hunger rally

JEFFERSON CITY — In response to the growing need for education on the world hunger problem, the Ministerial Association of Carson-Newman College is sponsoring a hunger rally, April 24 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

"Something Special" and "Foundation," two of Carson-Newman's singing groups, will provide music for the rally, and a slide show and a hunger awareness movie will be shown.

This rally will top off a day of fasting at Carson-Newman for those who choose to participate. Students who fast will turn in their cafeteria meal ticket numbers. The money saved by the cafeteria is then used to fight hunger.

The money collected will be divided among four organizations: USA for Africa, Hogs for Haiti (a Southern Baptist program), Appalachian Outreach (a campus/community program), and Farm Aid.



Byrd

**LIFE AND WORK SERIES**  
Lesson for April 27

# Building Christian character

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

Basic Passage: Colossians 3:12-17  
Focal Passage: Colossians 3:12-17

With this fourth lesson Unit I, "Basics of the Christian Life," comes to a close. It is fitting that after emphases on the lordship of Christ, growth in Christ, and the absolute importance of Christians focusing their attention upon Christ that instruction be given about the development of Christian character.



Bush

Many community organizations claim they develop quality character and train potential leaders or better citizens. This is true in a general sense and has some merit. However, the church alone can and should be the epitome, the final word, in character development, leadership nourishment, and citizenship preparation.

Who was it Who took a wandering nomad and turned him into a mighty leader named Abraham? Who was it Who took a humble Jewish woman named Esther and thrust her into a position where she could be a great positive influence for her people? Who was it Who took a hardworking, hardheaded fisherman named Peter and developed him into a man of great courage and religious conviction for the cause of Christianity? Who was it Who humbled a murderous, religious fanatic named Saul and molded him into a great missionary, Christian theologian, an allegiant citizen and teacher?

God did all of this and more. All of this was done within the context of a Jewish religious environment and/or traditions or the church and/or Christian fellowship.

While civic organizations have their value, they are limited in scope and dimension of instruction as compared to a healthy church fellowship.

Christian psychologist Clyde Narramore describes the total human personality as consisting of three areas: mental/emotional, physiological, and spiritual. He says unfortunately most psychologists and psychotherapists either ignore, belittle, or claim limited significance of the spiritual as part of human personality. On the other hand, he also says ministers and other Christians too often discredit the influences on individuals of the emotional and physical aspects of mankind.

When a child is physically injured, more than a prayer or visit to a church is needed. If marital storms are brewing, prayer is helpful in addition to skilled Christian counseling. When bursts of abnormal physical activity, anger, or other overt changes in personality are being experienced by persons, it may be necessary that diet change or prescriptive medicines be suggested and administered.

In other words, a Christian fellowship can and should be the kind of place where people are sensitive to one another's total needs. When the kind of help needed is not available within the church, ministers and loving church

members should gladly point those persons who need help to appropriate helpful sources. After those individuals are directed to sources of appropriate help, the Christian community should be positive in their support all during the healing process.

Sometimes, instead of being supportive, the Christian family is critical and judgmental, which is not at all in keeping with the spirit of love, the spirit of Christ.

Personally, I am thankful for God's patience with me and for family and friends who are long-suffering with me. My father has said, "Your enemies will let you make a fool of yourself. Your real friends will pull you aside to give positive guidance and evaluation in your best interest."

As you read Colossians 3:12-17, place alongside it 1 Corinthians 13. In your dealings with people within your church and those outside, do you see whole persons of value with mental, physical, and spiritual needs? Are you prompted to minister to them in love? How you answer these questions can determine the development of your Christian character. How churches answer these questions will give guidance as to what services are rendered to communities by members who work harmoniously to-

gether. How a denomination answers these questions influences what kinds of educational curriculum, skilled equipments, and calendar emphases are provided.

All together, we Southern Baptists as individual Christians, churches, and a denomination should project in word and deed that which would give honor and praise to God.

To develop Christian character that will be a positive influence in our society, we must first love God, ourselves, and then be loving and tolerant of the brethren within our gates. This must come before we can enthusiastically and effectively reach, teach, and minister to a sick society outside the gates.

We who are being healed should and can be followers who share in the healing ministry directed by the Great Physician. Signs of developing Christian character are seen in how you and I think, plan, speak, react, and act.

Other than reading the gospel accounts of the incarnate ministry of Christ or other Biblical teachings about Christian living, it would be good to read that old classic book *In His Steps* which urges Christians to ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" before we attempt anything.

## Golden Gate sets \$5-million budget

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) - Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., adopted a \$5.2-million budget for 1986-87 and heard from leaders of the seminary's presidential search committee during their spring meeting.

The new \$5,239,961 budget includes a slight increase in faculty and full-time staff salaries, with Cooperative Program funds from churches providing basic funding. For 1986-87, Cooperative Program giving should amount to \$2,482,206, representing 47 percent of the budget. In addition, an annual fund goal of \$813,000 was set. The balance of budgeted funds is to come from auxiliary revenues, such as matriculation fees, rent on student housing, and similar sources.

In other actions, trustees expressed appreciation for action of the presidential search committee which named Harold K. Graves as interim president of the seminary. The search committee met with Southern Baptist leadership from western states as well as representatives from the seminary faculty-alumni association and student government. An open forum was held to allow persons to provide ideas into the search process.

Trustees also elected John W. Shouse, pastor of University Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, to the faculty as associate professor of preaching, effective in the fall semester.

William K. Peters was named as director of the seminary's Northwest Center in Portland, Ore., and director of ministerial development for Northwest mission churches, effective May 1.

In addition, the trustees established a development board consisting of persons with Christian commitment and interest in missions who will use their influence to build a seminary advancement program, and recommended the seminary administration obtain earthquake insurance coverage.



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# Seminary couple adopts 'instant family'

By Susan Shaw

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — When Warren and Camilla Huddleston first saw the five boys, they knew they did not have enough money or sanity to more than triple the size of their family overnight.

But they just could not get those five little faces out of their minds.

Now, two years later, the Huddlestons could not imagine life without the "love, joy, and sometimes mass confusion" their five sons bring.

Warren, a Christian education student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Camilla, a teacher at Southwestern Christian School, adopted the five brothers two years ago through the state of Kentucky's Special Needs Adoption Program.

The Huddlestons applied to the state in 1983 after seeing a segment of "Wednesday's Child," a series promoting the program by Louisville television station WLKY-32. Special Needs Adoption Program — SNAP — is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Human Resources, which handles children who are not in the

mainstream of adoption, such as black children over the age of three, white children over the age of nine, groups of more than three children, and children with physical, mental, or emotional handicaps. The Huddlestons first saw the brothers in "The SNAP Book," a collection of photos and information on eligible children compiled by the state staff. The state wanted to keep the five children together, and after six weeks of meetings, questioning, and home visits by social workers, the Huddlestons were approved as one of the first families to adopt so many siblings.

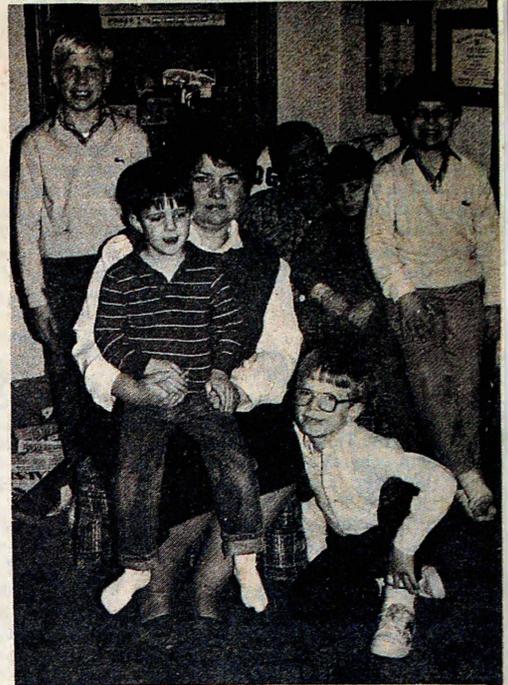
Warren and Camilla at last met Rob, who then was 2 years old; Steve, 4; Earl, 6; Hank, 7; and Lewis, 8, at a Wednesday's Child picnic. The Huddlestons began regular visits with the boys at the end of April 1984, and on June 7, five little boys came home to stay.

Camilla says many people told them they were crazy, but they were so excited about getting children they did not think a lot about what it would be like with five.

From the first, the boys called Warren and Camilla "Mom" and "Dad." Still, life with five instant sons did require adjustments from everyone, and Camilla realizes it means they will have teen problems back-to-back for many years. Yet both of the Huddlestons agree God's hand was in the situation. "A lot of people were praying about it," Camilla recalls.

While the boys had been in a good foster home, Camilla says, they had not had a great deal of religious influence. But with a father who is a minister, the boys were quickly introduced to church life. Warren is outreach minister at Beechwood Baptist Church in Louisville. Camilla reports that the boys have "taken it in stride like it's always been part of them."

The Huddlestons moved to Louisville from Griffin, Ga., in 1980 for Warren to attend Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern seminary for ministers who do not have college degrees. After he graduated from Boyce, Warren attended the University of Louisville for one year and then enrolled in Campbellsville College. He graduated only a week before the adoption was completed.



**THE MORE THE BETTER** — Camilla and Warren Huddleston now say they cannot imagine not having five sons. Two years ago, they adopted these brothers (left to right) Lewis, 10; Rob, 4; Earl, 8; Steve, 6; and Hank, 9.

The Huddlestons see their family as a "real ministry." Still, Camilla says, "I don't feel we're so wonderful — the kids are. What they've done for us far outweighs what we could ever do for them."

## Poll reveals abortion views

WASHINGTON (BP) — A higher proportion of Southern Baptists than Catholics opposes the Supreme Court's 1973 decision giving women a virtually unrestricted right to obtain abortions during the first three months of pregnancy, according to data in a Gallup Poll.

Results of the poll, conducted in January, revealed Southern Baptists oppose the *Roe vs. Wade* decision by a 2-1 margin. Sixty percent oppose the ruling, while 31 percent favor it. The remaining 9 percent have no opinion.

Among Catholics surveyed, 40 percent favor it, with 48 percent opposed and 12 percent with no opinion.

Overall, the poll revealed, the American public is evenly divided on the question, with 45 percent approving the decision, 45 percent opposing it, and 10 percent holding no opinion.

# Fuller sees need for 'disciplined optimism'

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP) — The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee should be an optimist, the chairman, Charles Fuller, says.

"The chairman of this committee, if not optimistic and positive by nature, must be an optimist by discipline," says Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va.

The 22-member Peace Committee was created by the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and instructed to seek the causes of controversy in the 14.4-million-member denomination and to recommend possible means of reconciliation.

After seemingly little progress toward the goals, Fuller says, "If our denomination does not have someone in this position who thinks and functions in a positive and optimistic way, then we could have despair on a grand scale."

After nine months, six committee meetings, at least 10 subcommittee meetings, visits to 11 national institutions and agencies by visitation subcommittees, often emotional confrontation and difference of opinion, millions upon millions of words, and only a three-paragraph statement acknowledging theological diversity in the seminaries and convention to show as progress, Fuller admits he probably is "more of an optimist by discipline right now."

There have been some bright times, he says, when it appeared progress was about to appear, and at those times, he was optimistic both by nature and by discipline.

"That was true in February," he says. "Then, we spent most of our time in sharp exchange, and then, suddenly, the statement on diversity came into being and we quickly had something. It has happened at other times, either through some event or simply out of the dynamic of the group. Then, my disciplined optimism is supported by some promise.

"In the meeting we just finished (the early April session) nothing came together. We did not suddenly have something to show. What we have is a prodding, plodding plan which is going to require planning and scheduling and forbearance. There is nothing spontaneous about it.

"So, after this meeting, I am an optimistic by discipline," he says. "If what we have planned comes to pass, it may be that we did more than at any previous meeting. But, it doesn't look like much on paper."

During the April session, the committee adopted a strategy by which it and subcommittees will meet with principals in the controversy to discuss the issues at hand and try to enlist those persons as part of the peace process.

"If people will stay by the stuff and see this thing through, we can steer this denomination through difficult times. . . . The one thing I have not lost since I became chairman of this committee is my commitment to tenacity."

While expressing optimism, Fuller admits he sometimes feels frustrated.

"Sometimes when you have gone over and over something and restated it in every way you think you can and see that the differences have never left the committee, it is easy to feel frustrated. Sometimes I think that were it not for the people who trust us and because of the purpose we were created, it would hardly be worth the effort," he says.

One of the reasons he remains optimistic, he says, is because he "still believes in divine intervention. That is the underlying reason for my optimism. When I pray — and I do so for the Peace Committee every day — I still pray with the air of expectancy."

"It is important to remember that we still believe in God's divine intervention. If He is not through with Southern Baptists He will intervene."

Southern Baptists should "avoid cynicism," he says. "The longer I work at this assignment, the less ap-

preciation I have for cynicism. We can scrutinize, doubt, and hesitate and those kinds of things, but as Christians we should not allow them to deteriorate into cynicism."

## Interpretations

### A promissory note

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides" (Philemon 18-19).

Paul assumes that when Onesimus fled, he stole money from Philemon. He was not a Christian at that time. At least, Philemon had been deprived of Onesimus' labor while away. So Paul says to put that down as a debt he owes to Philemon. "On mine" is emphatic. Do not punish Onesimus or in some way make him pay it, perhaps in extra work. Paul assumes the debt.

Verse 19a is a promissory note to that effect, the usual form for such then. Note the emphatic "I Paul" (ego Paulos). With his own hand he has written this. Then another emphatic "I" (ego). "I Paul myself will pay it back."

One cannot help recalling that this is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us. In eternity, He signed a promissory note to assume and pay our debt for our sins. This is involved in the Greek word translated "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Notice also Paul's subtle way of reminding Philemon that he is an ingrate if he makes him pay it (v.19b). Since Paul had led Philemon to Christ, he owed himself to Paul. We would say, "Because of that you are a stinker if you try to collect it." But Paul would have honored it had he tried.