

# Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



**GOOD NEWS MICHIGAN** — Earl Farris (left) and Bill Klima (right), laymen from Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, visit a Michigan woman at her home in Flint to share "Good News America" literature with her and invite her to attend revival services at Westside Baptist Church, Flint. They were among more than 100 Tennesseans who assisted with simultaneous revivals in Michigan last week. Additional information, stories, and photos will appear in future issues of the Baptist and Reflector.

## Mideast missionaries maintain low profile

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries and representatives in the Middle East and the Mediterranean area are maintaining a low profile as terrorist threats against Westerners in the region increase.

The Southern Baptist workers and their families are practicing "a little more caution than is normal," said Isam Ballenger, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for Europe and the Middle East. The need for caution applies more to some places than others, he explained.

"The understanding I get is that generally there is not a bad attitude toward Americans by the general populace and the people feel relatively safe," Ballenger reported.

If American and Western European actions against Libya result in substantially increased terrorist activity, the mission official said, "all of us are going to have to be a little more cautious, not just in the immediate future but for some time to come."

Southern Baptist representatives once worked in Libya but left the nation in 1981. In Sudan, where Americans were evacuated in recent weeks because of anti-American demonstrations, Southern Baptists have had no missionaries since 1984. Missionaries and representatives elsewhere in the region continue their work with Baptists.

Travel between countries also continues normally, Ballenger said. One

missionary who helps coordinate work in several countries reported international travel in the Middle East actually may be getting safer as security measures increase. Those who live day by day in the area also know best the places to be avoided.

Renewed questions about the wisdom of sending missionary families to the Middle East and other "hot spots" have followed the upsurge of terrorist threats and actions against Americans overseas. Foreign Mission Board officials have (Continued on page 3)

## Committee on Boards releases '86 nominees

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — "We have worked diligently to find the best people we could find," said Lee Roberts Sr. as he released the 1986 report of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

Roberts, an Atlanta mortgage banker, was chairman of the 54-member committee, charged with the responsibility of nominating trustees to serve on the 24 national entities of the 14.4-million-member denomination.

The 1986 committee acted on 244 positions, of which 112 are held by persons eligible for renomination, 118 require new nominees, three will not be replaced, and 11 will be filled when the committee's subcommittee meets in Atlanta prior to the annual meeting.

Currently, 949 persons are on the boards of 24 SBC entities. Under the SBC system of rotating boards, about 25 percent of the positions become vacant each year, about half of which are eligible for a second term.

The 1986 report includes 13 nominees from West Virginia, which recently surpassed the 25,000 members required for representation on SBC boards and agencies. Before the West Virginia members can serve, however, messengers to the 1986 annual meeting must accept the

recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee that they be seated.

Under recently adopted revisions in the SBC bylaws, the report of the Committee on Boards must be released through the denomination's news service, Baptist Press, at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting, scheduled June 10-12 in Atlanta.

Roberts, who said he became actively involved in SBC affairs about a year ago, was elected to chair the committee at the February meeting of the Executive Committee after Tom Elliff, who had been elected at the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC, resigned from a Colorado pastorate to move to Oklahoma, thus becoming ineligible to serve.

Being a novice, he said, "was probably an advantage. I do not know the players on both sides (of the convention controversy) and the argument which has gone on. I admit I am naive, and not knowing allowed me to sit there and be quiet and let the committee make its decisions."

Roberts said the committee, as its last order of business, adopted a statement intended to "express to the SBC at large that we were unified in our support of our nominees."

The statement, which included six (Continued on page 2)

## SBC Committee on Boards' report includes names of 23 Tennesseans

The list of nominees announced last week by the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Boards includes 23 Tennesseans.

These nominations will be presented to the convention by the committee on June

10 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

According to the released information from the committee, the following Tennesseans will be nominated.

**Executive Committee:** Donald Whitt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Milan, replacing Richard Patton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Portland, who had served two terms and was not eligible for re-election.

**Foreign Mission Board:** Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, re-election to a second term.

**Home Mission Board:** Jerry Glisson, pastor of Leewood Baptist Church, Memphis, re-election to a second term.

**Annuity Board:** Ronald Earl, a member of Central Baptist Church, Hixson, re-election to a second term.

**Sunday School Board:** Winford Hendrix, pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, re-election to a second term.

—Eugene Mims, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, re-election to a second term (local trustee).

—Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson (Continued on page 2)

## Chinese visitors hear gospel

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Twenty-four Chinese will return home to the People's Republic of China in April after being introduced to the gospel during the Good News America simultaneous revival at Anderson Mill Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

They were involved in a technology exchange with the company where Bob Barlett, Anderson Mill Sunday School director, is manager of computer systems.

Barlett, who talked with some of the Chinese about Christ, invited them to attend the simultaneous revival. When they all accepted his invitation, Barlett secured bilingual Chinese-English Bibles for each member of the group.

Afterward, the Barletts invited the Chinese to their home, where they discussed what they had experienced during the service.

After the Chinese visitors attended a second service, one of their interpreters said, "I prayed in my heart to Jesus."

"How did you know to pray?" asked Barlett.

"I've been reading the Bible you gave me," she replied.

Barlett said Anderson Mill Baptist Church is praying that when the Chinese return home, they will share their Bibles with others.

## RTVC financial status reported as 'stabilizing'

By Dan Martin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)— Although progress has been relatively slow, trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission were told the RTVC and its American Christian Television System is "stabilizing."

During their April board meeting, RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen told trustees: "We are not quite stable yet, but we are moving into a very healthy position. We have a game plan that will

work, and we are working our plan."

Since ACTS was launched at the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, it has been beset with financial difficulties as staff and trustees struggled to make the fledgling television network viable.

In September of 1985 — after six months of study — the SBC Executive Committee approved a \$10-million loan with a 10-year payback and granted permission to launch a 5-year \$10-million development campaign.

The approval carried "very stringent" requirements "designed to help them develop a definite plan to retire their indebtedness without having to add additional indebtedness."

Following the approval, the RTVC reorganized its staff, naming Jim Edwards senior vice-president and chief operating officer, and cut staff and expenses back to bare bones.

In the April RTVC trustee meeting, Edwards reviewed the financial situation and said, "The bottom line is that we are in the black by \$177,000 for the six months ending in March. Our cash flow has improved, we have borrowed \$700,000 less than projected and have paid that back more rapidly. Our expenses are down by \$163,000, and every major division is under budget."

Trustees also were told revenues have increased from satellite service fees, under which ACTS member churches pay 10 cents per resident member per month. Through March, \$440,000 had been generated, up \$45,000 from anticipated revenues.

Edwards said Cooperative Program receipts through April 15 are up 9.1 percent, about \$122,000 above budget estimates, and "even though that is important, it is not the single most important factor because the gains are a combination of every major factor" in the budget. He added the "development numbers are up by \$120,000."

Edwards said contributions in the fund-raising efforts — telemissions dinners, partnerships, and capital campaigns in Baton Rouge, La., Birmingham and Mobile, Ala., and Atlanta — are expected to provide revenue later this year. "The revenue stream is all in front of us," he said.

Allen said the reports from the development campaigns are "very encouraging. They are tough in some places and easy in others. The campaigns have not closed yet and we already have about a million and a half (dollars) committed. I have not a question in my mind but that we will raise \$3-million this year. We have had to climb over a lot of misconceptions, but I am very pleased about the response."

The president said negotiations are underway with "four or five major financial institutions" concerning the refinancing of the debt. "We had to wait until we stabilized before we could do that (contact the lenders). Now we are ready and working toward that goal."

Allen told trustees ACTS currently is accessible to about "3.9-million homes, almost matching our goal at its minimal level. We wanted to have 4-million homes by now. We are not quite there, but we are making progress."

Allen said the system has added two full power television stations to its network — one in Birmingham, Ala., accessing 400,000 households and another in New York, with a potential 600,000 homes — and recently put on 212 low-power stations serving 80,000 Alaskans.

## Committee on Boards . . .

(Continued from page 1)

points, was adopted with only one dissenting vote. "I think when you get 54 unrelated Southern Baptists together and have only one dissenting vote, that is tantamount to unanimity," Roberts said.

"I was in hopes we could say to the convention at large that 54 of us who had not known each other came together and that we came away unified. We did that for the most part. I would have wanted to see all of us together, but I think we did pretty well."

Roberts said the committee adopted guidelines under which the session Thursday, March 13, was "a work session only and that all suggested nominations . . . will not become final nominations until a resolution is approved by the majority of the members on Friday, March 14."

The chairman said the guidelines were presented because "I was afraid we would bog down and I wanted to keep on working Thursday night. That way, if we had balance problems or some states had questions about the nominees or wanted to challenge someone, we could take care of that Friday without getting bogged down and not finishing our work on time."

He said "about 98 percent of the work (making the nominations) was done on Thursday." He added there were some challenges to some of the proposed nominees on the following morning.

"There were a couple of people challenged who we understood were supporters of abortion, and there was discussion of inerrancy on another candidate. Another man was challenged because someone heard he kept a bottle of whiskey in his study, and there was some discussion on where someone stood on the ordination of women," Roberts said.

Roberts told Baptist Press "being an inerrantist was not a prerequisite for nomination. I believe several were nominated who are not inerrantists. The roll call did not deal with whether the nominees were inerrantists or pro-life; only

with whether we were unified and unanimous.

The resolution says, "The members . . . do hereby agree, each and everyone of us, that: We have sought the direction of the Holy Spirit in all that we do . . . have pledged ourselves to be unified in all that we do . . . have pledged ourselves to work for harmony and unity in all that we do."

It adds, "We have approved all of the actions of the committee and now unequivocally make final the nominations that have been approved by a majority of the members."

It also says, "We have pledged ourselves, each and everyone of us, to mutually support one another in each and every one of our final nominations as approved by a majority of the committee . . . (and) . . . urge the messengers to the 1986 convention to harmoniously and in unity support each and every final nomination made by the committee and its subcommittee."

Another motion adopted by the committee concerned the Cooperative Program.

That motion stated, "We, the Committee on Boards, recognizing the diversity of our geographical backgrounds also recognize that churches in pioneer areas are a lot different in comparison to older established churches; further, we recognize that there is a difference between struggling inner city and transitional churches in areas where local missions work is important from suburban churches in dynamic growing areas; further, we recognize that our churches in low income areas cannot be compared with churches in affluent manufacturing and industrial areas."

"Therefore, we believe that the chief criteria for selecting nominees should not be the percentage of Cooperative Program giving by a nominee's church. We do, however, affirm that every church ought to support the Cooperative Program in a way commensurate with their ability."

Roberts said Cooperative Program giving "came up and we felt Cooperative Program giving should not be the basis for determining whether a nominee should serve. We did not want that to be a factor used to keep people from serving; we felt that was grossly unfair. In the motion we are trying to tell the messengers if they have a reason to challenge (a nominee), it should not be because of the CP giving of that person's church."

In releasing the report, Roberts said he hopes the report will be "peaceful . . . and unchallenged (at the convention). If, however, this should not be the case and if challenges are to be made, I sincerely request that as a courtesy to the SBC at large that any such challenges be presented to me in writing prior to the convention."

## Tennessee native returns, called by Westside church

Stan Anderson accepted the pastorate of Westside Baptist Church in Halls and began April 6.

A native of Bristol, Tenn., Anderson returns to Tennessee from Strong, Ark., where he was pastor of Knowles Baptist Church.

He previously served as assistant pastor of North Bristol Baptist Church in Bristol, Va.

Anderson is a graduate of King College in Bristol, Tenn., and will graduate from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, in May.

## Park M. Keller dies in Carthage hospital

The former pastor and church starter of many churches in Chlihowee Baptist Association, Park M. Keller of Gordonsville, died April 23 at Smith County Memorial Hospital in Carthage.

The funeral was April 25 at Smith Mortuary in Maryville. Evangelist Earl Taylor and David Webster, pastor of East Maryville Baptist Church in Maryville, officiated. He was buried at East Maryville Cemetery.

His 40-year ministry included pastoring the following churches in Chilhowee Baptist Association: Broadway Baptist Church, Grandview Baptist Church, Springview Baptist Church, Wildwood Baptist Church, Birchfield Baptist Church, and Mount Zion Baptist Church, all in Maryville; Oak View Baptist Church in Walland; and Kinzel Springs Baptist Church in Townsend. He also started many of these churches.

Keller, a member of First Baptist Church in Gordonsville, was active in the Chilhowee Baptist Association. He was a member of the New Providence Lodge #128 F & AM and held a 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite Bodies.

He is survived by his wife, Rosa Smith Keller; daughter and son-in-law, Elaine Sue and Michael Pearson; and granddaughter, Jenice, all of Gordonsville.

Pearson is director of missions at New Salem Association of Baptists.

# HMB completes sale of first bond issue

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church loans division completed the sale of its first church bond issue, selling bonds totaling \$2,850,000 in the "Series A" bond issue which ended March 31.

Funds from the sale of bonds are being used to make direct loans to Southern Baptist churches for building construction and site purchase as a part of the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust emphasis, said Robert H. Kilgore, director of the board's church loans division.

The bond issue, the first of its kind offered by the Home Mission Board, has enabled the board to go to the general public to borrow money on church bond investments which in turn can be loaned to churches, Kilgore explained. In the past, the board had to get funds for church loans from insurance companies and commercial lending institutions.

"This means that the Home Mission Board can lower interest rates on loans it makes to churches, because the board is no longer dependent on high interest rates of commercial loans," Kilgore said.

Since the board began selling bonds last December, the interest rate on church loans has been reduced three times, from 13 3/4 percent to 12 7/8 percent. Kilgore said the board is considering even lower interest rates on its loans

and is considering a plan whereby churches currently paying higher interest rates can refinance their loans at lower rates.

Advertisements telling how readers could order the 34-page prospectus outlining details of the bond issue have been published by Baptist state papers in 12 states — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Depending on maturity date set forth in the prospectus, the bond issue offered interest rates to investors ranging from 10 to 12 percent, with maturity dates ranging from one to 20 years. Interest is payable semi-annually.

The Home Mission Board received requests for more than 2,000 copies of the Series A bond prospectus to possible in-

vestors in 30 states and three foreign countries, but that the board had to turn down requests for bonds totaling \$100,000 from individuals in states where bonds had not been registered with state securities commissioners or exempted by state law, Kilgore said.

Several institutions contacted the board about purchasing as much as \$600,000 in Series A bonds, he added.

During their spring board meeting, directors of the Home Mission Board approved a second series of bonds, to be called "Series B" bonds, up to \$4.5-million. While Kilgore said the bonds probably would be available about May 15, he cautioned the bonds will be sold only by prospectus and interested investors should rely upon the information in the prospectus.

Kilgore said interest rates on the Series B bonds probably will bear interest ranging from 9 to 11 percent, depending on maturity dates.

The Home Mission Board has been given permission by the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee to borrow on the open market up to two times the net worth of its unrestricted church loans funds.

In round figures, that is about \$82-million, since the unrestricted church loan fund is currently about \$41-million, Kilgore explained.

He estimated the additional \$82-million available to churches could double or triple the number of loans the HMB will be able to make during the next five years and could help finance loans to as many as 1,000 churches.



Brown

Hammers

Reasons

Lantowsky

Sanford

## Mideast...

(Continued from page 1)

emphasized in most cases that Southern Baptist missionaries make their own decisions about staying or leaving particular countries, usually in consultation with local Christians.

"We consider our work to be a ministry of reconciliation," said Ballenger. "We want to express, through our personnel, love for all the people of the Middle East. We hope and pray the people of those areas will recognize in what spirit they are there and show to them the hospitality that is so characteristic of the Arab people."

"No doubt, the difficulty of this time will offer us some possibilities for ministry that we haven't had before," he said. "It just works that way."

By late April, no Southern Baptist lay volunteers actively preparing for work in various countries had decided to stay home because of the terrorist situation, mission board staffers reported. No volunteer projects had been canceled.

"The volunteers are calling in and asking, 'Is it safe?' or what do we know about the situation around the world," said Diana Richardson of the board's volunteer enlistment department. "We're getting maybe four or five calls a week about that. But no one has backed out yet."

It is too soon to tell whether the latest round of terrorism overseas will affect general missionary and volunteer recruitment, staffers said, although key assignments in some Middle East locations already are going unfilled.

New missionaries in training discuss ways of minimizing the risk of terrorism and other dangers which can arise in work abroad. Concerns are expressed, but no one in recent months has changed his or her mind about overseas service because of potential risk, reported Tim Brendle of the board's missionary learning department.

"Most of them have already made a commitment, and they've made it with their eyes open," Brendle said.

## FMB sends Tennesseans as journeymen

RICHMOND, Va. — Five young adults with Tennessee ties were part of 42 new journeymen commissioned by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 4 for two-year assignments in 27 countries.

The journeymen, college graduates under 27 years of age, will help career missionaries by working in youth evangelism, social and agricultural ministries, and teaching and business positions.

This is the 23rd group to be commissioned by the board since the program started in 1965. The journeymen came

from 17 states and include three couples. The new journeymen will travel overseas in a few weeks as the 1984 group

completes service and returns to the United States.

## Bill Spencer dies

Bill E. Spencer, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Collierville, died unexpectedly April 23 while attending the funeral of his father-in-law in Mississippi. He was 43 years old.

Spencer's funeral, held at the Collierville church on April 25, was led by Gary Watkins, pastor; Jesse Newton, retired pastor; Ken Story, pastor of First Baptist Church in Germantown; Frank Drinkard, minister of activities at the Germantown church; and Beth Lanham Davis from Memphis, who sang.

A service was held at his burial site at Holly Baptist Church in Corinth, Miss.

Having served the church for about a year, Spencer previously had served there from 1969-73 as minister of music and youth. He also worked in churches in Mississippi.

Spencer served on the music planning committee for the Mississippi Baptist Convention; as associational music director; as coordinator and judge of music festivals, children's choir camps, and leadership clinics; and in the Mississippi Singing Churchmen and Tennessee Baptist Chorale.

In Shelby County Baptist Association he was vice-president and program chairman of the Religious Education, Music, and Activities organization; on the music, BSU, and athletic committees; and as assistant director of adult music. He was also president of the Collierville Civitan Club.

He is survived by his wife, Cecile Reeves Spencer; two sons, Tim, 18, and Barry, 13 of Collierville; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Spencer, of Corinth, Miss.; and four brothers and six sisters.

Carol Brown, a native of Cookeville, is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and a member of First Baptist Church, both in Murfreesboro. She most recently worked in a retail store in that city. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Brown, live in Murfreesboro, where her father is a Mission Service Corps volunteer in church renewal with the Home Mission Board. Brown will be an operations controller in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Laurie Hammers, a native of Memphis, is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. She is a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Manchester, where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Hammers, live. Hammers has served as a summer home missionary and worked in child care. She will be a child care coordinator and summer conference assistant in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Kandy Lantowsky, a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, is from South Carolina. She has served as a summer home missionary and worked at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. Lantowsky will be a teacher for missionary kids and secretary in Curitiba, South Brazil.

Ira Reasons, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Reasons, are members of Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, his native city. Most recently a director at a YMCA, Reasons will be assistant to the director at the Baptist Village in Central Sharon, Israel.

Brenda Sanford, a public school teacher in Georgia, her native state, was a home missionary in Tennessee and youth director in a Georgia church. Sanford will be a secondary teacher in Sao Paulo, South Brazil.



SENIOR ADULT DAY — Polly Hardman of First Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, Ark., prays with Deborah Klein. Hardman, who is involved in her church's Carpenter Hill Ministry, typifies senior adults who will be recognized May 4 on Senior Adult Day.

## EDITORIAL

## Registration procedures for Atlanta SBC

As many as 60,000 messengers are predicted to attend the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in Atlanta June 10-12, according to some observers. This estimation is based primarily on the large demand for hotel rooms and the 45,519 who attended the 1985 SBC in Dallas.

If this prediction turns out to be even close to being accurate, we could almost triple the 22,872 who attended the 1978 SBC when we last met in Atlanta — which was our second highest registration.

Such a tremendous influx of individuals into downtown Atlanta will not only put a tremendous burden on the hotels, parking lots, and eating establishments, but also the registration tables!

The obvious problems involved in handling any gathering of such magnitude are more than offset by the importance of having a large number of messengers attending to make significant decisions which will affect the future of our denomination.

In a real sense, the annual convention is the "business meeting" for the Southern Baptist Convention. Reports are heard; recommendations are considered; officers and trustees are elected; motions and resolutions are debated and voted upon.

The "messenger" concept is unique and meaningful to our convention, to the messengers, and to the churches which elect them. These messengers are not "delegates." These are not elected to represent the churches — but only to vote their own personal convictions.

A church (or its pastor) does not instruct its messengers how they are to vote on any nominee nor any issue which might come up. To do so would mean that any motion or resolution approved by the convention in session would be binding on that church — a violation of the Baptist principle of the autonomy of the local church — not to mention the Southern Baptist Convention's own Constitution!

However, it is important that SBC churches properly elect their messengers and certify these messengers to the convention. This certification requirement

is easily met, if the messenger had an official registration card when arriving at the registration area. These cards are available from associational offices throughout the state.

Messengers must be elected by a church in a regular or a called business meeting. The registration card should then be filled out and signed by either the moderator or the clerk of the church.

Messengers attempting to register in Atlanta without this official registration card, completely filled out, will be referred automatically to the convention's Credentials Committee, in accordance with procedures approved by the convention. With a record registration expected in Atlanta, it is not hard to imagine the confusion which will result if thousands of messengers arrive without official registration cards.

If these cards are not available from your associational office, the messenger may present to the Credentials Committee a letter from a church official stating that the messenger has been elected by that church. This, of course, will assist the work of the Credentials Committee.

Another possibility would be for the messenger (who arrives at the convention without either a completed registration card or a letter from a church official) to have a telegram or mailgram from the church's moderator or clerk sent to the messenger in Atlanta.

According to the SBC Constitution (Article III, Membership), every church "which is in friendly cooperation with this Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work" is entitled to elect and to certify one messenger.

Additional messengers for a church are permitted for each 250 members OR for each \$250 contributed to SBC causes during the previous fiscal year.

Under no circumstances can any church have more than 10 messengers registered at an annual convention.

In the Southern Baptist Convention sessions, there are no provisions for "alternate" messengers, as in some Baptist associational meetings.

A messenger must be a member of the church of which he/she is a messenger.

Each messenger must register in person in the designated registration area.

Registration tables will be open from Sunday afternoon (June 8) through the close of the convention on Thursday, June 12.

Of course, there is no possible way for the SBC registration secretary and his helpers to check on the accuracy of the thousands of messengers' credentials during the convention session.

Therefore, the main insurance that the messengers are properly elected and certified belongs to local churches and to the messenger's individual conscience. It is important that churches assume the responsibility to "police" themselves and make sure that all provisions are observed.

If the messengers and their churches will carefully and prayerfully abide by these provisions, there will be few — if any — problems at those crowded registration tables in Atlanta.

We urge churches to elect their messengers at a regular or a called business meeting. Then the church moderator or clerk should secure official registration cards from the Baptist association office, accurately fill these out, and give these to the messengers before they leave for the June 10-12 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

### Cicero's comment



By the editor

"Cicero, I've got a great new idea to help Baptist churches," gushed P. R. Flack, noted press agent. "Actually, it isn't original. I adapted it from this week's drafting of college football players by the professional teams."

Cicero wondered what idea came from Tuesday's NFL draft.

"Churches have a real need to find pastors, right?" asked P. R. "Why don't they have an annual draft of graduating seminary students?"

Flack formulated his plan. Every spring church pulpit committees would gather on the campuses and review the prospects. "The church which had been pastorless the longest would get the first pick. Then the next longest vacant pulpit, and so on."

Other sports league practices were adapted by Flack. Churches could trade their draft picks. And there would also be "future picks" for a church whose pastor is in his 60s. "They could draft one of these top prospects and 'farm him out' to a smaller church until the present pastor retires," P. R. said.

"Where do you fit in?" I asked, knowing of Flack's monetary motives.

"I would prepare scouting reports on the graduates — just like football scouts — for a fee," Flack answered. "After the 'pastor draft' is completed, I would help the prospective pastor and the drafting church to come to terms. I have already worked out agreements with several students to serve as their bargaining agents."

P. R. said that he visited the campuses, interviewed the faculty, and prepared a critique about each student's grades, abilities, and attitudes. "I even took along a stopwatch to see how long it takes each student to preach a 20-minute sermon," he added.

"Who is this year's top draft choice?" Cicero wondered.

"Just like the NFL has specialists in defense, in offense, and on special teams, pastors have specialties which make them more appealing to certain churches."

Cicero asked for specific examples.

Flack pulled out his scouting reports. Among those listed were:

—Ed U. Cates — strong on administration; will build a church through organizations; follows educational principles religiously.

—Ben A. Rounds — mature in age and pastoral experience; served five churches, each larger than the last one.

—K. Rizz Maa — Egyptian born; fantastic personality; appealing accent; a real charmer.

—N. Telly Jent — excellent student; tremendous Bible knowledge; good common sense; able to see through difficult problems to logical answers.

—N. A. Rush — willing to work long hours at top speed; infinite energy.

—Finis Speaker — top-notch orator; good pulpit presence; best preacher in the class; even makes announcements sound inspirational.

"But the first pick will doubtless be Will O. Baye," predicted Flack. "His strong point is that he never questions anything a deacon says!"

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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.

### Thanks for Summit

Dear editor:  
I would like to thank all the people who had a part in the Tennessee Acteans Summit meetings.

To all the WMU and staff, the Acteans of Tennessee want to say a big "Thank you" for the wonderful Summit meetings in Nashville and in Gatlinburg. A special thanks to Cathy Williams for coordinating the Summit, and to the Acteans, leaders, and missionaries who participated in the program, to Harbor, and to all who helped with staging and "stuff."

It was a great experience with many new and exciting "discoveries" being made. Thanks again!

Cherie Carson  
3937 University St.  
Memphis, TN 38127

### Positions need clarifying

Dear editor:  
The Nashville Banner of Feb. 19 quoted the chairman of the SBC Peace Committee as follows: "Our differences have been stated clearly and the flames have been fanned quite enough."

Then the Banner on Feb. 25 reported that the SBC Executive Committee officially gave a name to the two warring factions as follows: "fundamental-conservative" and "moderate-conservative."

We, in the pew, guessed the Peace Committee knew the differences before the first meeting, but now that they say they know what the differences are, it seems past the time for the SBC to come out of the closet and reveal one of the world's best kept secrets to the 99 percent of us in the pews what this hassle is all about. After all we are the ones paying the bills for the combatants and the Peace Committee.

If a consensus spokesman can be found for each side, I challenge all SBC and the public press to print these positions side by side and let SBC members and the public judge for themselves.

C. H. Nicks  
3117 McGavock Pk.  
Nashville, TN 37214

### Bible 'rightly interpreted'

Dear editor:

In his address at the recent SBC Christian Life Commission seminar, Roy L. Honeycutt said some good things about the Word of God (as reported in the March 26 issue of Baptist and Reflector).

However, I feel I must disagree with him when he says: "I have no reservations about affirming — as my colleagues at Southern seminary have done since 1859 — the infallibility of the Bible, when rightly interpreted."

I have a firm conviction that the Bible is infallible whether it is rightly interpreted or not! The infallibility of God's Word is in no way dependent upon man's interpretation of it.

Richard L. Frees  
Route 1, Box 302  
Melber, KY 42069

I heard Roy Honeycutt's address to the seminar and realize that this was not an accurate quotation. What he said was that he affirmed the infallibility of the Bible, but not necessarily a person's interpretation of the Bible. (editor)

### Use of evangelists

Dear editor:

One of the privileges of my job at the Home Mission Board is working with our full-time evangelists. These evangelists are to be commended for the hard work and commitment to Christ they have displayed during the Good News America simultaneous revivals.

Southern Baptist evangelists have cooperated graciously at this time of concentrated meetings, even though simultaneous revivals may bring a financial burden on them. Many of the evangelists may conduct 25 or more revivals a year, but when all our churches schedule their revivals during the same time period, evangelists are unable to spread their meetings over a year's time.

This letter is to encourage the churches in your state to invite an evangelist for a fall meeting, for their

**BOOK REVIEW**  
By Michael Davis

## Jesus in the present tense

Jesus Is For Now by Paul W. Powell;  
Broadman; 125 pages; \$3.25.

This book by Paul W. Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, presents an understanding of Christ that is relevant for today's people. "When Jesus in the present tense is ignored," writes Powell, "we live in a spiritual vacuum. But when we magnify the present reality of the Christ, our faith assumes a new vitality."

The author wants his readers to realize that Christ can give meaning to their life situations, whatever they are.

If a person is troubled by personal problems, Powell's book will be a good

ministry is a blessing to the churches as they use their God-given gifts in evangelism.

Tom McEachin  
1350 Spring Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30367



**NEW BSU BUILDING** — Ground-breaking services were held April 2 for a \$300,000 Baptist Student Union building at Walters State Community College in Morristown. Pictured (left to right) are Charles Nored, former BSU director at Walters State; Glenn Yarbrough, director of the TBC student department; Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer for the TBC; and Martin Klinghard, BSU director for Walters State.

## MWBTS trustees name three VPs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)— Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees elected three vice-presidents during its semi-annual meeting April 14-15.

Kenneth Edmondson, former vice-president for development at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., unanimously was elected vice-president for institutional advancement for Midwestern effective June 1. He will assume responsibility for development, concentrating on endowment and capital funding.

N. Larry Baker, professor of Christian ethics and academic dean, was named dean of the faculty and vice-president for academic affairs. He was elected to the faculty in 1978 and named academic dean in 1982.

Sam T. Switzer, business manager since April 1982, was elected vice-president for business affairs beginning June 1. He will continue to be responsible for all duties assigned to him as business manager. Switzer came to the seminary in July 1981 as director of financial services.

The board also adopted a proposed budget of \$3,206,293 for the 1986-87 academic year.

All board of trustees' officers were re-elected for another term. They are Kermit D. McGregor, chairman, director of public relations at Baptist Children's Village, Jackson, Miss.; Doyle Smith, first vice-chairman, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Great Bend, Kan.; Jerry Davenport, second vice-chairman, a layman from Sheffield, Texas; and Paul Terranova, secretary/treasurer, a layman from Lenexa, Kan.



## Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for Gladys, who is a new Christian and has opened her home as a meeting place for the First Baptist Church of Trujillo, a city of about 26,000 people.

—Pray that land can be purchased and meeting places built for each of the four churches in the state of Trujillo.

—Pray for the faculty and students at the Venezuela Baptist Seminary in the city of Los Teques.

—Support the Tennessee/Venezuela Day of Prayer, May 1, for revivals to be held May 18-25 in Maracalbo, an urban area with a population of 900,000.

### Retired chaplain dies

Harry T. Wright, retired army chaplain, died April 14 in Veterans Administration Medical Center Hospital, Mountain Home, after a lengthy illness.

A native of Lovingson, Va., he has been living in Johnson City for many years.

Wright retired after serving as chaplain at the Veterans Center in Mountain Home. He also served in the Army in World War II.

He was a member of North Johnson City Baptist Church, Johnson City, where Mark Johnson is pastor.

Survivors include his wife, Nellie Jennings Wright; three sons, Larry S. Wright, Cupertino, Calif., Harry T. Wright Jr., Glendale, Calif., and John M. Wright, Little Rock, Ark.; two daughters, Mildred Calley, Danville, Va., and Mary Elizabeth Coram, Lilburn, Ga.; one sister, Annie Saunders, Lovingson, Va.; 12 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

inspirational resource. He continually directs his readers to the significance of Christ for present difficulties.

He writes, "To whom shall we go today? With the crucial issues of life, the deepest problems of life, and the greatest needs of life, where shall we go? To whom shall we go with our broken hearts? With our broken lives? With our broken homes? Or with our broken world? There is ultimately only one Person to Whom we can go: Jesus. He alone is adequate for all situations, all crises, and all times. He alone is a Man for all seasons."

Powell's insightful interpretation of John 12:8 highlights the importance of responding to present opportunities to honor Christ. The occasion for his words about the poor was when Mary anointed His feet with expensive ointment. Judas criticized her. One of the ways Jesus defended Mary's action was by telling Judas that His circumstances were different from those of the poor. Jesus said to Judas, "For the poor you always have with you; but you do not always have Me" (John 12:8). "Jesus was saying," writes Powell, "to help the poor is something that can be done at any time, for they will always be around. But I will not always be around." What can be done anytime is contrasted to what must be done when the opportunity arises.

The preachers will welcome the good illustrations and Biblical insights in these 12 chapters. They will also appreciate the proclamation of a Christ alive in the world now to be experienced daily and joined in service. In short, this book is not only good preaching, but good and helpful reading to a wider audience than pastors.

## SBC Pastors' Conference to focus on Jesus Christ

ATLANTA (BP) — "Jesus ... Author and Finisher" will be the theme of the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, June 8-9 in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

"God just put it on my heart for us to simply preach Jesus at this Pastors' Conference," said Morris Chapman, chairman of the annual gathering, one of the meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 10-12.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, said he believes Southern Baptist "pastors have great needs and there is nothing more thrilling or inspiring than lifting up Jesus. I know Jesus is the answer to every need and I am just hoping it will be a time that our hearts as a people of God can be refreshed and renewed and revived."

He added: "I felt preachers today — individually, in their homes, and in their churches — are facing crises and conflict in unparalleled proportions. My prayer is that this Pastors' Conference will be an opportunity for many pastors and their wives to reflect on the reality of just what Jesus can mean to them in what they are facing in their lives and ministries."

The chairman said the meeting has been developed "as a high hour of inspiration. I have invited men who I believe have been faithful in preaching Jesus in a way that has resulted in scores of lives being changed."

He noted he has included missionaries and evangelists as well as lesser-known preachers to participate in the two-day meeting. The theme will begin with a message on the pre-existence of Christ

and conclude with a sermon on the pre-existence of Christ.

Preachers and themes include Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church,

Houston, pre-existence of Christ; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, virgin birth; Harold Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist

Church, Baltimore, Md., identity of Jesus;

Jay Strack, evangelist from Fort Myers, Fla., Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow; Harry Garvin, an SBC missionary to Uganda, looking to Jesus; William Tolar, dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, the atonement; Bailey E. Smith, evangelist, Del City, Okla., the cross;

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., the name of Jesus; James Reimer, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., the resurrection; Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., anointed to preach Jesus; Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, the ascension and Jesus as advocate;

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., the second coming; David Ring, evangelist from St. Charles, Mo., a testimonial sermon; and Eugene Ridley, evangelist from Dillsboro, N.C., the pre-eminence of Christ.

Music will be provided by Buster Pray, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas. Mini-concerts will be provided by gospel artists Vernard Johnson of Fort Worth, Texas, and Steve Green of Mobile, Ala.

Chapman said the speakers were selected because they are "powerful preachers. The program has no political implication. You cannot think of the Pastors' Conference without taking into account that it precedes the SBC. I have felt if we could have a high hour of inspiration, hopefully that will spill over into the convention."

## WMU session to highlight past, future of missions

ATLANTA (BP) — Celebrations of historic missions milestones will mark the 1986 Woman's Missionary Union national annual meeting June 8-9 in the Georgia World Congress Center, in Atlanta.

With the theme "What We Yet May Be," the meeting will focus on the future of missions in light of the past.

Various 100-year anniversaries will be featured, including the centennials of missions literature, missions work with children, and Woman's Missionary Union itself.

WMU, the national missions education organization for women, girls, and preschoolers, was founded in May 1888. Plans for upcoming centennial celebrations will be revealed at the annual meeting.

Baptist children from Atlanta will perform a special children's centennial pageant in a meeting session designed to feature missions education for children.

An exhibit commemorating the sesquicentennial of work in China by missionary pioneer J. Lewis Shuck will conclude the historic celebrations.

Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., will give her last address as national WMU president, and new officers will be elected during the annual meeting. Recording Secretary Betty Gilreath also

will go out of office.

SBC Peace Committee member Christine Gregory will speak on "What Our Convention Yet May Be." Gregory is a former national WMU president and SBC vice-president.

Other featured speakers include Paul Brand, chief of rehabilitation at the National Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, La., and David Barrett, missions researcher and editor of World Christian Encyclopedia, who will discuss strategies for reaching for Christ a rapidly changing world of the future.

Pre-session music will have an international flavor with performances by Chinese, Laotian, and Romanian choirs. The Florida Baptist Singing Men and Women also will perform.

Other events connected with the WMU annual meeting include a luncheon for women in professional ministry, a prayer box supper, a Baptist Nursing Fellowship breakfast and an ethnic WMU members breakfast. Annual meeting sessions will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center and meal functions at the Omni International Hotel.

Music director for the meeting will be Angela Cofer of Tucson, Ariz. Scott Bennett of Jackson will be organist. Pianist will be Janelle Ganey of Louisville, Ky.



**CHURCH SECRETARIES' OFFICERS** — The officers of the TBC Church Secretaries Organization for 1986-87 elected at the annual conference April 14-16 at Camp Linden are (from left to right) Helen Butler of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson as secretary-treasurer, Judy Wade of Broadway Baptist Church in Maryville as vice-president, and Elizabeth Prowse of First Baptist Church in Cookeville as president.

## Supreme Court to hear suit by Seventh-day Adventist

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Seventh-day Adventist who was denied unemployment compensation benefits after being fired for refusing to work on her Sabbath will have her day in the nation's highest court.

Paula A. Hobbie, who worked for a Florida jeweler for more than two years before being baptized as an Adventist, has claimed she was denied the Constitutionally protected right to free exercise of religion when the state Department of Labor and Employment Security refused her request for unemployment benefits.

Seventh-day Adventists give strict observance to a Sabbath that begins at

sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday. But the state has countered that it "refused to discriminate against other applicants for benefits by providing special treatment" to Hobbie.

After her initial request was denied, Hobbie exhausted all administrative appeals and filed suit against the department in state court, but that panel affirmed the previous denials of benefits.

In a written appeal, Hobbie's attorneys asked the nation's high court to review the lower rulings, arguing their client's rights of free exercise and due process of law were denied.

They also cited a pair of earlier Supreme Court decisions, the spirit of which was violated in Hobbie's case, they claimed. In one of them, the 1963 case of *Sherbert vs. Verner*, the court upheld the unemployment benefits claim of another Seventh-day Adventist discharged by a South Carolina employer because she declined a job when informed she would not be given time off every week to observe her Sabbath.

In the second decision — the 1981 case of *Thomas vs. Review Board* — the court ruled in favor of a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses who was denied unemployment benefits after quitting his job at an armaments factory on religious grounds.

Hobbie's case against Florida will be argued during the Supreme Court's 1986-87 term that begins next October (*Hobbie vs. Unemployment Appeals Commission*).

## Pastors to hear HMB consultant

JACKSON — Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministry for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will speak at the West Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, May 6 at Union University.

A short fellowship with coffee and doughnuts begins at 10:10 a.m. The conference starts at 10:50 a.m. in Room D-3 of the Penick Academic Complex. Following the conference, pastors and wives will adjourn to the cafeteria where they will be Union's luncheon guests.

Holloway also will speak at Union's 10 a.m. chapel service on May 5.

## BJCPA sets hymn-writing contest

WASHINGTON (BP) — In conjunction with its 20th Religious Liberty Conference, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is sponsoring a national hymn-writing contest.

Hymns entered in the contest should focus on a theme of religious liberty, soul liberty, or freedom of religion. The winning hymn will be introduced during the conference, which will have the theme of "Intersecting Values: Christian Citizenship and Church-State Separation."

Contestants may either compose an original hymn tune and lyrics or write new lyrics to an existing hymn tune.

Judges for the contest will be William

J. Reynolds, associate professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; Milton Ryder, pastor of First Baptist Church, Boston; and Chief Richard Donn, director of the U.S. Navy Band's chorus.

The contest winner will be provided with registration, lodging, and meals while attending the Religious Liberty Conference, to be held Oct. 6-8 in Washington.

Entries must be mailed by July 1 and should be sent to Jeanette Holt, Baptist Joint Committee, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

# El Salvador survives despite war crisis

By Erich Bridges

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP) — Easter week in El Salvador was uneventful this year: The military and the rebels battled. The faithful went to church. The vacationers went to the beach.

While the media spotlight glares on neighboring Nicaragua's conflicts, El Salvador has lurched into its seventh year of guerrilla war with no end in sight. Many international observers believe the leftist rebels, now on the defensive, have little chance of outright victory. But with continued outside aid, it is predicted the rebels could go on fighting almost indefinitely.

Yet this tiny country survives. Despite the war, a staggering economy and tens of thousands of internal refugees, El Salvador is hanging on. Even more remarkably, the church is flourishing.

Roman Catholics remain by far the largest religious body. But evangelicals — including Baptists — reportedly are approaching 1-million in number, out of a national population of 5.1-million. That is at least five times the number of evangelicals counted before the war.

The war and its suffering have caused people to seek hope and comfort in the churches, missionaries say. But the expansion also is part of a wider evangelical growth boom which has swept throughout Central America in recent years.

Baptists still are a relatively small part of the Christian scene in El Salvador. Pentecostal groups reportedly claim at least three-fourths of all evangelical believers. But several programs involving Southern Baptist missionaries reach beyond church walls.

The six Southern Baptist missionaries in the country coordinate a literature ministry which consistently leads Southern Baptist publishing efforts in the Spanish-speaking world. John and Peggy



**WATCHING, WAITING** — Two Salvadoran children in a refugee camp wait, like thousands of other refugees in El Salvador, for the day they can go back to their home areas and live in peace. Photo by Joanna Pinneo.

Alums recently transferred from Panama to join Bill and Libby Stennett and Ernie and Lee Ann McAninch in the work.

In 1985, the Baptist bookstore and book deposit in San Salvador sold and distributed more Christian literature than any other wholesale literature distributor in the chain operated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

"The evangelical community is continuing to grow tremendously, but even non-Christian people are very interested

in Christian literature," said Stennett. "And our new Sunday School materials have been much more of a success than we even dreamed."

A five-minute Baptist radio broadcast on Christian family living airs 10 times daily on several stations. Listener responses and requests for Christian counseling average about 250 per month (334 were recorded in February). "We've had letters from all over the country, from one end to the other, from Honduras, from Guatemala, and even from Nicaragua," Stennett reported. "I would say we're reaching a possible audience of 2-million."

Southern Baptists also sent \$195,000 in hunger and relief funds to El Salvador last year, primarily for refugees made homeless by the fighting. The money provides food and medicine through an evangelical relief agency for about 8,000 refugees each month.

"It's not just going out and handing out food to anybody who wants to eat it or sell it," Stennett explained. "It's actually checking out the people, giving them the medicine they need, the vitamins along with the food and then going back the following month and checking them out again and seeing that they are bene-

fitting from what we're doing."

Each week as many as 40 refugees accept Christ as their Saviour through the medical ministry and are put in contact with a local church, he said.

The homeless are not the only Salvadorans struggling for survival. Some analysts fear the shaky state of the economy poses a greater potential threat to national stability than the fighting. The guerrillas' long-term efforts to destroy the economy, coupled with chronically low agricultural production and shrinking export markets, have taken a toll.

Unemployment officially was estimated at more than 30 percent late in 1985. Some private estimates range higher. Labor unrest is increasing in the wake of a government austerity program aimed at reviving the depressed economy. Poverty still reigns in the countryside.

Churches have not escaped hard times. "The pastors are suffering because people just do not have money to contribute," Stennett said. "But increased numbers of members in the churches have helped overcome some of the economic crisis."

## Foreign policy expert predicts small wars

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — As American bombers were enroute to the April 14 attack on Libya, a speaker at a religious conference on peacemaking predicted small-scale wars, many of them backed by terrorists, may be more likely threats to global security than a full-scale nuclear war.

"We live in an era in which a big-unit war is not likely to occur," said foreign policy expert George Lopez of Earlham College in Richmond, Ind. "Instead we live in an era of small wars" including state-funded terrorism and mercenary-led conflicts.

Lopez was unaware as he spoke in Louisville, Ky., that American planes were headed for a "pre-emptive strike" against terrorist bases in Libya.

In the face of such threats, "the issue is not whether we can find a solution rooted in technology, but whether we have the commitment to move beyond a technological dependence to embrace a peaceful image of the future that will motivate us to work for peace," Lopez said.

Lopez and other speakers at the third biennial conference challenged America's religious community to find new ways to work for peace. About 270 people attended the two-day meeting sponsored by the Council on Peacemaking and Religion. Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church has hosted each of the three conferences.

Stanley Weiss, president of Business Executives for National Security, advised the group "policymakers do not listen to non-experts. What works is speaking concretely and practically about what we do know."

"In much of the peace movement we find an enormous amount of caring, but little rigorous thinking," Weiss said. "Inevitably this approach loses to those in politics who have less compassion but who think more rigorously."

Concerned about escalating military expenditures, Weiss criticized the lack of competitive bidding and the absence of rigorous testing of conventional weapons. "The Pentagon," he said, "is the pork-barrel of the 1980s."

Weiss said the American public should demand three things of the Pentagon — integrity in purchasing procedures, economy in spending, and quality testing of conventional weapons and products.

Another speaker, former Congressman Robert Drinan, challenged some stereotypes related to the politics of peacemaking.

"Efforts for arms control and peace negotiations are not simply efforts of liberal Democrats," Drinan said. He pointed out that Republican President Dwight Eisenhower launched the effort for the nuclear test-ban treaty and Richard Nixon, also a Republican, signed the SALT I treaty and suspended production of the elements for gas warfare.

Also, he noted, the Republican-controlled Senate in 1984, by a vote of 77-22, urged President Ronald Reagan to pursue a mutually verifiable test-ban treaty.

In addition to offering technical and political advice, several speakers also encouraged Christians to persevere in working for peace in an atmosphere of frequent misunderstanding and distrust.



**PROFITS FOR BANGLADESH** — Bill Hancock (left), pastor of Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., presents a check for \$50,000 to Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks. The check represents profits generated by sales of the book, *Death to Life — Bangladesh*, written by Missionary Jim McKinley and published by the Louisville church. The money will build a meeting place and training center in Bangladesh. Bill Wakefield, area director for South and Southeast Asia, is in the background.

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## REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg will have revival services May 18-21. Calvin Metcalf, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City in Knoxville, will be the evangelist. Marvin G. Cameron is pastor of the church.

Jimmy Napier will be the evangelist for revival services at Tyner Baptist Church in Chattanooga, May 4-9. A. Marvin Sanders is the pastor.

Jay Strack, evangelist from Florida, will lead revival services at Hildale Baptist Church in Clarksville. Jack Price will be the guest musician. Verlon W. Moore is the pastor.

## REVIVALS . . .

Second Baptist Church, Knoxville, was led in revival services by Elmer Bailey, evangelist, and Tommy Lane, song leader. Both are from Memphis. Results include six professions of faith, seven uniting with the church by baptism, and one by statement. Thomas E. Gatton is the pastor.

Buck Morton was the evangelist for a week of revival at First Baptist Church,

Camden, April 6-11. Morton is pastor of Leclair Baptist Church in Memphis. Dwayne Hollingsworth was guest musician at the church where S. Ray Jones is pastor. There were five professions of faith and 12 rededications.

First Baptist Church in Waynesboro had lay-led revival services April 9-13. The 14-member revival team was led by Harold Dillon of Columbia. Seventeen people made professions of faith and there were many rededications. James H. Youree III is pastor.

John N. Langlois, pastor of Walker Memorial Baptist Church in Franklin, led revival services at Center Grove Baptist Church in Tullahoma, April 13-19. Wayne Alexander led the music at the church where David R. Wall is pastor. There were three professions of faith and three rededications.

John Kurtz of Mount Juliet assisted Nances' Grove Baptist Church, New Market, in revival services March 31 through April 6. Henry Davidson is the pastor.

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Limestone, held revival services April 13-18. W. Paul Hall, associate department director in the missions department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, served as evangelist at the church where Paul M. Broyles is pastor. The meetings resulted in five additions to the church, two on profession of faith.

Jimmy Bedwell, pastor of Pinson Baptist Church, Pinson, recently led revival services at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Greenbrier. Randall Lynch led the music. There were 22 rededications, 11 additions to the church by baptism, two by statement, and four by letter. J. W. Abney is pastor of the church.

## LEADERSHIP . . .

First Baptist Church, Woodlawn, recently called Timothy Mohon as part-time director of youth. He has attended Union University, Jackson, and Austin Peay State University, Clarksville. R. B. Mackens is pastor.

## Williams accepts Somerville post

Paul E. Williams has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Somerville.

He comes to the church from Louisville, Ky., where he has been serving as associate pastor of Highview Baptist Church.

A native of Dyer County, Williams is a graduate of Union University in Jackson. He has also attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Before moving to Louisville, Williams was associate department director and adult director with the Sunday School department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Previous pastorates include Englewood Baptist Church and West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, Finley Baptist Church in Finley, and Liberty Grove Baptist Church, also in Jackson.

Denominational service includes serving as consultant for TBC's Sunday School department for many years. He has served as moderator and chairman of the executive board for Madison-Chester Baptist Association; president of West Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference, the Madison-Chester Pastors' Conference, and the Jackson Ministerial Association; a member of the TBC Committee on Boards; and chairman of the Board of Trustees for Union University in Jackson.



Williams

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I will also be sending a letter to church treasurers, encouraging them to lead their churches in adopting the Expanded Church Annuity Plan.

There will never be a better time for every church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention to make the Expanded Church Annuity Plan an integral part of its life. This cannot happen without your support and leadership.



I hope and pray that you and your church will take advantage of the full benefit of this expanded program. I will be looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

*Tom Madden*

Tom Madden

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This kind of help along with the other valuable services rendered by TBCH is possible because of your commitment to child care. Support from our churches reaches TBCH through three ways. First, nearly 40% of our budget needs come from the Cooperative Program. Secondly, 30% comes from our Mother's Day Offering. The remaining 30% comes from endowment funds and other personal gifts and income.

The recent drop in interest rates has greatly hurt our endowment income. Hopefully a generous Mother's Day Offering by our churches will help offset this.

May I appeal to every pastor and church leader. Please lead your church to have a part in this vital mission of Tennessee Baptists. Investment in the life of a child is an investment in eternity. Our statewide goal is \$680,000. Please help us reach it. There is no place like home — if you have one. Without a home... there is no homecoming.

**Family Crisis?**

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Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

**Train up a Child**



Social Worker Sherry Johnson counsels with one of our teen-agers on the Middle Tennessee campus.

Each week the older teen-agers on the Middle Tennessee campus meet with their social workers to discuss and obtain information in making a smooth and easy transition from life at the children's home to life on their own. Each young person is discovering the reality of apartment costs, utility costs, food, clothing and other hidden costs in each month's budget. They are learning about car maintenance, survival cooking (especially for the boys), shopping, and medical costs. These are sometimes overwhelming concepts for teen-agers. They do not realize responsibility.

It is our goal at TBCH to effectively train each teen-ager in independent living. Our hope and prayer is that each young person who leaves our care can make a valuable contribution to society because of some of the lessons learned at TBCH.

**Please Give To The  
Annual Mother's Day Offering  
Sunday, May 11, 1986  
Statewide Goal: \$680,000**



**Construction Update**

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has been involved in several building projects. The new Min-Tom cottage on the East Tennessee campus is completed and operational. The superintendent's residence on the Middle Tennessee campus, Franklin, is near completion.

Pictured is the construction site of the Christian Life Center, East Tennessee campus. The structure is approximately one-third complete. It will contain a basketball court suitable for roller skating, a meeting room, a serving kitchen and areas for crafts. The project is scheduled for completion June 1986 and will total 10,900 square feet.

The various types of recreational activities provided by a Christian Life Center are very therapeutic to our children. The children are able to work off anger and frustrations through playing basketball or volleyball or doing ceramics. This enables our TBCH staff to help

a child better deal with the problems in his or her life.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for providing quality child care for Tennessee's abused, neglected and abandoned children.

**The Joy of Easter**

Easter for the Christian is a declaration that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. He is Lord. Yet, for children, it is also a time to enjoy brightly colored eggs, chocolate bunnies and pretty flowers.

During the week prior to Easter, all of the children at the West Tennessee campus enjoyed a special treat. Employees of Richards Medical Company brought each child an Easter basket full of goodies. In addition, these good friends entertained each of the cottages with comedy and gifts of balloons shaped into animal figures. Easter is a great time to be alive and to help bring joy to a child.

**Talent Show '86**

Saturday night, March 15, the Middle Tennessee campus held its annual talent show. The visitors in the audience were welcomed and then the house lights were lowered. With a variety of spotlights and video tape rolling, the show began with a thundering rendition of Lee Greenwood's song, "God Bless the U.S.A." The talent included singing, playing instruments and stand-up comedy. Songs by Amy Grant and Sandi Patti were featured. The show's finale was a rendition of Michael W. Smith's, "Friends," with two of our young people dressed as clowns interpreting the song in mime.

Several hidden talents were found while practicing for the talent show. The Middle Tennessee campus has a great bunch of talented young people. Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to come and visit each of our campuses across the state and get to know our fine young people.

**The Beauty  
of God's Creations**



Four young men on the East Tennessee campus view the beauty of God's creation in the dogwood tree located behind their cottage. God has given the necessary ingredients to make the tree strong and beautiful. In the Spring, one can see the amazing results. To view the maximum beauty one must view the tree from the position of the sun.

Young men also reveal the beauty of God's creation. He has also supplied the necessary ingredients for them to develop into strong and handsome young men. Sometimes they are denied these ingredients of love, tender care and spiritual nourishment. Our Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes are needed to nurture them to healthy maturity. To view the maximum beauty of children one must view them from the position of the Son, Jesus Christ.

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## BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for May 4

## Nehemiah returns

By Mike McGinnis, pastor  
Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Basic Passage: Nehemiah 1:1 to 2:18

Focal Passages: Nehemiah 1:3-4; 2:4-6, 11-13, 16-18

The Book of Nehemiah is a classic account on the subject of personal service for God. Every believer should heed the message of this dominant theme in Nehemiah.

To undertake any task or determine any direction in life without regard for what may be the will of God is both presumptuous and foolish. As a child of God, we have relinquished the authority of our life to God. Therefore, He has divine claim over every area of our lives.

The Christian can anticipate success insofar as every part of his life is adjusted to God's purpose and plan. God's plan for Nehemiah was that he leave the splendor of the king's palace and assume the leadership of a difficult and perilous task.

## The report (1:1-4)

Nehemiah's reaction to the report concerning Jerusalem may seem inappropriate. However, Nehemiah's concern was not merely for brick and mortar. The city of Jerusalem was of tremendous symbolic importance to the Jew. Nehemiah's reaction — weeping, mourning, fasting, and praying — was similar to the day that Jesus sat on the slope of Mt. Olivet and wept over this same city.

Concerning Nehemiah's response to the report, one Bible scholar wrote, "You never lighten the load unless first you have felt the pressure in your own soul. You are never used of God to bring blessing until God has opened your eyes and made you see things as they are. There is no other preparation for Christian work than that. Nehemiah was called to build the wall, but first he had to weep over the ruins."

## The repentance (1:5-11)

Nehemiah's initial response to this great need was prayer. Although he acknowledged that he was praying "on behalf of the sons of Israel Thy servants" (v. 6), Nehemiah prays in the first person plural. He identified with the people God had called him to lead. This is characteristic of a true spiritual leader.

The importance of the work — Jerusalem's walls were in ruins and its gates were burned. To a modern city, of course, that means nothing; but God's purpose for Jerusalem was that its walls should be salvation and its gates should be praise (Isaiah 26:1-2). Now, the emblems of salvation and praise lie in utter ruin.

The indication of the walls — Perhaps God is calling some of us to weep and mourn over the ruin of these same emblems in our lives. The symbol of salvation, the symbol of praise, the wall that marks our separation from the world — does it lie in ruin?

## The request (2:1-8)

Nehemiah carried his burden in secret until four months later. It is obvious that Nehemiah had patiently prayed and patiently waited on the Lord. When God opened the door, he spoke boldly in response to the king's question. First, Nehemiah asked to be sent (v. 6). He recognized the king as God's authority in his life. Therefore, he refused to act until God gave direction through this authority.



McGinnis

Second, Nehemiah asked to be secure (v. 7). Even though this request was made of Artaxerxes, Nehemiah was confident because it was based on God's purpose and God's promise.

Third, Nehemiah asked to be supplied (v. 8). This did not express a lack of faith in God. On the contrary, the request exemplified Nehemiah's great faith in God's sovereignty. Nehemiah acknowledged that "the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me."

## The resistance (2:9-10)

No work attempted for God will go unchallenged. Yet, Nehemiah would not resign himself to defeat even in the face of tremendous opposition. Several things kept Nehemiah going.

The burden he experienced — It is only the man with a crushing sense of burden and responsibility whom God can trust with His work. If you do not have a heart that is burdened with an overwhelming sense of conviction, you will never be faithful in the service of the Lord.

The blessing Nehemiah expected — Nehemiah refused to remain within the boundaries of the comfortable. He was willing to take the risk of faith. However, his was not a blind faith. Genuine faith is never blind. Nehemiah's faith was grounded in the Word, founded on the promises, and rooted in God's past dealings. Nehemiah was acting according to God's directive, therefore, he had nothing to fear.

The battle Nehemiah entered — Satan always has his opposers waiting in the wings to fight against any project undertaken by God's people. As soon as the man of God says, "let us arise and build," the enemy says, "let us arise and stop him." Here was a man whose whole attitude was a declaration of war against things as they were. There is never any concern in the mind of Satan about the church until he sees a selfless Christian seeking the glory of God, determined to challenge the satanic grip upon men's hearts and lives in the name of the Lord.

## The ruin (2:11-16)

Six of the 31 verses that comprise chapters one and two of the Book of Nehemiah deal with the examination of the fallen walls of Jerusalem. It is obvious that there is much significance in these walls.

Surely, God has a message from this story for us. The Bible repeatedly challenges the child of God to self-examination. It is both appropriate and necessary for the Christian to look deep down in his own soul and see his spiritual life for what it really is.

Could it be that the walls of your Christian life have started to crumble and demand some immediate repair?

## The response (2:17-18)

Nehemiah continues the theme of God's sovereignty and providential care for His children. He reports to his brother Jews that God's hand was obviously upon the project. This enabled the workers to join in the task with confidence (v. 18).

Spiritual leaders would do well to learn a lesson from Nehemiah. If the project is of God, God will assume responsibility for both opening the doors and supplying the means of accomplishment.

## UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for May 4

## Holy Spirit, Jesus' ministry

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

Basic Passages: Luke 4:14-15; Matthew 12:22-32

Focal Passages: Luke 4:14-15; Matthew 12:22-28

The Holy Spirit in Jesus' ministry is consistent with and a continuation of God's Spirit at work throughout Jesus' life. Luke marks no neatly defined boundary between the Spirit acting in Jesus' conception (1:35); the Spirit descending

upon Him at His baptism (3:22); and His coming in the power of the Spirit into Galilee. Luke takes great care to give attention both in the gospel and Acts to the role of the Holy Spirit.

The testimony of the New Testament is that there is one God Who has made and is making Himself known as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The entire ministry of Jesus is an expression of the true character of the Triune God.

## A Spirit-empowered ministry anticipated (Luke 4:14-15)

For Luke, the presence of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Jesus was not an innovation. It was an established pattern for understanding every aspect of Jesus' life. It was a pattern that Luke saw continued in the church.

According to Acts, the inauguration and mission of the church also had and should continue to have a vital link with the Holy Spirit.

These verses in Luke serve as a transition from earlier events in the life of Jesus which were attended by the Spirit (in addition to those references already cited, see Luke 4:1) to Jesus' public ministry in Galilee. The passage from Matthew provides a specific demonstration of the power of the Spirit at work bringing healing and wholeness to a devastated human being.

Luke observes that the initial reaction to Jesus' works was positive ("glorified by all" RSV). It should be kept in mind that at other times His enemies were "filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus" (Luke 6:11).

## A Spirit-empowered ministry realized (Matthew 12:22-28)

In chapter 12, Matthew depicts increasing hostility against Jesus on the part of the Pharisees. One of the differences Jesus had with them was the

main point of religion. For them, religion revolved around ceremony, ritual, and formalities. For Jesus, legitimate religion was intensely personal and revolved around relationships — God to people and people to people.

Matthew gives the impressions that the Pharisees would allow the blind and speechless man to remain in his helpless condition rather than to enhance the reputation of Jesus. The man's ability to see and speak was restored. The evidence of Jesus' work was in the good which He had done this poor man.

The onlookers were amazed. Perhaps they were reluctant to express any affirmation of Jesus because of their fear of the Pharisees' anger. The form of the question ("Can this be the Son of David?") expressed doubt about the possibility.

Perhaps it was an idea so wonderful that it was frightening even to utter the words. Since the time of the monarchy, "Son of David" had become a popular messianic title among the Jews (see 2 Samuel 7:12-17; Amos 9:11). In Mark (10:47-52), Jesus is called by this title in a situation where a man is healed.

There was no hesitation by the Pharisees there. It only made sense to them if His works drew on some source of evil power. The origin of the name *Beelzebub* is uncertain. The context makes it clear that those who spoke it and heard it related it to the "prince of demons" (12:24) and "Satan" (12:26).

In verses 25 and 26, Jesus reasons that internal strife carried to its ultimate conclusion is destructive. It was unrealistic to think of Satan destroying his own domain.

In verse 27, Jesus acknowledged the possibility that some of the disciples ("sons") of the Pharisees cast out demons. If it was an action performed by the power of evil, they had condemned their own pupils.

The form of verse 28 asserts the actuality not only of Jesus casting out demons, but that it was a ministry performed through the Spirit of God. The Greek verb for "has come" indicates the presence of the kingdom of God. That kingdom was to be fully realized in the future. However, it is a reality that is already in process. As Christ's followers, we, too, can minister in the power of the Spirit because Jesus did.



Byrd

## Interpretations

## Joy in the Lord

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord, refresh my bowels in the Lord" (Philemon 20).

Having promised to repay Philemon for any loss suffered by Onesimus' running away, Paul now turns to pleading with his friend. He wants to have joy in the Lord through Philemon's actions. Literally, "I of you have joy in the Lord." "I" is emphatic, being written out (*ego*), note our "*ego*."

While Paul is not Philemon's pastor, he is his friend and counselor. It always makes a spiritual leader rejoice when those under his care successfully meet a challenge.

Once again Paul uses the word "bowels"

(*splagchna*, see verses 7, 12). As stated previously, the ancients thought of the bowels as the seat of the emotions. We speak of the heart as such. In fact A. T. Robertson translates the word as "heart." This expresses the same idea in modern terms.

It is of interest to note various modern translations of this. "Buoy up my deepest feelings in Christ" (Berkeley). "Cheer my heart by your Christlike spirit" (TCNT). "Such an act of love will do my old heart good" (Phillips). "Relieve my anxiety; we are both in Christ" (NEB).

Paul did not spell out in plain words what would give him this joy. But Philemon got the message.

**LIFE AND WORK SERIES**

Lesson for May 4

# In our families

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

Basic Passages: Colossians 3:18 to 4:1; Titus 2:2-8  
Focal Passages: Colossians 3:18-21; Titus 2:1-6

"Relationships in the Christian Life" is the five-Sunday unit which begins with this lesson, "In Our Families."

Family life in American society is in a sad state of affairs. If you are part of a healthy Christian family, consider yourself most fortunate.

It is embarrassing and somewhat of an indictment for the church to admit that family life is poor as compared to Jewish and to Oriental families in the United States. Statistics show that criminal activity, child abuse, and divorce within these cultures are very low and more prevalent within Christian families. Of course, these awful human dramas are much higher in families without Christ or some moral teaching.



Bush

Paul offers some principles to the church at Colossae which need our attention today as never before. During Paul's day, wives were nothing more than property, childbearers, and slaves and children were hardly tolerated except when they were old enough to work, get married, and have their own families. Teachings which encouraged love and respect for wives and children were new for that ancient culture. In far too many cases, the same is true in the last part of the 20th century.

You and I must recognize that family life is in trouble. Ignoring a problem does not make it disappear. Ministers and other church leaders need to regularly provide preaching, teaching, and training in effective Christian family life. Single adults separated from families by distance or death can be provided substitute family experiences through programs which encourage occasions of togetherness during holidays or other celebrations. A similar program for senior citizens is also a good ministry.

Husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and children need to really listen to each other and pray, worship, and plan together. This is necessary so family life can reflect the Spirit of Christ.

An old administrative law says, "Don't never assume nothin' nohow." It is my belief that Christians, churches, and denominations have assumed too much through the years. We have assumed that getting a person saved will solve all his problems and will equip him for a rosy future. Far too often, we baptize them, place them on church rolls, and from there they are on their own.

Paul did not assume anything, especially in the areas of Christian growth and family life. He spent much of his time instructing new converts and seasoned followers. When he could not do this in person, he wrote letters or encouraged and sent fellow ministers who could be on-the-scene equippers.

Husbands, wives, and parents must deliberately schedule a wide variety of events to encourage wholesome relationships. At least weekly, family talks where everyone is free to be open without fear of punishment is needed. We say we want family members to be honest with us but when they are, sometimes we become angry and are reluctant to admit shortcomings. Included in honest sharing should also be praise and compliments. Both criticism and praise should be couched in terms of kindness and love, never harshness and hate. Most of us wish we could take back some words and actions of the past. But, we all must start from now and pray and work for the best.

Recreation — picnics, trips, sports, exercise, games, social life — is essential to a healthy family life.

Family devotions and regular involvement in church are also keys to successful family living.

We must be careful not to expect a church and church programs to carry the load of family training. Most family relationships are in the home. Church programs are not suitable substitutes for individual and/or family godly instruction.

Christian minister and sociologist Tony Campolo has emphasized the value

to families of traditions and celebrations — Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, anniversaries, birthdays, graduation, family reunions, new jobs, or promotions.

Quality family life is a vital part of relationships in the Christian life. May we as Christian family members and churches work at producing healthy families.



James Baird  
Graphics Production Manager  
General Life and Accident  
Insurance Company  
Nashville

I was placed in the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home when I was a baby and stayed there until I was a junior in high school. I spent the last two years of high school with an aunt in Nashville.

After high school, I joined the Navy's submarine service as a torpedoman for four years. While stationed on a nuclear submarine we made the first east-west transit of the polar ice cap.

After my military service I attended advertising art school before starting to work as an artist for National Life and Accident Insurance Company which was bought by the company I presently work for.

I met my wife, Betty, at National Life. We have one child, Andrea, who is a high school senior honor student.

I certainly do not hold my life up to anyone as an example, (we love the perfect example) but everything that has happened in my life that is positive can be traced to my roots in the Baptist Children's Home.

My first and second grade teacher taught me to see the beauty in things and encouraged me to draw. Mr. Morris Frank, my houseparent, was a father image to hundreds of youngsters. He taught me more things about life than many real parents I see today. And yes, there were many times I saw the business end of a paddle to help me understand the correct way to act.

Thousands of people all over the state by their caring and sharing have helped me to be able to pull my own load in life. And because they cared, I can now help others less fortunate than I am.

Mr. James Baird has supported our Children's Homes for many years, but we owe him a special thanks for the wonderful artwork he donated for this year's Mother Day Offering poster and bulletin, "Without a Home ... There is no Homecoming."

Support the  
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Children's Homes, Inc.  
Sunday, May 11, 1986

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**CHANGING MINISTRIES** — Home Missionary Jim Holladay loves the children attending the child development center of his church. The center is one of the ways the church trying to meet the needs of two major transitions in the community in 30 years.

# Church faces second of major transitions

By Sherri Anthony Brown

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)— East Baptist Church has come full circle. Twice it has committed to stay in its transitional neighborhood — first in the late 1950s when the church suffered from white flight, and currently as low income housing gives way to Yuppie condominiums, near downtown Louisville, Ky.

For the past 13 years, Home Missionary Jim Holladay, pastor of the church and director of Baptist Center, housed in the same building, has been the stabilizing factor in the seemingly ever-changing community.

The congregation, in the same location since 1842, pledged to be a neighborhood church when the first change came. With the onset of subsidized housing, the church began weekday ministries to neighborhood children, including building a gymnasium.

As urban renewal swept the area in the late 1950s, the church was required by the city to make \$500,000 repairs or tear the building down. With no other choice, members opted to demolish the building and rebuild on the same property. They incorporated their church, their weekday ministry center, and offices of Long Run Baptist Association in the same building.

In 1973, Holladay went to Louisville to study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. For his field placement experience, Holladay signed up with East Baptist Church. For \$50 a month he worked with the campus minister. On weekends he coached basketball at the local YMCA. After seminary graduation, he became associate pastor of East Baptist Church and in 1979 he was appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as pastor/director.

Between 1975 and 1983 the community lost 75 percent of its residential population because four hospitals and a regional medical center were built in the neighborhood.

"This meant that our ministry had to once again change radically," explains Holladay. "When I first came here, ministry was primarily for underprivileged children. Now about 90 percent of our children have one or more parents in the medical field."

The church recently evaluated the needs of its changing community. This summer, one of its findings will be put into effect. Instead of offering traditional

children's day camp, members will conduct a summer program for senior adults to reach several hundred elderly people in nearby Dosker Manor, a government housing project for senior adults and handicapped people.

They also are trying to discover ways to reach the young urban professionals moving into the area. "But that's going to be difficult since the management of the condominiums and apartments won't allow us to visit door-to-door," explains Holladay. He is trying to find a couple who will volunteer their time to live and work among the Yuppie community.

Holladay admits the changes have caused a personal struggle. "I find myself no longer working with street people and other underprivileged people — both of which are concerns of mine," he says. "I'm concerned about indigent health care too. Here we are surrounded by four hospitals, but they're all private."

However, Holladay still champions some concerns. At one time the church's child development center was challenged. Five days a week, the center cares for 105 children, from two months to five years old. Almost 90 percent of the center's budget comes from child development center fees. "But some people felt that child development center was a service, not a ministry," says Holladay.

As he began to study child care and evaluate the program, he discovered "we're planting seeds of love and trust in children. During their first five years of life, children develop feelings about other people. We're making it easier for a child to trust other people, and for that child to respond to God."

"Sometimes it's hard work fighting battles and struggling to discover the right things to do, but every now and then I see that we're making a little difference in someone's life and I can keep going," says Holladay.

His favorite memory is of a trip to the movie with his wife and six 10-year-olds. On the way home one of the girls said, "I can't wait till Christmas Eve. I'm going to look up in the sky all night long till I see it."

"You mean Santa and his reindeer?" Holladay asked.

"No, dummy," she retorted. "Jesus' star."

"That makes it all worth it," says Holladay.

# FMB evaluates goals of Bold Mission Thrust

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— Bold Mission Thrust, 10 years later, has become far more than a slogan, leaders of Southern Baptists' foreign missions effort report.

Adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1976, Bold Mission Thrust has prompted "a stirring of conscience to give more attention to the whole world," says R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Messengers to the 1976 SBC annual meeting in Norfolk, Va., took on a challenge: "Every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ in the next 25 years." During the past 10 years, Bold Mission Thrust has become a key theme in Sunday School literature and other dimensions of Southern Baptist life. The emphasis is to continue through the year 2000.

The 1976 convention, in launching Bold Mission Thrust, also adopted a range of long-term foreign missions goals, such as a career missionary force of 5,000 in 125 countries. In the areas of missionary force and countries, the growth rates are ahead of the pace necessary to reach the goals by the turn of the century. And the growth rate toward 10,000 long- and short-term volunteers each year is ahead of initial projections.

However, in four key areas of overseas work — baptisms; churches; the total number of churches, chapels, and preaching points; and membership — the growth rates to date have fallen short of Bold Mission Thrust dreams.

An annual increase of about 10 percent was targeted in each case. But in baptisms, the annual growth rate has been 7 percent; churches, 7.5 percent; churches plus chapels and preaching points, 6 percent; and overseas church membership, 8.4 percent.

Despite the shortfalls, Bold Mission Thrust has sparked a "healthy upturn" in overseas evangelism and church development, notes Charles Bryan, senior vice-president for overseas operations, in a report prepared for the Foreign Mission Board trustees' April meeting.

Growth rates are above the 10-year period prior to Bold Mission Thrust, when baptisms increased at an average annual rate of 5.3 percent; churches, 5.6 percent; churches plus chapels and preaching points, 4.8 percent; and membership, 6.2 percent.

"Certainly (Bold Mission Thrust) growth rates are healthy compared to the way growth rates are defined in business and industry," says Bill O'Brien, the board's executive vice-president. But Baptists must resist "a notch-on-the-gunbarrel" mind-set toward statistics, he says. A focus on "persons willingly committing themselves to the kingdom" must be maintained.

Still, goal-setting can serve valid purposes, O'Brien says, noting Bold Mission Thrust has underscored the need for painstaking research, planning, and decision-making for "the most effective utilization of personnel and financial resources."

"We're looking at deployment and redeployment of our personnel more than ever," Bryan adds. The board wants to be sure its missionaries are located where they can work most effectively in sharing the gospel and starting new churches.

The goals in baptisms and other facets of overseas work, Parks says, "cannot be fulfilled by Southern Baptists alone,"

but primarily by the Baptists in each country. In effect, "We have set goals for the Baptists of the world without the awareness or consent."

Parks says he intends to increase cooperative efforts in the future, building upon last summer's global evangelization strategy consultation at Ridgeway N.C. Baptist leaders from 21 nations participated.

O'Brien says he hopes progress toward Bold Mission Thrust goals will accelerate "in the latter part of the century and more and more of these people commit themselves to the internationalization of the missions process. If we were simply out there alone trying (to evangelize), might be a little discouraging."

That challenge, in financial terms, was not clearly stated at the outset, Parks points out. Calculating the cost would have been extremely difficult and tenuous, because of worldwide inflation over a 25-year period. But using solely the increase in career missionaries from 2,667 at the end of 1975 to 5,000 by the turn of the century as a measure, Southern Baptist commitment to foreign mission needed nearly to double beyond inflation.

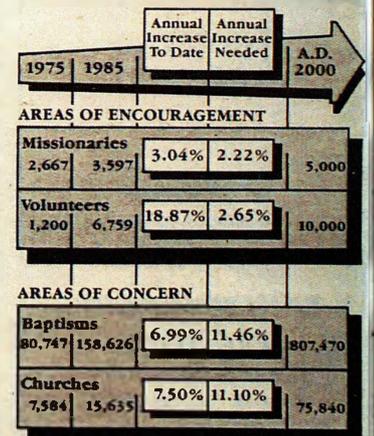
A stewardship emphasis to bolster Bold Mission Thrust was launched last fall with Planned Growth in Giving. Among the campaign's goals is an increase in combined Southern Baptist giving from \$3-billion to \$20-billion by the year 2000.

Bold Mission Thrust marks "one of the few times in our history where we've committed ourselves to a unifying theme over a long enough period of time that it really becomes known among Southern Baptists," Parks says.

It has been a clear reminder of "what we have been as Southern Baptists since 1845... missions people," O'Brien says. "Now that such large percentages of Southern Baptist churches are made up of people from non-Baptist backgrounds it would be easy to fragment in terms of our understanding of ourselves."

"The whole world is our responsibility," Bryan states. "Whether we have missionaries in a country or not, we have that responsibility. Bold Mission Thrust will keep us praying... planning... stretching the mission dollar."

## BOLD MISSION THRUST 10-Year Update on Foreign Missions



**GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS** — Southern Baptist response to Bold Mission Thrust for missionaries and volunteers is ahead of schedule, but churches and baptisms overseas are lagging behind projections.