

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Stanley agrees to allow individual challenges

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)— One-by-one challenges to nominees for the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees will be allowed at the 1986 annual meeting, according to SBC President Charles F. Stanley.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, told Baptist Press he intends to allow challenges on an individual basis but will rule alternate slates out of order, regardless of what messengers decide to do about changing Bylaw 16, at the annual meeting, scheduled June 10-12 in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The SBC Executive Committee has recommended Bylaw 16 be changed, adding wording to allow one-by-one challenges but prohibiting substitution of alternate slates. The action is scheduled early in the business of the convention, prior to the election of the Committee on Boards. To be adopted, the amendment must be favored by two-thirds of the messengers present and voting.

Under SBC bylaws, the president ap-

points the 54-member Committee on Committees, which nominates two persons from each of the 27 qualified state conventions to serve on the Committee on Boards. The Committee on Boards, in turn, nominates persons to serve on the 26 national agencies of the SBC.

The sequence, starting with the election of a president and ending with nominees to boards of trust, has been at the center of the seven-year struggle in the 14.4-million-member denomination between those who want to change the denomination to a more conservative direction and others who wish to see it continue as it has been.

In Dallas, Stanley ruled challenges to the Committee on Committees' nominations must be one-by-one, disallowing the substitution of an alternate slate. His ruling was overturned by messengers, 12,576 (51.59 percent) to 11,801 (48.41 percent).

Stanley, however, following the advice of parliamentarian Wayne Allen of Memphis, ruled any attempt to alter the committee nominations out of order and moved on to a vote on the original slate of

(Continued on page 2)



HMB HEADQUARTERS — National offices for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board are located in this seven-story building in Atlanta, just up Spring Street from the Georgia World Congress Center, site of the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, set for June 10-12. The Home Mission Board building will be open for self-guided tours during office hours the week of the convention.

Appeals court hears views on 'political action' suit

JACKSON — The Tennessee Court of Appeals was told May 21 that there is no compelling state interest which would declare that churches which speak out on referenda issues are political action committees during an appeal hearing of a lawsuit which was lost by 13 Jackson-area churches.

The churches are appealing an Oct. 30 ruling by Judge Joe C. Morris of the Chancery Court of Madison County which declared that the churches which had opposed an August 1984 liquor-by-the-drink referendum are political action committees under the 1980 Campaign Disclosure Act.

The 13 churches — nine of which are Southern Baptists — sued the state after Attorney General Michael Cody gave an opinion that churches became PACs when they contributed more than \$250 to a political cause, and thereby were required to file financial disclosure statements. The trial was held Aug. 7, 1985.

Chancellor Morris had ruled that the

act "does not specifically mention churches or church groups, but neither exempts them." The churches filed an appeal with the Court of Appeals, contending their Constitutional right of speech and religion is hampered by the filing of financial disclosure statements.

At the May 21 hearing of the churches' appeal of the Chancery Court decision, Lee Boothby, an attorney for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, told the Court of Appeals that "the real compelling state interest is the protection of the church to be able to speak out."

Boothby argued that before the state can apply the Campaign Disclosure Act to churches, it must show a compelling reason why it is necessary to infringe upon the churches' Constitutional Rights. He noted that the only compelling reason accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court for applying such laws is to prevent corruption, claiming that in a referendum this is no possibility of corruption.

Assistant Attorney General Michael Catalano countered that the law does not prohibit churches from speaking out on issues but when money is spent in their effort, "that money must be disclosed." He said that the state's compelling interest is that the disclosures tell voters how elections are financed and deter corruption in elections.

"All we are asking for is fair and equal treatment when a group enters the political process," Catalano said.

Ivy Scarborough of Jackson, representing the churches, observed that "Constitutional case law does not require fair and equal" treatment in cases like this. Michael Tabor of Jackson also represented the churches.

As expected, the Court of Appeal judges took the appeal under advisement and will announce their decision at a later date.

Layman declares 'candidacy' for SBC first vice-president

By James H. Cox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Saying he believes it is time laypeople take a more active involvement in the business affairs of their denomination, Henry B. Huff of Louisville, Ky., May 20 became the first announced candidate for the office of first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986.

An attorney and active layman in Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Huff said he would be a nominee for first vice-president "no matter who is elected" president of the 14.4-million-member SBC. Huff currently is the convention's second vice-president.

The election of president is scheduled on the SBC agenda in Atlanta for 2:10 p.m. Tuesday, June 10. A second election, either a run-off for president, should it become necessary, or the election of first vice-president is set for 4 p.m. that day. A third election period is set for 7:30 that evening, which presumably will be for the election of second vice-president if there are no run-offs for the previous offices.

Two pastors already have announced their candidacies for president — Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, and Winfred Moore of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas.

Huff said he is "answering the call of a number of friends" who have urged him to be a candidate for his denomination's second-highest office. He added

that, as second vice-president, he has acquired some knowledge in the convention of how it operates and believes he could make a contribution.

"I do know parliamentary procedures," the Louisville lawyer said. He also acknowledged he is a layman who has not been theologically identified and sees himself as an alternative to some others.

Huff believes Southern Baptists need at this time to "conserve the truth of the Bible while building bridges between us."

Well-drillers demonstrate faith

MORETAN, Togo (BP) — Amid scorching heat and ridicule from non-believers, a group of Baptist well-drillers in Togo kept drilling and eventually reached water.

Baptist mission well-drillers already had drilled two dry holes in a village called Igboloudja, Togo. They decided to try one more time.

The Christians in the village prayed that on this last try, the much-needed water would be found. The non-believers made fun of their prayers, saying there was no water and refusing to help carry the water needed in the drilling process.

The Christians worked alone, walking more than two miles with water-filled tubs balanced on their heads. They made many trips in scorching heat.

Then water gushed up from the third hole, proving to be one of the most productive wells in the region.

"Pray for these faithful Christians as they share physical water with fellow villagers," said Southern Baptist Missionary Marsha Key, "and that in so doing, their act of unselfish love will introduce these unbelievers to the 'Water of Life.'"

Dunn urges Reagan not to replace vacancy of ambassador to Vatican

WASHINGTON (BP)— James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, has asked President Ronald Reagan not to name a replacement for former American ambassador to the Vatican William A. Wilson, who resigned May 19.

Wilson's resignation as the first U.S. ambassador to the Vatican since the mid-19th century came in the aftermath of reported embarrassment inside the Reagan administration over an unauthorized trip Wilson made last March to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Dunn, an outspoken opponent of renewed U.S.-Vatican relations, asked

Reagan in a May 21 letter to "rethink this entire arrangement," one he said is "unfair, unequal, and unconstitutional." Dunn added, "We call upon you, Mr. President, to refuse to renew this ill-advised venture, a dangerous entanglement of church and state."

He wrote further, "We welcome the fact that today the United States does not have an ambassador to the Pope. Your administration's embarrassment at Ambassador Wilson's behavior is understandable. In fact, for many Americans, the exchange of ambassadors between our government and a church is an ongoing embarrassment."

MK recovers following surgery to remove cancerous tumor

HARRISBURG, Ill. (BP)— Missionary kid Mark Shelby, who underwent surgery in January to remove a cancerous brain tumor, has been given a clean bill of health by his neurosurgeon.

The 16-year-old and his missionary mother, Avah, were scheduled to fly home to Bangkok, Thailand, on May 22 to be reunited with Mark's father, Jack, and 13-year-old brother, Scott.

Mark suffered from seizures before his parents took him to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis in December for testing and eventual surgery. Later, surgeons reopened the wound to remove infection.

In early May, the teen-ager accompanied his mother to the state Woman's Missionary Union Convention in Springfield, Ill. Mrs. Shelby went to the platform first and asked: "Have you ever

seen a dream walking?" As her son left his seat to join her, she continued: "Well, I've seen a prayer walking."

"I want to thank you for your prayers," Mark told the audience. Those prayers "kept me steady during the ordeal of surgeries and radiation treatment," he said.

Mark suffered severe headaches before the two-day meeting ended and returned to the hospital the next week for scheduled follow-up exams. They showed fluid had formed on his brain.

Further testing on May 17 indicated the tumor had not recurred. An eight-day culture of the fluid extracted from his head has shown no bacterial infection.

"Mark is now well," Mrs. Shelby said. "He has turned a corner. Mark will stay on medication for one to two years and will undergo periodic (brain) scans."

Individual challenges . . .

(Continued from page 1)

nominees. The slate was elected, 13,123 (57.8 percent) to 9,581 (42.2 percent).

The ruling was the center of a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court which sought to have the Committee on Boards election declared invalid, to have the court interpret the bylaws of the SBC, and to issue an injunction to prevent a similar ruling in 1986.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hall, however, ruled in favor of the SBC and its Executive Committee, saying the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibited him from interfering in internal church matters.

In advance of the 1986 annual meeting, Stanley told Baptist Press he and parliamentarians he has appointed have discussed the matter and agreed to allow one-by-one challenges but to disallow alternate slates.

Previously, Stanley announced the appointment of three parliamentarians — two veteran SBC leaders and the third a registered, accredited parliamentarian — to help him with presiding at the meeting. On May 20 he added two assistant parliamentarians — both Southern Baptist deacons and attorneys — to help with presiding in the auxiliary meeting halls.

Parliamentarians include James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, and SBC president 1982-84; John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., and SBC first vice-president 1982-84; and Barry McCarty, a former vice-president of the American Institute of Parliamentarians, a professor at Roanoke Bible College at Elizabeth City,

N.C., and an ordained Church of Christ minister.

Stanley also named Joe Reynolds, a member at Second Baptist Church of Houston, and Dan Collins, a member of Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., as assistant parliamentarians.

Reynolds is founder and senior director of Reynolds, Allen & Cook, a lawfirm with offices in Houston, Austin, and Washington. He is a Sunday School teacher and deacon at the Houston church.

Collins has his own corporate and tax lawfirm in Greenville, S.C. He recently transferred his church membership from First Baptist Church, Taylors, where he was a deacon and Sunday School teacher, to Brushy Creek Baptist Church. Collins also has been nominated by the 1986 Committee on Boards to be a trustee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

He noted the "bylaw is unclear," and said he still believes the effort by a single messenger to substitute an alternate slate in 1985 was both out of order and "unfair. I do not think it is right for one person to try to replace the work a whole committee has done, especially when the committee (on Committees) has worked very diligently to come up with these names."

Stanley said he hopes the revision to Bylaw 16 passes, "not just for my sake, but for the sake of future presidents. The bylaw now is very unclear and what happened last year had never happened before. The change clarifies it for all of us. I think if everybody will just get honest, most people will agree it is the fairest way to do it."



DEDICATION SERVICE — Tom Madden (left), executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, participated in the dedication service for the new facilities at Covenant Baptist Church, Bristol. Stan Hill (right), is pastor of the church which began in 1983. The new facilities include worship and family life centers, educational space, kitchen, and office space.

Crowder attorneys drop lawsuit in state court, continue appeal

ATLANTA (BP)— A state court lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee has been "voluntarily dismissed" by attorneys for the five plaintiffs.

The suit, filed in Superior Court of Fulton County, Ga., on Jan. 23, was identical to one filed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder of Birmingham, Ala., and two other plaintiffs in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

On May 5, U.S. District Judge Robert Hall ruled for the SBC, declaring the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits secular courts from interfering in internal church affairs.

On the following day, the Crowders and their co-plaintiffs — Henry C. Cooper of Windsor, Mo., and H. Allen McCartney of Vero Beach, Fla. — notified the court they will appeal the decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, also in Atlanta.

John Floyd, an attorney with the Atlanta law firm of Bondurant, Mixson, and Elmore, which represented plaintiffs in both cases, said the Superior Court suit was dismissed voluntarily, which means it can be brought back, if plaintiffs so desire.

"Judge Hall made his ruling fairly clear," Floyd said. "It was an interpretation of the federal Constitution, which would also apply to the Superior

Court in the State of Georgia. The state court could disagree with Judge Hall, but obviously could not overrule him. If the superior court judge did disagree, Judge Hall's ruling would still stand and there would not be a complete victory."

"Therefore we feel it is more efficient to proceed with the direct appeal," he said.

Floyd indicated the dismissal "by no means is an admission of any sort that we think Judge Hall is correct. We respect him as a judge and realize the time he put in on his decision, but obviously we disagree with his ruling."

Floyd said a decision in the appeal is not expected in time for the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC, but "hopefully before 1987." He added an oral argument will be requested before the appeals court.

Giving triples inflation rate

NASHVILLE (BP)— Southern Baptists' year-to-date increases in contributions to the Cooperative Program have stretched to three times the U.S. inflation rate, announced Harold C. Bennett president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

"The convention's seven-month Cooperative Program increase is 7.13 percent, compared to a Consumer Price Index of 2.3 percent," Bennett said. "The Cooperative Program is growing more than three times as fast as inflation."

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified giving plan that supports 19 agencies and institutions which conduct mission, education, and ministry activities worldwide. The Cooperative Program fiscal year runs from Oct 1 through Sept. 30.

Through the end of April, 1985-86 Cooperative Program contributions totaled \$72,735,276, an increase of \$4,842,495 over the same period the previous year, Bennett reported. April contributions were \$9,954,113, an increase of \$164,289 over April of 1985.

More good news is found in reports of Southern Baptists' contributions to their mission offerings, Bennett added. "The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions is 3.75 percent over the same period a year ago," he said. "The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is up 14.28 percent.



TENNESSEAN HONORED — Troy D. Woodbury (left), a Nashville businessman and member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, recently was honored for eight years of service to the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary. Arthur L. Walker Jr. (right) presented a plaque during the agency's annual meeting in May.

Missouri Baptists respond to tornado victims' needs

SIKESTON, Mo. (BP) — Fellowship Baptist Church's gymnasium was destroyed, leaving only a pile of twisted metal and splintered wood after tornadoes blasted Sikeston, Mo., May 15.

The educational building, which suffered heavy damage from flying trees, may have to be bulldozed down. The sanctuary, minus its steeple, managed to escape serious damage although at least one wall will need repair.

Standing on the front lawn of Fellowship Baptist Church's once well-kept property, Pastor Don Embry noted, "The spiritual body is a lot more important than the physical buildings. We can meet in a storefront if we have a sweet spirit and can win people to Christ."

Despite the material losses, Embry and his congregation fared much better than many victims of tornadoes which swept through the Southeast Missouri towns of Sikeston and Vanduser. According to George Reeves, Red Cross disaster chairman for Cape Girardeau County, the tornadoes, along with flooding from heavy rain the previous day, caused five deaths in the area. The storms also destroyed or damaged hundreds of houses and other buildings.

In response to the tragedy, the Red Cross requested the Missouri Baptist Convention disaster relief team to provide communication links and food services to victims, public service personnel, and clean-up crews.

Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief Director Paul Harvey and Coordinator Jerry Kersey responded with a team of 15 volunteers from throughout the state who prepared and delivered food to tornado victims in Sikeston and Vanduser

and to flood victims in Cape Girardeau. Kersey noted the Baptist volunteers prepared about 1,200 meals per day over the weekend. "This fills an initial need for the victims and workers," he explained. "It also does a lot for the witness of local Baptist churches."

Along with the convention's disaster relief team, other Missouri Baptists were involved in ministry to victims and clean-up crews. Several members of First Baptist Church in Sikeston — where the relief trailer was set up — helped with food preparation in the church's kitchen.

Members of Vanduser Baptist Church opened their doors the night of the tornadoes to provide their homeless neighbors with a place of shelter. The following few days, church facilities were used as an area Red Cross feeding station.

Church members there also collected canned goods and clothing until the sanctuary was completely filled with the donations and they had to start turning down additional gifts. "By and large, the community has taken the loss very well and has really been heartened by the help," said Ted Armes, deacon chairman. "Our ministry now is helping these people."

Included in that help was a busload of staff members and their spouses from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, who cancelled a weekend staff retreat to travel to Vanduser and help with cleanup. Describing that group's participation as a "highlight," Kersey added others, such as Off-Site Coordinator Judy Brown, played vital roles in the disaster relief response.



TEAMWORK FOR GOAL — WMU vice-presidents (from left to right) Lillie Stricklin, south central region; Lucille Hatfield, north central region; Marjorie Bates, north-eastern region; Faye Cox, eastern region; Freddie Lou Bolton, southwestern region; Inez Franks, southeastern region; Carol Smith, representing the vice-president from central region; and Betty Summers, northwestern region, receive goals from WMU President Judy Trivette that total the 1986 Golden State Missions Offering goal of \$1,005,000.

WMU board sets largest goals for three missions offerings

The Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board adopted the largest statewide goals for the 1986 state missions offering and the 1987 home and foreign missions offerings at its biannual meeting May 16.

Tennessee WMU President Judy Trivette announced that the adoption was a "historic event" at the meeting, which was held at the Executive Board Building of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The 1986 Golden State Missions Offering goal, which is jointly adopted with the TBC Executive Board, is \$1,005,000, an increase of \$350,000 over last year.

The board also adopted the 1987 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$1,700,888, up \$50,000 from 1986, and a 1987 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$4,500,888, which is \$300,000 more than last year. It was noted that the \$888

in each amount represented the "Vision '88" goal of 88,000 Tennessee WMU members by the 1988 WMU national and state centennial celebration.

The 68-member board, comprised of WMU associational directors in the state, also elected a seven-member nominating committee of which Carolyn Outland, associational WMU director of Concord Baptist Association, will serve as chairperson and Carol Pharris, associational WMU director of McMinn-Meigs Association of Baptists, will serve as co-chairperson. The committee nominates the state WMU officers.

Other business included adoption of a new policy manual for the state organization directed by Katharine Bryan, executive director.

Meron accepts U.N. ministry

ATLANTA (BP) — Ron Meron of Huntsville, Ala., has been named as minister among international diplomats at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's ministry at the United Nations in New York, effective June 1.

Meron is currently a language missionary with the Madison Baptist Association in Huntsville. He will fill a vacancy left by the retirement and death of Elias Golonka, pioneer in the United Nations ministry.

Born in Israel of German parentage, Meron is fluent in four languages. He is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

McCluskey, Roaden to address HCBA

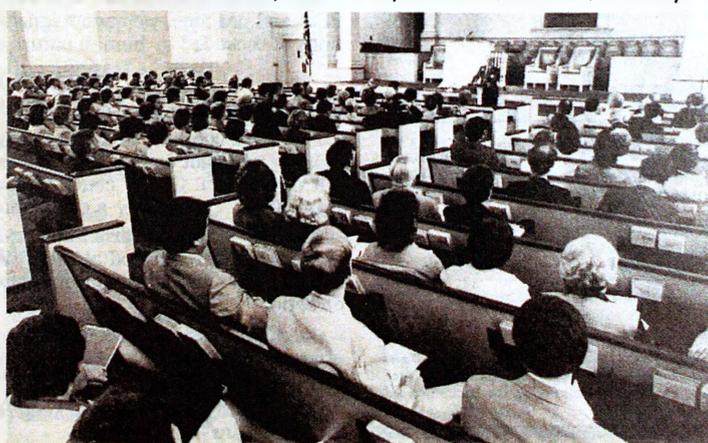
SEYMOUR — James G. McCluskey, pastor of Knoxville's Wallace Memorial Baptist Church and current president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Arliss L. Roaden, executive secretary of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, will be program features for Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy's 160th commencement exercises, May 29 and 30.

McCluskey will speak at baccalaureate, May 29 at 8 p.m. in the Woody Auditorium.

Roaden will speak at commencement exercises, May 30, in the Woody Auditorium.



ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERS — More than 700 Tennessee Baptists attended four Associational Leadership Conferences last week. Monday's conference (above) was held at First Baptist Church, Kingsport, and Tuesday's conference (below) met at First Baptist Church, Athens. Other regional conferences were at First Baptist Church, Humboldt, on Thursday and First Baptist Church, Donelson, on Friday.



Williamson leads camps for WMU

Paula M. Williamson has been named the 1986 camp director for Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Tennessee WMU camps will be held at Camp Linden in Linden June 9-13 and June 16-20 for GAs, and June 23-27 for GAs and Acteens. At Camp Carson in Newport, GA/Acteen Camp will meet June 30 through July 4 and GA Camp will meet July 7-11 and July 14-18.



Williamson

Williamson announced that the theme of the six weeks of camp is "Come Celebrate Choices," and that a new feature will be "Missions Madness" with a new missions emphasis each week. Other features of the camps will be arts and crafts, drama, recreations, nature, and music.

The new camp director asked Baptists to encourage girls who are not members of GAs or Acteens to attend and to pray for the campers and about 15 staffers.

A graduate of Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., Williamson is currently residence director at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. She has served as a summer missions volunteer in Togo, a US-2 missionary for two years in North Carolina, and as a summer missionary in Carolina Beach, N.C., and Michigan.

At WMU camps in North Carolina, Williamson has worked as counselor, unit leader, assistant director, and recreation director.

EDITORIAL

Is there any hope for the Southern Baptist Convention?

During the past month, we have received a number of sermons, analyses, and "open letters" dealing with the current controversy within our Southern Baptist Convention. Those few which have been under 300 words were printed as "letters to the editor."

Although many of these contain very helpful suggestions, in fairness we cannot print any of them without printing them all — and our space limitations would prohibit that.

However, it is imperative that something be said, since we are repeatedly asked, "Is there any hope for healing in the Southern Baptist Convention?" Our answer to that question is, "Yes — but it would take a miracle from God, and apparently we are not ready nor willing to let God heal us."

THE SOURCE OF HEALING

When the subject of God's healing of relations between Himself and His people arises, we often turn to that favorite promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14. We will paraphrase that verse this way:

"If My people known as Southern Baptists, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin against Me and against each other, and will heal the divisions in the Southern Baptist Convention."

Many of those who have studied this passage believe that God's requirements for healing are a progression. If so, the first requirement is humility, which would seem to be a prerequisite for answerable prayer, for coming into the presence of God, and for our willingness to turn from wicked ways through repentance.

Following this Scriptural pattern, it would appear that the leaders and spokesmen in the current SBC controversy have not yet "reached first base." We have noted little, if any, Christlike humility.

Instead, we hear and read volumes of accusatory words — all designed to prove that "we" are right and "they" are wrong. Questions are raised and charges made — by both sides — about a fellow Baptist's motives, methods, and manners.

Frankly, we are sick of those letters and telephone calls which tell us what "they" are doing or saying. None of these express any Christian love nor Christlike humility.

CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE

We claim that Christ is our example, so what better example can we have to the meaning and practice of humility? "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). He washed the feet of uncaring, ambitious disciples. He characterized His life this way, "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

In noting that Jesus was to be our example, Paul declared:

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking on the form of a bondservant, and being made in

the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:5-8, New American Standard Bible).

Can we truly pray for our convention — and expect God to answer our prayers — unless we pray in that kind of humility?

Can we truly expect God to reveal His face and His wisdom — although some of our callers claim to have that wisdom — unless we seek His face in that kind of humility?

Can we truly expect God's strength in turning from wicked ways, when our lack of humility causes us to claim that "our" ways are righteous and "their" ways are wicked?

No wonder God has refused to hear and to heal our convention. We have forgotten that our enemy is Satan — not fellow Baptists who do not happen to agree with "us" 100 percent!

In his writings, the Apostle Paul deals extensively with the inter-conflicts a Christian faces as to which force controls or directs a life. In Galatians 5:16-26, Paul not only discusses these forces, but also lists what each one produces:

"What I say is this: let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of human nature. For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what you want to do. If the Spirit leads you, then you are not subject to the Law.

"What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these. I warn you now as I have before, those who do these things will not possess the Kingdom of God.

"But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. The Spirit has given us life; He must also control our lives. We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another" (Good News Bible).

Look back over the list of attitudes and actions produced by human nature. Does this bear any resemblance to what is being produced by the leaders and spokesmen in our SBC controversy?

If you consider that we are worshipping the idols of "defined Biblical inerrancy" and "denominational loyalty" and that many are "drunk with power" and that there are "political orgies," it is quite plain that Paul's list of human nature products is very appropriate.

Paul declares the results of human nature, "They separate into parties and groups" — does that sound familiar? Also note Paul's inspired selection of words like enemies, fight, jealous, angry, ambitious, and proud.

God's eternal Word goes on to list what the Spirit produces, what are the fruits of the Spirit — love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. Who in their wildest dreams would dare suggest that all — or any — of these words will be used to describe SBC Atlanta?

As "people of the Book" who avow that the Bible is our only source of faith and practice, we cannot ignore nor explain away the vivid descriptions of those led by human nature and of those led by the Spirit.

THERE IS HOPE, IF . . .

"Is there any hope of healing in the Southern Baptist Convention?"

NO, if we continue to depend on human plans and procedures. That is exactly what got us into the mess we are in. Neither "faction" can heal our convention. If they could, it would not be a convention which would honor God — but rather a convention that would "get even with them."

YES, if we will in Christlike humility offer our prayers of repentance and of obedience to God alone . . . if we will recognize what our human natures have produced and humbly will ask for God's forgiveness and direction.

One final question must be faced: "Have we gone so far in our accusations, hurt each other so deeply, and dug our ditch of division so deep that there is no hope for reconciliation?"

God is ready and willing to keep His promises! Are we ready and willing to let Him?

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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.

Tennessee Baptists victory

Dear editor:
Good for Tennessee Baptists in their victory regarding the integrated auxiliary issue.
Tennessee Baptists are to be highly commended for standing behind their children's homes and pursuing this important religious liberty matter. I was at the meeting of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention several years ago when it voted to pursue this matter for however long it took and at

whatever expense. You've done it and won! Without the support from the state convention, such matters are hardly ever pursued successfully.

I also want to recognize the outstanding work of Tennessee Baptist attorneys Frank Ingraham, John Stophel, and Richard Bethea Jr. for their dedication and dogged persistence in handling the TBCH matter. They have performed brilliantly in their labors and deserve credit.

It would be a serious omission if I did not commend the Baptist and Reflector's editor, Al Shackleford, for his faithfulness in keeping the Baptists of Tennessee apprised of this issue. An informed public is always a pre-condition for the enlargement of liberty and democracy.

Finally, one cannot fully appreciate the magnitude of this victory if he is not aware of the decade of hard work done by the late general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, John W. Baker. If he

were around, his celebration of this religious liberty victory would match those of you in Tennessee most closely affected by this new IRS ruling.

Watch out! Tennessee Baptists are a formidable foe against violations of religious freedom and insensitivity to church-state separation.

James M. Dunn
200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

SBC voting explanations

Dear editor:
As the time approaches for our Southern Baptist Convention, I want to pass a compliment on the Baptist and Reflector and make an appeal. The compliment first: last year after the convention most state papers reported the alleged voting irregularities. The Baptist and Reflector is to be commended for not doing so. All of the reports I read were from hearsay; no authentication; no investigation! Thank you for having no part in such unchristian activities.

Now, my plea: I ask the officers of our convention to make plain the voting procedure and leave it there! If a person is dishonest enough to vote illegally, a repeated approach to the podium with pronouncements will not remedy the situation. All this does is to provide copy fodder for the media. Please, let us get away from this childish practice. As I recall, we heard such prattle at almost every ballot time last year in Dallas.

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

Slanders all professors

Dear editor:
I am responding to a recent article published in your paper with quotations from a speech made by Lee Roberts, a layman who is Chairman of the 1986 SBC Committee on Boards. According to that article, Roberts charged that "false doctrines and destructive heresies" taught by some Southern Baptist professors comprise spiritual "slop" which is starving their students.

Since Roberts makes mention of "faculty members at five Southern Baptist institutions," I assume that his charges are leveled at some unnamed professors in five of our six Southern Baptist seminaries, and unnamed. Thus his broad brush slanders all professors in all of our seminaries.

I am a graduate of one of our Southern Baptist seminaries, and I have served about 25 years on the faculties of two of them. I also spent 14 years as a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan. I am now retired but still teach occasionally.

Is Roberts unaware of the established procedures for dealing with alleged heresy in our seminaries? These procedures certainly do not include the leveling of slanderous and unspecified charges at unnamed individuals and institutions! Where is the spirit of Jesus in this kind of unethical broadside?

I know many, if not most, of the persons who teach in our six Southern Baptist seminaries. They are sincere and dedicated scholars who have signed the statements of faith required by their institutions. They are Baptists who know what it means to be a Baptist. In no way do they deserve to be smeared and insulted.

I trust that the host of students, past and present, who have been nurtured in our seminaries to become effective min-

especially the Tuesday session, when most major decisions will be made.

Referring to a recent peace proposal issued by Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, and expected to be a candidate for the convention presidency, Honeycutt expressed hope "that whoever is elected to lead us in the future will pledge himself to this kind of fairness."

Moore's proposal includes spreading board and agency trustee appointments to more churches, adopting a nominating process that draws on nominations by state convention leadership, making appointments from churches which are strong Cooperative Program supporters, and using fairness in conducting convention business.

Honeycutt also urged convention messengers to elect a president "who affirms the priesthood of all believers," including the role of laypersons in church leadership.

He encouraged Southern Baptists to recognize and support "our authentic diversity." Noting the SBC Peace Committee subgroups found no Southern Baptist seminary teaching outside of its statement of faith, he indicated this offers hope for peace within the denomination.

Leukemia strikes Missouri leader

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director Rheubin L. South has been diagnosed as suffering from leukemia. He is being treated at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis.

South has experienced health problems since November of last year. Doctors initially diagnosed the illness as anemia. In March, South was forced to cancel his travel schedule and cut back office responsibilities.

On May 12, South was admitted to Barnes Hospital suffering from pneumonia. Additional tests confirmed his blood condition had degenerated into leukemia. South is undergoing chemotherapy treatment and is expected to remain hospitalized through June.

Honeycutt urges SBC messengers to choose 'fairness' president

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Baptists should go to Atlanta this summer and elect a convention president "committed to be the president of all the people, not merely to the constituency which may elect him," Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has urged.

Honeycutt made his exhortation in his column in The Tie, Southern seminary's publication sent to 55,000 alumni, donors, and other "friends" of the seminary.

He stressed the importance of attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta, June 10-12.

Sam 'Frosty' Holt, C-N coach, dies

Sam B. "Frosty" Holt, athletic director emeritus of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, died May 24 at Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Jefferson City. He was 83 years old.

Jerry King, associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's evangelism department, and Charles Trentham, pastor of the Church of the Redeemer in Jefferson City, led the funeral service at Farrar Funeral Home in Jefferson City. He was buried at West View Cemetery in Jefferson City.

Earning 13 athletic letters, the most ever earned by a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Holt was a student coach and in 1929 became athletic director and coach of football, baseball, and basketball at his alma mater. He retired in 1968.

The Holt Field House on the campus was named in 1959 in his honor. In 1963 he received the Distinguished Service Award of the American Association of Baseball Coaches and was named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' Baseball Hall of Fame. In 1970 he was named to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

A member of First Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Holt is survived by his wife, Bonita Sharp Holt of Jefferson City; sons, Jack Holt of Kentucky and Joe Holt of Clarksville; four grandsons; and three granddaughters.

isters of Jesus Christ, will not be silent in the face of this immoral maligning of their teachers and alma maters.

E. Luther Copeland
3701 Pembroke Place
Raleigh, NC 27612

Political poppycock

Dear editor:
As a native Tennessean and a student at Southwestern seminary, I wish to address some remarks made recently by Lee Roberts, chairman of the 1986 SBC Committee on Boards. At a meeting in Nashville on April 22, Mr. Roberts charges that "slop" was being taught at Southern Baptist institutions.

This charge is an insult to those who have given their lives to teaching in our institutions. The men and women in whose classes I have sat have had a profound influence on my life. Their commitment to Christ, their dedicated scholarship, and their personal integrity have been an inspiration. These are people whom Southern Baptists can and should be proud of and grateful for.

In making his charge, Roberts stated that these persons "don't believe what 14-million Southern Baptists believe." I find this statement baffling. I am amazed that anyone would represent 14-million Southern Baptists as having identical beliefs. There are probably very few Sunday School classes which do not have at least some diversity of beliefs.

Roberts was also quoted as saying that Winfred Moore may or may not "believe the truth." This statement is political poppycock. Winfred Moore is held in great respect among Texas Baptists and now among Baptists throughout the convention. His credentials as a conservative pastor are well established. Roberts' statement has no foundation, but its intent is clearly political.

These are difficult days in our convention. For the chairman of the Committee on Boards to make such remarks as these is unfortunate and distressing. Hopes for reconciliation are certainly not served by such actions. I would hope that Roberts would aid the cause of reconciliation by issuing an apology for his statements.

Mark Ashworth
1724-H West Seminary Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76115

Indignation brings judgment

Dear editor:
I have for some time read on too many occasions the letters from individuals seemingly filled with indignation toward some of God's anointed men and women. I am concerned that some are slowly but surely bringing about a very certain judgment upon themselves for lifting up their voice against God's anointed.

We would do ourselves a lot of good to listen again to James 5:9: "Grudge not one against another BRETHREN, lest ye be condemned: behold the judge standeth at the door."

I, like many Southern Baptist pastors (and concerned individuals) realize that there are obvious and apparent differences among us; and there is a need for change.

With that in mind, allow this small church pastor to offer his peace proposal: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye (we) may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

If we would but stay on our knees, stay in the Book, and stay after souls, I feel we would regain the "peculiar people" status that God would desire of us.

David L. Drake
P.O. Box N
Cedartown, GA 30125

Southern Baptist Convention

June 10-12, 1986 - World Congress Center, Atlanta

Theme: "Love Never Fails" (1 Corinthians 13:8)

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 10

- 8:30 Music for inspiration
- 9:00 Call to order; Congregational singing; Prayer
- 9:10 Registration report and constitution of convention; Committee on Order of Business report
- 9:20 Welcome by Frank Harris, governor of Georgia
- 9:25 Response by John H. Allen, Alaska
- 9:30 Prayer time
- 9:40 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:45 Executive Committee report (Part 1)

- 10:40 Introduction of business and resolutions
- 11:10 Congregational singing; music
- 11:20 President's address by Charles F. Stanley
- 12:00 Benediction

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 10

- 1:00 Evangelistic singers
- 2:00 Congregational singing; Prayer
- 2:10 Election of officers
- 2:20 Messenger information survey
- 2:30 Introduction of business and resolutions
- 2:40 Committee on Boards report
- 2:55 Prayer time; Congregational singing
- 3:10 Executive Committee report (Part 2)
- 3:55 Congregational singing
- 4:00 Election of officers; Committee on Committees report; Miscellaneous business
- 5:00 Benediction

TUESDAY NIGHT, JUNE 10

- 6:30 Music for inspiration
- 7:00 Congregational singing; Prayer
- 7:10 Peace Committee report by Charles G. Fuller
- 7:30 Election of officers
- 7:45 Sunday School Board report

- 8:15 Congregational singing
- 8:20 Home Mission Board report
- 9:20 Benediction

WEDNESDAY MORNING JUNE 11

- 8:30 Music by combined adult choirs, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis
- 9:00 Congregational singing; Prayer
- 9:10 Election of officers
- 9:25 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary report
- 9:35 Woman's Missionary Union report
- 9:45 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary report
- 9:55 Historical Commission report
- 10:05 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary report
- 10:15 Education Commission report
- 10:25 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary report
- 10:35 Brotherhood Commission report
- 10:45 Prayer time
- 10:55 Radio and Television Commission report
- 11:05 Annuity Board report
- 11:15 Election of officers; Committee on Resolutions (first report); Miscellaneous business

- 11:55 Congregational singing
- 12:00 Music by Bellevue Baptist Church adult choirs; Convention sermon by Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis
- 12:30 Benediction

(NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, JUNE 11

- 6:30 Music for inspiration
- 7:00 Congregational singing; Prayer
- 7:10 Election of 1987 SBC preacher, alternate, and music director
- 7:40 Presentation of local arrangements committee, former SBC presidents, and newly elected SBC officers
- 7:55 Bold Mission Thrust report
- 8:05 Planned Growth in Giving report
- 8:15 Congregational singing
- 8:20 Foreign Mission Board report
- 9:20 Benediction

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 12

- 8:30 Music for inspiration
- 9:00 Congregational singing; Prayer
- 9:10 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary report
- 9:20 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs report
- 9:30 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary report
- 9:40 Southern Baptist Foundation report
- 9:50 Congregational singing
- 9:55 Stewardship Commission report
- 10:05 Christian Life Commission report
- 10:15 Prayer time
- 10:20 Baptist World Alliance report
- 10:30 Report of SBC Canada Planning Group
- 10:40 Resolutions Committee (final report)
- 12:30 Benediction

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 12

- 2:00 Music for inspiration
- 2:25 Congregational singing; Prayer
- 2:35 Introduction of fraternal representatives
- 2:40 American Bible Society report
- 2:50 American Baptist Theological Seminary report
- 3:00 Prayer time
- 3:10 Committee on Denominational Calendar report
- 3:20 Denominational Press report
- 3:30 Business
- 4:30 Benediction

Atlanta church to serve meals

ATLANTA — North Atlanta Baptist Church, adjacent to the Georgia Tech campus on Tenth Street in downtown Atlanta, will serve hot meals for messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12.

The church dining hall will be open from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., June 9-12.

The church van will be outbound on Marietta Street in front of the World Congress Center/Omni complex every 30 minutes, beginning at 11:15 a.m., to take messengers to and from the church. The church is about two miles from the convention meeting halls.

Meals will cost \$6.00. Diners will have a choice of meats and vegetables, breads and drinks.

W. Norris Wilkerson, pastor of the church, said, "Ours is a small church, but we want to be of service. We know food service will be a problem at the SBC, so maybe our church can help by feeding messengers."

Alabama RA wins speak out award

MEMPHIS (BP)— David Gainey of Troy, Ala., has been selected as the winner of the 1986 Royal Ambassador Missions Speak Out National Jerry Clower Award. The annual speak out competition is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Gainey, who will be a senior at Henderson High School in Troy, won the award in competition with finalists who represented nine SBC state conventions.

He previously placed first in Alabama's missions speak out competition. Gainey's five-minute original speech entitled "A Well-Informed Responsible Follower of Christ," was videotaped and sent to Memphis for judging at the Brotherhood Commission.

As national speak out winner, Gainey will receive an expense-paid trip to the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, where he will deliver his speech during the annual Brotherhood breakfast on June 11. He also will receive a \$500 scholarship from Brotherhood Commission trustees and a Royal Ambassador blazer and plaque.

Gainey is a member of First Baptist Church of Troy, where he has been active in Royal Ambassadors for five years. After high school graduation, he plans to attend college in Alabama.

BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR
brings you news first

SBC Pastors' Conference

Georgia World Congress Center — June 8-9, 1986

Theme: "Jesus... Author and Finisher"

(Officers did not announce times for program items)

SUNDAY NIGHT, June 8, 6:30 p.m.

- Special music; Welcome; Invocation; Congregational praise; Special music
- Edwin Young, Houston, Texas
- Congregational praise; Special music
- Adrian Rogers, Memphis, Tenn.
- Congregational praise; Offering; Special music
- Harold Carter, Baltimore, Md.
- Benediction

MONDAY MORNING, June 9, 9:00 a.m.

- Special music; Invocation; Congregational praise
- Jay Strack, Fort Myers, Fla.
- Congregational praise; Special music
- Harry Garvin, SBC missionary to Uganda
- Special music
- Testimony by Duane and Iris Blue, Fort Worth, Texas
- Congregational praise
- Bill Tolar, Fort Worth, Texas
- Congregational praise; Offering; Special music
- Bailey Smith, Del City, Okla.
- Benediction
- MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 9, 1:15 p.m.
- Special music; Invocation; Congregational praise
- Nelson Price, Marietta, Ga.
- Congregational praise; Special music
- James Reimer, Springfield, Mo.

- Congregational praise; Offering; Special music; Election of officers; Special music
- Dwight "Ike" Reighard, Fayetteville, Ga.
- Congregational praise; Special music
- Joel Gregory, Fort Worth, Texas
- Benediction

MONDAY NIGHT, June 9, 6:30 p.m.

- Special music; Invocation; Congregational praise; Offering
- Mini-concert by Steve Green
- Jerry Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Welcome to the Southern Baptist Convention by Charles Stanley
- Special music
- David Ring, St. Charles, Mo.
- Congregational praise; Special music
- Eugene Ridley, Dillsboro, N.C.
- Introduction of new Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference officers;
- Benediction by new president

Woman's Missionary Union

June 8-9, 1986 — Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Theme: "What We Yet May Be" (1 John 3:2)

(WMU does not provide times for program items)

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, June 8, 1:30 p.m.

- Music; Call to order; Hymn; Theme drama
- World Class Thinking; David Barrett, Minette Drumwright; Prayer
- President's Keynote address by Dorothy Sample
- "Growing in God's Image" by Paul Brand
- Theme meditation; Benediction

SUNDAY NIGHT, June 8, 7:15 p.m.

- Music; Theme drama
- World Class Thinking; Prayer
- Children's Centennial Pageant
- "Little Ones to Him Belong" by L'Nola Hall
- What We Yet May Be: 1986 Acteens National Advisory Panel
- Theme meditation; Benediction

MONDAY MORNING, June 9, 8:45 a.m.

- Music; Theme drama; Hymn
- World Class Thinking; Prayer
- A Tribute to Marie Mathis by Helen Fling
- "A Century to Celebrate, A Future to Fulfill" by Beatrice McRae
- Business; Election of officers
- "The State of the Union" by Carolyn Weatherford
- Centennial Thank offering; Special music by Scott Bennett, Jackson, Tenn.

"Our Hope for World Evangelization" by R. Keith Parks

Theme meditation; Benediction

MONDAY AFTERNOON, June 9, 1:45 p.m.

- Music; Theme drama
- World Class Thinking; Prayer
- VISION 88; Recognition of our missionaries
- "Our First Missionaries in China" by Fred Anderson
- "Old China Hands" by Eloise Glass Cauthen
- Prayer; Special music
- "The China That Yet May Be" by Lewis Myers Jr.
- Theme meditation

MONDAY NIGHT, June 9, 7:15 p.m.

- Music; Hymn; Theme drama
- World Class Thinking; Prayer
- "Rebirth in the Mountains" by Grace Faulkenberry
- "Rebirth in the City" by Everett Anthony
- "What Our Convention Yet May Be" by Christine Gregory
- Prayer for our convention
- Testimony by Janelle Ganey; Special music; Theme meditation
- Benedictory message by new WMU president; Adjournment

BWA hosts breakfast during SBC in June

ATLANTA — A Baptist World Alliance "Friends" breakfast during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta will feature an address by President G. Noel Vose and music arranged by New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Leroy Yarbrough.

The Alliance General Secretary-Treasurer Gerhard Claas is scheduled to present a brief update on the world organization's ministries which touch 34-million Baptists in 143 countries.

The breakfast will be June 12, at 7:30 in the Westin-Peachtree Plaza Hotel. Tickets, at \$10.00 each, may be purchased at the BWA Exhibit during the convention.

Michigan 'bodies' reach out with long arms

By Charlie Warren

A body does not have to be big to reach out effectively. It just needs vision and long arms.

Church "bodies" in Michigan are good examples. While many Baptist churches in Michigan are small by Tennessee standards, Michiganders resent the stereotype "if you're small, you must be helpless."

Macomb Baptist Association in the "thumb" area of Michigan offers some examples of churches not only helping themselves, but reaching far beyond their own communities in mission outreach.

"Every church has some mission outreach," says Norman Becham, director of missions for the association.

The association covers Michigan's thumb-shaped eastern segment of the state's lower peninsula. About 900,000 people live in the area covered by the association, which has 12 churches, three chapels, and one home Bible study.

The association is organizing three teams of volunteers: one to help with construction; one to help with projects such as Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs, and survey work; and one to help with secretarial work.

First Baptist Church, New Baltimore, provides an example of mission outreach worthy to be emulated by churches anywhere, large or small.

Constituted in 1959, the church has fewer than 200 resident members. Yet

'The blessings on this church have come through mission outreach.'

during the nine years that Dean Manning has served as pastor, the church has sponsored six missions and helped with numerous mission projects in and beyond the Macomb association.

At present, the church sponsors Harrison Baptist Chapel in Mt. Clemens, Mich., and Gracemont Baptist Chapel, Marysville, Mich. Harrison, where Knoxville native Sam Woodard is pastor, was started about two years ago and now has about 30 members. Gracemont, begun in 1979, has about 40 members.

The New Baltimore church's outreach has occurred despite economic depression in the area.

"The blessings on this church have come through mission outreach," says Manning. "God keeps blessing us with finances. In years of economic depression, our church began to prosper."

He enjoys telling the story of how church members responded after fire destroyed his church's sanctuary in 1984.

Before the fire, church members had pledged about \$6,000 to remodel the auditorium. After the fire, the people continued to fulfill their pledges even though insurance covered most of the cost of rebuilding the sanctuary.

"We ended up with \$10,000 left over!" Manning says.

Gordon MacDougall, a deacon in the church who has served as church treasurer for 16 years, comments, "Before we were involved in missions, we had trouble paying our bills. Since we started helping in mission work, we pay them the first week of every month."

Manning tends to minimize sacrifices



STOREFRONT CHURCH — Pastor Cecil Campbell is leading Gracemont Baptist Mission, Marysville, Mich., to reach out to Marysville's 50,000 people, while also sponsoring work in Yale and Port Huron. Gracemont plans to begin a building project in June and eventually relocate to its 3½-acre site across the street from its present storefront location.

the church has made.

Recently, the congregation voted to underwrite a loan for a new building for the Gracemont mission to the tune of \$500 a month. Before that need arose, they were planning to pave their own church parking lot.

"We're satisfied to have a gravel parking lot," Manning explains.

Ironically, the mortgage on their own church building, which has been about \$500 a month, will be paid off in August. Gracemont's loan payments will begin in September. Manning does not believe that is a coincidence.

Gracemont's pastor, Cecil Campbell, relates his own "miracle" story about the property where Gracemont's building will be built.

The 3½-acre site, located on a busy street across from Marysville's high school, was owned by the city. They were asking \$75,000 for the property.

Gracemont offered them \$25,000. The city council discussed it and quickly rejected it.

Gracemont had a prayer meeting.

After the city received no other offers, they agreed to sell Gracemont the property for \$25,000. But they wanted the money in full by a specified date.

A church in South Carolina gave them \$3,000. Gracemont members raised \$2,000, and they applied to the Home Mission Board for a \$20,000 loan.

When the city's deadline came, the HMB loan had been approved, but Gracemont had not received the check.

The city extended the deadline, making it clear that there would be no further extensions.

On the day of the extension, the HMB check came in the mail.

"Our people are people of prayer," Campbell explains. "They have simple faith. We do all we can do and leave the rest to God."

Currently, Gracemont is a storefront church. Construction on the new building will begin in June.

Gracemont follows the example of its mission-minded mother church. From its beginning, the congregation has contributed to the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget plan, according to Campbell. He says no one has ever suggested keeping any of that money to meet their own needs.

The mission church sponsors a satellite Sunday School in Yale, Mich., 35 miles northwest of Marysville. Campbell and his wife lead it now, but they are training another couple from Gracemont to continue it so they can start another one somewhere else.

Another couple in the congregation, Dan and Patty Bakay, lead two Bible study groups in their home in Port Huron, several miles north of Marysville. One meets on Sunday night, the other on Wednesday night.

The Bakays, natives of the area, were appointed by the Home Mission Board in April as church starting apprentices. They plan to develop the two Bible study groups into a church in Port Huron. They

also hope to begin a work in Sarnia, Canada, just across the St. Clair River from Port Huron.

Gracemont also has a strong emphasis on Sunday School work and reaching native Michiganders. So far, there are no transplanted Southerners in the congregation. While, of course, they would be welcome, Campbell is proud that they are reaching Michiganders.

The mission has a strong witness training program, a clothes closet, and a food pantry. They simply try to meet needs of people in the community, Campbell explains.

Campbell, Manning, MacDougall, and Becham, while proud of what Michigan churches are doing for themselves, also express gratitude for the help they receive from Southern Baptists in the South, especially Tennessee. Tennessee Baptists have a sister state relationship with Michigan Baptists.

Tennesseans have designated money, preached revivals, built buildings, conducted surveys, led Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs, and provided other kinds of ministries in recent years within the Macomb association. The Knox County Baptist Association particularly has assisted the work in Macomb association.

"We as a mission could not make it without the Cooperative Program and churches from the South," says Campbell. "We couldn't make it without the Knox County Baptist Association. Only eternity will show the effect the partnership with Knox County has had on us."

Michigan church "bodies" have vision and long arms of outreach, but they also receive a helping "hand" from Tennessee Baptists.



DONATION — Judy Cuffman, 1985-86 Belmont Aid president, presents Belmont College President William E. Troutt with three checks totaling \$8,500.

Belmont Aid gives \$8,500 to college

NASHVILLE — Belmont aid, the women's organization which assists Belmont College with scholarships and projects, recently donated \$8,500 to the college.

Esther Yu, a freshman music major from Shanghai, China, became the first recipient of Belmont Aid's newly established International Scholarship of \$500.

In addition, checks for \$5,000 and \$3,000 were also presented to Belmont President William E. Troutt by the organization. The \$5,000 check will be used for scholarships and the \$3,000 check was designated for the purchase of furniture for the reception area of North Front. Currently undergoing extensive renovation, North Front will be named Freeman Hall upon its completion, and will become Belmont's new administration building and student reception area.

Church tries to 'stamp' out hunger

FLORALA, Ala. (BP) — Alabama pastor Dan Bates and his congregation are doing their part to stamp out hunger — literally.

After witnessing the impact of federal budget cuts on the poor people of Florala, Ala., Bates looked for a creative way to get Westside Baptist Church members involved in hunger relief ministry. The answer was postage stamps.

Bates and other church members collect used national and international stamps which are processed and sold to stamp dealers. Proceeds then are used to buy food for needy people in the community.

"It gives the average person a way to get involved," says Bates, a stamp collector since age 9. "Any church can do it. You just have to learn how the program works."

Recycling stamps takes time, but Bates believes the effort will be worth the anticipated \$4,000 the small congregation will raise in 1986 for hunger relief.

Baptists note progress in Ethiopia hunger fight

Story by Art Toalston, photos by Warren Johnson

GUNDO MESKEL, Ethiopia (BP)— A grandmother watches over her grandson, Allabacho, near a Southern Baptist feeding station's clinic in Ethiopia. The baby's mother is dead and he was "a corpse, he was a skeleton" when they arrived at the station.

The grandmother nods that Allabacho, after three months of care, is better. But famine still looms. Her son-in-law planted sorghum seed last fall, but "it turned into ash."

At five plateau villages above vast canyons north of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Southern Baptists are airlifting monthly rations of grain, milk powder, and cooking oil to 100,000 famine victims. The number is expected to reach 155,000 by June. Medical care also is given to several hundred people each day.

Without such aid, "many of them, perhaps thousands, would have died," says Lynn Groce, administrator and agriculturist of the Southern Baptist mission in Ethiopia. "Before we got here," adds Jerry Bedsole, missionary veterinarian, "many thousands did die."

"Hungry people cannot hear the gospel until they've had some food," Bedsole says. "And dead people cannot be saved."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, visited the feeding operation in mid-April and notes "tremendous progress in the past year." The first Southern Baptist feeding station, at Rabel, opened in March 1985. Four other stations opened last September.

No longer are flies swarming around listless people with bodies withered to their bones.

"The children look so much healthier and happier," says Mary Saunders, a five-month volunteer nurse at Rabel last year who returned in mid-April. The Richmond, Va., resident is the wife of Davis Saunders, Foreign Mission Board director for eastern and southern Africa.

"When I left, the shelters were full,"

Church fulfills dream

GRENVILLE, Grenada — A dream shared by Missionaries Carter and Charlotte Davis and Grenadian Allen McGuire has come true.

For years the Davises asked for new missionaries who could work in the Grenville area, which had no Baptist church. McGuire, a bank manager in Grenville, also wanted to help start a church.

The dream began to materialize when new Missionaries Bob and Oakie Blevins arrived and started a prayer meeting and Bible study in McGuire's home. Full worship services began in the Blevinses' home in February with 52 people.

The growing congregation now meets on the missionaries' porch while the search for a church building progresses.

Guyana holds crusade

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Fifteen Southern Baptist volunteers recently joined missionaries and 20 Guyana Baptist churches for the "Jesus Cares" crusade, two weeks of evangelistic efforts.

The church reported that 440 people professed their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and 350 others rededicated their lives to Him.



FOOD LIFT — Southern Baptists are airlifting supplies of grain, milk powder, and cooking oil to an Ethiopian canyon region many times larger than America's Grand Canyon. This helicopter and a cargo plane deliver 1,000 metric tons of food each month to five stations that feed over 100,000 people.

she says. As many as 300 malnourished children and their parents were receiving high-protein food and medical care.

"Now there are six (children) in the shelters. That's the difference."

During her clinic hours she has seen a number of children she cared for during her last volunteer stint. But now they look healthier and have only minor ailments and no eye and ear infections.

After several weeks at Rabel, she will work in the other four Southern Baptist feeding centers, giving other volunteer nurses a time for rest.

Saunders does not count herself a hero for returning to Rabel and her dirt-floor quarters, where water is carried in by jugs and candles must substitute for light bulbs. "We are holy only as Christ is in us working," she comments. "You want the Father to have all the praise."

"When you follow the leading of God's Spirit, there's always an extra for you. And the extra He gave me was an incredible love for the people here. I felt so alive. There was an inner communion with God that was so real. In possessing nothing, I possessed everything."

Southern Baptist relief efforts in Gun-

do Meskel are led by three missionary couples; 23 volunteers from Baptist churches in the United States, many of whom staff the clinics; and about 50 Ethiopian Christians coordinating food distribution. At least a dozen more volunteers, particularly nurses, are needed this year.

Southern Baptists "are getting results from the dollars they have invested," notes Ed Mason, a volunteer administrator from Tallahassee, Fla., and a former president of the Florida Baptist Convention. Nearly \$4-million from world hunger offerings has been allocated in the largest human needs ministry sponsored to date by Southern Baptists.

"We're winning victories every day, but the war still hasn't been won," says Mason, a former public service commissioner. Starving children and sickly adults arrive at the clinics every day. A mother and 4-year-old son, two of about 80 people housed in Gundo Meskel's shelter, were told by neighbors, "You who are very sick, if you go there, they will be able to help you."

"You can't help but regret there were so many other people neither we nor any-



REUNION — Mary Saunders (left), one of 23 Baptist volunteers in Ethiopia, greets Helen Jean and Keith Parks during their April visit to five feeding sites. Parks is president of the Foreign Mission Board. Saunders' husband, Davis, is the FMB's director for eastern and southern Africa.

body else could help," Parks says. The famine has claimed more than 1-million lives.

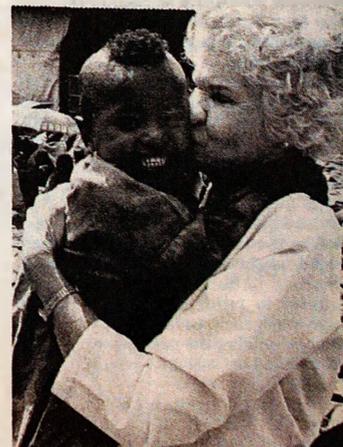
Rains last summer and this spring were the best in five years, yet the threat of starvation remains. The late fall harvest amounted to only two to four months of grain, even less for some farmers. One woman at Gundo Meskel, describing her family's luck with sorghum seed, says, "We sowed two bowlfuls and got back four bowlfuls." The spring harvest traditionally is small and primarily in the highlands.

Critical to overcoming the drought will be good "big rains" from June through September and an abundant harvest in November and December. Otherwise, feeding may be necessary into 1987. Rural subsistence farmers, who "live from crop to crop," in Bedsole's words, will feel the drought's aftermath for years. Countless oxen used in plowing died or were sold to pay for food.

One mother of five whose husband died last September says, "I have become a beggar. I have nothing to plow with. I don't even have any chickens. All I have is two feet."



RESTORED BY LOVE — A year ago (photo above), Moses, shown with his mother in both photos, was on the edge of death. Feeding tubes through his nose, prayer, and loving hugs brought him to his present healthy condition (photo at right). "This is a miracle of the Lord," said FMB President Keith Parks.



BACK AGAIN — Volunteer nurse Mary Saunders returning to Ethiopia for another three months of work in remote feeding stations operated by Southern Baptists.

Stanley reflects on controversial presidency

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)— The fact he has what is probably the most controversial presidency in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention does not bother Charles F. Stanley.

"It doesn't bother me whether it has been or not," said Stanley, who has served two one-year terms of office and will not be eligible for re-election when the SBC meets in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta June 10-12.

"Paul was controversial; so was Jesus. Everybody else who has ever accomplished much in life has been controversial to some degree," Stanley said, and added, "I have not chosen to be controversial; other people have made it so."

Stanley's two years at the helm of the 14.4-million-member denomination have been tumultuous, starting with his first-ballot victory at the 1984 annual meeting in Kansas City, when he drew 52.18 percent of the vote to defeat two opponents.

The tall, slender Atlanta pastor told Baptist Press: "It seems somehow my election ignited some kind of explosion. It may be that God placed me in this position as a spark to surface and to deal with some of the underlying problems that have desperately needed to be dealt with."

"My election seemed to spark off the controversy and that may be the biggest contribution I have made to the denomination. I think we have made a tremen-

dous amount of progress as we have been forced to deal with issues we have avoided for years and years."

Stanley's presidency drew the most intensive campaign to unseat an incumbent in recent history, resulting in the largest gathering of Southern Baptists in history as 45,519 messengers registered at the 1985 annual meeting in Dallas, almost doubling the previous record of 22,872 set in Atlanta in 1978. Despite the bitter campaign, Stanley defeated moderate-conservative candidate Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, 24,453 (55.3 percent) to 19,795 (44.7 percent).

Stanley commented: "More people voted for me (in Dallas) than ever even attended a convention before. Last year the threats were that if I was elected, the Foreign Mission Board would be damaged, missions and the Cooperative Program were in danger, and that we would lose our seminaries. Well, I was elected and the Cooperative Program is up, the Foreign Mission Board hasn't been hurt, and nobody has lost any seminaries."

"All of the indications are that the results of Good News America (Southern Baptists' national simultaneous evangelistic campaign) have been tremendous, so evangelism is up."

"One of the reasons the moderates and liberals are in trouble is that they told so many stories that had no credibility. A year has gone by and none of their predictions came true. In fact, the strong conservative approach is paying off financially, in missions, evangelistically and in every way."

Stanley said "conservatives" are "beginning to do things the moderates have been talking about, but are not doing, and cannot do because until you get your attitude toward the Word of God right, the power of God will not flow. His power does not come in doubt. The power flows from the truth."

The recent Diversity Statement issued by the SBC Peace Committee, speaks to concerns of fundamental-conservatives and "confirms what has been our major concern — that we are departing from the truth," he said.

Much of Stanley's concern for the SBC revolves around the attitude of Southern

Baptists to the Bible and a belief the SBC must not become liberal and dwindle, as others have done.

"The greatest need of the SBC is that we must come to some kind of unified agreement that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Once we settle that, we will see the most dramatic, powerful moving of God, which I believe will exceed the movement of God in any denomination in the history of our country. As long as we are divided about the Bible, that will not happen."

He noted he believes there can be "diversity in methods without any problem, but you can only have so much diversity in what you believe and still cooperate effectively."

The Atlantan, who has been pastor of First Baptist Church for 16 years, said he

was "an outsider" and was not part of the group which had organized politically to express its concerns the denomination was becoming liberal. He was involved with Jerry Falwell and Moral Majority, but says he does not "see any relationship to that and my being president of the SBC. The SBC has kind of kept at arms' length from what Jerry is doing."

Stanley described himself as a man whose "primary objective in life is to become the person God wants me to be. The governing principle of my life is to be obedient to God. My heart is to be a pastor and my greatest joy and delight is in preaching and teaching the Word of God. I have no desire to build kingdoms and have never sought any public recognition and prominence."

Volunteers to Venezuela to pay reduced charges

The cost for volunteers participating in the Tennessee-Venezuela Partnership Mission has been reduced, based on actual charges experienced by the groups who are going, according to Clarence Stewart, partnership coordinator.

In announcing the new costs, Stewart also said that refunds will be made to those who have already gone, based on the difference between the amount charged and the actual cost.

Bryan Tours of Jackson, Miss., is working with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Foreign Mission Board, and the missionaries in Venezuela to make the costs as low as possible, so that more volunteers can participate.

Stewart said the reduction is possible because of special U.S. airline rates, and the slump in Venezuela's economy has reduced costs for in-country travel and hotels.

Under the agreement with Bryan Tours, if a small amount is left after the volunteer's actual expenses, this is sent to the Venezuelan mission. If the amount is significant, it will be refunded directly to the volunteer.

Stewart said the new rate changes will be:

- 17-day trip: reduced from \$1,245 to \$1,095;
- 15-day trip: reduced from \$1,175 to \$1,075;
- 12-day trip: reduced from \$1,065 to \$965;
- 8-day trip: reduced from \$960 to \$860;
- 4/6-day trip: reduced from \$865 to \$765.

Stewart reported that to date about 75 volunteers have gone from Tennessee to Venezuela, most involved in construction projects. Another team will be going in July.

In August, 40 teams will be going to participate in Partnership Evangelism Crusades. Orientation for these have already been held.

"Please undergird these groups with much prayer," Stewart urged. "God has blessed our state in the 'Good News America' revivals. Let us anticipate great blessings and results in the Venezuela crusades."

Information about future projects and schedules is available from Stewart's office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



"For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

I read not too long ago the background for the terms used in this verse "wages" and "gifts."

The term used for "wages" is that used for paying a Roman soldier. Their pay was notoriously low. I understand that regardless how inferior a Roman soldier was, he earned more than the wages he received. Paul is saying in these verses that as high as the wages of sin are, the recipient is still grossly underpaid.

The writer also said the word used for "gift" had a background of the Roman emperor, who without any reason from time to time would give a tremendously large gift to a person. The person would not have done anything to merit or deserve the gift. Again it seems to me the New Testament is saying that no one can ever merit salvation or God's love or goodness toward us.

These two words are demonstrations of God's mercy and God's grace. The publican asked God to be merciful to him. I think of mercy as being God's long-suffering love. I am sure you agree that God could justly deal with us much more harshly for our sins than He does.

The expression we use for gifts is also an expression of God's grace. Someone has defined grace as that which we so desperately need but can never deserve. God bestows more upon us than we could ever deserve.

I know you join with me in being grateful for both God's tender mercies and His great grace.

Garner to write lesson comments

Donald W. (Don) Garner, assistant professor of religion at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has been named to write this quarter's Uniform Series Sunday School lesson commentary for the Baptist and Reflector, beginning in this issue.

A member of the Carson-Newman faculty since 1979, Garner was named assistant professor of religion in 1982. Previously, he was an instructor of religion. He also has served as a faculty member for Carson-Newman's Bible School since 1980. Earlier, Garner was an Old Testament instructor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., 1978-79.

He has served as pastor of churches in Kentucky and Indiana, and has been interim pastor of several east Tennessee churches in recent years.

A native of Georgia, Garner is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Southern seminary.



Garner



EVERSOLE BUILDING DEDICATION — A dedication service was held at First Baptist Church, Morristown, for the William D. Eversole Building on May 4. The building was donated by Eversole's widow and children, following his death in a diving accident on Feb. 27, 1984. Pastor of the church, Ian Walker, received the plaque which will be placed on the new activities building.

BOOK REVIEW

By Michael Davis

New Testament word studies

Sermon Starters from the Greek New Testament by Gerald Cowen; Broadman; 159 pages; \$5.95.

Gerald Cowen, professor of New Testament and Greek at the Criswell Institute for Biblical Studies, Dallas, Texas, has given his readers a good introduction to New Testament word studies in this book.

The layman or pastor who does not have a working knowledge of the Greek language will appreciate Cowen's treatment of some important New Testament words. His stated purpose "is to open up to the pastor or layperson, who either does not know Greek or has a somewhat limited knowledge of it, some of the depth and richness found in the vocabulary of the New Testament."

The author's cross-references and explanations of closely related words offers readers the opportunity to gain fresh insight from their Bibles. His description of two different kinds of prayer is a good example: "In Philippians 1:3-4, two words are used to describe different types of prayer: eucharisteo (I give thanks) and deesis (prayer, request)." One form of prayer expresses our gratitude to God, the other our needs from God.

The prayer of gratitude is one of praise. "It will exist in heaven (Revelation 4:9; 7:12)," writes Cowen, "in a fuller manner, for only there will the redeemed know how much they owe to their Lord; and this it will do, while all other forms of prayer, in the very nature of things, will have ceased in the entire possession and present fruition of the things prayed for" (Trench).

Several insights come to mind: we will pray in heaven; our praying will be better there, for we will understand more completely then just how good and right are the ways of God.

The book is composed of 63 studies.

Cowen has made wise use of secular literature and Jewish sources to show how words in the New Testament have been used outside the Bible. Words like baptize, nurture, admonition, sin, wine, and the Word come alive with new meaning because these resources are used in a practical way.

It would almost be impossible to read this book without gaining some appreciation for the language of the New Testament and helpful suggestions for teaching, preaching, devotional reading, and daily living. Those who teach will appreciate the index and selected references.

Interpretations

An optimistic note

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you" (Philemon 22).

Paul has finished his plea for Philemon to welcome Onesimus when he returns to Colossae. Now he asks that in addition, he prepare to welcome him should he be set free.

Earlier in Philippians, Paul was uncertain as to the outcome of his appearance before Caesar (Philippians 1:20-26). Now he sounds a more optimistic note. In all likelihood the Jews in

Jerusalem did not come to Rome to present their case against Paul. Since they had not come up to this point, there was every reason to assume that they would not appear. So he holds out the hope that he will be released.

The Romans frowned upon people bringing charges against someone which they could not prove. Festus had seen that their charges were based purely upon religious grounds (Acts 26:31-32). Such would not stand up in a Roman court.

"Lodging" renders xenion from xenos, a stranger. Paul was a friend of Philemon, but not a member of his family, so an outsider. "Trust" translates a verb meaning to hope.

Whether or not Paul visited Philemon we do not know. He could have, following his trip to Spain and return to nearby Ephesus. But again there is that tactful suggestion that should he visit Philemon, he hopes to find that he has given Onesimus his freedom.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS — Southern Baptist Historical Society officers for 1986-87, elected at the recent annual meeting, are (left to right) Lee N. Allen, dean of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., vice-president; Carolyn D. Blevins, assistant professor of religion at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, president; and Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the Historical Commission, secretary-treasurer.

Historical Commission honors May, approves record budget

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist's Historical Commission planned for the future while it recognized the past during its annual meeting April 25-30. Commission members approved record budgets, expressed commitment to provide a full-time staff for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, and honored its executive director for 30 years of service.

Thirty commission members approved a 1986-87 budget of \$547,650, an increase of \$53,700 above the current budget. Seventy-nine percent of the budget will come from Southern Baptist Cooperative Program receipts, with the remainder coming from the sale of microfilm and publications, reserves, and from other sources.

Commission members adopted a proposed 1987-88 budget of \$585,090, including a Cooperative Program allocation request of \$501,220. The increase is needed to enlarge staff support, especially bringing the current part-time librarian and archivist up to full-time status, said Executive Director Lynn E. May Jr.

The commission approved a recommendation to make a concerted effort to obtain by Oct. 1, 1987, full-time funding for the librarian and archivist positions to help the agency fulfill its 1981 Southern Baptist Convention directive to serve as "the central depository and archives of the denomination."

A long-range plan progress report, including the development of a new bio-

graphical pamphlet series to be released Jan. 1, 1987, was adopted.

The Southern Baptist Foundation, which manages the commission's investments, was affirmed by the commissioners for the moral and spiritual principals which guide its work, especially in evaluating investments in companies with ties in South Africa.

Commissioners also affirmed the denominational planning process, developed through the SBC Inter-Agency Council, for planning the convention's sesquicentennial anniversary in 1995 and pledged their support for and involvement in the process.

Appreciation was extended to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and 10 other agencies for depositing or making arrangements to deposit their archives with the commission's Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

The commission honored May for 30 years of service to the agency, 15 years as research director and 15 years in his present position.

Commissioners also conferred two awards. Albert McClellan, retired associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the SBC Executive Committee, received the Norman W. Cox Award, an annual publications prize. The Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to Baptist history went to Robert G. Gardner, professor of religion at Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

Belmont honors top graduates

NASHVILLE — "Always place God first. Never be so concerned with success that you forget to be thankful for what you have," said W. Criswell Freeman, executive vice-president of The Freeman Company, in his commencement address to Belmont College's 216-member graduating class on May 10.

Janet Greenfield of Princeton, Ky., was graduated summa cum laude, becoming Belmont's first graduate since 1982 with a 4.0 grade-point average on the four-point system.

In recognition of her achievement, Greenfield received the Kathleen B. Horrell Scholarship Award to the graduate who has made the highest scholastic record over the four-year period of college life.

The Kenneth B. Sidwell Award, for "good scholarship, excellent personal qualities, sportsmanlike participation in student activities, and effective support of the best interests of Belmont College," was awarded to Linda Denton of Cull-leoka.

Mary Ellen Price of Nashville received the Byrn Memorial Award of a Bible to "the young woman graduate who is judged to have made the greatest gift of herself in unselfish service to others."

The Alumni Association's Outstanding Senior Award went to Gina Barkley of Old Hickory.

Ministers to youth unite in Knoxville

KNOXVILLE — Twenty-two youth ministers from churches in the Knox County Baptist Association met last week to form the Knox County Baptist Youth Ministers' Fellowship.

Arden Taylor, minister to youth at Second Baptist Church, Knoxville, was elected president of the new organization. Other youth ministers elected were Butch Parker of Corryton Baptist Church, Knoxville, vice-president; and Cathy Cartwright of Island Home Baptist Church, Knoxville, secretary.

The fellowship's next meeting will be 7 p.m., June 30, at Ridgeview Baptist Church, Knoxville.

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A Ministry of the
Tennessee Baptist Convention

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Our TBCH mid-year board meeting was truly a historic meeting. Sharing the good news of the victory over the 990 issue was certainly a momentous occasion. Every Tennessee Baptist should rejoice over those who refused to give up or give in until the matter was laid to rest. We thank God for all those across the years who have prayed, agonized and pursued this righteous cause.



Gerald Stow

The largest budget in the history of the institution \$2,562,617 was unanimously adopted. Included in the budget is an incentive for our houseparents. This will encourage them to stay with us over a longer period of time giving much needed stability to our institution.

Long-range planning is essential for our campuses. The long-range plan for the West Tennessee Campus in Memphis is exciting. Future plans include the developing of a therapeutic boys' ranch and increasing the Jennings Ministry to troubled teen-age girls. Various resources are being explored to provide funding for these vital ministries.

Income from the Mother's Day Offering is slightly above last year at this time. Our hope is that all our churches will respond and forward their offerings to TBCH soon. It costs approximately \$7000 a day to operate our Homes. Your generous gift will help us to keep up the good quality of child care to our children.

Our special thanks to all our churches who have already responded. Many have raised their goals over last year. The increasing need for our children's care must not go begging. Thank you for all you do personally to make our ministry to these boys and girls a meaningful one.

Family Crisis?

Let us help — call
1-800-624-8591

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.

A CHILD I WORK WITH



By Mrs. Yasmin Guffey
Social Work, East Tenn. Campus

Several months ago the East Tennessee Campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes was contacted by a pastor about placement of a young girl. The pastor explained that the girl was in dire need of assistance from our agency.

The pastor went on to say that the girl's parents were both incarcerated and the girl had expressed to him that she would like to come to the Children's Home and live. This child came to Chattanooga from another city many miles away.

This young girl is a Christian and felt the influence of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home would be productive to her Christian growth. As the staff got to know the girl, it was discovered that her life had been a complex one, with many intense elements. This girl had lived in circumstances beyond her control. Her parents had been involved in adultery, and handling of illegal merchandise. The story is too lengthy, and for the child's

protection, details will be left out. This is a classic story where the child has to suffer due to the parents' actions.

The staff at the Children's Home has been amazed with the progress this girl has made while at the Home. She came from an unstructured background and lifestyle to a structured one with no complications. Her attitude has been so good which is unusual for a child which has been through so much.

Since coming to the Home, she has developed a wonderful and close relationship with her houseparents, as well as other staff members. Contact has been made with her mother and she is supportive of her daughter being in the Home.

When this child came to the Home she was enrolled in school, and was encouraged to participate in school activities. She has been attending church and church activities as well as being in weekly counseling sessions with me (social worker, Mrs. Yasmin Guffey). The main objective in dealing with this child, as well as the other children, is to provide stability and Christian guidance in their lives.

This child has been an excellent example to all the other children on Campus. She is the type of child that every Children's Home would love to have; one who is reaching out for help with such a positive attitude. Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes has rendered a great service to this girl. The girl has such a sweet spirit and is so grateful for the help which has been given to her. This case has been a rewarding experience to see how this girl is benefiting from the work and services of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.



KIDS AND KIDS

The West Tennessee Campus has a large farm, utilizing its land for helping feed the children and resident staff. The land bears a large number of food crops and a prime beef herd. In addition, there are playful animals for children to pet and enjoy. Pictured are a group of children playing with Samson and Deliah, two mischievous but loving pygmy goats.

A VISION OF MISSION

Seven college students from the Memphis State University BSU spent a week on the Middle Tennessee Campus during the month of May. Many activities were planned.

They painted two cottages during the day when our young people were in school. In the afternoon and evening hours workshops on clowning, drama, and music were held for our children and youth. All of these arts were highlighted in a fellowship held on Friday night for the entire campus.

This fine group of dedicated Christian young people wanted to share Christ's love with the children and youth at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. They carried a vision, even as Jesus commanded, "Go ye . . ." We are the richer for these seven BSUers' willingness to give of themselves.

TWO YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVE AWARDS

Two of our young people on the Middle Tennessee Campus in Franklin recently received awards for art and poetry compositions at the Tennessee Association of Child Care meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee. David Stinnett, a 12-year-old, won first place in the 12- to 14-year-old division for a chalk drawing. Doug Scholz, a 17-year-old senior on campus, won honorable mention for his poem "Mistakes." We are very proud of these two young people. They are allowing the Lord to bless their talents with growth and improvement.

PLAYING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

The family that plays together ought to be joyous and happy. The family should afford some of the most enjoyable times in all of one's life. That was truly our experience when Dr. Bill Owens, pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church of Chattanooga, led his congregation to have their annual picnic on the East Tennessee Campus, May 14. In addition to the picnic, Dr. Owens brought an inspiring devotion entitled "Your Worth To God." His message was so appropriate to the needs of our children. Dr. Owens presented a giant size check to Reverend Burl McMillan, superintendent, in the amount of \$805.50 for the Mother's Day Offering and a large donation of food for the Food Fair held annually through the Hamilton County Baptist Association.

Mrs. Dorothy Tawzer was responsible for coordinating and organizing the picnic which was absolutely delicious. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves as the adults toured the cottages and campus while the youth and children played. Ridgedale Baptist Church brought their family to our family. Churches throughout the Hamilton County Baptist Association are providing quality inspiration, recreation and fun for our campus.



Dr. Bill Owens, pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, has an enjoyable conversation with Stacey, Michelle, and Jonathan.

REMINDER
HAS YOUR CHURCH FORWARDED THEIR MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING TO TBCH?



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for Chuck Padilla and James Redding, both of Nashville, as they prepare to lead a MasterLife workshop in Venezuela in June.

—Pray for leaders who are preparing for Acercamieto, the annual evangelism conference in Maracaibo July 25-27.

—Pray that more Tennesseans will volunteer to be a part of the partnership.

—Pray for Stan Parris, missionary in Maracaibo serving as a seminary extension teacher, who will celebrate his birthday May 30. Pray for his family as they prepare to come to the U.S. on furlough in August.

N.C. pastor joins Episcopalians

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — Julian Cave, senior minister at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., has resigned his congregation to become an Episcopal priest.

Cave has been pastor of the 1,500-member church for 11 years. His resignation will be effective May 31, when he will begin an internship at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Charlotte.

"Believe me, the break with Baptists is most painful," Cave told *The Charlotte Observer*.

After the internship in Charlotte, he will spend the 1986-87 academic year at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, "to get immersed in the Episcopal experience."

Cave has spent 30 years in Baptist ministry. He cited the need for a stronger sense of community with fellow believers as part of the reason he moved to the Episcopal church.

"In Charlotte, though I spoke as a Baptist, the (Mecklenburg Baptist) association would discount me as not being a bona fide Baptist," he said. "I have discovered that autonomy means isolation."

Cave has criticized the present leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention and has distanced himself from fundamental-conservative views he says rely on a too-literal interpretation of the Bible.

"Southern Baptists talk a lot about local autonomy, but when you exercise it, it really isolates you from the group," he explained. "You are free to be autonomous as long as the issues are peripheral and cosmetic, not serious or substantive."

"In the Episcopal church, quite frankly, there is an allowance for greater diversity. There's not that kind of pressure for conformity."

Haitian countryside faces threat of hunger crisis

By Erich Bridges

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Hunger in Haiti's countryside could reach a crisis stage if relief aid, including food sent by Southern Baptists, does not reach isolated areas soon.

Southern Baptist Missionary Jack Hancox was waiting at the end of April for a shipment of food paid for with Southern Baptist hunger funds. But he said he was not quite sure how he would distribute it when it arrived. Many roads to the countryside have been washed out by recent heavy rains; others are periodically blocked by protest demonstrations and burning tires as the nation struggles for stability.

Hunger is nothing new in Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. But it could become much worse if normal commerce does not resume soon.

The worst threat hangs over isolated rural areas, where the rains and food distribution problems have compounded widespread economic disruption. Hancox, a veteran missionary who works with Haitian Baptists in a variety of social ministries, reported "two or three areas where there is extreme hunger. But I have not heard about anyone starving to death." None of the international relief agencies in the country has sounded a famine alarm yet, he said.

However, the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization has declared Haiti is in a "state of extreme need" and issued a call for international humanitarian aid. In April the U.S. government pledged an additional \$10-million for emergency food and urged other governments and relief agencies to respond to Haiti's need for immediate help and long-term development.

Looting still threatens relief efforts. Church World Service lost two relief trucks to hijackers recently, Hancox reported, and machete-wielding mobs have assaulted that agency's food warehouse three times. Baptist warehouses were looted repeatedly during the height of the unrest leading to the downfall of "president for life" Jean-Claude Duvalier.

"I'm a little nervous about it because I

don't want to keep (the new food shipment) out in my warehouse and have everybody find out about it," said the missionary. "But we need it because of the terrible hunger up in the mountains. So that's a chance you've got to take." He said he would seek police protection for Baptist food distribution efforts.

Hancox and his wife, Doris, added that other Baptist social ministries, such as well-drilling, are continuing relatively normally. The missionaries are moving about freely in Port-au-Prince, though they are avoiding crowds.

One volunteer medical team from the United States recently canceled its visit to Haiti because of transportation problems in the countryside and the current tension. But Hancox said several other Southern Baptist volunteer teams are still scheduled for work in Haiti this summer.

A military-civilian council is in charge of the government on an interim basis until new elections are held and a new Constitution drafted. But violence, strikes, and economic disruption have continued.

"The sad thing is that many of the businesses that really would like to raise salaries have lost so much business since November that they're laying people off," Hancox said of the situation in the capital. "And if they (the people) don't calm down and let people who have jobs work, let the factories that are still in business get out their orders, we're really going to be in a mess."

Dwayne Evans accepts Whitesburg pastorate

Dwayne Evans will begin serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Whitesburg, June 1.

He comes to the Whitesburg church from Russellville, where he served as pastor of Russellville Baptist Church.

The Newport native is presently attending the Bible school at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

Previous pastorates include Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Morristown and Double Branch Baptist Church in Zephyrhill, Fla.

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MISSION BUILDING DEDICATED IN SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Baptist Church dedicated a new South Main Baptist Mission Building on May 4. The building will house a clothes closet, sewing classes, recreational activities including a boxing program, weekday Bible study classes, and worship services. Pictured left to right are: Harold Barnes, Morton Price, Lorene Dean, Jerry D. Oakley (pastor of the sponsoring church), Lloyd W. Keyt, Betty Randolph, Frances Farmer, Mike Cobb, Larry Mitchell, and David Dean.

Editors, writers hear views on U.S. policy in Nicaragua

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)— Two dozen Southern Baptist editors and writers heard conflicting views on U.S. policy in Nicaragua in a two-day briefing on international and domestic issues in Washington.

Hosted by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the briefing featured U.S. senators, administration officials, a renowned television reporter, and an evangelical social activist.

During a session at the White House, participants heard a highly-placed military officer assigned to President Ronald Reagan's National Security Council defend the U.S. position of aiding Nicaraguan "contras" seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government headed by Daniel Ortega.

The official, speaking on the condition he not be identified by name because he is a target of international terrorists, said U.S. policy in Nicaragua is based on national security objectives.

He claimed Americans are being lulled into a "series of forgetting exercises" about Soviet intentions in Central America, a reference to the Cuban revolution of 1959 which effectively placed the Caribbean island in the Soviet orb. Nicaragua, he elaborated, has become a "massive military structure" that threatens its Central American neighbors and Mexico.

But evangelical social activist Jim Wallis, editor of Sojourners magazine, disagreed sharply, telling the Baptist editors and writers providing assistance to the contras amounts to "U.S. aid to terrorism."

He accused Reagan and other administration officials of "lying" to the American people about conditions inside Nicaragua under Sandinista rule. One such falsehood, he said, is the administration's insistence Sandinista officials are involved in drug-smuggling when it is the contras who are running drugs.

He reviewed what he called the "shameful history" of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua. U.S. Marines invaded the Central American country in 1909 and with one brief interruption ruled it until 1935, when they withdrew, leaving former dictator Anastasio Somoza in power.

U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers noted that the Sandinista forces that overthrew Somoza nearly a decade ago have turned out to be "avowed Marxists." The crux of the U.S. problem in Nicaragua, he said, is that the tiny country's people "hate the Somozistas more than the Sandinistas."

The Arkansas Democrat said he opposes more U.S. aid to the contras, in part because U.S. officials cannot account for more than half of the assis-

tance approved two years ago, when Congress voted \$27-million in "humanitarian" funds. He cited a recent report of the General Accounting Office that \$15-million of that sum cannot be tracked, adding he fears U.S. money is lining the pockets of corrupt contra leaders.

Another speaker, retired NBC radio and television correspondent Edwin Newman, also emphasized the importance of understanding the current situation in Nicaragua in light of previous

U.S. policies. He said Reagan is in danger of becoming "obsessed" with Nicaragua in the same sense former President Lyndon B. Johnson became "obsessed" with Vietnam.

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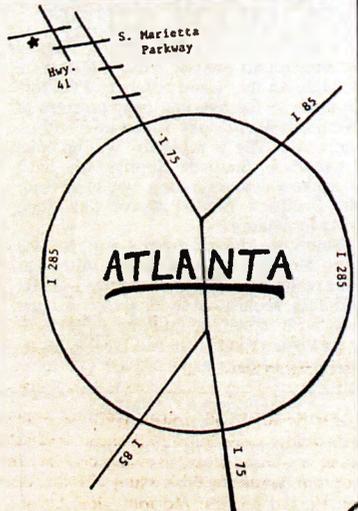
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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for June 1

Rededication of Jerusalem

By Mike McGinnis, pastor
Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Basic Passage: Nehemiah 11:1 to 13:3
Focal Passages: Nehemiah 11:1-2; 12:27, 30-31a, 43-47

Several Old Testament passages suggest that Israelites of many tribes took up residence in Jerusalem. But the three mentioned in Nehemiah chapter 11, Judah, Benjamin, and Levi, were the nucleus. These had stayed with David's heirs to form the Kingdom of Judah when the rest had broken away; now the future of Israel lay with them and with those who had rallied to them from the other tribes.

It is apparent from Scripture that God desires decency and order (1 Corinthians 14:40). Here we discover four elements of God's order.

Preparation (11:1-2)

Everyone was to prepare. More than 50,000 of God's people had returned from captivity in Persia and were dwelling in Jerusalem in Nehemiah's time. They left them particularly susceptible to attack. Numerically, they were certainly at a disadvantage.

This would require that they learn the lesson that in spiritual warfare it is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zachariah 4:6). However, we should not infer a freedom to be careless simply because we are assured of God's care for us. This would be the equivalent of tempting God and Jesus taught us the error of this (Matthew 4:7).

A wise leader would insure that each man was duly allotted to his appointed task and that the best possible use was made of available personnel. Nehemiah wisely prepared the people to face coming opposition. Proverbs 21:31 says, "The horse is prepared against the day of battle, but the victory is the Lord's." Our responsibility is to so prepare that God has the freedom to accomplish His purpose through us.

Occupation (11:3-21)

Everyone had a place. It was particularly important that the stronghold of Jerusalem be manned by the best warriors. Therefore, mighty men of valor were appointed to live in the city. The stronghold of the church should also be manned by the best warriors.

It is important that we be mighty men and women of valor. All of us, like the Israelites, are not expected to occupy the same place; however, each of us has a place in the body of Christ. First Corinthians 12 adequately discusses this.

Nehemiah determined that the princes should live in Jerusalem and that 10 percent of the people, selected by lot, should take up their residence there also. Certain strategic areas had to be held at all cost. Men of proven valor were needed for these. But they must be supported by others serving in their own appointed area and serving happily in the will of God.

There is always grace given to us for any service which we undertake in His will (Ephesians 4:7). Perhaps the reason for so much unhappiness in Christian

work is that many Christians spend much of their time envying the gifts of other people and the sphere of service allotted to them instead of happily serving the Lord in the task to which they themselves are called. Occupation in the sphere to which God has called you, happily serving Him in His will, is a great secret of contentment in Christian work.

Delegation (11:22 to 12:26)

Everyone had a purpose. In determining faithfulness, God does not look at the size of the task but at the degree of our surrender. Someone has noted that if two angels were sent to earth — one to rule its wealthiest city and the other to sweep the streets of its foulest city — both would be equally content. Their contentment would be the result of an obedient heart.

Nehemiah 11:22-23 observes that singers were over the business of the house of God, and it was the king's commandment concerning them that certain portions should be paid to them each day. These people might well have felt that they were quite useless and that they were not contributing to the communal life at all, as they merely sang the praises of God. But as a matter of fact, they fulfilled a very important part in their ministry of encouraging the praise of God throughout the whole community.

Perhaps you feel that your life is quite obscure and generally useless to God. It does not seem that you have any particular gift or any particular way in which you can serve the Lord. However, it is extremely important that you remember that God is not looking for great ability, but for great availability.

Dedication (12:27-47)

Everyone was to praise. The Bible constantly reminds us that worship is very important to God. It should not be considered lightly. Here was a joyful occasion, so much so that we are told that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar (12:43). Their joy in the dedication of the wall was apparently the joy of the Lord. A great deal of material splendor that marked former years had gone, but surely now there could be a greater joy in their devotion to the will of God and surrender for His purpose.

We are told in 12:13 that they purified themselves. This joy was more than skin deep, and there was nothing superficial about it. It is important in our worship that our hands be clean and our hearts be pure.

Not only did it touch their hearts, but that day also touched their pockets. Careful regulations were made for the due collection of tithes and offerings. Certainly this is a part of genuine worship.

Our passage concludes with another public reading of Scripture (13:1-3). Once again it was the reading of Scripture which brought home to Israel its obligations as a people for God. As believers we are always subject to the danger of losing our spiritual bearings. It is a constant devotion to God's Word that will protect us from this ever-present possibility.



McGinnis

Scripture that God desires decency and order (1 Corinthians 14:40). Here we discover four elements of God's order.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for June 1

Jeremiah's call to prophesy

By Don Garner, assistant professor of religion
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

Basic Passage: Jeremiah 1

Focal Passages: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 13-14, 17-19

Among careful readers of the Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah often becomes a favorite. We like his strength, courage, and faith — all of which come to us through his honest human spirit which is capable of admitting weakness. He is clearly a man much like us whom God used at a critical hour.

Called, not coerced (1:4-10)

The "call" experience of Jeremiah is the foundation upon which his very significant ministry rests. He was a "PK" — a priest's kid who grew up in Anathoth surrounded by a rich religious heritage (v.1).

As a boy, Jeremiah surely cut his teeth on the prophetic words of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah whose ministries preceded his own by a century or more.

Then one day in 626 B.C., God broke in upon his own understanding and said, "I want you, Jeremiah, to be My messenger!"

Like others called into God's service, Jeremiah felt overwhelmed by the assignment as well as seriously inexperienced and inadequate in his own ability to do the job (v.6). But the "I can't" doubts of Jeremiah were absorbed by the "I will" assurances of God. God not only sent Jeremiah to do a job, but He also promised the provisions of His presence (v.8), His authority (v.7), and His words (v.9) in order to complete it.

Free, not forced (1:5)

The words of verse five are easily misunderstood by some interpreters. Out of its context, and taken at face value, the verse can be read to mean that God totally dictated the details of Jeremiah's life even before that life began. But such a mechanical and manipulative view of God's sovereign lordship over one's life certainly is not true to the Bible in its entirety. Jeremiah of all people would insist upon recognizing the reality of human free will and the responsibility of choice under God (see Jeremiah 18).

God's will always — by our determined and dedicated decisions — must be made our will. God had prepared Jeremiah for his prophetic ministry, but Jeremiah could have refused to follow God's call. He could have said, "No." Had he chosen to refuse, however, Jeremiah would have missed his destiny under God and reaped the bitter fruits of gnawing frustration and unfulfillment.

How could Jeremiah be both free to refuse God's calling and also divinely destined to be God's servant?

In answering this question, I have been helped by an illustration I heard from my colleague at Carson-Newman, William J. Purdue. The world has been fascinated with the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana because any baby born of that union would be destined, even before birth, to be heir to the throne of England. And certainly the birth of Prince William has placed this male child in line for the crown. However, should the title of king ever come to him, William could refuse it and let it pass to another. So did the Duke of Windsor earlier in this century when he chose the woman he loved over the title of king.

One can be destined to something before birth, yet actively choose to refuse it in life.

Judgment, not jubilation (1:11-19)

God never promised Jeremiah a rose garden; instead, God warned him that his would be a tough row to hoe! To follow God faithfully in crisis times is never easy and seldom convenient.

The divine message Jeremiah was given to impart was neither pleasant nor popular. His words would not tickle the ears of his hearers. Calling people (even God's people) to change always meets with resistance to change.

Too many of us insist upon combative — "conserving" — the comfortable and complacent status quo. We shut up our ears and refuse to hear the word of God as proclaimed by His prophetic messengers. Like self-righteous scribes and Pharisees, we piously destroy the messenger because we are disturbed by the message and thus conveniently convince ourselves that it is heresy and not from God.

Yet the promise of God to Jeremiah (vv.18-19) — and to us — is that faithful witness to God's truth will win the victory over even the most entrenched opposition because God never abandons the truth nor those who proclaim it.

Tennesseans earn degrees at SEBTS

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Seven Tennesseans were among the 183 people receiving degrees during spring commencement at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

William C. Cannon of Chattanooga and Jack Bishop Jr. of Kingsport earned doctor of ministry degrees.

Receiving master of divinity degrees were Thomas Jessee of Kingsport, Jeffrey Lane of Knoxville, Tony Rutherford of Sweetwater, and Teresa Wyatt of Knoxville.

Wayne Beeler received the associate of divinity degree.

Wyatt also received the Ellis W. Hollon Jr. Award in philosophy of religion.



Garner

WMU anticipates SBC-bound visitors

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Special arrangements are being made to accommodate an increased number of visitors in June to the national headquarters of Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala. The new facility will be open for tours for Southern Baptists who wish to make a detour on their way to or from the Southern Baptist Convention June 10-12 in Atlanta.

Tours are offered from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Although tour reservations are not required, WMU officials request individuals or groups who wish to see the building — particularly large groups — to call (205) 991-8100 to advise of their expected arrival time.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Lesson for June 1

With new Christians

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

Basic Passages: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20
Focal Passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:2-12

Tears were in her eyes. I could see them on the verge of dropping from the corners of troubled eyes.

She usually was radiant with a smile and most gracious to everyone. To see her upset was unusual and disturbing to me. I knew something was troubling her very deeply. Her teen-agers were still at home and her husband no longer attended church. I wondered if these were areas of her life which had brought her to be so unhappy.



Bush

Although family life for this new Christian was not always the best, this was not what was pressing her at this time. I asked her if she was feeling well. She nodded in the affirmative. I asked if there was some particular problem at home or on the job. Again she nodded in the affirmative.

She motioned with her hands for me to wait a minute while she gained her composure. I handed her some Kleenex. Receiving them with obvious appreciation, she looked up at me, and in an intense and agonizing voice, began to share her feelings of hurt for some fellow church members and her church.

Unlike so many church members in our churches, her hurts came not in the form of complaints but in deep feelings of true and humble concern. These concerns were not from any selfish motivation. As a new Christian, it hurt her to hear people who had been Christians for several years speak unkindly to one another or about others or to not be interested in reaching unsaved and unchurched people.

I shall never forget something she said. The exact words escape me but the particularly haunting message, her main point, remains in my soul. It was difficult for her to grasp why people who had been Christians for years were not happy, more joyful, more eager to serve than persons who were new disciples. She was not being critical at all. Her heart was heavy. She had a burden for the lost. Her desire was to be a willing vessel through whom God could work.

Tears came to my eyes and we both cried. We were not feeling sorry for ourselves. We were sensing a burden that all disciples should experience more frequently. That burden sent us to the main source of solace and direction — God.

As I began praying, I felt encompassed by the understanding and healing presence of God. My prayer was not in the negative, it was a sincere request that our church be revived, that I be revived, that our lives be used for the glory of God.

This incident occurred many years ago. Last fall I was back for a visit and participating in an author's autograph party at that church. Who was one of the first people to come to purchase a book, to give me a warm, loving Christian hug? You guessed it. It was that same precious lady.

God has blessed that church through the years. No, it is not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but, it is my conviction that the prayers, lifestyle, and witness of that beautiful Christian has probably done more than many people realize to enrich and bless that fellowship.

Paul knew that the new Christians at Thessalonica faced many challenges to their newly found faith. They did not have the rich background of moral teachings and worship of the one true Jehovah God. Their pagan ways needed to be discarded and their spiritual lives filled with knowledge of the ways and purposes of Christ through lives of believers.

In no way did Paul play the superior, pious Christian to these new converts. He set an example of unselfish service to the new Christians and to the cause of the kingdom.

What is your testimony with new Christians in your church and to new Christians anywhere you go?



'I am bivocational'

My ministry is as a bivocational pastor, presently serving Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Limestone.

My church and I actively cooperate with the Holston Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. With my church's encouragement, I participate in many denominational training conferences and have had many responsibilities, including moderator of the association.

I am fortunate in that my church is one of the few Tennessee Baptist churches with bivocational pastors which participate in the retirement and protection plans offered by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. I suppose that these churches assume that the bivocational pastor's secular employment retirement benefits will be adequate.

Although this has not been my calling, I have known a number of my fellow bivocational pastors who later became "full-time" pastors. Because they have not been in the Annuity Board's program during all their ministry, they will not have a sufficient retirement income.

I am grateful that the membership of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church has graciously participated in my behalf. It is no wonder that I love to be the pastor of people who care for the present and future needs of their pastor!

Paul Broyles, pastor
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
Limestone, Tennessee

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Winfred Moore is pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, and first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Also, the service will be aired at 11:00 p.m. Sunday June 8; 6:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Monday June 9 on AIB Cable Channel 8 and at 9:30 p.m. Monday June 9 on Channel 69.

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Denny Burris fights fires as chaplain

By Craig Bird

DALLAS (BP)— Denny Burris estimates the size of his "congregation" at 14,400, but he is not a pastor.

Burris, like more than 2,000 other Southern Baptists, is a chaplain. Unlike others, however, he is a full-time fire department chaplain — the only one endorsed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board chaplaincy division.

As chaplain for the Dallas Fire Department, Burris works with 1,800 personnel at 512 fire stations.

"If each of them is married and has two kids that makes 7,200 — and husband and wife each have parents so that makes 14,400 easy," he estimates. "Obviously, all of them don't call on me at the same time, but I get calls to deal with firefighters' extended families all the time. I'm the only minister many know."

Being a firefighter is in his blood. Burris' grandfather was a Dallas fireman, and his father was a Dallas policeman.

Burris says he had experienced "an obvious call to the ministry." Like most people, he thought that meant he should become a pastor. So while working as a firefighter, he started studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

"These guys (seminary students) talked about needing to preach just like needing to breathe," he says. "But I didn't have the drive to get up into the pulpit to preach."

Nevertheless, in 1977 he resigned his firefighting job and became associate pastor of Pleasant Run Baptist Church in suburban Lancaster. He enjoyed it and learned a great deal, but when the church had financial difficulties two years later, he offered to resign to ease the crunch.

In 1980, Wilts Bailey, "a good ol' Southern Baptist boy" who works in the training division of the Dallas Fire Department, told Burris the volunteer chaplain for his department had retired. Burris admitted an interest and in April 1981, he was ap-



FIREFIGHTING CHAPLAIN — Denny Burris (left), the only full-time, Home Mission Board-endorsed chaplain to a fire department, visits often with employees at the 512 fire stations he serves in Dallas.

pointed to the volunteer position. The following July he went on the payroll of the Dallas Fire Department in a "dual role" as firefighter and chaplain.

In January 1982, the position became full-time, and Burris has not looked back.

"Just about everything I do is crisis-related," he says. "Because of the nature of the job, I get to do more ministry in a day than most pastors do in a year. I have a chance to deal with people when they are hurting — a wife whose husband is badly injured, a fireman tugging on a body bag, or a paramedic holding a battered child."

The question they ask most, says Burris, is, "Why did this happen?"

"I see them sweat and bleed and cry, and sometimes I hear them cuss. But they need somebody to listen, somebody to demonstrate the love of Christ."

He answers all multialarm fires, per-

forms weddings and funerals, counsels, and is on call 24 hours a day.

Not only do firefighters statistically have the most dangerous job in the country, but paramedics have the most stressful, Burris says.

"The divorce rate among policemen and firemen is 74 percent, and I've done surveys which indicate it is much higher than this among paramedics," he says. As preventive medicine, he holds classes for wives of trainees, trying to prepare them for the difficult role they will be asked to fill.

"The hours and the dangers of the job require flexibility," he says. "When you consider the death and carnage paramedics see all the time, you can understand how they will be affected as husbands and fathers when they get home."

Like most pastors, Burris has success stories from couples he has counseled.

But when the phone rings it is just as apt to be a plea for help with an alcohol or drug problem as with marital difficulties.

Burris' background helps his credibility. Photographs of his grandfather and uncle in their Dallas firefighters uniforms hang in his office. His father was a policeman for 22 years. Prior to his conversion, he twice narrowly escaped death, once in a burning building and once in a traffic accident that set the fuel truck he was driving aflame.

Even now he is a certified master firefighter and paramedic. He often rides ambulances and occasionally picks up a hose and fights fire.

Burris organized the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters and coordinates a major project, the distribution of "special firefighter's" editions of the New International Version of the Bible to each graduate of the training school. He also distributes the Bibles to others, including juveniles who have been arrested for arson and are required to attend a counseling session.

Among his prized memories are of boys who later have thanked the department for the Bibles, including one who carries it to school with him each day and another who sleeps with it under his pillow.

Recalling people he has helped get through the bad days, Burris says, "It helps to know God has been at work the past four years. When I'm getting down, sometimes I just pull the files and look through them."

Working out in the firefighters' small gym helps ward off stress, as does the support and understanding "of a wonderful wife." But mostly, "I can't explain how I deal with so much stress in other lives without going under myself except to admit that God gives me the peace and comfort I need."

"I'm doing the two things I love best," he points out. "Being a fireman and being a minister. How much better can God be to me?"

BJCPA staff holds hearings to air concerns of Baptists

DALLAS (BP)— Church-state issues ranged from abortion to private prisons when the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs held listening sessions in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, this spring.

Baptist Joint Committee staff members James Dunn, executive director; Stan Hastey, director of information services; and Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel, met with Southern Baptists at Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. The meetings were the first of planned, ongoing hearings across the country to focus attention on church-state issues, particularly as they affect local matters.

"We want to hear you," Dunn told participants. "We deal so much with legislative matters, we are acutely aware of our need to hear your concerns."

One concern is the criticism of church-state separation by some Southern Baptists, said Dallas Attorney Oswin Chrisman, who noted the criticism reveals "how 'liberal' some have become."

Chrisman, a Baptist layman, termed the indiscriminate and often-inaccurate labeling of persons as "liberal" and "conservative" as "the single-most dangerous trend in religious and political

life." He described the historic church-state separatist position advocated by the Joint Committee as the truly "conservative" one.

The former judge decried the inroads being made by civil religion and exploitation of religion by politicians. The proper role for the Baptist Joint Committee is as a watchdog for religious liberty, "alienating most everybody he barks at, but protecting his home and the territory he stakes out."

Four key church-state issues — Bible chairs at state universities, clergy confidentiality, state definition of private and home schools, and church zoning laws — specifically affect Texans, noted Weston Ware, associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Noting the pervasiveness of the issues, Ware said: "Church-state questions are not the domain of scholars in lofty towers nor of specialists in our national or state capitols. Instead, these matters affect the daily lives of university administrators and students, ministers and parishioners, churches and neighborhoods, parents and children."

Another concern was expressed by David Sweet, a seminary student from Austin, Texas, who expressed alarm at what he called the Baptist Joint Committee's "consistent pro-choice stance" on

abortion and Thomas' alleged opposition to a Texas law requiring pastors to report child abuse.

Sweet distributed two handouts which quoted the Baptist Joint Committee in support of pro-choice and silence on knowledge of child abuse. Thanking Sweet for the materials, which were printed in 1979, Dunn said: "I have been hearing about them for years, but I have never laid eyes on them until now. We have stated publicly and repeatedly that the Joint Committee has no position on abortion. And we have repeatedly asked pro-choice groups not to use our name in any way."

Thomas explained that his objection to the Texas law on reporting child abuse was based on the danger it poses to the pastoral role as counselor.

"I have two preschool children and am very aware of and distressed by child abuse," he said. "But what happens to the process of confession, repentance, and rehabilitation if a person can't seek help from his pastor? What happens to the ability of a pastor to give a word from God to someone struggling with their sins if everyone is afraid to talk to him because they know he has to tell the district attorney everything?"

In another matter, Shelby Sharp, who defended an Oklahoma City Church of

Christ congregation against an invasion of privacy suit, said churches should fight government attempts "to intrude inside the four walls of the church" and dictate church matters.

The Oklahoma case featured a woman who had been disfellowshipped by the church. "She didn't sue for slander or libel because truth is a defense to those charges, so she sued for invasion of privacy because her 'sin' was announced to the church body," Sharp related.

His defense was going to focus on the church leadership's responsibility "to advise the balance of the congregation when a member is committing open and deliberate sin so as to cause the name of Jesus Christ to suffer damage in the community." The suit was dropped before coming to trial.

Sharp advised churches to purchase special insurance coverage against invasion of privacy, "because churches are getting sued every day and finding out their general coverage doesn't cover them."

Thomas urged any churches or individuals involved in church-state disputes on the local level to send copies of their legal briefs and to relay other pertinent information to the Joint Committee, 200 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.