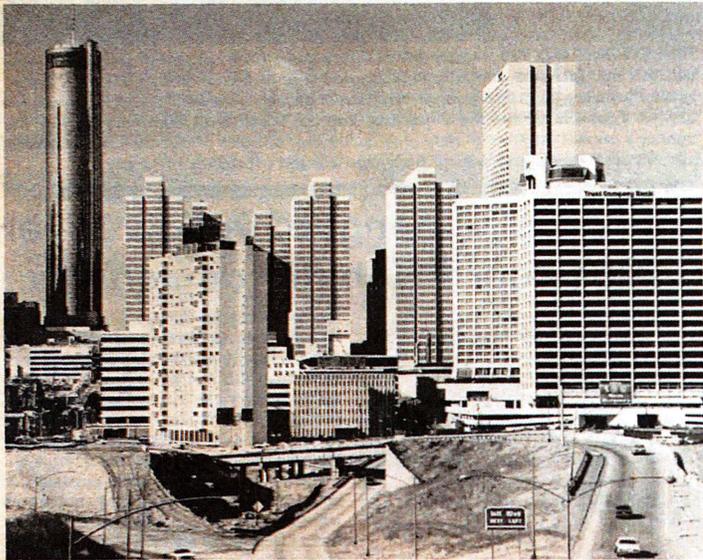


Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 152/No. 22/June 4, 1986

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



SBC HOST CITY — Atlanta, commercial and cultural center of the South, will host the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 10-12. The cylindrical building is the Westin-Peachtree Plaza, tallest hotel in the world and convention headquarters for the SBC meeting.

Messengers to SBC face election, other actions

By Al Shackelford

ATLANTA — Southern Baptists in record numbers are expected next week at the Georgia World Congress Center to attend the 129th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention. The convention will begin on Tuesday morning (June 10) and continue through Thursday afternoon.

Although attendance may not reach the early prediction of 60,000 messengers, it is likely that attendance will equal the record registration of 45,519 who attended the 1985 SBC in Dallas.

Major focus of the messengers during the three-day convention will center on the election of a new SBC president. Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, has served two consecutive one-year terms as president and, under the Constitution, is not eligible for re-election.

In a departure from tradition, two candidates for the SBC presidency have announced their "willingness to be nominated." These are Winfred Moore, current SBC first vice-president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, and Adrian Rogers, pastor of Memphis' Bellevue Baptist Church, who was elected SBC president in 1979, but in

1980 declined to be nominated for a second term.

Rogers is considered to be the candidate of the fundamental-conservative faction of the denomination, while Moore is considered to be the candidate of the moderate-conservative faction.

The messengers will also elect two vice-presidents. Henry B. Huff, current SBC second vice-president, has announced that he will be nominated this year for first vice-president. He is a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

The election of committee members and trustees of various SBC agencies and institutions may also draw challenges at next week's business sessions.

The Committee on Boards has announced that it will nominate David Gray of Radcliff, Ky., to the SBC Executive Committee. John Dunaway of Corbin, Ky., has stated publicly that he will nominate Eugene Siler Jr. of Williamsburg, Ky., to oppose Gray's election when the committee presents its nominations on Tuesday afternoon. Other challenges may also be made to the Committee on Boards' nominations.

At last year's convention, the major

(Continued on page 3)

Committee appointees react to Huff's charge

HIXSON — Frank Steil, who has been appointed by SBC President Charles Stanley to the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees, has responded to charges by Henry Huff, SBC second vice-president, that the appointments are "not representative of Southern Baptists."

Steil, who is a member of Central Baptist Church of Hixson, told the Baptist and Reflector that he has not met any of the three top SBC officers: Stanley, Huff, or Winfred Moore, SBC first vice-president. "I would have been wise in my opinion for Mr. Huff and Dr. Moore to meet me before they criticized my appointment."

Under the SBC Bylaws, the convention president appoints the Committee on Committees "in consultation with" the two vice-presidents. Huff told Baptist Press that he and Moore had spent April 11 with Stanley in Atlanta and had submitted 198 names to Stanley, of which only two were appointed to the Committee on Committees.

Referring to a May 14 Baptist and Reflector article, Steil commented, "The idea and attitude of these men as it came across in the article is, 'We do not care who Dr. Stanley appoints as we are going to reject them and say things about them to discredit them, because they are not the ones we picked to be appointed.' It also says to me that the credentials of the man does not mean anything."

Also named to the committee by Stanley from Tennessee was Richard White,

pastor of First Baptist Church in Franklin. White said that he feels that Huff's statement was "inaccurate" and was probably an "overreaction to Dr. Stanley's not putting more of his (Huff's) suggestions on the appointed committee."

A native of Chattanooga, Steil says he was led to the Lord by his mother at the age of 12 and was baptized into the membership of Calvary Baptist Church of that city. After serving in that church for 14 years, he moved his membership to Central Baptist Church when he moved into the Hixson community.

He served as a deacon at both of these churches.

"I believe the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God," Steil said. "I believe Jesus Christ is God's Beloved Son Who died on the cross and rose again that all who call on His name might be saved. I believe this so much that I want to win the whole world to belief in Jesus Christ," he added.

"The Holy Spirit has let me lead many men, women, boys, and girls to the Lord, and I praise His name for that," Steil continued.

"The thrust and motivation of our church is to win our city to Christ," Steil said. "Our precious pastor, Dr. Ronnie M. Phillips, believes in this vision," he added, noting that Central Baptist Church continues to be among the state's leaders in baptisms.

Steil also noted that his church ranks 18th in Cooperative Program giving

(Continued on page 3)

Tennessee mission giving runs 5.6 percent ahead

Mission giving through the Cooperative Program by Tennessee Baptist churches is running 5.6 percent ahead of last year, but behind the convention-adopted goal, according to Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

After seven months of the current convention year (November 1985-May 1986),

Madden reported that \$11,951,643.00 was received. This amount is \$633,785.18 or 5.60 percent higher than the \$11,317,857.82 received during the November 1984-May 1985 period.

Messengers to the 1985 Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a \$21-million Cooperative Program budget-goal for the November 1985-October 1986 convention year. The seven-month goal would be \$12,250,000, so receipts for the past seven months (\$11,951,643.00) are \$298,357.00 below (2.44 percent below) the pace needed to achieve the goal.

Mission gifts through the Cooperative Program for May had reached \$1,666,136.33 when the convention's books closed last Friday, May 30. Last month's Cooperative Program contributions were 1.11 percent below the \$1,684,870.41 given during May 1985.

The monthly goal for the current convention year is \$1.75-million (one-twelfth of \$21-million). May's Cooperative Program mission gifts were \$83,863.67 under (5.03 percent below) the monthly goal.

"Tennessee Baptists and their churches are to be commended for their continuing support of mission causes," Madden said, noting that Cooperative Program gifts are about twice the current inflation rate.

Emergency number for SBC announced

ATLANTA — A special temporary switchboard has been installed at the Georgia World Congress Center for use by those needing to contact those attending next week's Southern Baptist Convention.

Although it will be impossible to beckon messengers to the telephone, a caller can leave a message to be relayed to those attending the convention, so that a return call can be made.

Calls should not be made to the Georgia World Congress Center office, but to the special SBC switchboard. The telephone number is (404) 222-6260.

High court rejects appeal in Scientology church case

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court has foiled an effort by the Church of Scientology to expedite its challenge to a Clearwater, Fla., ordinance requiring churches to register with city officials before they are permitted to raise funds.

Attorneys for the controversial body had asked the high court to strike down the local law as a violation of the First Amendment's ban on an establishment

of religion and guarantee of free exercise of religion.

But the court, in a one-line order, sent the case back to a federal district court for trial. As is customary, no reasons were given for the action.

Clearwater city officials and the church have engaged in a running battle since shortly after Scientology moved its headquarters to the Florida city in 1975. Two ordinances, the first of which was struck down earlier, have sought to limit the body's ability to solicit funds from the public. The second ordinance is the one currently being contested.

In a brief asking the high court not to intervene, an attorney for the city wrote the ordinances were enacted "because of revelations of a host of serious crimes and abuses" engaged in by church members.

In 1982 the city held five days of public hearings which, the city's attorney wrote, "disclosed a staggering array of criminal and abusive acts, practices, and policies," including burglarizing and bugging critics' offices, framing opponents by manufacturing and planting false evidence, blackmailing former members, kidnapping and imprisoning persons wanting to leave the church, smuggling currency, extorting funds, attempting murder, lying to government officials, and making threatening and harassing telephone calls.

Far from being a church, the brief continued, Scientology "is instead only a commercial and at times criminal organization not entitled to invoke the religious clauses" of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Although the first of the ordinances — adopted in 1983 — was declared unconstitutional, the city passed a second the next year. In July 1984 a federal district judge upheld the law, but without conducting a trial. A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals subsequently ordered the city not to enforce the ordinance pending the outcome of the church's suit against it. That order still stands.

On further appeal, a second panel of the same circuit court reversed the district court, ordering it to conduct a full trial on the merits of the ordinance. By its May 19 action, the Supreme Court let stand that action.

In its unsuccessful appeal asking the high court to intervene now, Church of Scientology attorney Eric M. Lieberman of New York City contended the Clearwater ordinance "is unique in modern American history in the manner in which it intrudes into the relationship between churches and their members ... and in which it authorizes comprehensive state surveillance of internal church activities and expenditures."

By requiring churches to obtain licenses before soliciting funds, even from its own members, and by imposing "massive recordkeeping and disclosure requirements," Lieberman continued, the challenged ordinance inhibits the free exercise of religion and amounts to a governmental establishment of religion.

The dispute has attracted nationwide interest because of the potential impact on churches' ability to raise funds if the Clearwater ordinance is upheld. Among the organizations challenging the law is Americans United for Separation of Church and State. That group was not a party, however, to the procedural appeal rejected by the Supreme Court in its May 19 order.



TENNESSEANS ELECTED — Kenneth L. Castleberry (left), pastor of Dalewood Baptist Church, Nashville, and Marshall Gupton (right), pastor of Una Baptist Church, Nashville, were elected chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary during the agency's annual meeting in May. Roy D. Raddin, director of missions for Mississippi's Washington Baptist Association, was elected recording secretary.

Chorale to sing at SBC meeting

The Tennessee Baptist Chorale will sing at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, June 7-9, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Before the conference, the chorale will sing June 6 at East Ridge Baptist Church in Chattanooga at an hour-long concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

While in Atlanta, the approximately 80 ministers of music from across Tennessee will also sing for the 11 a.m. worship service on June 8 at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church.

The church music conference, which will meet at Wieuca Road Baptist Church, has scheduled a half-hour concert by the chorale at 3:45 p.m. on June 9.

The chorale, organized in 1968, is the performing group of the Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference and is conducted by Julian S. Suggs, director of the TBC church music department.

Accompanists for the group include Mary McDonald of Central Baptist Church in Fountain City, Knoxville; Suzanne Adams of East Ridge Baptist Church in Chattanooga; and a brass ensemble and handbell choir composed of chorale members.

Vivian Toomey dies at Morristown home

Vivian Shell Toomey, wife of Nolachucky Association of Baptists' Director of Missions Glenn Toomey, died at home May 19 in Morristown after a long illness. She was 66 years old.

A funeral service, held May 21 at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Morristown, where the Toomeys were members, was led by Pastor Mark Hearn; William Palmer, president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour and former pastor of First Baptist Church in Morristown; and James Williams Jr., pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Morristown. Pastors from Nolachucky Association of Baptists and Jefferson County Baptist Association, where Toomey also served as DOM, were honorary pallbearers.

Another funeral service, held May 22 at Jerry Smith's Funeral Home in Athens, was led by Dillard Brown, a retired director of missions. Burial was at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens.

Besides her husband, Vivian Toomey is survived by two daughters, Glenora Hall and Ruth Ann Poe of Morristown; a son, John M. Toomey of New Market; and six grandchildren.

The family requests that memorials be sent to Walters State Community College's Baptist Student Union building fund, Davy Crockett Parkway, Morristown, TN 37814.

Outbreak of dengue, yellow fever causes concern in Rio de Janeiro

By Mike Chute

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — Concern exists throughout much of Brazil following an outbreak of dengue fever and signs of yellow fever in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Southern Baptist missionaries in Rio de Janeiro report.

The "Aedes aegypti" mosquito, which transmits the diseases, has been found in 14 of Brazil's 25 states. Missionaries also report fear of an outbreak of yellow fever.

The hardest hit area is Nova Iguaçu, also the area where Brazilian Baptists have their strongest work. Missionaries report many local Baptists are ill with dengue fever. Dengue was first detected in January in Nova Iguaçu, only 20 miles from downtown Rio de Janeiro.

Brazilians are apprehensive because there is no specific treatment for either disease and there is no vaccine for dengue fever. However, a healthy person can recover from yellow fever, and some people get a mild form without knowing it, said William Gaventa, director of the medical services department of the

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Only 10 to 20 percent of yellow fever cases actually get the classic symptoms, Gaventa said. Not all yellow-fever mosquitoes carry the virus. For a mosquito to pick up the virus, it must first bite a monkey or human whose blood contains the virus.

Because symptoms are similar for both diseases, victims may not know whether they have dengue or yellow fever. Dengue fever is seldom fatal. But up to 40 to 50 percent of people who contract severe forms of yellow fever may die from the disease. Death is much lower among the total number of cases.

The yellow fever vaccine is difficult to find in Brazil, and it is being administered through health departments only to people traveling to Rio de Janeiro or into Brazil's Amazon region.

The vaccination is good for 10 years, but some missionaries in Brazil are past the immunization period.

"I would recommend anyone traveling to Brazil obtain a yellow fever shot," said Bill Damon, Foreign Mission Board associate director for the eastern region of South America.

In Rio and its suburbs, missionaries said, officials have reported 35,000 cases of dengue fever. Two cases of yellow fever have been documented. Government health officials have said the dengue epidemic could affect 1-million people in the next few weeks. Within two months, they added, the epidemic could reach 5-million people, or 70 percent of Rio's population.

The problem is not just limited to the southern part of the country. In the northern capital city of Fortaleza, officials said they expect 2,000 cases of dengue fever in the next few weeks.

Only three states in Brazil completely are free of the diseases and disease-bearing mosquitoes. Parts of all other states are infested with the mosquitoes or have had reported cases of the disease.

To eradicate the immediate danger in Rio, officials have deployed 10,000 workers with 100 insecticide-spraying machines at a cost of \$25-million. They said it will take about three months to bring the epidemic under control.

A Rio health official predicted it will take five years to eradicate the mosquito that transmits dengue and yellow fever. The yellow-fever mosquito returned to Rio in 1976 after a 31-year absence. Brazilians eradicated yellow fever after an outbreak wiped out part of the country's population in the early 1900s.

WMU announces teleconference

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union members across Tennessee may join others across the nation in viewing by satellite dish the first live national teleconference from one of the Southern Baptist conference centers.

The teleconference about VISION '88, the WMU national enlistment plan, will be from Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center on July 1 at 7 p.m. CDT.

The Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN) will carry it, but the signal will not be scrambled so anyone with a satellite dish may participate. Viewers should set coordinates for Spacenet I, channel 21.

VISION '88 is the WMU plan to bring national membership up to 2-million women, girls, and preschoolers by 1988, the organization's centennial year. WMU currently has about 1.2-million members nationwide.

Tennessee's goal is 88,000 by 1988. Current enrollment is about 79,000.

The teleconference will have a game show format in which viewers will participate in the show.

About 25 Tennessee Baptist associations will have a viewing site available. Associational WMU directors can provide more information.

Belmont plans fall opening of Massey graduate school

NASHVILLE — Belmont College will open its new Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business this fall, according to Belmont officials.

Named for Nashville entrepreneur Jack Massey, the school will be the first in Belmont's history to offer a graduate degree, offering the master of business administration degree.

Belmont President William E. Troutt said, "The new MBA program has been made possible by Mr. Massey's vision, his commitment to higher education and the business community, as well as his generous financial support."

Massey was a founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation and Hospital Corporation of America.

Commenting on the announcement, Massey said, "I am deeply honored that the board of trustees has asked to name the new school for me, and it is with both pride and humility that I accept this offer — pride because my family and I will be directly associated with such an important endeavor; humility because such an honor is rare and should neither be offered nor accepted lightly."

Massey added that he is "gratified that Belmont has proposed a graduate school with express purposes which so closely identify with my own goals, and feel it only appropriate that I provide support to this initiative and encourage others to do so as well."

The stated purposes for the new school are "to provide graduate degrees characterized by quality and practicality; to teach the themes of private enterprise, entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership; to stress basic verbal, writing, and analytical skills; to emphasize

moral and ethical business issues; and to accomplish these purposes through a faculty with proven as well as continuing academic and practical preparation in specific business fields."

A longtime supporter of Belmont College, Massey was a leader in the formation of the original undergraduate business school.

Wayne Brown, dean of the Belmont School of Business, said course and registration information will be available later this month.



NEW SCHOOL — Belmont College has established the Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business. Wayne Brown (left), dean of the Belmont School of Business, will head the new school named for Massey (center). Also pictured is Belmont President William E. Troutt.

Appointees . . .

(Continued from page 1)

among Tennessee Baptist churches. "Central Baptist Church is committed to missions, which is a requirement of Dr. Stanley to even be considered for supporting a nomination," Steil reported, adding that his church is sending four teams to Venezuela. "We have given over \$20,000 to the Lottie Moon offering and have exceeded our goal of \$5,000 for the Annie Armstrong offering," Steil said.

"It is my opinion for a man to say that Frank L. Steil and Central Baptist Church of Hixson are not representative of the convention is an indictment on his own beliefs and ambitions," Steil said. "I believe Henry Huff and Winfred Moore have clearly identified themselves as opposite of what the convention believes. I feel I represent many fine, loyal Southern Baptists who have been maligned by the divisive forces in our convention."

Steil said Huff has a right to his personal opinion, but he was wrong to speak as an elected officer of all Southern Baptists "in such a thoughtless and careless way. He is in my prayers."

The Committee on Committees, which is composed of a pastor and layperson from each of the 27 qualifying state conventions, is appointed by the SBC president and does not require election by the convention messengers. The primary task of the committee, which serves only during the three-day convention, is to nominate the 54-member Committee on Boards, which in turn nominates persons to serve on the boards of the national agencies of the convention.

Richard Easterly joins foundation

Richard Eugene Easterly of Tullahoma has been named vice-president of administration for the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. He will begin in July.

Easterly, a certified public accountant with more than 25 years of experience in accounting and office management, comes to the foundation from John W. Harton Memorial Hospital in Tullahoma, where he served as associate administrator-finance for the past 12 years. He and his wife, Ruth, are active members of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma.

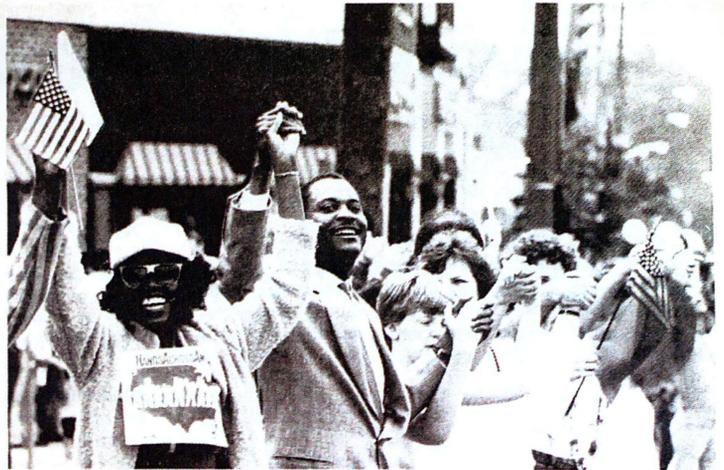
Earl H. Wilson, president-treasurer of the foundation, said he and the foundation trustees are pleased that Easterly has joined the foundation team.

"He comes with the expertise that will be a tremendous asset to the work and ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation," Wilson said. "He also comes believing in his heart that this is where God wants him to serve and with a commitment to give his best to the Lord and to the work of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation."

Easterly is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro.



Easterly



BAPTISTS JOIN HANDS ACROSS AMERICA — Members of Faith Baptist Church near Cleveland, Ohio, including Pastor Michael J. Cox (center), were among many Baptists who participated in Hands Across America, a national fund-raising effort for domestic hunger.

SBC messengers face . . .

(Continued from page 1)

controversial issue was the election of the Committee on Boards. When the 54-member committee was nominated by the Committee on Committees, an attempt was made to replace the entire slate with state convention presidents and presidents of the state conventions' Woman's Missionary Unions. Stanley ruled that this procedure could not be done, but this ruling was overturned by the messengers. Later Stanley ruled that any nomination from the floor is not permitted under the SBC bylaws.

Stanley's ruling led to a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Atlanta, with Judge Robert Hall deciding in favor of the convention action. That case has been appealed.

This dispute has led to a proposed amendment to Bylaw 16, recommended by the SBC Executive Committee, which will allow one-by-one challenges, but will prohibit one messenger from nominating an entire slate. Consideration of that amendment will come Tuesday morning, prior to the election of the Committee on Boards.

Last month, Stanley told Baptist Press that he intends to allow challenges on an

individual basis but will rule alternate slates out of order, regardless of what the messengers vote on the Bylaw 16 amendment.

The Executive Committee will also recommend a record Cooperative Program budget-goal of \$136-million for the October 1986-September 1987 convention fiscal year. This compares to the \$130-million budget goal for the current fiscal year.

Under the basic operating section of the recommended goal (\$126,630,000), 50.17 percent will go to the Foreign Mission Board and 19.71 percent to the Home Mission Board.

The messengers will also hear a report from the 22-member Peace Committee which was established at the 1985 SBC to "seek to determine the sources of the controversies in our convention and to make findings and recommendations regarding these controversies, so that Southern Baptists might effect reconciliation and effectively discharge their responsibilities to God by cooperating together to accomplish evangelism, missions, Christian education, and other causes authorized by our Constitution, all to the glory of God."

The Peace Committee has been meeting during the past year, and will report to the convention on Tuesday night.

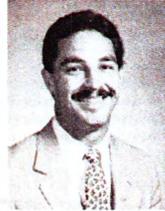
In addition to reports from SBC agencies, institutions, and committees, the messengers will hear two major speeches: the president's address by Stanley on Tuesday morning and the convention sermon by Rogers on Wednesday morning.

Anthony accepts BSU directorship

The TBC Executive Board's state missions committee has appointed Dane C. Anthony of Kansas City, Mo., as director of the Baptist Student Union at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. He began on June 1.

Anthony, who presently is associate director of the student support ministries department at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, is a graduate of the seminary and Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield.

The native of Elkhart, Ind., has also served as an associate minister of First Calvary Baptist Church in Kansas City and as campus ministry assistant of the BSU at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Anthony is married to the former Sandra Johnson.



Anthony

Union names Barefoot as interim president

JACKSON — Hyran Barefoot, vice-president for academic affairs at Union University, has been selected to serve as Union's interim president, according to Ray Newcomb, chairman of Union's trustees.

Barefoot will serve as the school's chief executive officer until the board selects a president to succeed Robert Craig, who resigned to accept a similar post at East Texas Baptist University.

The new interim president has been at Union since 1957 except for a two-year period from 1960-62 when he served as assistant professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

EDITORIAL

1986 Atlanta SBC: a pivotal convention

The meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta next week in many ways must be considered a pivotal event in the life of our denomination.

The convention will return to its state of organization for its 129th annual meeting. On May 8, 1845, at First Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., 293 messengers gathered and organized the Southern Baptist Convention "for the purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intention of our constituents by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the gospel."

Next week will be our 13th time to meet in the state of Georgia and the seventh time in Atlanta.

Because Atlanta is said to be within a day's drive of 70 percent of all Southern Baptists, it is likely that the record registration of 45,519 messengers will be broken. Before this record was established last year in Dallas, the record registration was the 22,872 who attended the 1978 SBC in Atlanta.

THE PEACE COMMITTEE: THE FIRST YEAR

Next week's convention will be pivotal because it will be the first convention since the establishment of the Peace Committee, which will report to the messengers on Tuesday night.

We left Dallas with excitement and anticipation that a broad-based 22-member committee had been named to ferret out our problems and to make recommendations for solutions to our controversies. Their report next week will contain no instant miracles — unless you consider that they are still meeting is a miracle in itself.

In some ways, the Peace Committee has become controversial. The statements on which they have agreed — the diversity of beliefs among Southern Baptists and political activity — have been used to intensify our controversy.

The reaction to the Peace Committee's report next week will be crucial. Are we willing to patiently allow the committee the time to finish its assigned task?

THE ELECTION OF THE SBC PRESIDENT

For the first time in many years, messengers know who will be the nominees for the next convention president. Unless there is a change in the next few days, Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, and Adrian

Rogers of Memphis will be the standard bearers for the two political factions in our denomination.

Both nominees are theological conservatives — the difference is the "party label."

As in the case of secular elections, many voters cast their ballots because of the political party affiliations, rather than the candidates themselves. In most of these governmental elections, the difference in the election comes from the candidate's (or the party's) ability to sway the independent voter. Such will be the case at Atlanta's SBC.

Since 1979 when Rogers was elected in Houston, the SBC presidency has been controlled by the fundamental-conservative party. Most denominational observers believe that Atlanta will be the moderate-conservatives' best chance to deter the fundamental-conservatives' drive to control the convention.

In a sense, both nominees have tradition going against them. It has been nearly 100 years since a former SBC president has been elected again. In 1888, James P. Boyce was elected SBC president, after having served in that post earlier (1872-79).

And, it has not been since the early years of this century that a current vice-president has been elected president. Several former vice-presidents have been elected president (Brooks Hays, C. C. Warren, and Owen Cooper) but not while serving as vice-president.

NOMINATIONS ALLOWED FROM THE FLOOR

The most controversial matter at the Dallas SBC concerned the interpretation of the bylaws by SBC President Charles Stanley (on advice from Parliamentarian Wayne Allen) that nominations to the Committee on Boards must come only from the Committee on Committees — with no nominations permitted from the messengers.

The SBC Executive Committee will recommend an amendment to Bylaw 16 which will clarify that such nominations are in order — if these are made one by one, but not as an entire slate.

However, of more immediate interest is the judgment by Stanley and the parliamentarians he has enlisted for this year's convention that individual nominations will be permitted. A lot of anguish and ill feelings (plus a lawsuit) would have been prevented if Stanley had made this judgment in Dallas!

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

Almost lost in the discussion of nominations and elections is the Executive Committee's recommended 1986-87 Cooperative Program budget-goal of a record \$136-million. Of that total, \$126,630,000 will be for the basic operating budget.

The 1983 SBC in Pittsburgh approved the report of a Cooperative Program Study Committee, which contained this statement, "That by A.D. 2000 or sooner the Southern Baptist Convention will seek to allocate 75 percent of the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget to home and foreign mission ministries."

The budget recommendation to be considered next week provides 50.17 percent to the Foreign Mission Board and 19.71 percent to the Home Mission Board — for a total of 69.88 percent. We are moving steadily toward that challenging goal!

THEME: "LOVE NEVER FAILS"

The theme for next week's convention is "Love Never Fails." With all the possible controversies hanging over the convention sessions, it is imperative that the officers and messengers truly give Christian love an opportunity to prove this Scripture can work. We have seen in recent conventions what happens when love is absent.

All concerned Southern Baptists must pray for the convention, asking that God's love will overwhelm every thought, word, and action. That love is not only pivotal for the Atlanta convention, it is our only hope.

Cicero's comment



By the editor

Cicero was at the local pharmacy picking up a few things for the trip to Atlanta, when coming down the aisle with a heavy-laden shopping cart was B. "Red" Dee.

As we chatted, Red mentioned that he also was getting ready for the trip to the Southern Baptist Convention and was stocking up on his needs.

"You are taking ALL that?" asked Cicero.

"Right," acknowledged Dee. "These items will be helpful — and even necessary — in view of what is expected when the messengers gather in the Georgia World Congress Center. In fact, I wish all messengers would have these things with them."

With heightened curiosity I asked, "What are you taking with you to Atlanta?"

B. "Red" Dee showed me his shopping list.

"Here are several kinds of vitamins. I figure I will need them to keep up my energy level for those long reports, sermons, and business sessions."

He added that he was taking three boxes of Band-Aids to treat cutting remarks. "However, I don't think these will be adequate for treating those deep wounds that will doubtless occur — not to mention back stabbing."

Dee showed me several kinds of tranquilizers which would be helpful in case the business sessions get emotionally fraught. "I would wish that tranquilizers would be standard equipment given to the messengers at registration — at least one for each IBM ballot!"

"I also am getting a bottle of calamine lotion to treat the 'rash' of anticipated motions and resolutions."

Red said, "It might also help for those things I expect to get 'under my skin.'"

A related item is some analgesic balm, for soothing bruised egos.

He showed me two other items which he wished every messenger would have — mouthwash to sweeten breath and words, and air deodorant to lift the heavy atmosphere that will permeate the World Congress Center.

"I plan to take along an extra pair of glasses to read all those resolutions which will be presented," Dee declared. "And perhaps it would be good to have some sunglasses or safety goggles when reading those 'inflammatory' statements."

Other items in Red's basket were:

— Corn pads for when your "toes get stepped on."

— No-Doz tablets to stay awake and alert during long sessions.

— Ice bag to keep a cool head.

— Ear plugs for protection if messengers shout at the president for recognition.

Cicero observed that B. "Red" Dee had every possible thing that a well-equipped messenger would need.

"Not quite," Dee interrupted. "I am looking for Dramamine. It is supposed to be good for 'motion sickness,' and I expect a lot of motions next week that will make me sick!"

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 75,207

Alvin C. Shackelford, Editor

Charlie Warren
Associate Editor

Baptist and Reflector

Doris Elliott
Advertising

Connie Davis
Assistant Editor

Mona Collett
Church News Assistant

Betty Walker, Production Assistant

Established 1835

Post Office Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027

Telephone: (615) 373-2255

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

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

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

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

News Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ansell Baker, chairman; Jerry Oakley, vice-chairman; Paul Bryant, David Drumel, Marshall Gupton, Calvin Harvell, Mrs. Richard Hawkins, George Hill, Baylan Hilliard, Fred Isaacs, James McCluskey, Calvin Metcalf, Perry Michel, Jere Plunk, Dennis Pulley, Lon Shoopman Jr., Fred Steelman, and Hoyt Wilson

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.

Where is Christian love?

Dear editor:

As the time for another Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting draws near, there appears to be a dearth of one essential ingredient needed to heal the wounds that have been created in successive meetings since 1979: Christian love.

A minister who is regarded as an expert in the area of conflict resolution suggested that our problem could be resolved if the SBC Peace Committee members would give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to do His work by agreeing to pray together until agreement is achieved. This suggestion coupled with a re-reading of 1 Corinthians in William Barclay's book, set me to wondering: What has become of Christian love in our convention? When a prominent fundamentalist minister states publicly that those opposing his group's efforts to control the convention are as mean as snakes, that does not display a loving spirit.

Public utterances of several fundamentalist members of the Peace Committee leave little hope that the suggestion of my minister friend will be realized or that a sincere effort will be made in Atlanta to bridge the gap between the opposing forces.

Quoting from Barclay: "In relation to our fellow men, it (love is completely trusting) means the love that always believes the best about other people."

The unloving statements and actions of some of the fundamentalist leaders do not exemplify the love and trust that Paul was praising in his letter to the church at Corinth.

It is my hope and prayer that Christian love will find a way to hold our convention together and to motivate us to get on with the great task that God has entrusted to us of witnessing to a lost world.

Charles J. Barton
237 Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Which seminary?

Dear editor:

As a Belmont College senior who is trying to seek God's will concerning which seminary to attend, I find myself in a state of disarray about the matter. It seems that whenever I feel like I have found the right one to attend, someone says it is the wrong one because it is "liberal."

Why do we have to classify ourselves as liberal, conservative, moderate, or anything else except servants of Jesus Christ? I have heard much said about our seminaries, and I pray that my decision to go to one of them is solely based on God's will for me.

I truly pray that at least by the time I am ready to attend one of our schools that our goals as a convention will be not to judge or categorize one another, but to be examples of Christ in a lost and dying world.

May God have mercy on us if we neglect His call to total consecration to

Christ and unity with one another.

Lee Fesler
Rt. 6, Box 94
Cookeville, TN 38510

Racketeer for capitalism

Dear editor:

Harold Key's letter in the May 21 Baptist and Reflector was astounding! You can't imagine my amazement that Corazon Aquino turned "communist" and is about to hand over her rich, 100 percent family-owned Philippine sugar trading firm of Jose Cojuangco to the Russian state!

Ruling-classes, Russian or American, don't give up wealth willingly. They're after more! Corazon Aquino won't either.

Let's go backward in time, beginning 15 years before the 1917 Russian revolution. Was the same profit/war game going on then? In November 1935, Major General Smedley Butler, writing about his 33 years and four months of active service in the U.S. Marine Corps wrote in Common Sense:

"During that time I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism."

"Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in . . . I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912."

"I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras 'right' for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested."

"During those years I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals, promotion. Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. We Marines operated on three continents!"

Same game, new name.
C. James Matuschka
108 Sherwood Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37404

More than two positions

Dear editor:

C. H. Nicks' letter (April 30) exemplifies one of the most pervasive and destructive misconceptions in the Southern Baptist Convention today: the idea that the controversy we face is simply a struggle between two clearly-definable "factions" whose positions could be summarized and placed side by side for comparison by the confused Baptist church member.

Such a solution, were it possible, would certainly be desirable. However, the fact stubbornly remains that there are not just two "positions" on the issues that we confront. I doubt that I agree fully with any other Southern Baptist in the convention. That I am not required to do so is one of the reasons that I am a Southern Baptist and not a member of another denomination.

It is, of course, convenient for us to divide the problems into two opposing sides and place ourselves into one of two "camps." Unfortunately this approach polarizes our conflicting views on certain

questions, while obscuring our healthy differences of opinion on other topics in the interest of a uniform "us" in an "us vs. them" contest.

"Fundamental-conservative" and "moderate-conservative" are not, therefore, two definable positions of Southern Baptists, but two segments of a spectrum that encompasses a wide range of viewpoints. The use of these labels may temporarily help us to identify ourselves, but the destructive aspects of labeling are already becoming evident. Let us then understand and deal with our differences, dispense of the labels as soon as possible, and being reconciled to God through Christ, set about our ministry of reconciling the world to Him.

Sandra Hack
Box 27730, Furman University
Greenville, SC 29613

Plain old conservatives

Dear editor:

If there are a half-million Southern Baptists who are pro-fundamentalist and a half-million who are pro-moderate, that still leaves over 12-million of us who are not "pro" either way, but just plain old conservative — like the Bible is true, etc. The problem I am having is finding anyone in the seminaries, universities, pulpits, and mission fields who believe any differently from that.

I am now inclined to believe that if the "takeover" theme continues and if all of us had a vote, the fundamentalists would lose the presidency by about 12-million votes. It is a shame, but fundamentalists started it and that is the way it is. (Remember J. Frank Norris? Similar.)

It is my opinion based on some firsthand knowledge and associations' reports that we have more fundamentalists who have become in error due to morals than we have moderates who have become in error due to theology.

I have a suggestion: Help us Texans get our Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler out of the limelight. Those two are breeding the "Lee Roberts" of the convention and as some have already said have "hit spiritual slop!" If there are teachers of error, tell us where they are. Then if the Patterson/Pressler "takeover" theme raises its ugly head again, 12-million of us can bring our wrath down on it and hold it in obedience for another 50 years.

Pete Morris
805 E. Abram
Arlington, TX 76010

Assisting the Communists

Dear editor:

Every year the American taxpayers are forced to hand over hundreds of billions of their hard earned money for our defense budget. As a conservative I support the defense of our freedom, but I have a question: "Who is the enemy?"

Most of us would agree that our enemy is international communism, but the brain trust in Washington doesn't. If they did, why would they continue to prop up Red dictatorships with grain, technology, loans, and credit extensions?

American corporations, with the monetary backing of the International Monetary Fund and the Export-Import Bank, are permitted to finance communism. When those Red tyrannies can't or won't pay their debts, the American taxpayers are forced to pay it for them. Our government assists in the building of Communist military machines and then

raises taxes for stronger defense because of the Communist threat!

Loans and technology from the US helped construct the Kama River truck factory in the USSR which supplied the transportation for the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan. American assistance has provided intricate guidance systems to increase Soviet missile accuracy. US technology provided the weapons systems microchips used by the Soviets to murder 269 innocent passengers aboard KAL Flight 7 on Sept. 1, 1983. Presently we are negotiating treaties with Communist China to upgrade their military arsenal. These examples and many more will continue until America is no more or until Americans demand a halt.

Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution states, "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

Technology and credit to Communists is treason! If you agree, write to your congressman and ask him to support H.R. 97, a bill to prohibit our government from assisting any Communist country.

R. Allen Hughes
P.O. Box 1
Roan Mountain, TN 37687

Opportunities for ministry

Dear editor:

In the May 7 issue of the Baptist and Reflector you published a letter from John Schumitta under the heading of "A divorced minister." In the letter he stated, "... as of today I have not been able to get into ministry. I believe this is due to denominational bureaucracy and narrow-mindedness toward divorce."

Everywhere I go there are ministry needs of endless varieties waiting for someone with enough care, concern, time, skills, and call from God to respond. Many of these needs go unmet because a lot of "equipped for ministry" persons sit around complaining that they can't find a place to minister.

My experience has been that anybody who really wants to minister to people's needs can find more than they are able to do if they will just go looking prepared to provide. I believe this holds true for men or women, trained or untrained, ordained or unordained, married or single, young or old, white or black, Baptist or otherwise. Every town I know has streets with ministry needs.

Somehow, I guess I have a bit of a problem trying to understand how much of a "call to ministry" one has when they sit around complaining rather than going out and doing. Could it be that some of the excuses we offer or the things we blame may in fact have nothing to do with the real cause of our predicament?

The only thing I know of which really keeps me from doing ministry is myself!

J. W. Bargiol
P.O. Box 444
Harriman, TN 37748

Protection for records

Dear editor:

It was disturbing to read the report of the Baptist Press concerning the reported burglary of the office of Lee Roberts. Even more disturbing was that it should be treated so casually by Roberts and the local police (May 21, 1986, Baptist and Reflector).

If the SBC Executive Committee could spend so much (and who knows how much?) in defense of Charles Stanley's actions at the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention, couldn't they somewhere find the means to conduct an investigation of a matter so important as the violation of the privacy of those important records?

William D. Fox
P.O. Box 192
South Pittsburg, TN 37380

SBC Inter-Agency Council explores 'ministry' jobs

By Greg Warner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — For the first time in 10 years, the number of persons preparing for ministry in American seminaries dropped last year — down 0.6 percent to 52,794 — according to the Association of Theological Schools.

Meanwhile, the number of students in Southern Baptist seminaries has continued to grow, now surpassing 12,000. But that growth may carry with it some problems for the graduates-to-be.

Southern Baptist seminary enrollments still are swelling from an influx of students from the "baby boom" generation. Unfortunately, that increase has not been matched by significant growth in the number of churches in which they can serve. Other factors in the enrollment equation, such as an increase in women students and in firings of ministers, prompted a recent study by the Southern Baptist Convention Inter-Agency Council.

The results of the study were presented as good news to the SBC Executive Committee earlier this year. "There are currently more Southern Baptist positions 'in ministry' than there are trained ministers to fill them," the report concluded.

Researchers estimated there are at least 77,476 ministry positions in Southern Baptist churches, agencies, and institutions. At least 68,154 people have

been trained by Baptist seminaries and colleges since 1950, comprising a pool of qualified employees for these positions.

The report predicted similar patterns will exist during the next 10 years, with ministry positions increasing to at least 97,094. The report did not estimate the number of trained ministers who will be available by that time.

Arthur Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission and one of the researchers, said that figure is difficult to gauge, but added the number of ministerial graduates from colleges and seminaries, now averaging 2,500 per year, will likely drop in the next decade.

"Within the foreseeable future, we're not going to have any more ministers than we have places of service," Walker said. "The problem is getting the people who are available to the places that are available."

The growth in ministry positions will not be in "traditional county seat churches" of the South, but in pioneer areas like the Northeast and Northwest, Walker said. That means graduates will have to be more flexible about where they want to go.

Commenting on the study in a recent alumni newsletter, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday said the results should put to rest concern that SBC seminaries are

training too many ministers and that a significant percentage of seminary graduates never find church-related employment.

Research indicated that only 12 percent of seminary graduates since 1950 have never had ministry positions. Since this figure also includes spouses of employed ministers and graduates who are serving overseas or in other denominations, it was interpreted as a low percentage.

In most cases, the study indicated, those never employed in ministry seem satisfied with their situations, which were most often the result of personal choices unrelated to their ministry training.

It was noted, however, that only 68 percent of seminary graduates since 1950 currently are employed in ministry.

Figures differed for trained ministers who graduated from Baptist colleges but never attended seminary — 31 percent have never been employed in ministry and 48 percent are not currently employed in ministry. These percentages were attributed to the college students' uncertainty about their call to ministry and lack of commitment to that call.

Another factor complicating placement of trained ministers, the study observed, is the "informality and ambiguity" of the Baptist "system," which often makes linking of ministers with churches dependent on personal contacts and other factors unrelated to training.

The study showed women, whose numbers are increasing on seminary campuses, are more likely to be unemployed following graduation. In fact, 62 percent of women graduates surveyed are not now employed in ministry, although this number includes spouses of employed ministers. By comparison, 27 percent of men surveyed are not now employed in ministry.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board reports there are now 15,000 Southern Baptist pastors "inactive for a variety of reasons." Even the ambitious church-starting plans that are part of Bold Mission Thrust will not exhaust this "ministerial backlog," reports indicate.

Also affecting the employment picture for seminary graduates is the Southern Baptist tradition of hiring ministers with no formal training. The convention's Inter-Agency Council study noted as many as half of SBC pastors lack seminary degrees (reported elsewhere at 55 percent) and a fourth have no college training either.

If this tradition holds true for other church staff positions, the estimated 68,000 trained ministers could be competing with 20,000 to 40,000 untrained but already-employed ministers for the 77,000 available positions.

The study noted there is a trend toward hiring ministers with higher levels of education, but "the direction is only slightly upward."

Walker acknowledged the study did

not account statistically for these untrained ministers, but he suggested the number of trained ministers who will seek employment in non-church-related jobs will lessen the impact of untrained ministers in the future.

The findings of the Inter-Agency Council were mirrored in a state study last year. A workgroup of the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions, which conducted a related but unscientific study, found no proof of a large number of unemployed seminary graduates in that state. It did offer some suggestions for improving the employability of unplaced graduates and for providing better communication between available ministers and churches with staff needs.

The Inter-Agency Council study proposed similar ideas, including extensive vocational counseling for those called into the ministry, as well as expanded internship opportunities for seminary students and graduates to compensate for the lack of ministry experience that often makes them less employable.

A new program sponsored by Southwestern seminary asks the church endorsing a person for seminary training to take the student on as a ministry "apprentice" if he or she is unable to find a position six months after graduation.

Other recommendations encourage graduates to seek alternate ministry opportunities, such as church starting, mission pastorates, and bivocational positions.

1986 Golden State Missions Offering allocation

These are the allocations for the 1986 Golden State Missions Offering which will be received with the Week of Prayer for State Missions, Sept. 7-14. The allocations were approved by the TBC Executive Board May 6 and the WMU Executive Board May 16.

Program of Work:	1985 Allocation	1986 Allocation	Increase (Decrease)
Black Baptist Student Work	\$ 7,500	7,500	-0-
Burney Love Gifts (for children of Tennessee foreign missionaries)	9,500	9,500	-0-
Camps Capital (new buildings, improvements, etc.)	170,000	170,000	-0-
Camps for Mentally Retarded, Sunday School Dept.	15,000	18,575	3,575
Church-related Vocations Students' Emergency Aid	7,000	7,000	-0-
Disaster Relief: Brotherhood	10,000	10,000	-0-
Emergency Relief Funds — Baptist Health Care Center Patients, Lenoir City	2,000	-0-	(2,000)
Gifts to Native Tennessee Missionaries at Christmas	10,500	21,000	10,500
International Student Ministries	12,000	12,000	-0-
Language Missions Ministries	20,000	20,000	-0-
Ministers' Aid Fund	7,500	7,500	-0-
Ministry to the Handicapped	6,000	6,000	-0-
Ministry to Military Personnel (Millington)	3,400	1,000	(2,400)
Mission Lot and Building Fund	65,000	100,000	35,000
New Work Pastoral Salary Assistance	-0-	60,000	60,000
New Work Revolving Loan Fund	60,000	193,225	133,225
Offering Promotion Expense	17,000	17,000	-0-
Prison Ministry — Scripture distribution (WMU)	6,000	6,000	-0-
Proposed Conference Center Fund	40,000	40,000	-0-
Rainbow Acres Baptist Home for Retarded Adults (Caryville)	6,000	5,000	(1,000)
Resort Missions	6,000	6,600	600
Rural and Mountain Missions	16,000	16,000	-0-
Site Fund for New Churches	-0-	100,000	100,000
Student Scholarships (WMU)	29,500	29,500	-0-
Student Summer Missions (Missions Dept.)	5,000	8,600	3,600
Summer Preachers' Schools (Colleges)	12,000	14,000	2,000
United Tennessee League, Inc.	70,000	75,000	5,000
VBS Summer Missionaries (Sunday School Dept.)	7,000	7,000	-0-
Videotape Ministry — Associations	1,200	1,600	400
Videotape Ministry — Bold Missions	5,000	6,000	1,000
Weekday Missions Ministries	2,500	3,000	500
WMU Budget Supplement (Metro WMU Promotion)	13,250	13,250	-0-
WMU Budget Supplement (Rural WMU Promotion)	5,000	5,000	-0-
WMU Volunteer Workers	4,500	4,500	-0-
Contingency Fund	3,650	3,650	-0-
TOTAL	\$655,000	\$1,005,000	\$350,000

*The last \$193,225 of the offering goal will go to the New Work Revolving Loan Fund (\$93,225 of it) and Site Fund for New Churches (\$100,000).

*Student Summer Missions (Missions Dept. and WMU) was allocated jointly last year for a total of \$9,500; this year it was separated, and the WMU allocation is called "WMU Volunteer Workers."

Tennesseans earn degrees at SBTS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Thirty-six Tennesseans were among about 350 students awarded degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during its 157th commencement May 23.

Two other Tennesseans were awarded diplomas from Southern's Boyce Bible School.

Earning doctor of ministry degrees were James Dixon of Knoxville, John Keith of Oak Ridge, Terry Peck of Chattanooga, and Danny Ruehling of Palmer.

Michelle Davis of Strawberry Plains, Donna McRae-Toney of Jefferson City, and Brenda Tinker Short of Memphis received the master of social work degree.

Master of divinity degrees were awarded to James Arms Jr. of Murfreesboro, Steven Carter of Talbot, Patrick Cole of Elizabethton, David Cunningham of Bluff City, Jon Hale of Gallatin, William Henegar of Strawberry Plains, Frank Hickman of Memphis, David Hogglen of Maryville, David Jordan of Signal Mountain, Kenneth London of Dyer, John McCluskey of Knoxville, Sherman Moss of Nashville, Brian Pittman of Memphis, Aaron Reed of Knoxville, Hayward Thames of Winchester, Melissa Trentham of Knoxville, and William Vanderford Jr. of Knoxville.

David Guy of Tullahoma, David Headrick of Sevierville, Sharon Lawhon of Springfield, Joel Marshall of Knoxville, and Nancy Inez Robertson of Kingsport received the master of church music degree.

The master of arts in Christian education degree went to Nancy Allen of Bell Buckle, Timothy Bennett of Erwin, Stuart Coleman of Jefferson City, Tammy Fann of Franklin, Charles Smith of Clarksville, Ricky Snyder of Ocoee, and Virginia Wohlwend of Knoxville.

The Boyce Bible School awarded the diploma in Christian ministry to Clifford Gibson of Nashville and James Brown of Richmond.

Tennesseans receive New Orleans degrees

NEW ORLEANS — Tennessee ties were among 235 students who participated in May commencement exercises at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ted Holmes Jr. of Shelbyville received the master of divinity degree.

Receiving the master of religious education degree were Gerald Linton of Athens, Gary Morgan of Millington, and Vernon Rutherford of Bartlett.



Gray



Hearon



Johnson



Plunk



Walker

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



One of my pastor friends was sharing with me not long ago that at one time he was pastor of a church that was on a direct route to one of our Southern Baptist assemblies.

From time to time, groups and program personalities would stop and worship with them on their way to the conferences. The pastor said he never knew who would be present. Sometimes when recognizing visitors, he would say, "Look who is here."

I thought about this statement, "Look who is here." Isaiah when he went into the Temple to worship might have said, "Look Who is here." God's Word says, "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the Temple" (Isaiah 6:1).

The disciples met on the Sunday following the resurrection of our Lord and our Lord appeared without opening a door or window. They might have said, "Look Who is here."

Stephen as he was being stoned to death and looked up at the heavens and saw Christ sitting at the right hand of God, could have easily said, "Look Who is here."

I thought about the day of Pentecost. After days of prayer, the Spirit of God came in a mighty fashion. The disciples could easily have said, "Look Who is here."

I have thought about our worship services from time to time and who is really there. The Lord is there. The Holy Spirit is there. God's people are there.

Someone has said that God's people are the beggar knocking, the sinner prostrate, the sinner looking into the Master's eye, the child speaking to the father, the pardoned man resting, the saved man thinking, and the saint rejoicing.

I look forward to coming to the Lord's day and worshiping in God's house, knowing that our Lord among others will meet me there. Perhaps I can say "Look Who is here." There is the beggar knocking, the sinner prostrate.

Carson-Newman hosts weekend for prospects

JEFFERSON CITY — The admissions department of Carson-Newman College is sponsoring a Welcome Weekend on June 14 for high school juniors and seniors who may be interested in attending Carson-Newman.

Any student who is considering transferring to the East Tennessee Baptist college also is invited.

The Welcome Weekend provides an opportunity to explore various aspects of college life through talking to students, faculty, and college personnel. Topics which will be covered during the program include student life and activities, how to choose a major, and financial aid.

Registration will be from 9-9:30 a.m. in the lobby of the music building.

Any prospective student is encouraged to stay overnight in one of Carson-Newman's residence halls. There is no charge, but reservations should be made by June 7. Lunch and dinner will be provided for those attending the program.

For more information or to make room reservations, contact the admissions department at Carson-Newman.

TBC names five music missionaries

Five Tennesseans have been named summer music missionaries by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's church music department providing assistance to churches in the state for the 31st year.

The missionaries help churches, particularly with volunteer or part-time music leadership, organize the music

ministry and train its leaders, explained Julian Suggs, director of the TBC's church music department.

Gerald Gray, who is from Dickson, is a student at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, majoring in music education. He is a member of the university's concert choir and chamber singers and

selected for the Tennessee All-State Choir. A member of First Baptist Church in Dickson, this is his second year as a summer music missionary.

Karla Hearon is majoring in music education at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City where she is a member of the a cappella choir, chamber singers, and Music Educators National Conference. Hearon has also received the Presidential Incentive Scholarship and the Theodore Presser Music Award Scholarship. She is from Oak Ridge, where she is a member of Robertsville Baptist Church. This is her second year in this role.

Cheryl Leigh Johnson is from Winchester and has just graduated from Union University, Jackson, where she received a bachelor of music degree in sacred music. The pianist at Cotton Grove Baptist Church in Jackson, Johnson was a member of the Union University Singers and pianist for the Covenant music group and Union University Chorus. She also received the Applied Piano Scholarship, Church-related Vocation Scholarship, Covenant Scholarship, and Upper 10 Percent Scholarship.

Jonathan Matthew Plunk received a trombone scholarship at Union University, where he is a member of the symphonic band, pep band, and the Lambda Chi Alpha all-sing group. He has received the Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence. A member of First Baptist Church in Carthage, Plunk has served as minister of music and youth at McLemoresville Baptist Church in McLemoresville and was a member of the Tennessee Baptist all-state youth choir.

Alison Walker, who recently graduated from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, is a sign language interpreter. At the university, she was a member of the concert choir and the Baptist Student Union Choir and ensemble. She is from Brownsville, a member of First Baptist Church in Cookeville, and plans to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, this fall. Walker is serving again as a summer music missionary.

Moore urges reconciliation as task of SBC president

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Reconciliation in the nation's largest evangelical denomination is the biggest task facing the next president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Winfred Moore said here.

Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, and first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke in chapel services at the Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention Building and met briefly with reporters. Moore has announced he is willing to be nominated as SBC president at the annual meeting in Atlanta next week.

He said he has been traveling throughout the convention preaching one message — "that we can accept the diversity in our convention within the parameters of the 'Baptist Faith and Message.'" We must do that.

"We need to do everything we can to defuse some of the issues so we don't have such a volatile convention," said Moore.

At the same time, Moore acknowledged he has become the subject of heated correspondence between the 1986 chairman of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees, Lee Roberts, and the current president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Paul Powell. Roberts is an Atlanta layman and Powell is pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas.

In a May 13 letter to Powell, Roberts alleged that Moore, as a trustee of Baylor University, had in 1985 voted "to allow the continued showing of pornography depicting homosexuality, sadism, nudity, explicit sex, and the use of our Lord's name in vain on the campus."

Roberts also alleged Moore violated the guidelines of the SBC Peace Committee by setting forth his own peace plan which Roberts called a "Presbyterian structure." He further challenged a public statement by Moore that Moore does not know any liberals in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"As you know, Dr. Moore serves on the Peace Committee with Dr. Cecil Sherman and Dr. William Hull, both of whom have openly stated that the Bible is neither inerrant nor infallible and that it does contain errors. When Dr. Moore says he doesn't know any liberals, is he saying that he serves on the Peace Com-

mittee with these gentlemen but he doesn't know them or is he saying that it is not liberal not to believe the Bible or is he saying that he agrees with them?" Roberts asked.

Roberts' letter was written in response to a letter from Powell. Powell released Roberts' May 13 letter to Baptist state paper editors May 28 and noted in a cover letter that Roberts "seeks to destroy a pastor's ministry and reputation by using misrepresentations and falsehoods."

"For Mr. Roberts to oppose Dr. Moore politically did not surprise me. It did surprise me that Mr. Roberts did seek to destroy Dr. Moore's personal reputation and ministry to achieve his and others' political ends," said Powell.

"In regard to Roberts' charge that he voted to support pornography at Baylor, Moore denied the charge and said he merely voted to table a motion instructing the administration as to how to deal with the Baylor Film Society.

"I would vote the same way again tomorrow. It was an administrative responsibility. I'm very pleased with the way they handled things," said Moore, noting that Baylor President Herbert Reynolds suspended the society.

Moore said his so-called peace plan was not a formal plan but a response to a reporter's question. Of his suggestion in his proposal that state convention leaders submit names from which trustee appointments would be made, Moore said, "I was not talking about connecting state conventions to the SBC."



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Six Indian churches in the Venezuela's Amazon Territory have formed a new Baptist association and six more want to join. Pray as Missionary Tom Vassar works with them.

—Pray for Josi Domingo Chacin, a professor of economics at the University of Zulia, who is president of the national Baptist convention.

—Pray for Bryan Brasington, area director of Western South America for the Foreign Mission Board, as he works with the missionaries and Venezuelan and Tennessee Baptist leaders.

Hefley protests BSSB decision to exclude book at SBC exhibit

NASHVILLE (BP) — A decision not to sell a book on controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention at the SBC annual meeting has sparked disagreement between the book's author and Southern Baptist Sunday School Board officials.

The Truth in Crisis: The Controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention by James C. Hefley will not be sold at the board's Baptist Book Store exhibit during the convention, to be held in Atlanta June 10-12, said William S. Graham, bookstore division director.

The decision not to sell the book is in keeping with the board's understanding of the SBC Peace Committee's request that all Southern Baptists exercise restraint from division or controversy, Graham said. He noted the book has been and will continue to be available through any of the chain's 63 bookstores and mail order centers across the country.

Hefley, writer-in-residence at Hanni-

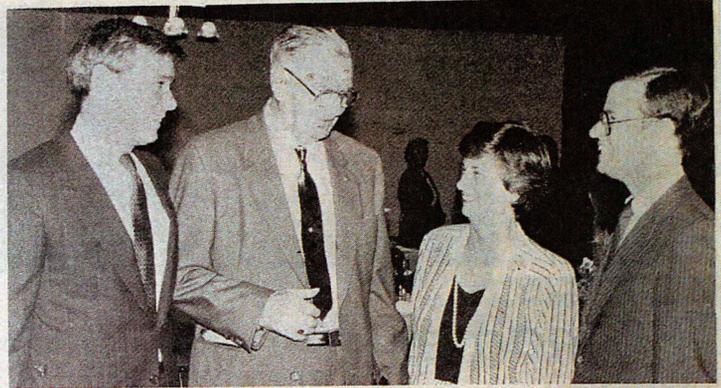
bal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., said he respectfully disagrees with the board's decision not to sell the book at the convention.

"The book is not inflammatory, but even-handed," he said. "It clearly presents both sides of critical issues and provides extensive documentation for events in recent turbulent history."

He also expressed "fear that the decision not to sell the book in the convention exhibit will spark objections and perhaps create a furor that will heighten the very tensions which the Peace Committee has been trying to lower."

Hefley added he does not see that the book is a problem, even if it "tilts to the right" in its perspective. "The Peace Committee's recent statement on SBC politics states that 'in some denominational papers . . . there has been prejudice against the conservative political activists,'" he explained. "The statement does not say that 'some denominational papers' have been prejudiced against the moderates. The point is that the conservative understanding of the issues has not been presented fairly in all denominational media which will be read by hundreds of thousands of Southern Baptists before the convention."

Graham said the chain's bookstores and mail order centers "are making the book available if it is in stock. In locations that do not have copies on hand, employees will assist persons in obtaining a copy by placing an order for them from the publisher."



BELMONT'S HIGH HONOR — George West (left), chairman of Belmont College's trustees, and William E. Troutt (right), president, congratulate Tom Hitch and Margaret Maddox after they were inducted into Belmont's Lemuel B. Stevens Endowed Collegiatius for 1986.

Belmont inducts Hitch, Maddox into Stevens Endowed Collegiatius

NASHVILLE — Belmont College honored two prominent middle Tennesseans recently when Tom Joel Hitch of Columbia and Margaret Huffman Maddox of Nashville were inducted into the school's Lemuel B. Stevens Endowed Collegiatius.

The ceremony was held May 15 in the White Banquet Room of the Gabbart Student Center.

Wayne Brown, dean of Belmont's School of Business, addressed the topic "Christian Education: Using Today's Moral/Ethical Issues to Prepare Tomorrow's Leaders." Carolyn Strode, chairperson of the board's 1986 Collegiatius committee, presented the honorees with mementos of the occasion.

Belmont College's Hitch Science Building, constructed in 1974, is named in honor of Hitch and his late wife, Mae. A former trustee of Belmont (1970-76), Hitch currently serves on Nashville Baptist Hospital's board of trustees.

Active in agriculture, Hitch served as president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau for 15 years. A board member of the American Farm Bureau Federation and a two-term member of the Presidential Agricultural Advisory Committee, Hitch has been instrumental in the passage of farm legislation on both state and national levels.

A longtime resident of Columbia, Hitch is an active member of that city's

First Baptist Church.

Margaret Maddox served as chairperson of the initial gifts division of Belmont's recent Agenda for Greatness Campaign.

"I didn't graduate from Belmont," she said. "No one from my family attended Belmont or Ward-Belmont, and I'm not a Baptist. But I believe in Belmont and what they're trying to do."

Maddox Residence Hall, dedicated in October 1985, was named to honor Margaret and Dan Maddox for their support of Belmont College.

A Nashville native, Maddox attends West End Methodist Church.

At Collegiatius, the board of trustees annually honors individuals whose support of higher education has been of special relevancy and significant continuity in the life of the college. Collegiatius induction is Belmont's highest honor.

OBU names school to honor Ingram

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP) — Oklahoma Baptist University trustees have voted to name the university's School of Christian Service in honor of Joe L. Ingram, retiring executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

The announcement was made by OBU President Bob R. Agee at Ingram's retirement dinner in Oklahoma City May 13. University trustees approved the proposal at their March 3 meeting.

The university will begin a \$1.8-million fund-raising effort next year to complete endowment funding for The Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Service. About \$700,000 already has been raised toward \$2.5-million needed to fully endow the school. Endowment provides perpetual income for faculty salaries, lectureships, scholarships, and operational support.

BAPTISTRIES
WATER HEATERS
STEEPLES

- FACTORY DIRECT SALES -
ECONOMICAL - OUR 24TH YEAR
ECONOGLAS INDUSTRIES
904 1321 ROSWELL, GA 30077
1-800-221-4153

FOR SALE

CHURCH BUSES, VANS, MINI-BUSES

New and Used
Immediate Delivery
12 to 66 Passengers

Call for details and pricing
CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.
Franklin, TN
(615) 790-8990 • 1-800-641-0989
(TN) 1-800-421-9263

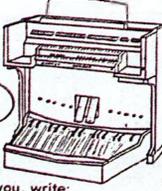
Pews, pulpits, baptistries
steeples, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors,
carpet.

VAN WINKLE
CHURCH
FURNISHINGS &
PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

**Is Your Church Considering
A New Organ?**

Allen Organ is the choice of more churches than any other make. It is neither electronic nor pipe but a "Third Kind of Organ"



Allen Digital Computer Organ

For an informative brochure and the Allen Organ Dealer nearest you, write:

ALLEN ORGAN
P.O. BOX 40894,
NASHVILLE, TN 37204-0894

NAME _____
CHURCH _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE () _____

CHURCH FURNITURE

Solid wood or upholstered pews, pulpit furniture, looms or fixed pew cushions. Baptisries-Steeples-Carpet. All Work Guaranteed.

For More Information Write or Call
VIRGINIA CHURCH FURNITURE INC.
190 1st Street N.W., Pulaski, VA 24301
(703) 980-5388 in VA (800) 468-6636

CHARLES STANLEY



**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CONVENTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 10
11:15 a.m. EDT**

**NEWS UPDATES FROM
ATLANTA THROUGHOUT
THE DAY**

**PASTOR'S CONFERENCE
AND CONVENTION
HIGHLIGHTS
MONDAY-THURSDAY
6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

 **JOY62WRJZ**
NHOXVILLE • 620 AM • 24 HOURS

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT**

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSONPIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

WOLFE BROS. & CO.
PINEY FLATS, TENN.

Manufacturers of **DISTINCTIVE**
CHURCH FURNITURE
SINCE 1888 Write for free estimate.

CHURCH FURNITURE

At a price
Any Church Can Afford
Write or call

WAGONER BROS.
MFG. CO.
Tel. (501) 675-2468
Booneville, Arkansas
72927

**SEE THE GREAT PASSION PLAY &
STAY AT KELLER'S COUNTY DORM RESORT**
(for Groups of 12 or more!)
**NEW AIR CONDITIONING, IN-GROUND POOL,
\$7.50 TICKETS, lodging, and meals ALL
FOR \$21 EACH!** Call 501/253-8418 today!
Rt. 4, Box 554, Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632

 **RAINSVILLE
CHURCH PEW COMPANY**

220 Rainbow Avenue, South West
Rainville, Alabama 35986
Phone (205) 638-2467 or 638-1910, collect

We offer new pews or we can upholster, reupholster, and refinish your existing pews.



TENNESSEE WRITERS — Five Tennesseans attended the recent writers' conference at Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., in preparation for writing WMU materials for 1987-88. They are (left to right) Deborah Brunt of Memphis, Jeannette Rolater of Murfreesboro; Barbara Cox of Nashville; Diane Stewart of Antioch, and Susi Lockard of Nashville.

BOOK REVIEW
By Michael Davis

McCarty defines ministry

The Inner Heart of Ministry by Doran C. McCarty; Broadman; 126 pages.

The understanding of Christian ministry in this book can enhance the work of lay and vocational ministers. Drawing on his experience as a pastor and seminary professor, McCarty shares insights into the nature and work of ministry.

His concern is with the inner dynamics of ministry. When he discusses leadership, the qualities that permit trust to be invested in a leader are presented. When he writes about service, he exposes the self-serving attitude. These are just some of the ways that McCarty helps his readers penetrate into the inner aspects of ministry.

The arrangement of the book focuses on key words that have been associated with ministry since Biblical times.

In the first chapter the call to be a minister is discussed. The remaining chapters define ministry in terms of serving, showing spirituality, leading, blessing, redeeming, reconciling, remembering, revealing, investing, hoping, showing grace, and loving.

One of the best chapters deals with the place of remembering in ministry. McCarty shows his readers how the ritual of remembering was significant to the Hebrews, the early church, and the people of every nation. He relates the importance of remembering transitions: "The rituals we develop help us through the difficulties and hurting times of life. The ministry of the church is to ritualize the special transitions of people's lives so they may pass through them with significant memories. The Passover ritualized the Exodus. John the Baptist's baptism ritualized a new era among God's people — the coming of the Messiah. The Lord's

Supper ritualized the saving event of the cross. Observing rituals is a way the church ministers by remembering."

From this Biblical background, McCarty develops a fine discussion on how the church can become engaged in ministering to people during the transitional periods in their lives.

The help given by McCarty is practical and theologically sound. Every Christian who consults this book will find it to be a good resource for understanding some basic inner dimensions of pastoral and institutional ministry. The author is director of supervised learning, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Flood damages mission property after Bangkok's heaviest rain

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)— Floodwater two feet deep swept through the Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary in Bangkok in May, ruining doors and damaging beds and other items such as books and graduation gowns.

Standing floodwater also warped the doors of Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok and covered ground floors in the homes of Southern Baptist Missionaries Richard and Linda Blount and Bill and Kaaren Hitt.

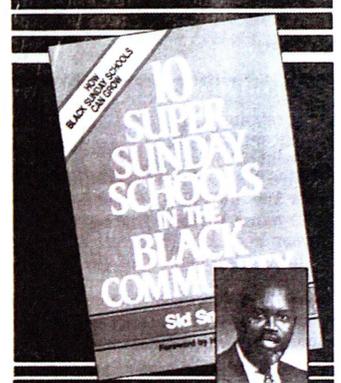
The May flooding was touched off by Bangkok's heaviest rain in 500 years, said Chamlong Srimuang, governor of the city. Fifteen inches of rain fell in 24 hours, inundating the city, halting commerce, and eventually leading to the deaths of at least 50 people.

The flood dealt damage to files, music materials, and books on the campus of the Baptist seminary. Doors swelled and separated, and teak pews in the chapel sat in two feet of water for several days. Four pianos had to be lifted above the water on blocks.

Water several inches deep seeped into storage units on the faculty compound next door, soaking mattresses and whatever else stood outside sealed metal drums. Water was found inside nearly every mission vehicle on the seminary compound.

The Hitts woke up the night of the heaviest rain as their bed became wet. Hitt opened the door to move furniture into an enclosed pickup.

The Blounts were forced to move from their apartment by water that stood 10 inches deep. They moved in with another missionary family until the water receded.



Wouldn't you like to know their secrets? What do some black churches do to experience such phenomenal growth? Now you can discover what works for them in Ten Super Sunday Schools in the Black Community.

Citing their use of Sunday School Board services and materials as one reason for success, ten black churches from across the country share their successful "Super Sunday Schools" stories with you.

Black churches interested in going, growing Sunday School programs will find these actual case studies encouraging and challenging.

Paperback, \$5.95

Sid Smith is Ethnic Liaison Unit consultant at The Baptist Sunday School Board.

CHURCH FURNITURE

Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates



Plain or Padded
Refinishing, Upholstering,
Cushioning Your
Present Pews.

CISCO

615/359-3075 Lewisburg, TN 37091

Design and Build
The New Church
You Need Today,
Right Away!



- We can help you get financing
- Guaranteed no budget overruns!
- More than 300 churches built
- Let us help you make your dream a reality

NORTHWAY

Church Designers and Builders, Inc.
Box 591, Taylors, SC 29687

CALL TODAY! (803) 268-7090

At your Baptist Book Store

BROADMAN

WEST TENNESSEE SUMMER PREACHERS' SCHOOL UNION UNIVERSITY, JACKSON, TENNESSEE

JULY 7-11, 1986



Dr. Curtis Vaughan
Prof. of New Testament
SWBTS, Ft. Worth, TX



Dr. James Barry
Pastoral Ministries
Church Administration Dept.
Baptist Sunday School Board



Dr. Walter Jackson
Director of Supervised
Ministry Experience
Southern Baptist Seminary



Dr. David Vickery
Assistant Professor of
Psychology, Director
Behavioral Health Clinic

THEME: "JOY IN THE MORNING"

The Book of James - Dr. Vaughan

"The Joy of Ministering Christ" - Dr. Jackson

"The Joy of Preaching Christ" - Dr. Barry

"Joy, Joy, Joy" - Dr. Vickery
(Mini-Seminar for Pastor's Wife)

For More Information Contact:

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS - UNION UNIVERSITY
Jackson, Tennessee 38305

First Annual West Tennessee Summer Preachers' School Golf Tournament — Mr. Don Morris, Dir. - July 9-10



by BROADMAN

Specialized software for:

- Membership
- Stewardship
- Word Processing
- Accounting
- Prospects
- Attendance
- Media Library

Plus, IBM Personal Computers, Data General Desktop Generation computers, forms, supplies, and accessories. For information contact:

Church Information System
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37234
(615) 251-3604

SP-86

BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for June 8

Haunting power of old sins

By Mike McGinnis, pastor
Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga

Basic Passage: Nehemiah 13:4-31

Focal Passages: Nehemiah 13:10-12, 15-19a, 23-25

Following Ezra's special teaching ministry in Israel, Nehemiah's next major effort involved the repopulating of Jerusalem. At some point in this process, they dedicated the wall of Jerusalem with a great service of singing and praise to God.

Other than these major events following the rebuilding of the wall, we are not told specifically what transpired in Nehemiah's life for the next 12 years. We know that he served as governor in Judah. However, he makes very little reference to himself in chapters 7-12.

From the information we have, we can conclude it was a very successful period of time in the life of Israel.

At the end of this 12-year period, Nehemiah returned to Susa, evidently to once again serve King Artaxerxes. While he was gone, some rather startling changes took place in Judah that were serious violations of Israel's written covenant with God. When Nehemiah once again returned to Judah, he found a task that in some respects must have been even more difficult for him to face than rebuilding the wall. From Israel's failures, we can learn three important lessons.

First, we must honor God in our associations (13:4-9, 23-30). When Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem, he was shocked and distressed to find that Eliashib, the high priest in Israel, had prepared a special guest room for Tobiah in the Temple. It was certainly not appropriate for Nehemiah to order all of Tobiah's household goods to be thrown out of the room and the rooms to be cleansed.

Another perhaps more grave problem existed among the Israelites. Although the children of Israel had promised in writing they would not intermarry pagan people — those who did not worship and serve the one true God (cf. 10:30) — Nehemiah found they had violated this commitment. Nehemiah's reaction was not excessive. This very sin was at the heart of why Israel had been taken into Babylonian captivity in the first place. Nehemiah's reference to Solomon was an appropriate warning of the severe danger of such sin.

As Christians, it is important that we do not allow non-Christians to influence our lives negatively. Nehemiah's actions illustrate this principle and it is reiterated by Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?" In order to validate his position, Paul quotes a series of Old Testament passages (2 Corinthians 6:16-18).

This does not mean we must set ourselves apart totally from non-Christians. Separation does not mean isolation. Paul clarified this misunderstanding in 1 Corinthians 5. It is impossible to live in this world without associating with non-Christians. However, to associate with them is one thing; to allow them to influence our lives negatively is another. We must constantly be on our guard against this possibility, without taking



McGinnis

our Christian influence away from unbelievers.

Second, we must honor God with our material possessions (13:10-14). God established certain laws in Israel regarding tithing. His people were to give one-tenth of all of their material resources to meet the physical needs of the Levites. When Nehemiah returned from Susa, the children of Israel were not being obedient in this area of their lives. Consequently, the ability of the Levites to minister to the spiritual needs of the people had been hampered, adding further to the moral and spiritual breakdown in Israel.

Tithing, per se, is not reiterated in the New Testament. It also is true that Israel set aside more than 10 percent for the Lord's work. In addition to the 10 percent set aside for the Levites, they were to set aside 10 percent for a special celebration in Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 12). Furthermore, every third year an additional 10 percent was collected to care for strangers, the fatherless, widows, and any additional needs the Levites might have (Deuteronomy 14). This meant that the children of Israel were to give about 23 percent of their income each year to carry on the work of God.

Someone has said that it is a disgrace to allow the children of Israel to do more under the law than we, as Christians, do under grace.

God gives us specifics concerning our giving. Paul outlines some of these principles in 1 and 2 Corinthians.

We are to give systematically (1 Corinthians 16:2). Our giving should not be haphazard. It is to be planned just as carefully as any other item in our budget.

We are to give proportionately (1 Corinthians 16:2). During my years in the ministry, I have discovered that the more a Christian makes financially, the less proportionately he gives. It appears that the greater the blessing, the less the gratitude.

We are to give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). God is not pleased if we give reluctantly and under compulsion. It is true that He has promised to bless our faithfulness in financially supporting His work. However, God does not delight in how much we give if it is done with a begrudging heart. Our motivation for giving should not be obligation, but love for Jesus.

Third, we must honor God with our time (13:15-22). In the Old Testament, God established the sabbath as a day of rest for Israel. It was a rigid law and was never to be violated in any way. However, in the New Testament, God does not place us under this same strict system. Rather, every day is to be a special day for God.

The Bible warns us of the danger of failing to assemble together as believers (Hebrews 10:25). The early church established the first day of the week, the day Jesus was resurrected, as their sabbath. It was a day set aside for worship and fellowship. Those who neglect this Biblical principle will do great harm to their Christian lives.

The Book of Nehemiah, a great testimony of faith in God and faithfulness to God, concludes with one final seven-word prayer, revealing Nehemiah's constant faithfulness to God and his overwhelming faith in God.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for June 8

Wrongs of Jeremiah's nation

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

Basic Passage: Jeremiah 2:1 to 6:30

Focal Passages: Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 11-13

This week's commentary, devoted to interpreting the Old Testament prophets for today, relates to several upcoming lessons of this quarter.

It is my conviction that too often we make a serious error in trying to interpret the Old Testament prophets for today. We attempt to apply all that is said of God's covenant people in ancient Israel to the entire U.S. as a nation today. While this desire is understandable, it is nevertheless dangerous for our spiritual maturity.

Instead, the timeless thrust of these passages should be to the church of Jesus Christ which is God's "new covenant" community — the New Israel — and the true descendants of Abraham (see Jesus' own words in John 8:31-59).

We best fulfill the thrust of these Old Testament passages from God's Word when we find their fulfillment and meaning in the church, not in the U.S. or even in the modern state of Israel. Old Testament truths find their most fertile ground to grow meaningful for Christians when we apply these Scriptures ultimately to the Body of Christ rather than to any particular nation or country.

The "kingdom of God," which the Old Testament began to reveal and which Jesus continued to reveal, to teach about, and to establish in His earthly ministry, is trans-national. It knows no manmade borders nor national boundaries.

From His inception of them, God intended His people to reach out and seek to include all nations in God's grace by being a channel of blessing (Genesis 12:4) and "a kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:6) mediating to others the possibility of relationship with Him. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) continues that outreach vision and intent.

Often we American Christians unconsciously assume and even state explicitly that the U.S. is a Christian nation. "One nation under God," we pledge while looking at our flag. "In God we trust," we print and read on our money. With increased frequency we cite references to Almighty God in early national documents as historical proof that ours is a country founded on a fundamental Christian bedrock. The United States is "the last great hope for freedom in the world," we are told.

There is an element of truth in all of this. Blessed with great abundance, ours is a good nation founded by many godly people and committed by Constitutional law to such ideals as the value of individual life and liberties. Our nation is a prosperous and convenient base from which to launch Christian witness in our world.

But should we so quickly equate our good and beloved nation with the eternal kingdom of God? Are the two completely identical or are they two distinct and important domains in which contemporary Christians hold dual citizenship?

One important distinction between the two is that while Israel operated under a governmental system based upon covenant and called "theocracy" (rule by God), the U.S. operates within a system

based upon Constitution and called "democracy" (rule by the people).

We Baptists may get confused here because, on the one hand, we stand rightly and firmly for the separation of theocratic church and democratic state in our national life, but at the same time, in our denominational polity (with the priesthood of every believer and autonomy of each Baptist body), we quite properly use democratic processes to reflect the "rule of God" as He leads us together as individuals by His Holy Spirit. Furthermore, it is tempting to confuse and want to use political means in the nation to achieve what can only be the spiritual work of the Spirit of God and His church. (See Jesus' own temptation in Luke 4:5-8.)

Donald F. Ackland in *Broadman Comments*, "The increasing tendency is to speak of this country as enjoying the special favor of Almighty God."

We would like to convince ourselves that our beloved U.S. somehow is exclusively God's "chosen people" and that these Old Testament passages about "God's nation" apply especially to us as law-abiding lovers of liberty.

But to do so is not only self-centered, it is self-deluding to limit God's kingdom to one's own nation.

Jesus said that "men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God" (Luke 13:29). I learned that Biblical truth from the hymn, "In Christ There Is No East Nor West." The final stanza reads: "In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet South and North: All Christly souls are one in Him, Throughout the whole wide earth."

God rules over saved hearts, not square miles. God builds His kingdom upon lovingly redeemed persons, not limited real estate.

Many Jews of Jesus' own day expected and awaited a national, political messiah. Instead, God sent them a spiritual Messiah, a Suffering Servant Who called all persons to citizenship in a spiritual kingdom. The Jews of that day rejected such a non-nationalistic messiah and his agenda. They were so busy doing God a favor by ridding His chosen nation of that "heretic," those "religious" people missed their opportunity to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Today the kingdom of God on Jesus' terms so contradicts our own desires and expectations of life in our consumer culture that we re-write His radical demands to make them fit our own comfortable civil religion. By so doing, we threaten our own potential for kingdom citizenship.

In seeking to interpret Jeremiah's prophetic message for our day, we must answer to questions. What did these words mean then to the Old Testament people of God (ancient Israel)? What do they mean today to the people of God (the church)?

The timeless thrust of unchanging truth applies now, as it did then, to the lives of God's covenant people. But to assume that those covenant people of God are to be found only within one nation's boundaries is, I believe, to misunderstand the Biblical definition of the kingdom of God.

It is to the genuine citizens of God's kingdom, anywhere they are, that the prophets make their appeal.



Garner

LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for June 8

Believers' resurrection

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

Basic Passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Focal Passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Four Sunday sessions are in the unit, "Hope of the Christian Life." This first session deals with how the Apostle Paul guided the early church at Thessalonica into a clearer understanding of the significance of the resurrection of Christ and how it related to Christians.

Keep in mind that Christianity was new to these people. Not only did they not have the advantage of a Jewish religious background in the worship of the one true God but they also had the disadvantage of having had a strong pagan heritage. Add to this their belief in the imminent return of Christ and you have a confused and frightened group of disciples.

First Paul assured them that those Christians who had already died before Christ's return would be joined with any who were living at the time Christ did return.

Secondly, the apostle described the spectacular events which would herald the return of Christ — a great shout, the voice of the chief angel, the sounding of the trumpet of God, and the appearance of the Lord Himself. Paul also reviewed the length of life with Christ as eternal, everlasting.

Thirdly, this great caring teacher urged the believers to comfort and encourage each other by reflecting on these truths about eternal life and the faithfulness of the Messiah to gather all His followers when he returned.

Christians, whether 2,000 years ago or today, are fortunate in many ways. Their lives have purpose no matter what circumstances may exist and they need not fear the final enemy of life which is death.

Because of the faithfulness of our Saviour and my faith in Him, I as a minister can stand before family and friends at a memorial service and declare hope and not despair, victory and not defeat.

Of course we do not enjoy separation from those whom we love. Tears flow from our eyes because of the deep hurt we sense at the time of the death of spouse, child, or friend. These human emotions are normal and should be allowed to be vented freely.

I have heard some say that true Christians should not cry over the death of those whom they love. This conviction is unrealistic. On various occasions, our Lord cried. Besides that, Christians do not become more insensitive because of their faith but more sensitive, more caring; at least they are supposed to.

What is unhealthy emotionally and spiritually is to allow ourselves to become consumed with despair and grief. For an individual Christian to continue living productively, he or she must determine to work through grief both emotionally and spiritually. Friends can help, study of Biblical passages which tell of the promises of God is helpful, and one's own faith in God is essential in the healing process. Just as the initial decision to follow Christ is personal, so is the decision to let the Holy Spirit heal hurt and give hope.

There is something unusual about the lettering and information on my grandfather's gravestone. My mother and I agree that, in a way, her father's marker is symbolic of Christian faith.

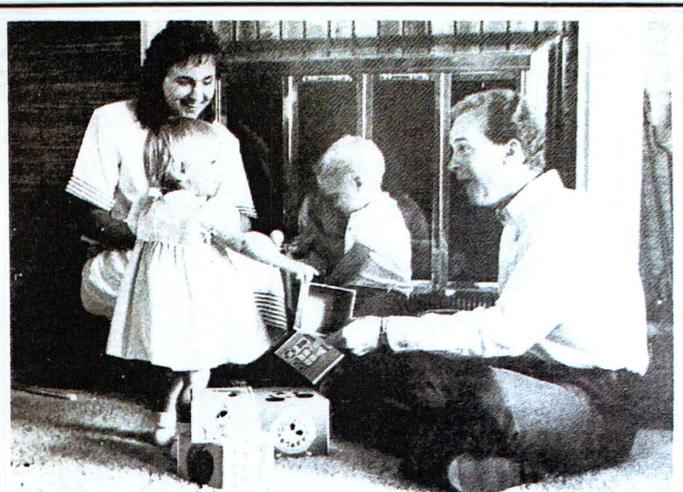
For some reason, the birthdate is listed but the date of death has never been etched in the place provided. There in that country church cemetery is a reminder that death is really not all that important. What is important is that an old farmer had been born twice — once through human processes and once through the work of the Holy Spirit as the man accepted in faith, the best he knew how, the gift of eternal life. Someday, somehow, someday through the power and mystery of God there will come a time of reuniting, a time when time as we know it will be no more.

Ask me to explain it and I must respond that all of the workings of God are beyond me. Christians live by faith.

To the church at Rome, Paul offers a concise summary: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living" (Romans 14:8-9, RSV).



Bush



Don Erwin Jr. and his wife Connie join in games with Alyson and Jared.

My church's concern...

Colonial Baptist Church in Memphis is the only church I have served since graduating from seminary four short years ago.

When I agreed to become their minister of music, I was not particularly concerned about the "total package" of salary/benefits offered. I was too excited about finally being a music minister.

Now I am 28 years old. Connie and I have been blessed with two beautiful, precious children — and the time to plan for the future is now.

Living on only one income with two small children doesn't allow anything to be stored away for retirement, which now seems an eternity away.

I am grateful for a church who recognized the need to provide adequate benefits in retirement and insurance. Our church presently pays 10% of each staff and support staff member's salary into the Annuity Board's retirement program. Life insurance for staff and dependents and a family health insurance plan are two other much needed benefits the church gives the staff through the SBC Annuity Board.

I pray that other churches which I may have the privilege to serve in the future will be as caring for my family's security as the people at Colonial Baptist Church.

Don Erwin Jr., minister of music
Colonial Baptist Church
Memphis, Tennessee

Expanded Church Annuity Plan

Caring for those...
who care for you and your church

For information concerning the Protection Plans offered by the Annuity Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, contact Vern Powers, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Getaway Vacation

2 days - 1 night

only **\$39⁵⁰** Plus Tax Per Person Based On Double Occupancy

INCLUDES:

- Two 1 day passes to Six Flags
- Additional discount passes available

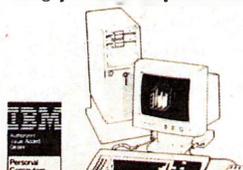
Conveniently located to all interstates and attractions.

For reservations or more information, call the **HARLEY HOTEL OF ATLANTA** (404) 762-5154 or toll-free 1-800-321-2323



The Leader in Computers for Churches in Tennessee

Franklin-First Baptist Church,
Nashville-Two Rivers Baptist
Kingsport-First Baptist Church



Featuring hardware from Texas Instruments

Membership Services, Inc.
1-800-527-9919, Ext. 0824
P.O. Box 152310, Irving TX 75015
Over 16 Years of Church Experience

CHURCH STEEPLES

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALL CROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS

COLONIAL, CONTEMPORARY, AND MODERN DESIGNS.
ERECTION WITH COMPANY CRANES AND CREWS AVAILABLE.
WRITE OR CALL FOR COLOR LITERATURE AND PROPOSALS.

TOLL FREE 800-241-3152

IN GEORGIA CALL

COLLECT: 404-893-9960

GLASSTECH PLASTICS, INC.
P.O. BOX 910,
ROSWELL GA 30077



Detroit Lions receiver works at mission board

By Erich Bridges

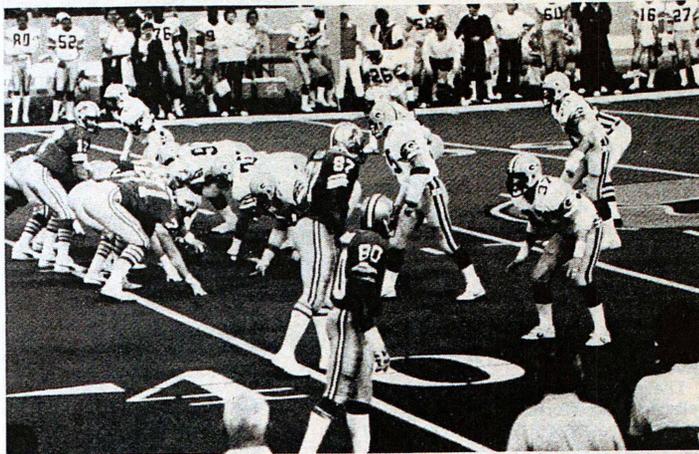
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Detroit Lions wide receiver Carl Bland admits he is not the fastest sprinter in the National Football League. But for a guy who did not even play as a starter in high school until his senior year, catching 12 passes against the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers is mighty sweet success.

Bland plans to begin his third year in pro football with the Lions this fall. To what — or whom — does the 24-year-old athlete attribute his remarkable climb to the professional ranks? He feels it is to God, his mother, good hands, and Dan Whorton of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff.

"A lot of times I talk to guys in Detroit about which way I could have gone if I hadn't met Dan," explains Bland, who also has worked part time at the board in Richmond, Va., during the last two off-seasons. "Just maybe I'd be in the same place, thinking I did it on my own. I did it all. But Dan showed me God's love. I want to show that to somebody else."

Bland is one of many young black athletes from the Richmond area who look up to Whorton. Actually, most of them look down to him. Whorton's not a husky former ball player; he is a small, bespectacled auditor in the board's finance department. But in his spare time, he usually can be found surrounded by a forest of hulking football and basketball players.

Whorton may not look like a sportsman, but Richmond-area coaches and sports reporters know who he is. He has become a favorite of young blacks in urban Richmond through his long association with Royal Ambassadors (RAs), the Southern Baptist mission organization for boys and young men. He started out working with high-school athletes, but has kept in touch with many, like Bland, who go on to college sports. Now his



READY TO RUN — Detroit Lions receiver Carl Bland (number "80" in center foreground) prepares to run a pass pattern against the Green Bay Packers' defense. Bland, a Southern Baptist, works at the Foreign Mission Board during the off-season.

college-age regulars bring their teammates to meet him.

Whorton's Royal Ambassador "graduates" include several other professional players, such as basketball star Paul Pressey of the Milwaukee Bucks, who played RA youth basketball in Richmond. But Whorton says Carl Bland is

responsible for his own increasing success.

"He has a real strong, quiet strength and leadership ability, and he has spiritual values," Whorton says of the young football player. "I've seen a lot of guys with even more athletic ability not make it in pro ball. I think it goes back to his dedication to stick to it and stay right with the Lord."

Bland's off-season activities illustrate his priorities: He has almost finished work toward a degree in business administration from Virginia Union University in Richmond, where he played college football. And he works part time at the Foreign Mission Board during tax season, processing missionary tax returns.

Bland has faced some obstacles. He grew up in a housing project in northern Richmond where poverty and violence were the norms.

"We had a lot of street fights where I lived. There was a time you could find one every day," he remembers. "Drugs were heavy around there too. But my mother kept me off the streets, and I didn't have time to get into all that because I wanted to play sports."

His mother also made sure her son went to church on Sunday.

He did not get much playing time on his high school football team until his senior year. But he dreamed about playing in the pros and managed to draw the attention of a coach at nearby Virginia Union, where he went on to play four years. He also drew the attention of Dan Whorton.

"A few of the players I played with knew Dan, and they would go to his house after a game film session to eat," Bland says. "And that's how I really got to know him because Dan can cook! That got me coming back because I enjoy eating."

Bland got involved in the Royal Ambassador group's activities and Bible study, then began attending Whorton's church, Shalom Baptist Fellowship in Richmond. But he maintains the biggest single reason for his personal commitment to Jesus Christ is Whorton himself.

"It was the love he showed me, just like I was his son," Bland says. "It was sincere. That got me right there."

Virginia Union is not a national football power. But a few pro scouts came to watch the seniors play during Bland's final year. No pro team drafted him, but both the Detroit Lions and the Pittsburgh

Steelers invited him to attend their training camp and try out as a free agent. He chose Detroit.

More obstacles came. Three weeks into camp, he pulled a hamstring. He missed 13 games of his rookie season and played in only three. The team trainer reassured him, saying the injury might be "blessing in disguise." But Bland worried.

"If you were a free agent and you got hurt, you were gone. You didn't have a chance," Bland explains. "It got to the point where I just said, 'Lord, if this is it I know You'll be with me. If not, there must be something else.'"

He recovered from the injury, though and did well in the Lions training camp before the 1985-86 season. Then, with little warning, he was put on waivers — football parlance for being released. Detroit had a 45-man roster limit and needed new players at other positions. Bland went home to Richmond discouraged.

He considered playing in Canada and later tried out for the Washington Redskins. Neither option worked out.

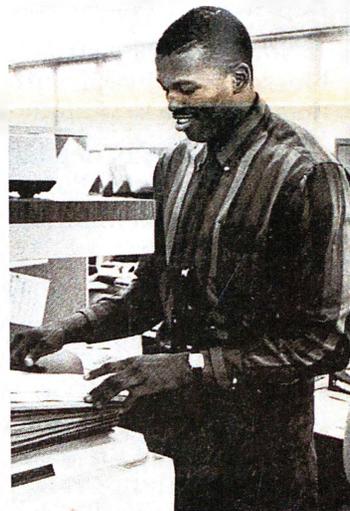
"All this time the Lord was watching," Bland believes. "I knew He was watching over me, and I knew I could play and the potential that was in me. I knew that if there was a place for me, I would be there."

Detroit called back. They needed a backup receiver to relieve the starter and a "special teams" player for kicking downs. Bland played in 10 games. Near the end of the season, another receiver was injured and he finally got a chance to start — against the Green Bay Packers and the soon-to-be NFL champion Chicago Bears. The result was 12 pass receptions in two games.

Despite his surprising late-season performance, Bland knows he has no guarantee of making the team this year. But he likes his chances. Football is not his first or only concern, however. Finishing his education is one main goal. Giving back some of what he has received is another.

Whorton reveals that when Bland signed his first pro contract, he received a bonus. Before buying a car (he had never owned one) or anything else, the young man gave 10 percent of the bonus money to his church.

He also wants to guide young men, like the Royal Ambassadors he now helps Whorton lead. "Young guys today need somebody to keep them out of trouble," Bland says. "It's a small line between doing good and bad. It just takes one point in your life when somebody's going to grab hold of your life and tell you which way to go."



FMB AND FOOTBALL — Carl Bland, pro football player, has spent the past two off-seasons working in the Foreign Mission Board's finance department.

To change or correct your address...

Attach in this space your address label from the front page of your latest copy of the Baptist and Reflector. Please print your new address in the space provided below — including your ZIP code.

When changing your address, please give two weeks' advance notice.

Please send this information in written form, to insure accuracy.

All correspondence relating to your subscription should be accompanied by your address label from the Baptist and Reflector. If a label is not available, please write the 12-digit code from the top of your label here:

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Address all requests to:
Baptist and Reflector
 Post Office Box 728
 Brentwood, TN 37027

Name _____ Please Print

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

West Germans help Nicaraguan Baptists

HAMBURG — The German Baptist Union's youth staff has begun raising \$10,000 for church buildings for new Nicaraguan congregations.

The effort follows exchange visits by Baptist leaders in the two countries. Fifteen-member volunteer teams from West Germany, one this year and one in 1987, will travel to Nicaragua to assist in the construction.

The German youth department also is making a Volkswagen bus available for children's and youth work in the Central American country, and German youth groups will be collecting clothing and other items for Nicaraguan congregations.

Baptist seminary grows in Guatemala City

GAUTEMALA CITY, Guatemala — The Guatemala Baptist Theological Seminary has launched two new programs this year and more than doubled its enrollment from 14 to 32.

Southern Baptist Missionary Jean Byrd is directing the new Department of Women's Studies. The two-year program offers a certificate or diploma in religious education for women church workers. Twelve have enrolled.

Two Baptist pastors are studying in the new master of theology program directed by Missionary Harry Byrd. Twenty students are currently enrolled in the basic three-year seminary program.