

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

TBC pastors consider Jesus' signs of life

NEWPORT — About 125 Tennessee pastors attended the 30th annual Pastors' Retreat last week at Camp Carson and heard a series of messages on "Do You Want Life?" from Ron Phillips, camp pastor. Phillips is pastor of Central Baptist Church, Hixson.

In addition, the pastors heard eight Bible studies on the book of James, led by Eugene Enlow, pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., and teacher at Boyce Bible School.

Phillips' messages were built on the seven signs of Jesus recorded in the

Gospel of John before the resurrection.

Phillips said these "signs of life" were recorded by John out of the many other signs (John 20:20-21) to illustrate Jesus' power over all aspects of life.

"The most important thing is not the sign itself, but what Jesus gives us about Himself in the sign," Phillips said.

Noting that Jesus was challenged by Jewish leaders for performing two of these signs on the Sabbath, Phillips commented, "These religious people were more concerned about the letter of the law than the salvation of a soul or a changed life. A dead orthodoxy is just as bad as liberalism."

He added, "Our problem is mediocrity. Some of us are afraid to give God a chance to change people's lives."

Enlow said that James and Paul are not in conflict, but complement each other. "Paul says that man is saved by faith and faith alone, while James says that our faith issues its expression by what we do."

He continued, "James is writing to professing Christians who did not understand the basics of faith. They were living like they had no faith."

Enlow observed that 26 times the book of James quotes from Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

Joe Stacker of the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, spoke twice on the concept of "shared ministry."

Stacker appealed to pastors to share the vision, planning, and implementation of spreading the gospel with their members. "The church has got to recapture the concept that God is going to share His ministry with all people," he stated.

Stacker said that shared ministry is not trying to take away the authority of the pastor. "A pastor is called by God and called by a church to help that church carry out the great commission," he said.

Other speakers at the five-day Pastors' Retreat were Richard Emmert, pastor of Manley Baptist Church, Morristown; Roy Fisher, pastor of First Baptist Church, Donelson; Tom Madden, executive secretary, Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Jimmy Terry, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Terry urged the pastors to be soulwin-

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Government of India freezes funds for SBC mission work

NEW DELHI, India (BP) — A government freeze on donations from Southern Baptists to mission work in India has forced missionaries to sell a mission car and consider selling other property to fund ongoing evangelism programs.

In late June, the Indian government notified missionaries, officially organized into the Indian Baptist Mission, to accept no further funding from outside the country, unless it was approved first by the central government. Caught by the ruling was about \$70,000 which the Foreign Mission Board finance office had forwarded to the mission treasury just after the notification was sent.

If foreign funds are not approved, the mission could be forced to sell other vehicles and land plots or buildings. Missionary salaries are not affected.

"This places our mission and our hospital under incredible financial pressure," said Missionary Rebekah Naylor, administrator at the Baptist hospital in the southern city of Bangalore. "We are already restricting expenditures. Plans for further cuts are underway." More than 200 churches have been started in the area from contacts made at the hospital.

During a hastily called meeting with government officials in New Delhi, missionaries immediately turned in a request to receive enough money from the Foreign Mission Board to run their programs for the next three months. But the government has up to 120 days (four months) to approve or deny the request. That means the mission, which normally uses about \$50,000 a month from the Foreign Mission Board, could be without allocations for some time.

If four months pass without any action by the government, the request automatically is granted, as specified in the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act of 1976. But the director of the office that enforces the act told missionaries he would take action on their request within 45 days, according to Missionary Jerry Rankin, who met with him in New Delhi.

The government's foreign contributions office has been instructed to investigate every organization receiving more than \$250,000 a year in foreign contributions, Rankin said. Officials have asked the mission to supply detailed accounts of how much money has been spent where and for what purpose since the act was first administered in 1976.

Early this year, the mission began re-

porting its allocations and expenses monthly for the first time. Before that, the mission had understood it was required only to file yearly income tax forms showing its financial status.

The audit, as the government is calling it, further complicates affairs of the mission, which has been facing increasingly complex struggles to secure visas for missionary personnel.

The mission is unclear whether the audit is a step against Christian missionary influence in this Hindu nation, or a way to police foreign funds in an attempt to cut off supply lines for civil disruption. In parts of India, religious and cultural disagreements have erupted into open fighting.

As the audit progresses, missionaries are studying ways to cut expenses by consolidating offices and eliminating projects that are not self-supporting. They also are identifying property they could sell. When they met July 16 to discuss contingency plans, they decided that starting churches will continue to be their primary objective.



CAMP PASTOR — Ron Phillips of Hixson emphasizes Jesus' third sign of life as wholeness during his messages at last week's Pastors' Retreat at Camp Carson.

Hedquist mails housing forms for SBC

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Housing request forms for the 1987 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention are being mailed to state convention offices and should be available shortly after Labor Day, according to Tim A. Hedquist, convention manager.

The forms, similar to ones used to reserve rooms in the convention city for the past seven years, also will be printed in the September issue of *The Baptist Program*.

"There has been a difference of opinion in our convention between those individuals and groups who felt that they should be free to secure their own housing without having to go through the Housing Bureau and those individuals who felt the need for a bureau so that they could be assured that all of the rooms would not be taken by travel agents or special interest groups," Hedquist said.

"Over the years a compromise has emerged in the housing policy. Under that policy, about 4,000 rooms are held by the convention to be used by the city-run housing bureau. Those rooms are for individuals and may only be secured by the use of official forms, available either from the state convention offices or in *The Baptist Program*," he added.

Hedquist added St. Louis has about 15,000 hotel rooms, somewhat less than the 23,000 available in Dallas and Atlanta. Of the 11,000 not in the convention block, Hedquist estimated about half already have been reserved by individuals, travel agents, or special interest groups.

Hedquist explained the housing request forms must be mailed to the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission (CVC), 10 S. Broadway, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63102, on Oct. 1. Forms postmarked earlier than Oct. 1 will be considered last, Hedquist said.

"The forms will be opened Oct. 15 by CVC employees. This gives time for all of the forms to arrive from across the country. Only the date will be considered, so it is of no advantage to have the envelope postmarked at 12:01 a.m.," Hedquist said. "The forms are opened by city employees who know nothing about us, so no favoritism can be shown."

The forms will be handled individually, even if multiple forms are included in the same envelope. The individual forms will be put in random order and drawn. The rooms will be assigned in the order of the draw, and the forms have spaces for first through fifth choices, the convention manager said.

"History has shown that the 12 hotels in the convention block will be filled by individuals mailing the requests either Oct. 1 or Oct. 2," he added.

"It is important to remember that the 12 hotels will not take care of all of those who attend the convention, or even possibly even all of those who fill in and mail the form on either Oct. 1 or 2. The 4,000 rooms in the convention block is an attempt to strike a balance between those who want a bureau and those who do not," he said.

Drumwright acclaims WMU as key to reaching world

GLORIETA, N.M.(BP) — Unless Southern Baptists are willing to "make whatever changes are necessary," Bold Mission Thrust will never be accomplished, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official said during Woman's Missionary Union week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Minette Drumwright, special assistant to the president at the board, urged the women to "be heard" in the churches to affect change.

"The role of Woman's Missionary Union in foreign missions is indeed intensified in these days," she insisted. "Foreign missions needs WMU more than ever before to get through to the people in the churches with the missions challenge in all of its aspects, in all of its urgency. If WMU doesn't do it, how will it be done?"

"In these days of deep division in our convention, I keep having a haunting thought that women need to be heard," she related. "Unity is not the absence of difference. Unity is the absence of division. Women need to call for and insist on unity and focus on the lost world."

It has been 10 years since Southern Baptists committed themselves to Bold Mission Thrust. But recently, Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president, has been expressing serious doubts that the denomination is on a course that will accomplish that mission, she noted.

"Look at the realities," Drumwright said. "There are 241 countries in the world. We have missionaries in 106 of them and plan by the year 2000 to have missionaries in 125 countries."

"Now, obviously, that's only one-half of the countries of the world, and there's no way that can add up to reaching the whole world."

This means that Southern Baptists must "make whatever changes are necessary that will put us on a course that will bring to reality the vision of Bold Mission Thrust — that will bring about world evangelism," Drumwright said.

Already, a "comprehensive world strategy," a master plan for reaching the entire world, is in the "very beginning stages of being developed," she said. "We've never done that scope of strategizing before. Others have tried it. There have been about 300 plans for world evangelization since Jesus' command (the Great Commission), and they have all fizzled out."

But evidences of "stirrings" of world evangelism are present, she said. One example is revival and the "spectacular growth" taking place in some parts of the world, such as Korea, the Philippines, Tanzania, and Brazil.

Another is a meeting at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center last summer of 42 Baptist leaders from 21 nations for a consultation on global evangelism. "A number of these leaders reported on strategies already in place for reaching their nations for Christ. All are following through with continental meetings and are making plans for working together to reach their continents with the gospel," Drumwright said.

A third stirring involves contacts with the Foreign Mission Board by more than 100 evangelical bodies, asking the board to become the leader in world evangelism efforts.

"Many of them are saying, 'We believe God is laying on Southern Baptists the mantle of leadership in world evangelization, and you're the only ones who have the potential for successfully carrying out a plan for reaching the whole

world for Christ,'" she said.

But such leadership must be based on several controlling principles, Drumwright said. "First and primary is that everything done in foreign missions must have a Biblical base — every direction must be mandated by God's Word."

The central objective of foreign missions is that evangelism must result in churches, she added. Also, the career missionary must be the stackpole of foreign missions, with the support of every Baptist as a personal witness through the concept of priesthood of the believer.

Additionally, "we believe in the indigenous principle, in churches and leaders that are natural to their environment, natural in their culture," Drumwright said. And finally, emphasis must be placed on the "holistic principle," or meeting the needs of the whole person.

Given those principles as a base, Southern Baptists then must be willing to branch out into some new thoughts about world evangelism, Drumwright said.

The denomination needs to develop a "global view" as a year-around awareness, not just during the weeks of prayer for foreign or home missions.

"This is one of the many places where WMU's role is so crucial," she said. "Women of WMU, for Jesus' sake and for the sake of the lost, open Southern Baptists' eyes to a global view."

Cuban WMU leader overcomes obstacles to attend conference

GLORIETA, N.M.(BP) — Alicia Ocana left her home on the western side of Cuba during the wee morning hours one day in July.

Her request to the Cuban authorities had been granted and she was on her way to attend the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

She would be the first Cuban in recent memory to attend the WMU conference.

Not able to speak or understand English, Ocana was a bit nervous and slightly scared, but she set out anyway, anxious to participate in the week-long conferences and convocations that would aid her in her work as Baptist Young Women director for the Western Baptist Convention of Cuba.

She arrived in Miami, Fla., at 3 a.m. (EDT), then waited patiently for her 7 a.m. flight to Kansas City, Mo. She arrived in Kansas City in just enough time to change planes for a flight to Albuquerque, N.M., where she landed at 11 a.m. Mountain time.

Due to some crossed signals, the individuals who were suppose to meet her in Albuquerque were not there. A young woman who had arrived on the same plane with Ocana and who spoke Spanish offered to help. She tried calling the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center collect, but the Glorieta staff person who took the call refused to accept the charges since the person calling was unknown.

Next, the woman tried to explain Ocana's predicament to some ticket agents.

A man standing nearby overheard the exchange. He was on his way home to Santa Fe (just about 20 miles from the conference center). He offered to drive

Sunday School enrollment affects rate of baptisms

By Frank Wm. White

RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP) — A review of Uniform Church Letter statistics indicates that a high ratio of Sunday School enrollment to resident church membership is related to a high rate of baptisms.

Tom Lee, evangelism consultant in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, told pastors attending a Sunday School leadership conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center that churches tend to increase the number of baptisms when they have a larger number of persons who have not accepted Christ as their Saviour enrolled in Sunday School.

He said a review of Uniform Church Letter statistics indicates churches with a Sunday School enrollment larger than the resident church membership are more likely to have consistently high rates of baptisms.

"Sunday School enrollment higher than resident membership means you have unsaved people in the Sunday School," Lee said. By enrolling unsaved persons in Sunday School, churches "move the mission field inside the church walls."

He noted that a recent trend of declining baptisms while Sunday School enrollment has been increasing is contrary to historical trends. In the past, baptisms have increased along with Sunday School enrollment.

Also, baptisms historically have been about 5 percent of the Sunday School enrollment. That has dropped to lower than 4.5 percent in recent years, he pointed out.

"If we don't turn this around, the People Challenge may be bigger than we can handle," Lee told the pastors. "Challenge 10/90 — The People Challenge" is the Sunday School theme for an effort to enroll 10-million persons in Southern Baptist Bible study by 1990.

Lee reviewed statistics of the 151 Southern Baptist churches that have baptized more than 65 persons in each of the last three years. Many of those churches have Sunday School enrollments greater than their resident church membership. Others in the group have enrollments equal to or near the total resident membership.

Many of the 151 churches also have baptism ratios much lower than the convention average of one baptism for every 29 church members, with several showing ratios of one person baptized for every 10 church members or fewer.

Lee suggested churches evaluate their membership and baptism ratios and develop strategies for reaching unchurched people.

He recommended a baptism profile to show what age groups churches are baptizing. A high percentage of baptisms for ages 12 and younger would indicate primarily biological growth. "That's good. We need to maintain that. We also need to reach unchurched adults," he said.

The profile will indicate what age groups a church should concentrate on for outreach. Reaching non-Christians through Sunday School enrollment can be a key to evangelism, he said.

Lee pointed out that seven out of 10 non-Christian adults who are enrolled in Sunday School later accept Christ.

Johnnie E. Lee, DOM, retires

Director of Missions Johnnie E. Lee of Union Baptist Association has announced his retirement, effective Aug. 31.

He has served the association for nine years and previously served nine years in the same role in Stone Association of Baptists. Lee has also been pastor of churches in Ohio, Texas, and Tennessee, including Rocky Point Baptist Church in Cookeville, where he was ordained.

Lee is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He is a native of Putnam County and is married to Ethelene Blaylock Lee. They have two children and four grandchildren.

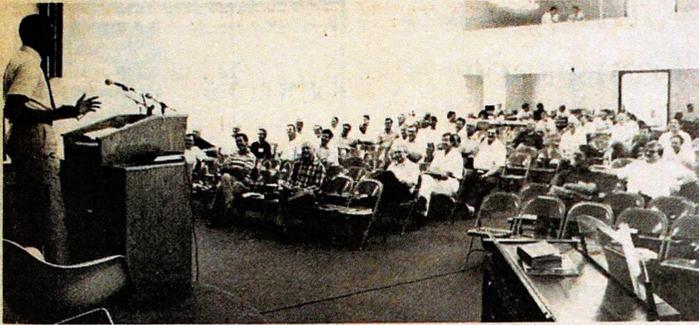
Five Tennesseans earn NOBTS degrees

NEW ORLEANS — Five Tennesseans received degrees July 25 at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Terry Frederick and Michael Yopp, both of Memphis, earned the master of divinity degree.

Joseph Allison of Nashville received the master of religious education degree.

Receiving the associate of divinity degree were James Holcomb of Memphis and Roy Saint of Nashville.



PASTOR'S RETREAT — Jimmy Terry (left), pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Clarksville, explains to the 125 participants at the Pastors' Retreat that Jesus expects His name to also be proclaimed in many places outside the pulpit. Terry was one of the speakers for the retreat held last week at Camp Carson near Newport.

Pastors consider 'signs' . . .

(Continued from page 1)
ners, stating that "soulwinning is everybody's job."

He chided pastors for basing their witnessing on "feelings," when it is God's command. "Jesus promised to train you in soulwinning."

Fisher said a minister's relationship to his church is based on servanthood. "You must have a servant's heart and be loving," he declared.

"It becomes hard to preach if you

allow the conditions around you to condition you," Fisher said.

Music for the retreat was led by Laderel Harrison of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, and Terry Shannon of First Baptist Church, Hixson.

Recreation activities were coordinated by Ed Jenkins of Fountain City's Central Baptist Church, Knoxville.

The annual Pastors' Retreat is conducted by the TBC evangelism department, Woody Watkins, director.

Forty-nine Tennesseans serve as HMB summer missionaries

ATLANTA — Forty-nine Tennessee college students are completing terms as summer missionaries under the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board this month.

Summer missionaries serve for 10 weeks in specific mission activities, such as conducting surveys, leading Vacation Bible Schools, assisting in mission centers, leading services and ministries in mission churches, and working in resort and camp ministries.

According to the Home Mission Board,

Tennesseans (and their hometowns) who served this summer as student missionaries were:

Bartlett: Suzanne Lindsey, Timothy Wright.

Bradford: Dale Denning,

Bradyville: David Ray,

Belfast: Ronald Edwards,

Brentwood: Amy Graves,

Brighton: Linda Mosbeck,

Bristol: Angela Rife,

Camden: Robin Cooper,

Chattanooga: Elizabeth Troughton,

Cleveland: Mark Hall,

Corryton: Mitzi Hipsher,

Dickson: Angela Wingo,

Germantown: Amanda Ebersold,

Goodlettsville: William Pauley,

Harriman: Daryl Hall,

Hendersonville: Keith Davis,

Jackson: Curtis Hovenden, Gloria Montgomery,

Johnson City: Carrol Odem, Jacquelyn Wise,

Knoxville: Susan Arms, Alison Donahue, Karen Flatt, Joseph Hudson, Jill Parker, James Umbarger,

Lawrenceburg: Maria Jean Wheeley,

Lexington: James Tarter,

Loretto: Duane Dominy,

Maryville: Jennifer Axley, Sharon Phillips, Sandra White, Jeffrey Whitehead,

Memphis: Sandra Skinner,

Milan: Bryan Powers,

Morristown: Yvonne Talley,

Nashville: Beth Ann Taulman,

Oak Ridge: Angela Pendergrass, Deana Kee,

Ramer: Jacqueline Thweatt,

Ridgely: Rodney Roberson,

Sevierville: Victoria Starkey,

Signal Mountain: Susan Ducker,

Tazewell: Jennifer Cupp,

Tellico Plains: Daniel Duggan Jr.,

Ten Mile: Edward Roberts Jr.,

Union City: Jane Sage, and

Woodland Mills: Richard Osborne.

In addition, other missionaries served in similar capacities under the sponsorship of state Baptist Student Unions.

TBC colleges offer classes for SBC seminary credit

Classes which offer credit at Southern Baptist Convention seminaries will be offered on campuses of all three Tennessee Baptist Convention colleges during the fall semester.

Seven different courses will be taught this fall on Mondays. The classes are open to pastors and other interested Tennesseans who have a college degree.

Printed below are details on the seminary courses which will be taught on the TBC campuses.

spiritual revival in Christianity. The class will meet 5-8 p.m.

Registration for the courses will take place at the first meeting of the classes on Sept. 8. Late registration will also be accepted on Sept. 15.

Credit for the courses can be transferred to any Southern Baptist Convention seminary. Tuition will be \$110 per course. A one-time matriculation fee of \$10 will be required of students who have not previously taken classes at Southern seminary.

Further information can be secured from William L. Blevins, CNC, P. O. Box 1900, Jefferson City, TN 37760 (phone 615/475-9061, ext. 272).

Belmont College

NASHVILLE — Courses on Old Testament survey and Baptist history will be the first two courses offered in the Nashville Seminary Studies Program meeting at Belmont College this fall. Classes will begin Sept. 15 and continue each Monday through Dec. 1.

Joel F. Drinkard Jr., assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will teach "Introduction to the Old Testament, Part I" from 2-5 p.m. weekly.

"The History of Baptists" will meet from 6-9 p.m., taught by Charles W. De-weese, director of publications and communications for the SBC Historical Commission and an adjunct professor for Southern seminary.

Individuals wishing to participate in the Nashville program must submit all admission-related materials to the Seminary Studies Department by Sept. 1. Information and application forms are available from Kirby L. Clark, Seminary Studies Department, 901 Commerce St., Suite 500, Nashville 37203 (phone 615/242-2453) or from W. Fred Kendall II, Belmont College, Nashville 37203 (phone 615/385-6435).

A \$10 non-refundable fee is required of all applicants. Matriculation fees for the semester are \$150 for one course, \$300 for two courses, or double those amounts for non-Baptist students.

The Nashville Seminary Studies Program is designed to provide seminary training for ministers in middle Tennessee and surrounding states. It is one of seven such programs jointly sponsored by the six Southern Baptist seminaries through their Seminary External Education Division.

Carson-Newman College

JEFFERSON CITY — Fall semester classes for the Southern Baptist Theological Extension Program will begin Sept. 8 on the campus of Carson-Newman College. Enrollment is open to any person with a college degree.

The courses provide opportunities for persons to begin or to further their study toward a seminary degree or for seminary graduates to do additional work.

Two courses will be offered during the fall semester. "Contemporary Issues in Christian Education" will be taught by Ronnie Prevost of SBTS. The course will analyze some of the major issues confronting the educational ministry in churches today and will evaluate approaches currently being proposed in Christian education. The class will meet 1-4 p.m. on Mondays.

"The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit" will be taught by Paul Brewer of the Carson-Newman faculty. This course will provide a detailed study of Biblical teaching with some attention given to periods of

Union University

JACKSON — The schedule for fall classes has been announced for the Jackson Seminary Studies Program. From Sept. 15 through Dec. 15, three master's level seminary courses will be offered each Monday on the Union University campus.

A course on the book of James will meet from 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. weekly, taught by John B. Polhill, professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The book of James will be the subject of the adult January Bible Study in 1987.

From 2-5:15 p.m., "Church Growth: Growing a Church in a Changing Community" will be taught by Mark Short, associate professor of church administration at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Various models for ministry and church organization for churches in changing communities will be examined.

James W. Wooten of the Union faculty will teach "Religion and Social Change" from 6-9:15 p.m. Wooten is also an adjunct professor for Southern seminary. The course will emphasize how society and change affect the church and how the church can bring about change.

The Jackson Seminary Studies Program has been in operation since the fall of 1980, bringing seminary training to the ministers of west Tennessee. The program is jointly sponsored by all six Southern Baptist seminaries and administered through the Seminary Studies Department in Nashville.

Persons interested in enrolling for one or more of the fall courses should apply immediately to the vice-president for religious affairs at Union University, Jackson 38301 (phone 901/668-1818) or the Seminary Studies Department, 901 Commerce St., Suite 500, Nashville 37203 (phone 615/242-2453). All admission-related materials must be submitted to the Seminary Studies Department by Sept. 1.

Matriculation fees are \$150 for one course and \$300 for two or more courses for Baptist students.

Deaf work conference features Tennessean

NEW ORLEANS — Jerry Seale, pastor of the deaf congregation at First Baptist Church, Knoxville, is one of seven leaders for a conference Oct. 7-9 at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary on "Ministering in the Deaf Congregation."

Designed for ministers to the deaf and for people interested in starting a deaf ministry, it is the first such conference offered by the seminary.

Bill Morris goes to new pastorate

Bill Morris, Tennessee Baptist Convention second vice-president, has accepted the pastorate of Robertsville Baptist Church in Oak Ridge, where he will begin serving in September.

Don Olive, professor of philosophy at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City is interim pastor of the church.

Morris has served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Alabama, and in Tennessee at Hixson, and Dayton. Most recently he was pastor of First Baptist Church in Pulaski. He also served as superintendent of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Franklin.

The native of Alabama is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He has served as associational moderator, on various associational committees, and as a member of the TBC Executive Board, and program committee. He has taught seminary extension courses.

He and his wife, Dorothy Muse Morris, have five children.



Morris

EDITORIAL

Educational opportunities for Tennessee

Tennessee Baptists are blessed as no other state in the Southern Baptist Convention by the opportunities offered for ministers and others to take seminary classes while continuing to serve on their church fields.

This fall — for the first time — seminary-level courses will be offered on all campuses of our three Tennessee Baptist Convention colleges.

Although a complete seminary degree is not offered through these extension programs, participants may complete up to two-thirds of degree requirements through these programs.

Through the Seminary Studies Program of the SBC Seminary External Education Division, all six SBC seminaries cooperate in offering seminary courses at seven off-campus locations throughout the nation. It is significant that two of these seven locations are now in Tennessee.

The Jackson Seminary Studies Program on the campus of Union University has been active since 1980.

Beginning next month, the Nashville Seminary Studies Program will begin on the campus of Belmont College.

Although the program on the campus of Carson-Newman College is related only to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, credits earned from the courses in Jefferson City can be transferred to any SBC seminary.

The courses offered on these three TBC college campuses can not only be used by those seeking a seminary degree, but also provide an opportunity for seminary graduates to take additional studies.

Courses on each campus are taught only on Mondays, so that pastors will not be away from their church fields for long periods of time.

We commend the administration of our TBC colleges for allowing their facilities to be used in these worthy programs.

And we encourage our pastors and other interested Tennessee Baptists to take advantage of these educational opportunities. Churches certainly would want to encourage their staff members to continue their education.

Editor's Note: The following comments were made by Peter Rhea Jones during the Denominational Press Report at June's Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. It is reprinted here in conjunction with Aug. 24's "Baptist and Reflector Day" in Tennessee Baptist churches.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Ministry of state papers

Peter Rhea Jones, pastor
First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

I would speak with enthusiasm and deep appreciation for and to our denominational press: Baptist Press, our agency publications, and especially our 37 Baptist newspapers.

We honor and recognize the editors of our respected state papers. They do an outstanding job and are deserving of our strong support. They offer perspective. They report news. They interpret public events from the outlook of Baptist principles. The editors alertly oppose developments in state legislatures that are antithetic to our common moral concerns during the very incipient stage of such proposals. Thus they arouse our Baptist people and put others on notice.

We support the freedom of the press — both on American principle and more especially on Baptist belief — to express a Christian conscience while respecting the views of all Baptists. Integrity, truth, and precious credibility are served by a free press as is the priesthood of the believer under the lordship of Christ and the individual conscience before God. Our Baptist legacy is as a free people, and can only be free if we are informed.

Our newspapers promote statewide events planned by our denominational leaders. They do so much to advocate the Cooperative Program, both by giving space to our state executive secretaries and others to write but also by the influential commendation of denominational offering within the editorials themselves.

Before and during the successful Good News America revival campaign across our nation, the state editors helped to lead the way through vigorous support, lucid explanations, and inspiring reporting. They, along with the Home Mission Board and many others, are due our appreciation for the way they lifted the Good News campaign to inspiring heights and then reported samples of the encouraging results.

Let us subscribe to our state papers and read them in order to be informed. Let us express our differences through "letters to the editor" or in private conversation. Let us see the ministry aspect of Christian journalism and recognize the vocation of Baptist editors and staff and accept them as fellow ministers and fellow members of our Baptist family.

We appreciate and affirm these Baptist editors and believe in their calling.

Cicero's comment



By the editor

"Cicero, I would like to submit an article about our race event at Cross Country Baptist Church," announced Mary Thon, recreation director.

"Oh, did you vote to accept blacks into the membership?" I asked.

"Not that kind of race," Mary corrected. "Our church has taken advantage of the current interest in jogging and marathons and held the first annual Elijah Memorial Race."

Cicero pondered, "Elijah?"

Mary Thon explained that her church decided on that name and held a 30-mile road race — approximately the same distance Elijah ran to escape King Ahab after the encounter on Mt. Carmel (1 King 18:46).

"That is an unusual church event," Cicero commented.

"True, true," Mary agreed. "I got the idea when I observed how fast our members dash from the church after the benediction's Amen."

Cicero wondered about the response.

"It was great!" Thon thundered. "Our people really joined in. Bea Gunn served as the official starter and got everybody 'off-and-running' at a fast pace — especially since she did not use blank cartridges in the starter's gun!"

Mary assured me that most of the contestants outran the bullets.

She said Finney Lyons was the judge at the end of the race, and the prizes were presented by Laurel A. Ward.

"Who won the race?" I asked.

"The champion was Wynne A. Lott, who practiced up for the event by running from both the church nominating committee and the budget solicitation committee," Mary explained.

Cicero wondered if there was also a shorter race than the 30-mile marathon.

"Right," responded my visitor. "We had the Bethany Blast, which is 15 furlongs, according to John 11:18. That's about two miles — in case you forgot your Bible history," she added.

Mary reported that Ronny Dash won, followed by Ray C. Long.

"It was a great day, in spite of several injuries," Mary Thon thought.

"Injuries?" Cicero quizzed.

Mary said that several had problems and did not finish the race.

— Lee Gay Mennt sustained a strained ligament.

— C. N. Yew had a pulled muscle.

— N. E. Capps fell down and skinned his knees.

— N. A. Huff had to drop out because of shortness of breath.

"Did the pastor, Miles B. Hines, participate?" Cicero inquired.

"Yes, he did," Mary mused, "and he led for a while because he kept shouting, 'I am your leader.' But eventually everybody passed him. I hope he finishes the course by the time of next Sunday's sermon."

Mary Thon observed that the Elijah Memorial Race and the Bethany Blast could be termed as a success. "At first, everybody kept their distance from the idea, but by race time the entire membership took it in stride."

Tennessee/Venezuela



Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for these missionaries having birthdays:

- Phillip Martin, seminary music teacher in Los Teques, on Aug. 20;
- James Crawford, seminary theology teacher in Los Teques, on Aug. 22;
- Jerry Browder, business manager for the missionary organization in Caracas, on Aug. 23;
- Debbie Redmon, who works with her husband at conference/camp center in Valencia, on Aug. 24.

—Pray for these Venezuelan pastors of churches in the Aug. 18-24 partnership crusade and as they disciple new converts:

Enrique Damaso	Nello Finol	Julio Ruiz
Israel Leal	Luis Jaimes	Pablo Jorgez
Victor Boruszko	Ivan Martinez	Francisco Aular
Carlos Hernandez	Hector Nunez	Hugh Redmon
Arnaldo Aray	Jose Ceballos	Edgar Figueroa
Rafael Prado	Efrain Silva M.	Hector Navarro
Arturo Garacia M.	Adolfo Barreto B.	Douglas Rojas
Rafael Pinera	German Nunez B.	Jaime Aramayo
Juan Jose Rivero	Adolfo Leon Santa Maria	Jorge Vera
Albino Salas	Gilberto Macadam	Joel Cruz
Onel Caballero	Rafael Diaz	Custodio Prado

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Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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State WMUers aid Venezuela

Eight Tennesseans, including the president and executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will visit Venezuela in September to assist WMU work there.

Katharine Bryan, WMU executive director-treasurer for Tennessee, and Judy Trivette, state WMU president, will be in Venezuela Aug. 30 through Sept. 7, participating in Venezuela's annual WMU meeting at La Guasima, the national camp in Valencia.

Martha Haynes of First Baptist Church in Ripley, Judith Kelley of Smithwood Baptist Church in Knoxville, Cathey Williams of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, Katherine Wright of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City in Knoxville, and Diane Stewart and Jenny Roberts, both of Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, will be in Venezuela Sept. 15-23, training WMU leaders in several locations across the South American nation.

The mission trips are part of Tennessee's three-year partnership with Venezuela, which began in November 1985 and is coordinated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Additional volunteers are needed for construction, crusades, training, evangelism, camp work, and conferences in MasterLife, WMU work, and stewardship. Persons interested should contact Clarence Stewart, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



A few days ago I tried to prepare a message on "The Sifting and Turning of Simon Peter."

As is always the case when you study God's Word, many different emphases surfaced. One of them had to do with the many times Christ borrowed something He needed to carry out His task. I cannot get away from the thought that Christ, Who is the Creator, Sustainer and Owner of all that is in the world, still borrows from His disciples.

Peter loaned Jesus his boat and his house. Someone else loaned Him a lowly colt to ride into Jerusalem on His triumphal entry. He borrowed the upper chamber for the memorial supper. He was born in a stable that did not belong to Him. Someone loaned Him a sponge at the cross. Simon the Cyrenian loaned Him his shoulder to carry His cross. He borrowed a tomb from Joseph of Arimathea. The grave clothes and the spices used in preparation for His burial were shared with Him by others.

It just could be that Christ wants to borrow something from us: strength, sacrifice, time, material things . . .

It is my prayer that when we stand before Christ in the day of judgment, we will be able to recognize something that we had loaned to Him.

Carson-Newman coordinates plans for local cable TV news channel

JEFFERSON CITY — On Sept. 15, the Lakeway Community Network Channel (LCNC) in cooperation with Carson-Newman College, will begin its programming by broadcasting the Lakeway area's first nightly television news program over local cable TV channel 10 in Jefferson City.

Plans for the live broadcasts, which will feature area news, were announced

by Carson-Newman College President J. Cordell Maddox.

The college contracted with Jefferson City Cable Television Associates to operate the channel on Jan. 9.

Maddox made the announcement which the channel at two organizational meetings for LCNC-TV 10, held Aug. 11 and 12 on the Carson-Newman campus. The meeting on Aug. 12 was an open forum which all interested persons from the Lakeway Community were encouraged to attend.

The LCNC-TV 10 News will lead off the channel's broadcast day each afternoon at 5:45, Monday-Friday. In addition to the 15-minute newscast, the channel will offer a half-hour "Nightly Feature" on a variety of topics such as health, sports, history, and human interest. Future plans call for local sports programming and a call-in show featuring area personalities.

Maddox emphasized that while Carson-Newman will provide the production facilities for LCNC-TV 10, this broadcasting venture will be a Lakeway Community endeavor.

Interested persons are encouraged to volunteer to work with the Daily News Gathering Network and the production staff. LCNC-TV 10 will be training volunteers to work in positions both on and off the air. Video auditions will be held for the newscast's three anchors.

Broadcasts will originate from the station's studios on the fourth floor of the Carson-Newman library, but inquiries about LCNC-TV 10 should be directed to the channel's offices in the Fite Administration Building on the Carson-Newman campus.

Memphis church calls D. Capes

Oakville Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis has called David B. Capes as pastor. He began serving July 16.

He came from the pastorate of Hibbit Baptist Church in Whitesboro, Texas.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Capes is a graduate of Mercer University there and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was a teaching fellow.

He also has served as a youth pastor in Georgia.



Capes

Crocker moves to Johnson City

Central Baptist Church in Johnson City has called David W. Crocker as pastor. He will begin Sept. 7. He comes from First Baptist Church in Franklin, Ky.

Crocker, a native of South Carolina, has served other churches in Kentucky, Alabama, Indiana, and First Baptist Church in Clarksville.

He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he also was a part of the clinical pastoral studies program, and Belmont College in Nashville, where he met his wife, Clara Jo Arp Crocker of Sweetwater. They have two children.

House passes bill to keep subsidy

WASHINGTON (BP) — Recent action by the U.S. House of Representatives would maintain current postal rates for non-profit publications, including Baptist state newspapers and some church newsletters, through September 1987.

The House-approved appropriation bill contains \$650,000-million in federal subsidy to provide reduced mailing rates for non-profit mailers. Although almost \$26-million less than in fiscal year 1986, that appropriation would allow the Postal Service to maintain current rates until Oct. 1, 1987, according to a report by the

House Committee on Appropriations.

The House now must wait for the Senate to pass its own version of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriation bill.

In addition, the report says the Reagan Administration has proposed stopping reimbursement to the Postal Service for losses in revenue associated with carrying certain categories of mail at free and reduced rates beginning in 1987.

Currently, Congress approves an annual revenue foregone appropriation to subsidize those losses. The amount of revenue foregone is the difference in revenue between what the Postal Service would have received at full unreduced rates and what it actually receives at the reduced rates.

Earlier in the year, the U.S. Postal Rate Commission recommended the elimination of Congress' revenue foregone appropriation. The commission recommended instead the creation of separate subclasses for mail currently qualifying for reduced rates.

The administration, according to the committee's report, has said it will propose legislation to enable the Postal Service to continue reduced rates for most existing subsidized mailers. Such legislation, however, has yet to be sent to Congress.

Vance Havner dies in North Carolina

GREENSBORO, N.C.(BP) — Vance H. Havner, longtime Southern Baptist evangelist, author, and Bible conference speaker, died Aug. 12 in Greensboro, N.C. He was 84 years old.

Havner's ministry as pastor and writer, which began during his adolescent years, spanned seven decades. His pastorates included First Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C. Later he became a full-time evangelist and conference speaker whose services were sought throughout the United States. For 10 years he wrote a weekly column for the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer entitled "Havner's Reflections." He wrote 38 books, most of which are still in circulation.

Havner was born in Catawba County, N.C., Oct. 7, 1901. He attended Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.; Catawba College; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

His wife, the former Sara Allred of Greensboro, died in 1972. Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

Margaret Isaacs dies

Margaret Isaacs, daughter of Executive Board member and Mrs. Fred Isaacs, died Aug. 15 in a Knoxville hospital from injuries sustained in an Aug. 14 automobile accident. She was 25.

Memorial services were here Aug. 17 at Brown Funeral Home in Newport, with Charles Hobbs, pastor of English Creek Baptist Church, Newport, officiating. Burial was in Roxboro, S.C.

Fire destroys mission house

MORONG, Philippines (BP) — Two Southern Baptist missionary journeymen lost their personal belongings in early August after fire consumed their panel and plywood residence at a processing center for Indochinese refugees in Morong, Philippines.

The journeymen, Chip Clary of Memphis and Henry Phan of Springfield, Va., moved to one of the six staff houses owned by Baptist Refugee Ministries at the center.

The fire broke out after a butane stove and canister exploded while Clary was changing fuel canisters. He fled from the stove when he realized gas was leaking uncontrollably from the used canister valve.

Clary received minor burns. Phan was not in the house, which quickly burned to the ground. Clary is a graduate of Memphis State University, where he was BSU president. He also served on the state BSU council and had been a summer missionary in Tennessee and Brazil.

The Philippine Refugee Processing Center is administered by Filipinos as part of a United Nations program to prepare refugees for life in the Western world. About 13,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos live there at a time.

As Southern Baptist journeymen, Clary and Phan are working at the center under a two-year overseas program for college graduates under age 27. Phan, a Vietnamese whose family came to the United States in 1975, is teaching auto mechanics to refugees. He arrived at the center this spring. Clary, who has been there about a year, teaches house construction.

Pastor retires after 31 years

Edward W. Smith retired Aug. 1 after holding the longest continuous service as a pastor in the Knox County Association of Baptists, reported Director of Missions Ted Huckaby.

Smith, who served Middlebrook Pike Baptist Church in Knoxville for 31 years, also served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Clinton.

The native of Knox County was ordained by Lonsdale Baptist Church in Knoxville.

Smith is presently employed by the department of human services of the state of Tennessee and plans to do supply and interim pastoral work.

He and his wife, Helen Browning Smith, have two children and six grandchildren.



Smith

Home Mission Board grants loan to Colorado Baptists

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved a \$300,000 loan to help the Colorado Baptist Convention through a financial crisis and purchased property adjoining its downtown Atlanta location during the August meeting of its board of directors.

In executive session, the 85-member governing body also requested the resignation of the seven-member search committee so that a new "balanced" committee could be named by board officers (see *Baptist and Reflector*, Aug. 13, page 1).

Marvin Prude of Birmingham, Ala., chairman of the church loans committee, said the \$300,000 secured loan would enable the Colorado convention to meet a \$450,000 payment due bondholders who had purchased bonds through the Colorado Church Loans Corporation.

The new loan funds were added to \$600,000 loaned to the convention last year to help it through a \$1.2-million financial crisis incurred by its foundation and loan corporation.

On recommendation of its business

services committee, the board also purchased property adjoining its warehouse for \$395,000.

The improved property consists of 15,000 square feet of land and a 10,000-square-foot warehouse-type building. The acquisition will aid the board in alleviating its shortage of warehouse space while enhancing its long range presence in the community.

In March the directors voted to maintain the agency's headquarters at 1350 Spring St. NW, in midtown Atlanta, rather than relocate elsewhere in the city or nation. As a result the board has begun studying ways adjoining property could be acquired and used for future expansion.

Executive Vice-president Robert T. Banks assured the directors that even during the board's first six weeks without a president, the agency continues to make progress in reaching America with the gospel.

"It is no accident that even during the 53 days since the Southern Baptist Convention, home missionaries and mission volunteers have reported approximately 193 professions of faith each day — a total of 10,229 saved. About 100 churches and 300 missions have been established as a part of the more than 600 new churches expected to open their doors before January," he told the board.

Banks, as acting president, said the agency "will not go into a holding pattern" in the absence of a president. "We will continue to plan and respond to our needy and changing nation and focus upon the tasks to which all of us have been called."

Considering a motion from the board's evangelism committee suggesting the department of interfaith witness be transferred from the HMB missions ministries division to the evangelism section, board members voted to refer the restructure question to a special committee composed of chairmen of the two committees involved and three vice-presidents of the board. The committee was asked to study the matter and report to the board in its October meeting.

Travis E. Wiginton, board chairman, said a committee appointed to study the board's policies concerning ordination of women also will present its report to the October board meeting.

In personnel matters, the board elected three new employees and promoted three existing staff members.

Wendell Belew, director of the board's missions ministries division, was promoted to a new position as associate vice-president for missions strategy with a major assignment to write seminary textbooks on home missions. R. Paul Adkins, associate director of the missions ministries division, was promoted to director of the direct evangelism division. Kenneth Carter, director of the board's associational evangelism department, was elevated to director of the direct evangelism division.

New staff members elected by the board include two new assistant directors in the special mission ministries department, Bill Berry of Nashville, and Kenneth Taylor of Houston. Berry previously was student missions consultant for national Student Ministries at the Baptist Sunday School Board while Taylor was a home missionary and PACT consultant.

David William Stewart, an accounts payable supervisor with Rollins Inc. of Atlanta, was employed as associate director of the loan servicing department.



THIRTY YEARS IN THAILAND — Paul and Dorothy Mosteller receive 30-year missionary service pins from Bill Wakefield, the Foreign Mission Board's director for South and Southeast Asia, during the annual meeting of Southern Baptist missionaries in Thailand. The Mostellers have served in Thailand since their appointment in 1956. Before that, Mosteller was pastor of Mitchellville Baptist Church, Mitchellville, and Barren Plains Baptist Church, Springfield. Mrs. Mosteller was born in Gallatin.

Seminar urges laity to cultivate spiritual gifts to bring awakening

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — A dream for spiritual awakening in the Southern Baptist Convention came closer to reality as laity from around the nation explored spiritual gifts during a national seminar.

"Do not neglect the gifts that are in you," Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission President James Smith told the group of 200 state and national Brotherhood leaders, evangelism directors, and their spouses at the spiritual preparation retreat in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Spiritual gifts are what motivate you to service. They find fulfillment and development through ministry," Smith said as he encouraged conference participants to cultivate their gifts through service to Christ.

The seminar, sponsored by the evangelism section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, laid the groundwork for

the 1988 "Year of the Laity" emphasis in evangelism and discipleship.

The church-year emphasis will begin with nationwide lay renewal weekends. Other opportunities during the year will include personal witness training, lay evangelism schools, discipleship training focusing on priesthood of believers, and training of Sunday School workers in evangelism.

"The 'Year of the Laity' will be a time to affirm the people of God in their role as ministers of reconciliation to the world and to hold them accountable to God for the gifts of ministry he has given to them. The world will not hear the good news unless all the people of God become the announcers of the good news," explained Douglas Beggs, director of the adult department of the Brotherhood Commission.

Robert Hamblin, vice-president for the evangelism section of the Home Mission Board, reminded participants that all first century Christians were lay people.

"All they had was a call from God, a sanctification from God, and a commission from God. Let's stop debating the truth," Hamblin said. "Too often we want to interpret it and put our slant on it, but in so doing we take the life out of it."

"Just this week I heard Baptist heresy at Glorieta (Baptist Conference Center). I heard a man say that only a few people have the gift of evangelizing. I don't believe that. I'm convinced the reason people don't evangelize is because they don't want to. There's not that much you have to know (to share the gospel)."

"Christ was sent by God, and He, in turn, sends us. It's time we call all the laity of our churches to witness in the name of Christ."

Roy Edgemon, director of the church training department of the Sunday School Board, related how lay involvement has resulted in the gospel spreading to countries around the world.

"Because of the outpouring of laymen who responded (providing disaster relief) to the Mexico City earthquake, there are nearly 50 new missions in that capital city tonight. Doors of opportunity are opening around the world for laity to share their faith. The opportunities are unlimited," he said.

Union offers locations for seminary extension

JACKSON — The Union University Seminary Extension Program will offer nine courses in satellite locations in west Tennessee this fall.

Anyone above 16 years of age may register for the courses, which are open to ministers and laymen regardless of denominational preference. Regular college entrance requirements are waived for the courses. The course work may lead to the diploma in either pastoral ministries or Christian leadership.

Up to eight semester hours of work may be transferred from the program to Union for college credit. Curriculum recommended by the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention will be used at the centers.

The program is not to be confused with the college's Seminary Studies Program, which is a joint effort between the six Southern Baptist seminaries and Union. Through that masters-level program, students take courses on Monday only which apply directly toward their seminary degree, rather than a diploma.

Tennessee Baptist Foundation

By Earl Wilson
President



Christian will — sign of stewardship

Making a will is the act of a mature person. It is the result of a serious thought and an honest confrontation with the realities of life.

The making of the Christian will is one evidence of spiritual growth and is a wonderful way to honor God, from Whom all our spiritual and material blessings have come.

Each day is filled with opportunities to serve our Lord and to grow in Christ. Consider making a Christian will, or revising your existing will, to honor Christ and extend His kingdom. To do so is indeed a sure sign of growth in stewardship.

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation provides the following services to assist you in your stewardship growth:

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Create a living trust with the foundation as trustee, while you live, and thus enjoy the knowledge that your trust will financially support the Baptist institutions and Christian causes of your choice — forever.

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Missionaries seize opportunities in tension-charged South Africa

Editor's note: Ken Perkins is a Southern Baptist missionary in Transkei, an independent homeland set up by the government of South Africa. The following is his first-person reaction to the current situation in South Africa.

By Ken Perkins

UMTATA, Transkei (BP) — As a wise village chief once noted, "when elephants fight, grass gets hurt."

The elephants are fighting in our world, especially southern Africa, and the grass is being battered, bruised, and broken. The world media cries for punishment and for world courts to fix the blame while the little people here cry for food, blankets, medical care, and to know someone cares.

Almost daily we get cards, and letters expressing alarm at our being in this volatile part of the world. In one 24-hour period, we received five phone calls from loved ones in America concerned for our safety.

With the news blackout here, Americans probably know more about southern Africa than we do. But the news we do get is not very encouraging. There has been so much black, white, and colored (mixed race) tension for so many years that one learns to live with it.

Here are two examples:

— You speak quickly when you are among a group of blacks who do not know you so they can hear your American accent. It is amazing the way friendliness replaces suspicion once they know you are from the United States — a friendliness that is vastly increased when they hear you trying to speak their language.

— When visiting rural areas, it is wise to leave your car on the main road and walk to any new village where you are unknown if you are traveling with your interpreter or a black friend. For years, undercover police teams — one white and one black — have arrived in isolated villages to question the residents. Rural folks fear the combination of white man, black man, and car.

In recent months, almost without exception, each time we have been in a new setting with new people, we are asked what we think about the current South African government, who is to blame for the country's woes, and whose side we are on.

A recent conversation with some young black youths was becoming quite confrontational as they expressed the common ideas of "if you are not for us you are against us" and "how can you say you do not approve the system and yet you are not willing to destroy those who enforce the system?"

Honesty and wisdom are hard to mix sometimes and as I struggled for a positive Christian response, a wise friend with me pointed out, "When a window gets broken, it is broken on both sides — the issue should

not be who broke the window but how we can work together to fix this glass."

The world and its media seem addicted to laying blame and calling for punishment rather than seeking a cure.

But still there are opportunities to work on that shattered window.

Not long ago in a predominantly white city, I stopped for lunch with my two sons and their black friends, Liza and Zola. As we sat in the truck eating fried chicken, a huge black man knocked on the window.

He was full of questions: "You're letting black kids eat with you in your truck? You're treating them just like your kids? They're sitting up front with you?"

As I answered in the affirmative, I shared with him my faith in Christ and a love that should be color blind. This giant black man began weeping and walked down the street of that city crying, "God is alive, God is alive."

A small part of the window had been fixed, a bruised piece of grass had been healed.

SBC hunger relief gifts drop sharply in first half of '86

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist gifts to their denomination's program of worldwide hunger relief have declined sharply compared to the record pace set in 1985.

Figures from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board show gifts to overseas hunger relief during the first half of 1986 lagged 40 percent behind the six-month total for 1985.

Through June, the Foreign Mission Board had received \$3,364,060 for overseas hunger relief, compared to the \$5,519,454 in the first half of 1985.

In contrast, gifts through June to domestic hunger through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board were slightly ahead of last year — \$513,025 in 1986, compared to \$484,813 in 1985.

In 1985, Southern Baptists contributed a record \$11.8-million for combined overseas and domestic hunger ministries, shattering the previous 1984 record by more than \$4.6-million.

While giving during the usually lean month of July could signal the beginning of a downward trend, hunger relief offi-

cials are encouraged that overall giving in 1986 is still ahead of the pace set two years ago when Southern Baptists gave \$7.16-million.

John Cheyne, Foreign Mission Board senior consultant for human needs ministries, said the board had anticipated a decline from the record total in 1985, due in part to declining media exposure of the drought and famine in Ethiopia and other African nations.

Cheyne and Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, emphasized if giving in 1986 remains above the 1984 level, it will reflect a long-term commitment among Southern Baptists to hunger relief.

"The fact that hunger giving to date in 1986 is ahead of the same period in 1984, without the stimulus of international media coverage, is reassuring," said Parham. "The Foreign and Home Mission boards and other agencies have worked hard to keep Southern Baptists informed about ongoing needs, and churches and individuals have continued to respond."

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Foundation staffer ends 35 years of focus on people, not money

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP)—Christine Bess handled money during her 35-year career with the Southern Baptist Foundation, but people enriched her life.

Bess began in January of 1951 as the first full-time employee to work with C.H. Bolton, first chief executive of the foundation. She started as a secretary and kept books and later was accountant and administrative assistant. She was secretary-treasurer at the time of her retirement this summer.

Along the way, she worked with all five of the foundation's chief executives and worked with hundreds of Southern Baptists who asked the foundation to invest their funds for the perpetual benefit of Southern Baptist causes.

"Christine Bess has helped a lot of Baptist people give what they want to Baptist causes — which will help the denominational enterprise until Christ returns," says Hollis Johnson, president of the foundation for the past 10 years.

"She also has been the link, the tie from administration to administration," Johnson adds. "For all these years, she has provided continuity to the foundation."

And continuity is a stock in which Bess has invested deeply. She still keeps in contact with the families of former foundation executives. Even in retirement, she maintains frequent correspondence with many Southern Baptist investors who entrusted their funds to the founda-

tion, as well as foundation trustees with whom she has served.

"If anything enriches your life, it's not just diversification of people, but continual contact with them," she insists. "My greatest impression of my years here is of people — people-to-people contact."

She reminisces about "unselfish, capable businessmen who came regularly, gave hours of their time" and worked to carry out the intent and purpose of the foundation as its trustees.

She also is fond of her association with the organization's five leaders, who always insisted on a "working with" relationship. "Their openness of mind and receptiveness was most rewarding," she says. "These dedicated Christians — who were in depth in Scripture, devoted to Southern Baptist life, and committed to the foundation — not only profoundly affected me, but my family."

That family also is bound up in another relationship — membership in Crievewood Baptist Church in Nashville. They share a long family-church history. She was chairperson of the first neighborhood census which was used to help the church get started. Today her grandchildren share a pew with her during worship services.

From that pew, and from her Nashville home, Bess continues to cultivate relationships which have so enriched her life.

"Life still holds for me the greatest challenges," she says, noting she still is involved in some phases of foundation work, especially estates in which she still has power of attorney and relationships she has developed over the years with Southern Baptist donors.

So, while she still keeps up with Dow Jones averages, she also keeps up with friends she has made during the past 35 years.



MULTITALENTED — Richard Brown, director of properties and food services and manager of the custodial staff at First Baptist Church, Nashville, displays one of his many talents, playing the organ, during a recent church training leadership conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Nashvillian invests talents under leadership of God

By Terri Lackey

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Richard Brown of Nashville could be compared with the man in the book of Matthew who doubled his five talents to 10.

Brown is also a guy who has gotten a great return on his investment of gifts.

For starters, the director of properties and food services and manager of the custodial staff at First Baptist Church, Nashville, is an excellent gourmet cook.

He is also a musician. Although he leans closely and whispers that he has a knack for the accordion, he sticks out his chest when he speaks of playing the piano, organ, and "keyboard stuff."

Brown, a burly native Nashvillian, also has a flair for decorating homes and offices. His talent in the arts does not stop with music or decorating. The bearded Brown is also a writer.

He has co-authored a cookbook, *The Special Occasion Cookbook*, published by Broadman Press, and has written several articles for the Baptist Sunday School Board church administration and family ministry departments.

The cookbook, written with co-author Melva Cook, is designed to "help church hosts or hostesses pull off quasi-fancy meals for groups of between five and 50," Brown said.

"It contains easy, quick recipes with a flair for those who don't feel comfortable cooking for so many people," he added.

Next, there are Brown's talents which lean toward the other end of the spectrum, such as his acumen for business.

Brown claims he has the ability to buy and sell cars with the knack of "matching just the right car with the right person."

And he is no slack buyer of carpet. "I bet I've ordered 15,000 square yards," he quipped. Because he is the director of properties at his church, Brown is also in charge of remodeling.

His reasoning for dabbling in so many activities is ethereal.

"To know life is to love many things," he says, and he means it.

Brown has problems when asked to choose his favorite talent.

First, he selects playing the organ, and more specifically, playing for audiences at Ridgecrest or Glorieta Baptist Conference centers.

For the past 10 years, he has spent three to four weeks of his summers playing for various conferences at the centers, including this summer's church training leadership conference at Ridgecrest. He also plays the piano for his church.

But then, when asked about cooking, his eyes light up and he launches into memories of another year when he was 12 and organizing dinner parties for his grandparents.

If arranging large dinner parties is Brown's "thing," then why does he consider owning an interior decorating firm someday?

"Well, I guess my first love is really decorating. I see so much potential in home and office situations," he said.

Whatever Brown winds up doing with his life, he said he is sure "it will be under the Lord's leadership."

Blakeney joins BSSB in recreation post

NASHVILLE — James (Jim) M. Blakeney has joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board recreation department as Southern Baptist Convention program support coordinator.

Prior to his employment at the board Blakeney was a youth and recreation consultant for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La., from 1981-86. Before that he was minister of youth and recreation at First Baptist Church, Biloxi, Miss.

A native of Hattiesburg, Miss., Blakeney is a graduate of William Carey College, Hattiesburg; and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

FOR SALE - CHURCH PEWS Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Huntland, Tenn., has 22 factory made pews, 13 1/2 feet long for \$500.00; will be available in September. Included is a pulpit and two platform chairs. CONTACT: Pastor O. P. Ehrhridge, Rt. 4, Box 240, Winchester, TN 37398 (Phone 967-0664) OR Mrs. Hal A. Bradford, Huntland, TN 37345 (Phone 469-7835).

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Haynes accepts Whitwell church

James Haynes began serving as pastor of South Whitwell Baptist Church in Whitwell July 3.

Most recently pastor of First Baptist Church in Gainesboro, he has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Algood, Nash Grove Baptist Church, Baxter, and Brush Creek Baptist Church, in Brush Creek.

Haynes has been moderator of New Salem Association of Baptists and Stone Association of Baptists.

He is a graduate of Emmanuel Bible College in Nashville and received a seminary extension diploma. Haynes is a native of Lebanon.



Haynes



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Tennessee Scene

LEADERSHIP . . .

Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville where T. Jerrell Sutton is pastor has called Seton Tomy as minister of single adults. He began serving Aug. 4. Tomy is a graduate of Stetson University in DeLand, Fla.; Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he taught New Testament classes. He has served as a student worker and pastor in churches in North Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

Pastor Kenneth Roberts of First Baptist Church in Gleason has resigned to accept a pastorate in Georgia.

The first full-time youth minister at Waterville Baptist Church in Cleveland will be Ronald Lynn Kendall, who will begin Aug. 24. The native of Kingsport is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Kendall has served as activities director at First Baptist Church in Elizabethton, recreation worker at Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, and associate pastor and music/youth director at a Texas church. Roger Hobbs is pastor of the Cleveland church.

Greg McCoy has resigned as of July 27 from his work as minister of youth at First Baptist Church in White House. He and his wife, Jeri, will be going to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where Greg will be a student. Leslie Bruce is pastor of the church.

Buck Howard, pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, has resigned, effective Aug. 3, and will be doing supply and interim pastoral work.

Mike Ballard began serving July 14 at Central Baptist Church in Crossville as minister of youth and music. He previously served First Baptist Church in Livingston in a similar staff position. Roland Smith is pastor of the Crossville church.

REVIVAL RESULTS . . .

Liberty Baptist Church in Somerville had a revival led by James S. Daniel, pastor of Harmony Baptist Church in Brownsville. The following decisions were reported: 10 professions of faith, two new members by letter, and 10 rededications. Claudie Hammers is pastor of the Somerville church.

The revival July 27 through Aug. 1 of Darden Baptist Church in Darden was led by Jimmy Borroughs, pastor of First Baptist Church, Perryville, in Parsons, as evangelist and Paul Wallace of First Baptist Church in Parsons as music director. Pastor Cletus Duke reported five professions of faith and 20 rededications.

Services led by East Union Baptist Church in Jackson in a camp site were

attended by 89 children ages 6-16. They resulted in 26 professions of faith and about 30 rededications. Camp pastor was Robert Johnson, pastor of the New Salem Baptist Church in Kenton. Calvin Moore is pastor of East Union Baptist Church.

REVIVALS . . .

First Baptist Church in Camden will hold a revival Sept. 14-21 at 7 each evening led by Murray Mathis, pastor of Third Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, and Ken Alexander, minister of music at First Baptist Church in McKenzie. S. Ray Jones is pastor of the Camden church.

First Baptist Church in Franklin has scheduled a revival Sept. 7-11 led by Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Hixson, and Sidney Buckley, minister of music at Washington Avenue Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., assisted by Pastor Richard D. White.

CHURCHES . . .

Park Grove Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg had a note-burning service on July 20 to celebrate the end of its debt on the church's new addition built four years ago. The church's pastor is Thomas Kinder.

The 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church in Benton was marked on Aug. 10 with an all-day service. Tom Madden, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive secretary, preached at the morning worship service which was followed by lunch and a drama on the first 100 years of church history written by Ray Clubb. Blanche Rogers wrote a history of the church that was distributed. Former pastors Charles Trentham, M. W. Little, A. Hodge Malone, E. M. Sherwood, D. W. Pickelsimer, and James Hickey of the church's 35 pastors attended and spoke at the event.

The 100 anniversary of Bethany Baptist Church in Jonesborough was celebrated Aug. 10 with Pastor Frank McCurry and W. Paul Hall of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's missions department leading the service. A luncheon was served in the church's new fellowship building and afternoon service featured special music by "The Principals."

First Baptist Church in Jellico held an open house and dedication service July 20 for its new building addition. Robert P. Jolly is pastor. Russell Bridges, former pastor who is currently a staff member at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, also attended the events.

PEOPLE . . .

Spring Creek Baptist Church in Paris ordained Bomar Carter and Larry Gregson as deacons on July 13. The pastor is Cecil Brewer.

On July 27, John and Rebecca Summar celebrated their marriage of 50 years. They are members of Lockeland Baptist Church in Nashville.

Walter and Margaret Parcell were honored for their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house Aug. 9 in Townsend. They are members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Maryville.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hamm were honored at an open house Aug. 3 for their 50th wedding anniversary. It was held at First Baptist Church in Humboldt, where they are members.

Randy Leming, youth director at Rockford Baptist Church in Rockford, was ordained on July 20. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. Enoch Simerly, moderator of the service, was assisted by Pastor W. A. Gaylon, Larry Leming, W. F. Hall, and Dallas Gibson. A reception after the service was held for Leming and his wife, Melissa.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Knight celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 10 at an open house in Bumpus Hills. He is pastor of First Baptist Church in Spencer and served as director of missions in Central Baptist Association and Union Association of Southern Baptist Churches.

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Ira W. Stone was noted by friends and family on Aug. 17 at a reception in Johnson City. They are members of Unaka Avenue Baptist Church there.

MISSIONS PROJECT . . .

Thirteen volunteers from Faith Baptist Church, Loretto, went to Beulah, Mich., to help a home missionary do surveys and backyard Bible clubs to begin a church. Currently, Pastor Bob Jones, Garry Burbank, Robby Hughes, and Dwight Fincher are in Venezuela Aug. 15-26 for the partnership crusades.

The youth choir of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville went on tour for a week in Alabama and Florida. They presented the tour concert in the church's evening service Aug. 3. Emerson Wiles is pastor of the church.

Parks City Baptist Church in Fayetteville sent 12 persons to Atlanta, Mich., to lead Vacation Bible School and a revival. Also Pastor Charles Hicks, Kenneth and Mavis Swinford, and Karen Clements are in Venezuela Aug. 15-26 for the partnership crusades.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Aug. 24

God promises restoration

By Fred M. Wood
author, preacher, teacher, Memphis

Basic Passage: Zechariah 9:1 to 11:17
Focal Passages: Zechariah 9:9-12; 10:2-3a, 6-10

A careful analysis of Zechariah's book shows a definite break in the material after chapter 8.

Beginning with 9:1, the prophet no longer makes any reference to the Temple's rebuilding. Seemingly, the work has been completed. His major emphasis is on God's plan for Israel in the years to come.

The central figure of the entire section is the King of Peace Who will bring both security and joy to God's people.

God's promise for the people's security (9:1-8)

Like many of the other prophets, Zechariah had a word for Israel's neighbors. He knew that because they constantly harassed her, they must be punished. Surveying the situation, he listed them one by one. They would come under God's judgment. He would not allow His people to suffer further. They had paid the price for their sin in the Babylonian captivity and deserved the security their Lord would give them.

Coming of the Prince of Peace (9:9-10)

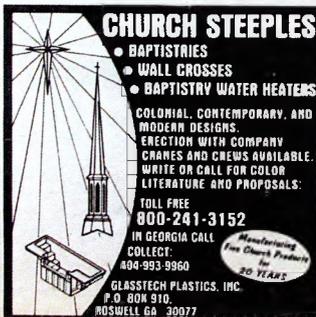
God's spokesman "dipped into the future" and saw the coming King. As Christians, we recognize that Jesus Christ fulfilled this beautiful prophetic picture.

Many Old Testament predictions that seem on the surface to have nationalistic emphases find their true meaning in spiritual applications. God restored national Israel after the exile to provide a continuity for His redemptive program. He had chosen her as the instrument through whom the Saviour would be brought into the world.

As Christians, we know that universal peace will come only when Jesus Christ rules in the hearts of all people. Though we shall never see this perfect peace until Jesus comes, we must work for it in our day. This is a part of our great missionary goal in Southern Baptist life. Because an ideal is impossible, we should never regard it as irrelevant.

God's promise to restore His people (9:11-17)

The type of judgment Zechariah portrayed against those who opposed Israel seems cruel and ruthless. We must not, however, forget those were "crude and cruel days and human flesh was cheap." We who know Jesus Christ realize that the ultimate weapons of conquest are love, truth, and deeds of kindness. Yet the prophet saw a world about him that militantly opposed God's people and envisioned nothing in the future but opposition unless God intervened apocalyptically.



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The prophet assured the people the Lord would act in their behalf.

Call to seek the true God (10:1-2)

The prophet interrupted his message of promised restoration with a plea for the people to seek the Lord in their personal and national life. He recognized their dependence upon God for the land's fertility. Viewing the pagan approach to find a basis for life's decisions, he urged the people to refrain from these practices. Their lack of both divine and human leadership had placed them in a vulnerable position.

Further promise of restoration (10:3-12)

The evil nations who had caused suffering for God's people had aroused His wrath! They must be punished! The prophet mentioned a different set of enemies than the ones in the first oracle of this section (9:1-8). He especially emphasized the traditional foes, Assyria and Egypt, who had brought so much misery to Israel in pre-exilic days.

The constantly recurring theme of Zechariah appears in this section in an unusually intense way. God's people would be restored and her enemies would be punished!

Destruction of Lebanon and Bashan (11:1-3)

A line drawn from Lebanon to Bashan represented the northern boundary of Israel. The prophet pictured judgment as coming in the form of a fire, consuming the great trees of both countries.

Dramatic picture of two shepherds (11:4-17)

This group of prophetic discourses closes with an account of Zechariah acting out God's message to Israel in a unique way.

First, he portrayed a good shepherd. The flock assigned to him had been mistreated and abused. He did his best to help them but was not appreciated. When he asked for his wages, he was given 30 pieces of silver which, at God's command, he put in the Temple treasury.

He then impersonated a worthless shepherd and detailed the cruel treatment he gave his sheep. Doom awaited him for his terrible conduct.

Some see references to both the first and second comings of Jesus in this section.

These seven messages of the prophet seem to be separate oracles, perhaps delivered at different times. Yet a basic underlying unity is present. God's redemptive program was delayed when His people failed to live up to the terms of their covenant with Him. Yet, He remained faithful and continued to work with those whom He had chosen.

Several symbols in these messages definitely found fulfillment in the life of Jesus. How marvelously the Old Testament and New Testament blend.

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UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for Aug. 24

God's presence

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

Basic Passage: Daniel 3

Focal Passages: Daniel 3:14-18, 23-26

This week's lesson begins where last week's lesson ended by continuing the central theme of continued faithfulness to God even in the face of fearful prospects.

The three friends of Daniel — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego — had to decide whether they would remain true to God even if it meant certain death.

At times, even complex decisions in life come down to crucial choices which can be frighteningly simple: good or evil? right or wrong? God or mammon? yes or no? "sell out" or stand up? live or die? and the cowardice which rises out of fear will hold sway over us unless and until we discover the courage which rises out of faith.

Competing claims of authority (3:1-7)

King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that all the subjects in his realm bow before the mammoth statue (90 feet tall and 9 feet wide) he had set up, an action of worship which the three young men of Judah could not take. Though they were in the service of the king (2:49), the three were committed to the sovereignty of the Lord God in their lives. And the Lord clearly demanded total commitment in worship (cf. Exodus 20:2-7). Should they obey the king or the King of Kings? Because of their faithfulness to God, there was really no question.

Jesus also taught that ultimate loyalty in our lives must be given only to God. Once, He taught clearly that tax should be paid to Caesar. Because Caesar's image is on the coins, he can call his money in at will. One must also render to God what is His — our entire life which bears His image and to which He lays claim.

For the faithful Christian, ultimately there is no contest between the claims of Caesar and God — citizenship in the kingdom of God puts loyalty to God's agenda above all other loyalties or objects of obedience. It is thus inappropriate to give blind allegiance to the state or to any other entity that would claim complete authority over territory which belongs totally to God. This is a timely reminder in our day when even Christians are tempted to "worship" various "giants" or "idols" who are celebrated in the fields of sports, politics, entertainment — or even religion — and thus seem to be larger than life.

Clear commitments of allegiance (3:12)

As persons totally committed to God's authority over their lives, the three youths avoided "caving in" because they never gave up their autonomy — not even to Nebuchadnezzar, and not even after he have them rank, position, and privilege. Their allegiance was never "bought" because it was never for sale.

This story is a classic example of why we Baptists must never drop the banner which reads "Keep church and state separate!" These youths reserved the right

of their religious convictions to differ or even disobey the commands of civil authority by appealing to Higher Authority. The gospel must never be tied to any one political agenda or machine because while politics rises out of expediency, God's truth must be rooted in conscience. Look at the contrast between the steadfast, conscientious behavior of the youth toward God and the vacillating, circumstantial reversals of Nebuchadnezzar toward God (read 2:46-49; then 3:1, 14-15; then 3:26-29).

Convenient compromises of accommodation (3:15)

It would have been so easy to capitulate to the king's demands. The gains the young men could have received were so attractive — especially in comparison to the loss of their lives! Yet "what doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" What if we should decide to turn away from God's authority over us and our clarity of allegiance to Him? To whom shall we go — He has the words and way to life! Even the threat of death does not stop Him.

But the authorities and princes of this world are always threatening death for those who refuse to compromise their consciences or to accommodate the gospel to prevailing popular ideas. The Old Testament kings threatened the prophets. The Pharisees threatened Jesus. The Romans threatened the early church. And committed Christians today will get "death" threats. They will be threatened with the death of reputation, career, popularity, or future in a cynical effort by the principalities and powers who have a vested interest in trying to control the church. Like the faithful who have gone before, we must never give in.

Calming confidences of authenticity (3:16-19)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were God's men totally and completely. They knew it, they accepted it, they were committed to it — the very end. This total identification of themselves with God was who they were — it was their authentic identity. And because they confidently knew who they were in God, no threat could shake them.

What a disturbingly cool and quiet confidence they showed in stark contrast to Nebuchadnezzar's burning and furious frenzy (also contrast Jesus' calm composure with the confusion all around Him at His trial — John 18-19). In His commissioning of the 12 apostles, Jesus called them to a quiet confidence even in adverse situations, a confidence which came from their identity as children of the Heavenly Father (Matthew 10:16-33). Confirming consistency of the Almighty (3:20-29)

God will come through for His faithful children. He consistently and faithfully rewards faithfulness to Him. The young men had faith in the faithful God Who could be counted on whether He change the present circumstances or not (read Habakkuk 3:17-19).

The New Testament confirms that our God is faithful never to leave us nor forsake us. Jesus was faithful unto death and in response to that faithfulness, God exalted and rewarded Him (Philippians 2:8-9). And now for those of us who remain faithful in Christ, the blessed assurance is that nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:39).



Garner



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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Aug. 24

Divorce

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

Basic Passages: Matthew 5:27-32; 19:1-12; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 1:8-10;
Deuteronomy 24:1-4
Focal Passages: Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Ephesians 4:32

If there is ground in heaven, I can imagine our Lord stooping to write in it many times over while we stand around harshly judging sins in the lives of others. During His incarnated ministry, Jesus did just that very thing, writing in the ground, as recorded in John 8. A woman had been caught in adultery and now they were going to attempt to trick Jesus into wrong interpretation of ancient teachings.



Bush

Did you ever notice that the man was not brought into question? The man the woman was committing adultery with was sinning also. He was just as guilty.

Before it was over, Jesus forced those judgmental and hypocritical religious sinners into self-evaluation. Those stern words He spoke ring down through the centuries, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

Jesus not only was challenging self-righteousness for the sin that it is, He also was condemning the double standard. Wives had little or no rights and

husbands could do almost anything. Husbands could divorce their wives on such trivial grounds as spoiling a dinner.

Paul recognized the spirit of the teaching of Jesus in regards to equality of men and women when he wrote, "there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Sin in the lives of men or women is sin. Failure to make the most wholesome use of our lives for the glory of God is missing the mark.

Divorce falls far short of the ideal marriage our God wants a man and a woman to enjoy. Divorce deeply hurts the adults involved and children too. A church, God's people, sinners being saved by the grace of God, are to be sources of healing and not harm!

If the ideal of perfection was demanded of any one of us (ref. Matthew 5:48) at any time, not one of us could measure up. I sometimes wonder if some Christians believe their lives should never reflect common sense or wisdom. This thought has nothing whatsoever to do with humanism. It has everything to do with people being led by the Spirit of a loving Christ.

Christ taught in terms of the ideal but He always couched His application of the

ideal in a way that any good teacher instructs. He started where people were and sought to lead them to new insights, new ways, higher goals. The Bible urges us to think as well as "to overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

Much healing can be experienced in rocky marriages and stormy homes when those involved practice the teaching found in Ephesians 4:32. Christians can apply the same principles in their treatment of divorced persons. Divorce is sin and God forgives this sin and a host of other sins. Persons burdened with the guilt and hurt of divorce can find refuge and forgiveness from God. He understands our weaknesses and pain and says, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

This does not mean we are to live as we please and rely on God to excuse deliberate patterns of willful disobedience. A careful study of James during the 1987 January Bible Study or anytime can convict and challenge Christians to practice and not just talk Christianity.

The same God Who can forgive murderers, thieves, and other sinners can and does forgive divorced persons and

gossipers and all sinners, you and me. God can help us start all over and we can help fellow sinners get back on the intended course of abundant living.

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BOOK REVIEW
By Michael Davis

Time walks the desert sands

A Daily Miracle by Harold E. Dye;
Broadman; 126 pages.

Who would have understood time better by taking a trip into the Mojave Desert, as would Harold Dye?

This author of nine Broadman books, five mission studies, hundreds of articles for periodicals explores the meaning of time in his latest book.

A book was written about the desert entitled *The Land That Time Forgot*. Harold Dye did not read it. He wrote about the author, "Judging from the title, I don't think he knows what he is talking about. I have walked through those bristlecone pines, and I have thought, 'If only they could talk, they could tell most of the recorded history of the world.'"

Dye writes with an appreciation for what astronomers, philosophers, and scientists have thought about time. He understands the complexity of applying Einstein's theory of relativity to the scientific question of time's existence. Yet, he persists in dealing with time in such a way that its reality is unavoidable and its course is irreversible.

Understanding time in such a practical way, Dye communicates its daily effect on our lives. "Time will refuse to heed

our plea. Our hair will still grow gray or will fall away. Our vision will dim."

Further practical aspects of time are developed relating to love, relaxing, laughing, crying, and eternity in the last five chapters.

This is a constructive book that will help readers to understand better how to use and understand time in daily living.

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By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — "He reads Cicero in Latin, Plato in Greek, and Montesquieu in French. Yet his closest friend is an illiterate, or almost so," says a colleague of Leon Marsh.

Marsh, distinguished professor of foundations of education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and his wife, Ruth, are retiring to his native home in the mountains of northeast Alabama.

For 30 years, students have known him as a talented professor and faithful friend. He has been concerned equally with academic excellence and personal relationships. Sitting in a lawn chair in front of his south Fort Worth home, Marsh recalls his experiences at Southwestern, beginning as a student in 1946. He assisted J. M. Price, founder of the school of religious education.

After five years at Hardin-Simmons University, Marsh joined Southwestern's faculty in 1956. He developed the foundations division in the school of religious education.

Marsh also helped develop the doctor of education program. From his experiences in religious education, Marsh wrote the first textbook on educational psychology from a Christian perspective.

Marsh traces his philosophy of teaching to his roots in Arab. Ala. His fore-

fathers homesteaded near there in 1880. From his family of seven preachers and 13 deacons, Marsh learned to "stay close to people," he says. Because of this love for people, Marsh found his greatest joys in the classroom.

"My philosophy of teaching is that you're not going to teach any student spiritual things unless first you have a per-



EDUCATOR — Leon Marsh (left) chats with Professor Bill Caldwell on Southwestern's campus. Marsh has retired after 30 years on the seminary's faculty.

sonal relationship with that student," Marsh says. Each semester, Marsh has held a personal conference of at least 20 minutes with each of his students. Last fall he had 329 students and knew every name by the end of the second week.

For the past 15 years, Marsh has begun every class period with students singing "Victory in Jesus." During the previous 15 years they sang "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship."

Marsh's love for the students creates trust for them. "I give the students all the views and facts and let them decide," he says. Former students return that love and trust, he notes, "I get at least one letter every day from some student."

Some would call Marsh only an educator or "methods man," but he sees it differently. "I am an evangelist," he insists. Stressing people come to Jesus Christ not through methods but through contagion: "Christianity is spread more

by witness than promotion. The world sees in us something they want. We don't need a neon sign."

While at Southwestern, Marsh has been interim pastor at 37 churches and conducted more than 400 revivals. Doctoral student Greg Lawson has worked with Marsh for the past three years and is currently doing research on the professor's life.

"Throughout his ministry, he has maintained a number of non-Christian friends to minister to," Lawson says. "He will point people to Jesus."

Although Marsh was named distinguished professor last year, he says: "It is not the title which makes you distinguished. I'm just average."

"I've always had a sense of gratitude that God took an ignorant mountain boy and placed him in the stewardship of over 20,000 students. That's my greatest honor."

Interpretations

Jesus was a junior

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Wist (know) ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2: 49).

These are the first recorded words of Jesus. When He was 12 years old, He became a Bar Mitzvah, "a son of the law." He was considered as an adult responsible for keeping the mosaic law. This was/is a very significant event in a Jewish boy's life (Luke 2:42).

This year, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem for their annual attendance

at the Passover (v. 43). For protection and fellowship, pilgrims traveled in caravans. Children ran about playing. So on the return journey to Galilee, Mary and Joseph assumed that Jesus was in the group. But the first night, when families gathered, they found Him missing. So the next morning they returned to Jerusalem.

After a day of searching there, they found Him in the Temple area, sitting among the priests, listening and asking questions which astounded them. Mary asked why He had caused them such perplexity.

Had Jesus disobeyed them? No. (1) There is no record that they had specifically told Him they were leaving Jerusalem. (2) As a "son of the law," He was eager to learn that He lost all sense of time. (3) He was beginning to follow the growing consciousness of His mission.

Did Jesus at this time first become conscious of His relationship to God as His Son? Some think so. I believe that He had such from the time He became conscious of anything. But now as a "son of the law," He began to express it.

His reply to Mary's question reads, literally, "Did you not (ouk, stron, negative) really know that in the thing of My Father, it is morally and spiritually necessary for Me to be?" Some see "the things" as referring to the Temple where they should have known they would find Him. Since "the things" is plural, more likely it refers to the Father's work.

Even so, as a 12-year-old boy, He continued to be subject to Mary and Joseph. In this, Jesus as a junior set the example for all children (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Thai TV station features church

RAYONG PROVINCE, Thailand — Television viewers in Rayong Province, Thailand, recently got an inside view of a Thai Baptist church and its pastor.

One Sunday in June, a TV crew filmed Sunday School classes and part of the worship service at Rayong Baptist Church and interviewed Pastor Warit Yotrungruang. During the interview, the pastor invited viewers to the church, stressing that activities are for all — not just Christians.

The station aired the footage that evening.

Southern Baptist Missionaries Vernon and Dorothy Dietrich had encouraged station officials to feature the church. The Dietrichs, at the station's request, have been teaching 10-minute English lessons on the air two evenings a week.

Last week's Bible Puzzle answers

F	E	W	S	H	E	D	S	L	O	W
A	R	A	L	A	M	E	T	O	N	E
T	I	S	E	R	I	C	A	V	E	N
S	H	E	E	P	M	A	S	T	E	R
I	M	P	D	O	E					
S	I	N	S	T	E	L	T	E	N	
H	A	G	A	N	I	S	G	W	O	E
E	N	S	M	I	L	P	O	N	E	
W	E	L	L	O	F	W	A	T	E	R
C	A	N	A	L	I	E	M	N	O	D
A	O	V	I	A	N	N	E	C	O	D
M	E	D	E	S	E	T	S	E	T	A

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called" (1 Cor. 7:20).

Bible Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
		21				22				
23	24	25	26		27	28	29	30	31	
32		33		34	35	36				
37			38		39	40		41		
			42		43	44	45			
	46	47			48			49	50	
51				52			53			54
55				56			57			
58				59			60			

DOWN

- 1 Indian timber tree
- 2 Zeta followers
- 3 "— that man" (2 Thess. 3)
- 4 Dot
- 5 Wonderful (Isa. 9:6; 2 words)
- 6 "Nevertheless — saw them" (2 Sam. 17)
- 7 Smooths by grinding
- 8 "I find — in him" (John 19)
- 9 French state
- 10 Desire
- 11 Big airplane: abbr.
- 19 Canadian province: abbr.
- 20 Dawn goddess
- 23 Soake
- 24 Measure (Ezek. 45:14)
- 25 Also
- 27 Cooking utensil
- 29 Macaw genus
- 30 "for he had a —" (Acts 10)
- 31 Edition: abbr.
- 33 "laughed him —" (Luke 8)
- 35 Angels (Matt. 13:39)
- 38 Distant
- 40 Sesame
- 43 Word in a dream (Dan. 5)
- 45 Faithful one (Heb. 11:31)
- 46 Weather word
- 47 Small case
- 48 Wrongful act
- 49 "gainsaying of —" (Jude)
- 50 Famous pen name
- 51 Suffix for capital or natural
- 54 Sweet potato

ACROSS

- 1 "and in — and caves" (Heb. 11)
- 5 Possesses
- 8 "so is good —" (Prov. 25)
- 12 Over
- 13 A Rhodesian people
- 14 Bustard genus
- 15 "a certain — every day" (Ex. 16)
- 16 Angelo or Antonio
- 17 "I — twice in the week" (Luke 18)
- 18 "This is the —" (Heb. 9)
- 21 Most of knave
- 22 French coin
- 23 Play division
- 26 Temperature: abbr.
- 28 "is he a homeborn —" (Jer. 2)

- 32 Grime
- 34 Blade follower (Mark 4:28)
- 36 Stepped
- 37 "But ye know the —" (Phil. 2)
- 39 Profit
- 41 Grain beard
- 42 Resin
- 44 A person's bearing
- 46 "putteth it in a —" (Luke 11)
- 51 Involved in: colloq.
- 52 Fish eggs
- 53 "into the — places" (Heb. 9)
- 55 Kind of grape or plum
- 56 Sin
- 57 Diva's forte
- 58 Double
- 59 Streets: abbr.
- 60 Radio signal

CRYPTOVERSE

G Y Q A A Q F E U Q L X Q I L X E L Z Q Q W X V A
L Q A L V D R T V Q A

Today's Cryptoverse clue: V equals I

Arab Baptist seminary marks 25th anniversary

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Four hundred people attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in east Beirut in mid-June.

To mark the milestone, the seminary published a booklet telling its history in English and Arabic.

Speakers included Jordanian Baptist leader Fawaz Ameish, a member of the seminary's first graduating class, and Finlay Graham, the seminary's first president, who will retire from Southern Baptist missionary service in October.