

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention



D. Moore



M. Spradlin



C. McClendon

WMU selects Gatlinburg as site for Baptist Young Women meeting

Debbie Moore, missionary on furlough from Liberia; Carolyn McClendon, missionary in New Orleans, La.; and Marsha Spradlin, Baptist Young Women's consultant, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, will be leading the Baptist Young Women's Get-Together Sept. 19-21.

The meeting, which begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and ends at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, will be held at the Holiday Inn in Gatlinburg.

Moore, who has worked with women in Liberia since 1982, previously taught physical education, coached, and directed GA/Mission Friends in Arkansas.

As a home missionary, since 1978, McClendon has directed children's ministries at a church, at the preschool center at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and currently directs the Friendship House in New Orleans.

Before moving to her present position,

Spradlin worked as a teacher in a Christian school, WMU camp staffer, and GA/Mission Friends consultant in Texas.

Bob and Debbie Malone, missionaries in Brazil; Minette Drumwright, prayer coordinator for the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond; and Susan Ingouf, who was a missionary kid in Indonesia and is employed at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, are also on the program. Judy Trivette, state WMU president, will be the closing speaker.

A dramatic interpretation of the theme, "Gifted for Service," will begin each session. Conferences and missionary interviews will also be a part of the meeting.

The registration fee of \$5 should be mailed to TBC, WMU, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027. Hotel reservations should be made through the hotel.

Texas lottery appears dead; rumors hint pari-mutuel veto

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)— With the proposed Texas state lottery temporarily defeated and veto of a pari-mutuel bill rumored, opponents of gambling may have been tempted to breathe a very tentative sigh of relief when the first special session of the Texas legislature ended at midnight, Sept. 4.

"But until the veto is in hand, we can't afford to relax," said Weston Ware, associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Legislation that would have called for a November 1986 referendum on a state lottery passed the Senate, but it died in the House Committee on State Affairs as

legislators worked through the Labor Day weekend. A two-thirds vote would have been required in the House, and observers noted the bill lacked that level of support.

However, because the lawmakers failed to come up with any solution to the state's budget crisis during the special meeting, Gov. Mark White was expected to summon them back to the Capitol Sept. 8 for a second special session. Gambling opponents do not rule out the possibility of the lottery bill's reintroduction at that time.

The first special session was called by White primarily to consider a temporary sales tax increase to help bridge the state's anticipated \$3.5-billion deficit.

Although the House and Senate passed and sent to White legislation that would legalize pari-mutuel gambling pending a statewide referendum in 1987, House Speaker Gib Lewis reportedly said the governor plans to veto the bill. White supposedly announced his intentions to Lewis and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby during a private luncheon Sept. 2.

House Speaker Pro Tem Hugo Berlangue, sponsor of the House version of the betting bill, reportedly said White also told him during a private meeting Sept. 3 that it was very possible he would veto the measure.

White has 20 days from the close of the session either to veto the bill, sign it, or allow it to pass into law without his signature.

(Continued on page 3)

Thieves tie, beat, rob missionaries

OWERRI, Nigeria (BP)— Southern Baptist Missionaries Urban and Loretta Green were tied, beaten, and robbed recently in their home in Owerri, Nigeria, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board official reported.

The Greens, both from Tulsa, Okla., were not hospitalized, said John Mills, the board's director for West Africa. Robbery is uncommon in smaller cities like Owerri but is on the rise in larger cities in Nigeria, Mills noted.

Because of poor telephone service to Nigeria, no other information was available immediately.

Committee reminds messengers to follow procedure

Official registration cards for messengers to the annual Tennessee Baptist Convention are now available from associational offices or from the registration secretary, Pat Porter, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

The convention will be held Nov. 11-13 at Freedom Hall Civic Center, Johnson City. Registration is scheduled to begin Monday, Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. at University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City. On Tuesday through Thursday, registration will be at Freedom Hall Civic Center.

Messengers are urged to obtain the new messenger cards, since last year's cards will not be accepted at the registration desk.

The Credentials Committee asks that you be reminded of the following.

1. The registration card for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is yellow with black lettering (see sample copy). No other cards will be accepted at the registration table.
2. Each messenger must be elected by the church. The pastor is not automatically considered a messenger and should be voted on by the church along with other messengers.
3. Only one name should appear on a card.
4. The Constitution does not provide for alternates.
5. Lost ballots will not be replaced.



Association _____

This is to certify that: _____ of _____

(name of church) (town)

(complete address of church including zip code)

Mr. _____

has appointed Mrs. _____ in

Miss _____

Rev. _____

business session, (date) _____ a messenger of THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION. This appointment is made on the basis of and in agreement with the Convention's constitutional requirement, as follows (which entitles this church to _____ messengers):

ARTICLE II. Composition: The Convention shall be composed of messengers from cooperating Baptist churches. Each church shall be entitled to two messengers. Each church shall also be entitled to one messenger for each one hundred members or fraction thereof beyond the first one hundred subject to a maximum of ten messengers from any one church. A messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is elected. The term "cooperating Baptist church" shall be applied to such churches as contribute financially to the Convention or its agencies and subscribe to and support the principles, programs, and policies of the Convention.

Date _____, 19____ Signed _____

(Church Moderator or Clerk)

THIS CONSTITUTION DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR ALTERNATES

In order that you may be located if necessary, please give your address during the Convention.

_____ Phone _____

BJCPA asks Supreme Court to review Vatican decision

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — Calling President Ronald Reagan's appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican a "blatant violation" of the First Amendment's demand of government impartiality toward various faiths, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has asked the Supreme Court to review lower decisions upholding the action.

In a friend-of-the-court brief written by its general counsel, Oliver S. Thomas, the Baptist Joint Committee argued that the high court should review the case because Reagan's action more than two years ago conferred upon the Roman Catholic Church a status not enjoyed by any other religious group.

"Perhaps the most fundamental guarantee of the establishment clause of the First Amendment is that government cannot act in a way that prefers one religion over another," Thomas wrote.

Reagan announced the appointment of longtime political adviser William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Holy See in January 1984, ending a 117-year period during which the United States was forbidden by Congress to establish formal diplomatic ties with the Vatican. An action by the U.S. Senate in November 1983 cleared the way for re-establishing such ties by repealing the 1867 ban.

Wilson resigned his post earlier this year, leaving a vacancy Reagan has yet to fill. Although numerous religious bodies have urged the president to leave the position vacant, he is expected to fill it.

Dozens of religious bodies and individual taxpayers challenged the Wilson appointment in a suit filed by Americans United for Separation of Church and State in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania. That panel ruled in May 1985, however, that plaintiffs had no legal standing to bring the suit. Even had standing been granted, the ruling continued, plaintiffs would have lost anyway because the Constitution confers on the president the authority to conduct foreign policy, including the appointment of ambassadors.

Last March, a three-judge panel of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia affirmed the lower ruling. In making a final appeal to the nation's high court, the plaintiffs agreed their chances would be better if Americans United were not the lead petitioner. Accordingly, the case was re-fashioned as *American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. vs. Reagan*.

In the Baptist Joint Committee brief,

Jordanian child remains blind in spite of prayer

AJLOUN, Jordan — Efforts to give sight to an infant born blind have failed despite five surgical attempts.

Jordanian Baptists called for prayer last spring for Rhonda Sehowni, now 19 months old, who had been flown to Switzerland for a cornea transplant arranged by Save the Children in cooperation with Jordan's government. The child's father, Abu Sehowni, is a member of Irbid Baptist Church.

Four cornea transplants were rejected and, when the fifth was attempted, the optic nerve collapsed.

Rhonda's parents "are thankful ... that everything that could be done for her was done," reports Southern Baptist Missionary Alta Lee Lovegren in Ajloun.

Thomas asked the court to reaffirm the long-standing legal principle that even in conducting foreign policy, "the president's power is not unlimited. He does not have the power to violate the First Amendment by appointing an ambassador to a church ... In short, it is the responsibility of the court to see that the Constitution is upheld and that even the president abides by its commands."

On the question of standing, Thomas argued that the parties petitioning the court's review of the lower decisions have suffered actual injuries, a basic criterion for establishing legal standing. As a direct result of Reagan's action, he went on, "the petitioning churches and religious organizations have been made objects of official governmental discrimination. They, unlike the Roman Catholic Church, will not have the benefit of diplomatic access to the president of the United States of America."

He continued: "By creating formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See, the United States government necessarily communicates that the Roman Catholic Church is to be preferred and that all other religious organizations somehow are inferior. This preferential treatment of one church and the implicit discrimination against all others is perhaps the most obvious form of injury that could be suffered by a religious organization."

"It is shocking to imagine that the individuals and organizations who are the objects of this overt act of governmental discrimination do not have standing to challenge this illegal exercise of power."

The Reagan administration has insisted it established diplomatic relations with the Vatican state, not with the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican, located in the heart of Rome on a 108-acre tract of land presided over by Roman Catholic popes since 1870 and the dissolution of the medieval papal states, maintains diplomatic relations with most modern nations.

But the administration position has been disputed by Archbishop Pio Laghi, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio — or ambassador — to the United States. Speaking at the Catholic University of America in April 1984, Laghi asserted all nations having diplomatic ties with the Vatican are tied to the church, not to a nation-state. Referring to what he called "confusion and controversy that arose in the media" at the time U.S.-Vatican relations were formalized, Laghi went on to say, "Some mistakenly tried to justify the American government's action by implying that it was entering into a diplomatic relationship not with the Roman Catholic Church as such, the Holy See, but rather with the sovereign Vatican City-State."

In his brief asking for the high court review of the dispute, Thomas wrote, "The Holy See's own characterization of itself should not be set aside merely because the president thinks otherwise. Allowing the president to define conclusively the nature of the Holy See in contradiction of its own statements ... goes beyond the Constitutional separation of powers and confers upon the president unfettered authority that is not intended by the Constitution."

The formal petition asking the high court to review the lower rulings is to be considered sometime after the court reconvenes Oct. 1. Four of the nine justices must vote to hear the case before it can be placed on the schedule for oral arguments.



NEW WORSHIP CENTER — Pictured above are members of Highland Baptist Church, Pulaski, who broke ground for a new worship center on Aug. 3. From left to right are pastor of the church, Dwight W. Mercer; Suzie Madison; Barbara Russell; John Avery; Ralph Pryor; Joy Graham; Richard Russell; Barry Bass; director of missions for Giles County Baptist Association, Carl Bond; Roddy Fernandez; Bobby Franks; and Ken Hottenstein.

Volunteer revival teams reap 6,746 decisions in Mombasa

By Laura Lee Stewart

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP) — From atop the numerous minarets, for hundreds of years the people of Mombasa, Kenya, have been called to prayer. Five times a day they still are reminded to kneel to Allah.

But for eight days in August, a team of 47 Southern Baptists led by former Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. went into the streets of the Kenyan port city alongside Kenyan Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries to call people to another kind of prayer.

The volunteers visited in homes, talked to groups or individuals they met on the street, preached from the back of a pickup truck, and witnessed through puppet shows.

By the time they flew home, 6,746 people had prayed for Jesus to enter their lives as Saviour. Many of the Kenyan friends the group had made could not see them off at the airport — they were too busy continuing to witness in the streets of the ancient town.

"I've been places where people were responsive to the gospel, but I don't think I've ever seen people as anxious to hear about salvation as these people were," said Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas. "They were almost aggressive they were so open. There was no hostility."

"Mombasa is in revival," agreed Missionary Jack G. Conley. "The (local) preachers are in revival spirit, and the close cooperation among the volunteers, the nationals, and the missionaries resulted in revival."

Most of the volunteer group came from

Mulberry Gap holds associational meet

Messengers to Mulberry Gap Association of Missionary Baptists met Aug. 13-14 at Cool Branch Baptist Church in Sneedville.

Moderator Lester E. Greene was re-elected. He is the pastor of Friendlies Chapel Baptist Church in Sneedville. The treasurer/clerk, R. G. Walker, who is a member of Power House Baptist Church in Russellville, also was re-elected.

First Baptist Church of Euless, but volunteers from Abilene, Alto, and Rusk, Texas, and two women from Oklahoma were among the 47 who paid their own expenses.

The images they brought home were vivid:

— An 11-year-old boy ignored the teasing and jeering of his friends to pray for Jesus to come into his heart.

— After national interpreters spent several hours with the volunteers, they began witnessing on their own so the volunteers would find other people to talk to, even without translation.

— People had to be turned away when the supply of more than 1,500 Bibles were given away. Children begged for tracts.

— A Moslem man returned after praying and asked Draper to give him a "Christian name" because he no longer wanted his Muslim name. He took Draper's name James. Such response was almost intimidating, volunteers reported. Carol Draper said it sometimes seemed they were almost trying to talk people out of becoming Christians as they probed the sincerity of the people who made decisions for Christ.

Conley, who has been a missionary to Kenya since 1964, asked several people if they were serious or were just being polite to the visiting Americans. Each insisted he had sincerely prayed to receive Christ.

T. C. Melton, pastor of Elmcrest Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas, pointed out that no one was saying all 6,746 people who prayed had become Christians, because no one but God could know their hearts. But he noted each person who prayed had looked a member of the group straight in the eye and said he or she wanted to accept Jesus.

A total of 329 baptisms were reported the Sunday at the end of the week. Many people walked three miles to be baptized in the Indian Ocean.

Followup will be a major task for the five Baptist churches in Mombasa. Each person who prayed gave his address and will be offered a Bible Way Correspondence Course through the Baptist Publications House in Nairobi in addition to being contacted by Mombasa Baptists.

—Laura Lee Stewart is press representative for the Baptist Mission of Kenya.

RTVC restructures debt; obtains \$10-million loan

By Dan Martin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)— A \$10-million loan to restructure debt incurred with the start and operation of the American Christian Television System has been obtained by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The loan, which will allow the commission to refinance \$8,516,000 in short-term loans and general obligation notes, also will provide slightly more than \$1-million for operation of the two-year-old network.

The loan, granted by the Central Bank of Walnut Creek, Calif., was signed Aug. 22, and the commission began drawing on the proceeds almost immediately in order to consolidate outstanding indebtedness by paying four bank notes totaling \$5,292,000. In October, the commission will begin paying \$3,244,000 in general obligation notes.

Fred Roach, a Dallas homebuilder and chairman of the commission finance committee, said: "This loan will give us breathing room. The (debt) restructuring process puts the financial affairs of the RTVC in a more ordered way."

According to Jimmy R. Allen, president of the commission, the loan "drops the monthly debt service pressure. We will be paying about \$128,000 per month on this loan and that will be about \$200,000 per month less pressure on us."

Currently, the commission pays more than \$325,000 per month on its debt and faces large lump sum payments when the general obligation notes come due.

In September of 1985, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention granted permission for the commission to seek the long-term loan as well as to conduct a \$10-million fundraising campaign to fund the payments.

The Business and Financial Plan of the Southern Baptist Convention limits the borrowing authority of SBC agencies to

amounts which can be repaid out of "anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three years." Exceptions require approval either by the annual meeting or the Executive Committee, as do special solicitations "for budget needs, endowment, building, equipment, or other purposes...."

Following meetings in February and September of 1985, the Executive Committee approved an exception to the Business and Financial Plan by permitting the commission to restructure its debt by seeking a \$10-million loan with a 10-year payback and starting a special solicitation campaign to attempt to raise \$10-million.

The Central Bank loan was approved by commission trustees during a special called meeting Aug. 12 and by the Special RTVC Study Committee of the Executive Committee Aug. 21.

Under terms of the loan, the commission will pay the 1 percent above the bank's prime interest rate, which at the time of closing was 8 percent. The payments will be made for 84 months (seven years) at which time a "balloon" note of about \$3.5-million will be due. Also included are loan costs of \$175,000, of which one point — \$100,000 — is an origination fee and the remaining \$75,000 is attorney's fees and title insurance.

According to loan summary information, the commission pledged \$14,197,166 as collateral, including about \$8.5-million in real property in Fort Worth, \$3.1-million in equipment, and \$2.3-million in programming inventory.

Of the \$1.3-million of the loan left after the debts are paid and loan costs are met, commission trustees will consider placing \$135,000 in its general contingency reserve fund, bringing that fund to \$300,000, and adding \$50,000 per year for four years to bring the fund to \$500,000.

Of the remaining funds, Allen said about \$1-million will go toward new production and acquired programs to be shown on the network, which currently is available to about 3.9-million households in the United States through cable television systems and an estimated 800,000 homes through two full-power and four low-power stations.

Allen said the funds will provide for new production on "Country Crossroads," a country music-gospel show; "Life Today," a talk show; and new episodes of "In Concert," "Plant Groom," "Primetimers," "Invitation to Life," and "Cope." "We are also negotiating for some situation comedies, some ethnic situation dramas, and children's programming," he said.

Both Allen and Roach said the number of households with access to ACTS has not grown as fast as anticipated. Two other avenues by which to raise money for the network — capital campaigns and sale of ACTS programs to other broadcasters — also have not produced the dollars anticipated. Both Roach and Allen, however, emphasized the fundraising campaigns and the effort to syndicate the five programs are being studied and will be modified.

Randall Rogers moves to Tennessee church

Randall Rogers has been called by Gallatin Road Baptist Church, Nashville, to serve as pastor. He is coming from the First Baptist Church, Morgantown, Kentucky.



FIRST SHOVEL — Pastor Bob Norman and his wife, Jean, were the first to break ground for the gym and educational building of Clearview Baptist Church, Franklin. The Sept. 7 ground-breaking ceremony followed the young church's September tradition. They met for the first time as a mission in September 1983 and constituted as a church in September 1985. Also pictured are Mike Barry (left), a church member who will be the church's liaison with the contractor, and Mike Thomas, minister of education/youth.

Blevins begins new pastorate

C. E. Blevins, former missionary associate to Zambia for five years, began serving as pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Chattanooga on July 27.



The interim pastor of the church was Mike Young, Baptist Student Union director at Chattanooga State Technical Community College in Chattanooga.

Blevins previously served as interim pastor of High Point Baptist Church in Ooltewah. He also has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Hixson, Bartlebaugh Baptist Church in Chattanooga, and churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

As a bivocational pastor, he taught art in the Chattanooga public schools.

In Zambia, Blevins was pastor of a church and an advisor to churches in Zambia's Copperbelt area.

The Tennessee native is a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattisburg.

His wife, Laura Johnson Blevins of Guild, and he have five children and seven grandchildren.

Armed men try to take over goat project in Bangladesh

SAVAR, Bangladesh (BP)— A Bangladesh cabinet official was scheduled to visit the Baptist-operated development center in Gazipur District in late August to quell trouble that started when a group of armed men tried to take control.

The minister of fisheries and livestock planned his trip to show support and interest in the Southern Baptist project, where goats and ducks are raised for the people of Bangladesh. The minister also hoped his visit would help thwart the efforts of more than 20 local men who have

said they intend to run the center themselves.

The men gathered outside of the center several days in July and raised a racket by beating on the houses where hypersensitive ducks are being raised. Then they charged onto the grounds with weapons and ran off employees. Employees were kidnapped and beaten. Government guards are protecting the center now and police have apprehended several of the accused men.

One of the center's guards was beaten on his way to work after two men armed with daggers attacked him. A passerby rescued him from what he thought would be certain death in a nearby wooded area.

"The best we can understand, this is a group of men who want soft jobs — no work and full pay — and the right to name at least half the employees of the center," said Missionary Jim McKinley, chairman of Southern Baptist work in the nation.

Seven of the men in the mob are former employees who walked off their jobs several months ago. "When we hired them, we were not aware that some of these men had a background of causing trouble in other places," said McKinley. "They were expecting to come in here and more or less take over. Sometimes that happens to expatriate organizations. It's not necessarily unusual."

In addition to his regular duties as general evangelist and mission chairman, McKinley recently has been driving 50 minutes each way to survey the situation daily at the center.

He plans to use the center to help set up a private duck farm in every district by offering training and supplying ducks. He expects the number of goats will increase from 400 to 800 within the next 10 months. Fish also are being raised there.

Gambling...

(Continued from page 1)

The pari-mutuel legislation would call for a referendum in November 1987 on horse racing through the state and on greyhound races in three Gulf Coast counties. If gambling wins on the general ballot, counties wanting pari-mutuel betting then would have to gain voter approval on a local-option basis.

However, if the bill passes into law, it could come into effect without a statewide referendum if courts rule the referendum illegal. Some maintain the referendum is an unconstitutional intrusion on the legislature's authority to make laws in Texas.

White repeatedly has said he will not sign any pari-mutuel gambling bill unless it includes a statewide referendum, local option elections, and strong safeguards against organized crime.

"We're urging the governor to veto this very flawed piece of legislation," said Ware, noting the bill was not a part of White's original call for a special session.

Ware termed the referendum stipulation fraudulent. He said the bill would make no significant contribution to solving the state's immediate fiscal crisis. He also claimed the legislation does not include strong provisions safeguarding against the intrusion of organized crime.

"The bill is a bad bill, but most of all, the governor should veto it because it simply is bad public policy," Ware said.

WMU names Babb for centennial

Marguerite Babb has been named state centennial chairperson for Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

In the volunteer position, Babb will work with state and national WMU leaders to plan celebrations marking the 100th birthdays of WMU, SBC, and Tennessee WMU, both in 1988.

Babb, who is a member of Hendersonville's First Baptist Church where her husband, Roy, is minister of outreach, served as state WMU president from 1957-61.

Representatives from Tennessee attended the meeting in Richmond, Va. on May 14, 1888, when the national organization to support Southern Baptist missionaries was begun. On Oct. 19, 1888, Tennessee women gathered in Columbia and started the state organization.



Babb

EDITORIAL

State offering to aid 'beginnings' for new churches

Tennessee Baptists face their most challenging Golden State Missions Offering in history as they reach for their first \$1-million goal.

A goal of \$1,005,000 — are we serious? That would mean that the 1986 State Missions Offering goal is 53.44 percent higher than the 1985 goal and 46.57 percent higher than the \$685,694.76 given last year!

Yes, we are serious — and our possibility of reaching this challenging goal depends on how **SERIOUS** Tennessee Baptists are in reaching the unchurched citizens of the Volunteer State!

For you see, the bulk of the \$350,000 increase over last year's goal is allocated to assist new and smaller churches and mission chapels in our state.

The **Mission Lot and Building Fund** which provides grants for purchasing property and beginning construction for churches and mission chapels will be increased from \$65,000 in 1985 to \$100,000 in the 1986 offering.

A new item, **New Work Pastoral Salary Assistance**, will help new churches and mission chapels to afford a pastor during those critical beginning days. This item will receive \$60,000.

Another new allocation, **Site Fund for New Churches**, will receive \$100,000 to assist in the purchasing of property which will later be used for new churches and mission chapels.

The allocation for the **New Work Revolving Loan Fund** will be increased from 1985's \$60,000 to this year's \$193,225. This fund provides loans for new churches and missions for three years without interest, after which a low interest rate is charged.

The main thrust of these four items in the 1986 Golden State Missions Offering is to assist churches in establishing new churches and missions in some of the high-growth areas of our state.

As you are aware, new industries are moving into many areas of Tennessee — such as the new General Motors' Saturn plant in Spring Hill. New churches must be started in these areas to meet the spiritual needs of the citizens who will relocate to these cities.

Also, Tennessee is experiencing rapid population growth in areas (such as Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge) as retirees from other states settle in the Sun Belt.

In addition, new suburbs are springing up in many of our metropolitan areas. Churches need to be started to minister to these unchurched areas.

Even though Tennessee has experienced tremendous population growth in the past 10 years, the number of churches related to the Tennessee Baptist Convention has only grown from 2,750 in 1975 to 2,872 in 1985.

How serious are Tennessee Baptists about providing a Bible-believing, New Testament church near every citizen will be indicated by our response to the 1986 Golden State Missions Offering.

The theme for this week's Week of Prayer for State Missions is "Worship, Work, and Witness." These three elements in the life of our churches and their members are vital in fulfilling our commitment of God's kingdom.

To help Tennessee Baptists consider how they can worship, work, and witness together, special program material has been mailed to each church in the state. This material can assist a church in its observance of the Week of Prayer for State Missions and State Missions Day next Sunday, Sept. 14.

This helpful material has been prepared by these fellow Tennesseans:

—General church program: Karen Bibbins, a member of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Knoxville;

—Baptist Women: Katharine Bryan, executive director of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union;

—Baptist Young Women: Jimmi Lou Tate, a member of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro;

—Acteens: Cathey Williams, a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville;

—Girls in Action: Esmerldia Hughes, a member of Morris Memorial Baptist Church, Moscow;

—Mission Friends: Martha Haynes, a member of First Baptist Church, Ripley.

The Week of Prayer for State Missions was begun in 1902 — the same year that W. C. Golden became TBC state missions secretary. For the first nine years, the program materials were not only written by Golden and his wife, but also were packaged and mailed from their home. In 1943, the offering was renamed in their honor.

The goal for that 1902 State Missions Offering was \$800. As Tennessee Baptists' commitment to state missions has grown over the years, so has the goal and the gifts from church members.

Today, we stand ready for a new beginning in evangelizing our state. It is 84 years later — and a mission-hearted state has a daring dream. As we look back at what has been accomplished in our state, we must also look forward to the needs that exist for new churches and mission chapels.

The 1986 Golden State Missions Offering provides an opportunity for that new beginning in our state.

1986 Golden State Missions Offering allocation

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

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

¹The last \$193,225 of the offering goal will go to the New Work Revolving Loan Fund (\$93,225 of it) and Site Fund for New Churches (\$100,000).

²Student Summer Missions (Missions Dept. and WMU) was allocated jointly last year for a total of \$9,500; this year it was separated, and the WMU allocation is called "WMU Volunteer Workers."

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Mee



Hill



Anderson



Lewis

Church Media Library Clinics set

The annual Church Media Library Saturday Regional Clinics will be held Sept. 13 at First Baptist Church in Gallatin, Sept. 27 at First Baptist Church in Cookeville, and Oct. 4 at Camp Carson in Newport.

Faculty from the church media library department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville include Keith Mee, a supervisor, who will teach at the Gallatin clinic; Jacquelyn Anderson, media consultant, teaching at the Newport clinic; Glynn Hill, consultant, teaching at the Cookeville clinic; and Jack Lewis, consultant, teaching at each clinic.

Additional faculty will teach conferences during the clinics, which are sponsored by the media ministries department for the Tennessee Baptist Convention for any interested persons.

The clinics, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m., cost \$5. Lunch is provided and prior registration is not required.

For more information, persons may contact the TBC media ministries department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Language leaders focus on outreach

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Southern Baptists will be successful in sharing the gospel with mushrooming populations of language groups in the United States only by providing materials in their languages, developing trained leaders, and developing programming that is sensitive to cultural needs, language ministry leaders claimed.

Bill Banks, director of the special ministries department; Peter Kung, supervisor of the language section; and Chuck Padilla, consultant in the language section, all of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, talked about language work in the denomination during the Small Sunday School Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"If you look around, you quickly begin to see that if Southern Baptists really do Bold Mission Thrust in the United States, it must include language groups," said Banks.

At present, Southern Baptists include 85 language groups in about 5,700 churches, which constitute about 14 percent of the 14-million members of SBC churches. Training during the small Sunday School conference, in addition to English, was offered in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Cambodian, and Hmong/Lao. Sessions also were provided in English for American Indians.

Kung estimated among the 1,200 participants were persons representing 20 ethnic backgrounds and 13 language groups. At present, he said the board has distributed materials in eight languages — Spanish, basic English for the deaf, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Laotian, French, and Japanese.

The commitment at the board is to provide materials in additional languages as quickly as funds are available, Banks said. "Leaders at the board are saying this is a priority. The budget has grown. The number of people we can train has increased."

In providing language materials, "we're trying to lead people to a saving knowledge of Christ in the language they know best, the language of the heart," said Padilla. "To wait until people learn English to present the gospel is to delay salvation. Our purpose is not to have a language school but to present the gospel."

Riverside names Geren as DOM

On Sept. 1, Terry C. Geren was named the director of missions of Riverside Baptist Association. He was serving as pastor of Allons Baptist Church in Allons.

The Cleveland native also has been pastor of Benton Station Baptist Church in Benton.

Geren was moderator, chairman of the mission committee, and a member of several other committees of Riverside Baptist Association. He is presently a member of the Baptist Student Union committee of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

Geren and his wife, Lucille, have two sons.

King begins duties at Knoxville church

On Aug. 24, Arnold Jay King began his role as pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Knoxville, coming from a Virginia church.

The native of Kentucky is a graduate of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate.

King has been a pastor of churches in Kentucky and Virginia.

His wife is Patsy Tennyson King, formerly of Kentucky.



King

Sperry establishes Belmont scholarship

NASHVILLE — Benny Lee Sperry of Mt. Juliet has established a scholarship at Belmont College for financially needy students who are members of Baptist churches in the Nashville Baptist Association.

A committee of administrative officials will determine each recipient of the scholarship. Preference will be given to religion and education majors. Candidates also must possess good moral character, have a high school and college grade-point average of at least 2.5, and furnish recommendations from former teachers and faculty advisors.

Sperry is a member of Green Hill Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet.

Belmont College acquires new 23-bell cast carillon

NASHVILLE — A 23-bell cast carillon, weighing more than 3 tons, was dedicated to Chancellor and Mrs. Herbert C. Gabhart during Sept. 5 ceremonies at Belmont College.

"This is a very special event in that we honor today two of the finest people I know: Chancellor and Mrs. Herbert C. Gabhart," said President William E. Troutt. "Their lives are testimony to what Christian service is all about and we are grateful to God that much of their lives has been dedicated to serving Belmont College."

Gabhart served as Belmont's president for 23 years.

Located in the Tower, a 105-foot landmark on Belmont's campus, the carillon is the only one in Nashville and one of two carillons in Tennessee, according to the company that installed it.

As one of Belmont College's heritage projects for Tennessee Homecoming '86, the carillon is an exact replica of an earlier carillon located in the Tower. The original 23-bell carillon was purchased by the Ward-Belmont Alumnae Association and class of '28 in memory of soldiers who fought in World War I.

Ward-Belmont, an elite finishing school for women, occupied the present-day Belmont College grounds from 1913 to 1951. The "belles" of Ward-Belmont were welcomed by "the ringing bells of Ward-Belmont" for 23 years, 1928-1951. The original carillon was sold.

The new carillon, featuring a manual console or baton keyboard, will be played for concerts and special occasions, primarily by Richard Shadinger, professor of music and chairman of the performance studies department. The

carillon also has an automatic play feature to play the Westminster Chimes and strike the hours. Other selections also can be programmed to play automatically.

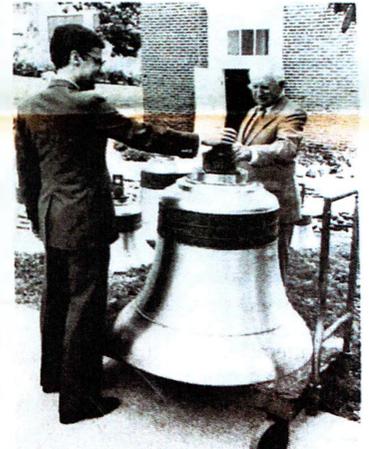
The largest bell, weighing 1,188 pounds, is a little more than 31 inches high and 37 inches in diameter. The metal is 4 1/2 to 5 inches thick. The smallest bell weighs only 57 pounds and is 10 1/2 inches high and 12 1/2 inches in diameter.

The Belmont Carillon, cast by Petit and Eritsen in Aarle-Pixtel, Holland, was installed by the I. T. Verdin Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The carillon was purchased through donations from various friends of the college. One of the bells is inscribed to Drew R. Maddux, "whose vision, leadership, and personal support secured The Belmont College Carillon."

Richard Watson, carillonneur, I. T. Verdin Co., played the dedicatory concert.

In closing, Gabhart said, "May from this Tower then sound furthermore a message clear and strong of peace, serenity, love, and joy, through Him Who is the Source of all of our joy, the Bringer of peace and serenity, and the Giver of love so amazing."



BIRTHDAY SURPRISE — Belmont College's 23-bell carillon, dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Gabhart, coincidentally arrived on Gabhart's birthday. President William E. Troutt (left) watches as Gabhart reads the inscription.



Lawler, trustee, dies in Memphis

Ralph Roland Lawler, former Gibson County Law and Equity court judge and trustee of Baptist Memorial Health Care System in Memphis for 26 years, died Aug. 26 of a heart condition. He was 62 years old.

The funeral was held at First Baptist Church in Trenton with Robert Orr, a retired pastor, and Trevis Otey Jr., pastor of the church, officiating. He was buried at Oakland Cemetery in Trenton.

Lawler also was a trustee of Union University in Jackson and the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. He had served as chairman of the board of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Union City and was an active member of the Trenton church.

Lawler is survived by his wife, Shirley Abbott Weiland Lawler; a daughter; son; two sisters; two brothers; and a granddaughter.

Tullahoma to host singles conference

A two-day Single Adult Conference will be held Sept. 12-13 at First Baptist Church of Tullahoma, sponsored by the single adult department of the church. The conference will begin with a banquet on Friday night and conclude on Saturday night.

The conference will be led by Lily Corsetto, minister to single adults at Park Place Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. She has served as a frequent conference leader, counselor, and panelist at both Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference centers for the past seven years.

The cost of the banquet will be \$5, and there is no cost for the remainder of the conference. Banquet information can be secured from First Baptist Church of Tullahoma.

Sen. Roth introduces child pornography bill

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP)— Pornography opponents hope legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate will put a dent in America's growing child pornography industry.

A bill introduced by Sen. William Roth would broaden legal efforts to control sexual exploitation of children and advertising of child pornography.

The bill, S. 2398, has 13 co-sponsors from both major parties and the endorsement of the Reagan administration. Supporters of the legislation believe the bill will close some legal loopholes which now make possible the operation of networks of pedophiles — adults who engage in sexual activity with children.

One proposal in the bill would prohibit advertising of child pornography and solicitation of children for sexual purposes. Another proposal would revise the Mann Act, which currently applies to interstate transportation of female minors for sexual activity, to include males as well. The legislation also would punish this activity whether or not the youth was being exploited commercially as in the case of prostitution.

Much of the sexual abuse of minors

currently involves children and youth who are simply traded from one pedophile to another.

Larry Braidfoot of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission praised the legislation as "an important step in the effort to crack down on child pornography."

Braidfoot, who has worked with Broadman Films to produce a new film on pornography for Baptist churches, pointed out that the United States is the world's leading consumer of child pornography.

Production, distribution, or sale of child pornography in this country is prohibited by federal law. Yet about 20,000 Americans have been identified by U.S. Customs Service officials as purchasers of child pornography, most of it imported from Europe.

Child pornography was not even mentioned in the Presidential Commission on Pornography report in 1970. However, law enforcement and customs officials estimate by the late 1970s, the child pornography industry was producing and distributing more than 250 commercial magazines each month, most of them imported.

The recent report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography and

other studies also have focused public attention on the relationship between child pornography and the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

According to customs officials, the number of child pornography cases has risen dramatically in the last several

years, with more than 200 cases in the first seven months of 1986 alone.

Opponents of child pornography also hope more European countries will join the battle. In recent years, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands have outlawed child pornography.

Missions, medicine unite along Texas-Mexico border

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)— The life of an unborn child was saved and the life of his prostitute mother was transformed, thanks to the gospel witness and healthcare services of Rio Grande River Ministry.

Medical services are just one part of the River Ministry, an ongoing ministry of Texas Baptists supported through their unified Cooperative Program budget and the Mary Hill Davis Centennial Offering for State Missions.

Eliseo Vega, healthcare coordinator for the Laredo, Texas, area, recalled the day a young Hispanic woman came to a River Ministry clinic in Nuevo Laredo,

Mexico, requesting an abortion.

"I talked with her and told her my position. I explained that I couldn't do what she wanted because I'm a Christian," said Vega. "I told her, 'The Lord has a purpose for your baby, and He has a purpose for you.'"

The woman began sobbing and saying she did not know how she would survive. Confessing she was a prostitute, the young woman told Vega that she had four boyfriends and all of them had failed her, just as she felt everyone else in life had done.

Vega told her how Jesus could change her life and give her a reason for living. She accepted Christ, was baptized, and became a member of a church in Nuevo Laredo.

"Later she got married to a man who understood her background and who accepted her. She and her baby boy are very happy today," Vega reports. He notes the woman now helps keep records in the same clinic where she once came wanting an abortion.

Vega says changed lives are characteristic not only of the patients at the clinic, but also of the doctors with whom he and other River Ministry healthcare coordinators work.

The weaving together of evangelism and healthcare services comes naturally to Vega. As a lay preacher, he was pastor of a Monterrey, Mexico, church while attending medical school there. During his last year and a half of medical school, he also divided his time between his studies and volunteer work at the Nuevo Laredo clinic.

Vega became healthcare coordinator in February of 1985. He travels to 15 clinics along a 150-square-mile stretch of border country from Del Rio to Laredo, distributing supplies, dispensing medicine, and working with local professionals and volunteer teams in helping to provide medical services.

"I feel like a fish in the water. This is where I belong," says Vega. "Jesus' instruction to the disciples in Luke 10:9-11 is to 'heal ... and tell.' That's what our purpose is — missions and medicine."

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Eggenberger goes to Highland Park

The new pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Jackson, Jerry Eggenberger, began serving Aug. 18.

He served as pastor at First Baptist Church in Livingston before accepting this new role, and prior to that he was pastor of three other churches in Tennessee and one in Kentucky.

Eggenberger is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky.



Eggenberger

Nashville's Baptist Hospital adds new telephone response system

NASHVILLE — Baptist Hospital announced last week the introduction of CareLine, a telephone response system for the elderly living alone.

"We are excited about our opportunity to offer CareLine as a community service to people in middle Tennessee," said C. David Stringfield, president. "Ours is the only system of this kind currently available in this area."

CareLine is designed for individuals living alone who are concerned about a possible fall, accident, or other situation where a call to neighbors, friends, family, or emergency medical professionals would provide necessary assistance.

With CareLine, a person at home can summon help any time of the day or

night by pushing a button which is electronically connected to a support center manned around the clock with professional staff trained to handle crises.

The button is located on a small, lightweight pendant or watch worn by the CareLine subscriber. When the button is activated, within 60 seconds, the support center receives and verifies the call for help and immediately calls the appropriate responders.

"Each subscriber initially provides the CareLine support center with a list of five individuals to be notified in case of an emergency," according to Joanne Knight, vice-president at Baptist Hospital.

"Generally, a close neighbor or nearby relative is the first person notified but the list might also include physicians or emergency medical personnel. In addition, the support center has immediate access to the subscriber's medical history and can give the information to the responder, if necessary.

"CareLine allows elderly to enjoy their independence and still be able to summon medical assistance if needed," Knight said.

The system also includes an automatic test feature. Anytime the users want to make sure the unit is working, they simply push the button on their pendant or watch and the response center calls them back to assure them that their system is functioning.

Another safety feature is a phone override. If another individual is on the phone and the CareLine user activates the system, the phone call is interrupted to allow the emergency call and response system to go through.

The unit operates on a 10-year lithium battery and includes a power back-up which provides service for up to 24 hours in the event of a power outage.

"We feel CareLine is an important service for the community. The cost, less than a dollar per day, is a small price to pay for peace of mind," Knight said. She added that The Telephone Pioneers of America, a retiree organization, has offered to install the unit for a onetime cost of \$7.50 per unit, if the patient does not have an existing phone jack.

Indian leader sees progress in work

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Southern Baptists may be on the brink of their greatest success in reaching American Indians for Christ, an Indian leader claimed.

"Education, training leaders, building some large Indian churches to serve as models, and setting goals for growth are the keys to the future," said Ed Lindsey, Indian religious education worker in the language missions department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He led a leadership training conference for American Indians during the Small Sunday School Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Lindsey, a member of the Creek tribe and a student at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, said the greatest contribution Southern Baptists could make to ministry among American Indians would be to provide funds and aggressively recruit Indian students to attend Baptist colleges and universities.

Russell Begaye, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board American Indian missions consultant, said reaching the increasing numbers of American Indian students on college campuses will be crucial for an evangelistic effort to American Indians.

The number of American Indian students on campuses throughout the nation is increasing dramatically, he said during a student conference at Glorieta. He encouraged Baptist Student Union leaders and campus ministers to seek American Indian students for their organizations.

In more than 200 Indian churches in Oklahoma, Lindsey said, much progress has been made in training leaders. "Most of the Indian work in Oklahoma is being done by Indians. If American Indians are going to be won to Christ, it will be by American Indians," he explained.

Baptist Hospital promotes Chaplain William Day

NASHVILLE — Chaplain William Day has been promoted to assistant vice-president of counseling outreach at Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

In addition to his ongoing duties of overseeing Baptist Hospital's counseling center and pastoral services, Day has assumed responsibility for a new employee assistance program and for organizing a speakers bureau which will provide programs for area Baptist churches.

Three HMB staffers resign

ATLANTA (BP) — Three longtime Southern Baptist Home Mission Board employees have resigned to pursue personal business opportunities.

Everett Hullum Jr., who has been employed by the agency for 16 years and has edited MissionsUSA magazine since 1982, began new responsibilities Sept. 1 with Citizens and Southern Bank of Atlanta. He will edit employee publications for the banking firm.

A denominational employee since he joined the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission as editor in 1965, Hullum since has served the Home Mission Board as associate secretary for editorial services and director of magazine publication services. For the past four years he has been editor of the service, which included production of the award-winning magazine on home missions as well as Home Missions Notebook.

Jim Lewis Jr., a 13-year employee, has begun a private consulting firm in Birmingham, Ala., where he advises churches and associations in long-range strategy involving growth, ministry, and missions impact on communities. Most recently he has been assistant for the vice-presi-

dent for the board's missions division and in 1983 was named director of the associational missions division.

Glenn Sheppard, who has been special assistant in spiritual awakening for the evangelism section for the past six years, will leave the board at the end of September to launch International Prayer Ministries in Atlanta. He has been employed by the board since 1979, when he was named director of the personal evangelism department.

Sheppard will continue to be a consultant to churches desiring to develop intercessory prayer ministries. He additionally will work with the intercession advisory committee of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism and will help establish an international prayer center in Atlanta.

Personal Perspective



By Tom Madden

TBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Union names leaders for guidance program

JACKSON — Union University has named the supervisors and seminar leaders for its in-service guidance program for church-related vocation students, which is designed to prepare students for leadership roles in Baptist life.

Assisting with the program this year will be Richard Holloman, assistant director of religious affairs at Union; Bill Taylor, retired education director for Baptist associations; Doug Baker, pastor of Parran's Chapel Baptist Church, Bolivar; Paul Bryant, pastor of North Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; Ricky Clark, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Humboldt; Pat Brock, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Henderson; Mike Morris, minister of youth and recreation at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; Jim Wooten, professor of sociology at Union; and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Turman, missionaries on furlough from Indonesia.

About 200 students (one out of every eight) are involved in the program.

Recently I have been studying the book of Philippians and, as always, I have been blessed tremendously by this most encouraging epistle.

One of the many passages that caused me to pause and reflect is from the third chapter, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize..." (Philippians 3:13-14).

While I was a college student, a visiting pastor spoke at our regular chapel service on this passage. He noted Paul's holy discontent with the present, his singleness of purpose, and his willingness to pay a price. But he also emphasized how Paul was willing to forget some things.

We would do well to forget the petty slights and hurts that come to all of us. If we keep them, they can harden into hostility.

While we need to learn from our mistakes, it is good that when we pass through a gate, we close it. Most of us have made mistakes in our lives that God has forgiven and forgotten and we need to be wise enough to forgive ourselves.

While there are things we need to forget, there are other things we need to remember.

We need to remember our unpaid debts, not only in terms of monetary matters but also in terms of obligations, of vows taken, of promises made.

It is good to remember the kindness that has been shown us — a note, a gift, a word of encouragement that lifted us and encouraged us. We may not be able to repay, but we can be sensitive in encouraging others.

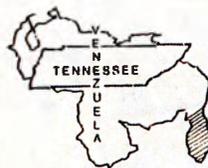
Surely we will never forget the mercies of God. Paul kept green the memory of the kindnesses of men and of the mercies of God.

Milton L. Hicks begins pastorate in LaVergne

On Aug. 20, Milton L. Hicks began serving as pastor of First Baptist Church in LaVergne.

Hicks previously was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lenoir City.

He and his wife, Barbara, have four children.



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—On Sept. 16, Freida Adams is having a birthday. She and her husband, Ron, who is a general evangelist, live in Valencia.

—Also on Sept. 16, Emilee Goff, who serves in Los Teques with her husband, Bill, is celebrating her birthday. Bill is a seminary teacher.

—The following members of a construction/evangelism team go Sept. 16-27 to help the First Baptist Church of Barquisimeto:

- Rachel Brown of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg
- Bobby Barnett and Clyde Franklin, Cash Point Baptist Church, Ardmore
- Floyd R. and Helen Choate, First Baptist Church, Greenbrier
- Lee and Virginia Floyd, Wells Station Baptist Church, Memphis
- Terry P. Hardy, Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Sevierville
- Bob Strang, Faith Baptist Church, Atoka

—Also the Floyds, Choates, and Strang will remodel the seminary chapel in Los Teques until Oct. 4.

—Building permits are needed before several requested construction teams can do their work.

Bandits hit food warehouse in Haiti, rough up workers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP)— Bandits raided the offices of a Baptist food warehouse in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, early Sept. 2, beating several workers and escaping with at least \$300.

Fifteen men, firing pistols in the air and carrying machetes and iron bars, appeared at the warehouse about 3 a.m., reported Southern Baptist Missionary Jack Hancox, who arrived on the scene two hours later. The gang overpowered two guards, beat them, and tied them up in a guard shack. They forced their way into the warehouse and found two members of a Haitian Baptist well-drilling team sleeping in one of the offices.

The bandits beat the two startled workers, striking one across the shoulder with an iron bar and taking \$200 from him. They ransacked the offices looking for money and probably found about \$130, said Hancox, who noted losses still were being calculated. They also opened a safe that contained numerous checks intended for bank deposit but left the checks strewn across the floor.

"They didn't destroy anything. They just spilled everything on the floor looking for money," Hancox said. "They stole all the keys out of the office and tried to steal one of our trucks. They couldn't get it started so they tried to hot-wire it."

When that did not work, the band left the warehouse area on foot and encoun-

tered two more guards a short distance down the road. They beat the pair and escaped into some woods nearby.

Nobody was seriously hurt, Hancox said, just "scared and bruised." The two

Gerontologist notes senior adult needs

DALLAS (BP)— With people living longer and spending fewer of their final years in infirmity, Southern Baptists cannot proceed with a "business as usual" attitude toward senior adults, warned Ben Dickerson, head of the Institute of Gerontology at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Southern Baptist churches need to prepare people on how to live the one-third of their lives they will live in retirement, said Dickerson, addressing the Texas Chapter of the Southern Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging during its recent annual meeting at Buckner Baptist Trew Retirement Village in Dallas.

Dickerson cited demographics showing the 85-year-and-older population as the fastest-growing age group in the country, noting it is expected to triple in size from 1980 to 2020. He also noted while the median age today is 31, by the turn of the century it is predicted to be 36, and by 2050 it is projected to be 42.

Dickerson said the deepest need of senior adults is a "poverty of meaning" which the preaching of the gospel should apply.

"We live in a society characterized by what some have termed an 'anxiety of meaninglessness.' The number one problem among older people is boredom," he said. "To these people, we must present the gospel in all its richness."

Baptist well drillers were in town for a seminar on improved drilling and pumping techniques and were staying at the warehouse to save hotel costs. Hancox works with Haitian Baptists to coordinate a variety of development ministries, including well drilling and food distribution to school children.

The Baptist warehouse has been a target before. It was looted repeatedly during the unrest leading to the downfall early this year of the Duvalier government. Other relief agencies, especially Church World Service, also have been victimized. The Church World Service

food warehouse was cleaned out again by looters in late August, Hancox said.

Baptists' food and nutrition program for schools, disrupted earlier in the year by attacks on the warehouse and distribution trucks, again will be affected by the latest incident. Hancox said he temporarily cancelled a shipment, paid for by Southern Baptists, of enough food from the United States to feed 16,000 children for two months. Outside shipments will be on hold until authorities can provide better security both for the warehouse and for distribution efforts, Hancox said.

In place of the U.S. shipment, he contracted for 1,000 hundred-pound sacks of Haiti corn and received a promise from the U.S. Agency for International Development for some dried milk and oil. "We're still going to have some stuff if we can get it out to the schools," he said.

Despite the ongoing problems, the Baptist well drilling teams have drilled 40 wells since January. They are aiming for a record of 65 drilled in one year.

Hancox said Haiti has been fairly calm since violent demonstrations in June, with the exception of killings and increasingly bold attacks by bandits roaming the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Baptist finalizes MTMC affiliation

NASHVILLE — Saint Thomas Hospital and Baptist Health Care System, have formally begun their affiliation with the 288-bed Middle Tennessee Medical Center (MTMC) in Murfreesboro.

The affiliation, which became official on Sept. 1, is the culmination of several months of negotiations and planning for a smooth transition. A ceremony commemorating the affiliation is being planned for Oct. 12 at MTMC.

"We are pleased that our affiliation with Middle Tennessee Medical Center is now complete and that MTMC will continue to serve as a not-for-profit community-based hospital for the entire area," stated a joint pronouncement by Sister Juliana Beuerlein, president of Saint Thomas, and C. David Stringfield, president of Baptist Health Care System Inc.

"Throughout the process of negotiations and planning for this affiliation, we have received overwhelming community support and we respect and appreciate that support," the statement said.

Under the terms of the affiliation agreement between the three health care facilities, MTMC will remain a community hospital governed by a 17-member Middle Tennessee Medical Center board of directors.

Professor acclaims WMU healing role

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, with its sole emphasis on missions, may be what is needed to heal the rift in the convention, a Southern Baptist seminary professor said.

Speaking recently to a national gathering of WMU members, Justice Anderson called on them to continue their leadership in supporting mission work, praying for missionaries, and doing mission action work, themselves.

Anderson is director of the World Missions Evangelism Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Only a recommitment to the missions enterprise will keep us together," Anderson said. "A languishing denomination is characterized by hyperorthodoxy and missions shortsightedness."

"I'm not talking about a militant feminism. I'm talking about militant submission, he added. "In spite of elements in the denomination that wish to downplay the role of women in the church, we need your help."

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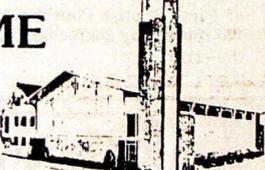
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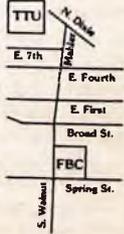
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LEADERSHIP . . .

North Athens Baptist Church has called Mike Bohner as minister of music and youth. W. H. Liner is serving as interim pastor of the Athens church.

Bob Talbert has resigned as pastor of Cross Roads Baptist Church in Centerville.

Jim Ellis has been called as minister of education at Boones Creek Baptist Church in Gray. The New Orleans (La.) Baptist Seminary graduate last served on the staff of First Baptist Church, Delray Beach, Fla. Bud Pate is the pastor.

Tusculum Baptist Church in Greeneville has called Joe Mike Hodge as minister of music/youth/college. Hodge attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Dan Greer is pastor of the Greeneville church.

The pastor of Gum Springs Baptist Church in Georgetown, Dudley Nichols, has resigned.

Clyde Whaley, pastor of Maple Street Baptist Church in Cleveland, has resigned.

Beacon Baptist Church in Cleveland recently accepted the resignation of their pastor, Hoyle Ellis.

Richard Lanford has been called as interim pastor of North Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield.

Oak Grove Baptist Church in Springfield has called John Norris as interim pastor.

Douglas Nash has resigned as pastor of Concord Baptist Church in McKenzie.

The pastor of East Side Baptist Church in Camden, Jimmy Cooper, resigned.

James Franks has resigned as pastor of Bogota Baptist Church, Bogota.

R. H. Dills is serving as interim pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Newbern.

Lane Bass has been called as minister of music and youth at Smyrna Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. James Shumate is the pastor.

Stephen Russell is serving as interim music director at Fowlkes Baptist Church, Fowlkes. Don McCulley is the pastor.

Chip Leake is serving as interim music and youth director at First Baptist Church, Newbern. Thomas Pirtle is the pastor.

Central Baptist Church of Martin has called Robert Orr as interim pastor. He was formerly pastor of First Baptist Church in Dyersburg before his retirement.

Singapore center aids Bible study in schools

SINGAPORE - Up to 20,000 public school students in the island city-nation of Singapore will study God's Word this year through "Bible Knowledge."

So far, the Baptist Media Center of Singapore has received 96 orders for Bible Knowledge materials from high schools. The government's Ministry of Education has asked the center to help train 80 new teachers in the Bible Knowledge program.

In the past, some teachers have talked with their students outside of classes about a personal relationship with Christ. One boy asked his teacher how he could understand the Bible. She explained to him how God could open up his understanding, and he accepted Christ as his Saviour.

Correction

On page 9 of the Aug. 27 issue of the Baptist and Reflector, Marion L. Arbuckle Jr. was inadvertently identified as pastor of First Baptist Church, Spencer. Arbuckle, the former pastor of the Spencer church, has been pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, since Feb. 9. Lofton Graves is now pastor of First Baptist Church, Spencer. We regret any confusion caused by the error.

REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Springfield Baptist Church will have revival services Sept. 21-24. John Laida will be the evangelist with Bill Morris leading the music. Jerry Oakley is the pastor of the Springfield church.

Leonard Sanderson will lead revival services at First Baptist Church, Lewisburg Sept. 14-17. Sanderson is a former pastor of the church and has been director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board and the Louisiana Baptist Convention. David Brown, minister of music and youth at the Lewisburg church will lead the music. Paul Woodford is the pastor.

MISSION PROJECTS . . .

For the second year in a row, the youth of First Baptist Church, Oliver Springs, took a mission trip to Winston-Salem N.C. First Baptist Church in Walnut Cove, N.C., hosted the group and worked with them on construction and renovation of homes to benefit the needy. They also worked at a home for battered women and led in a Bible break in an inner city housing project. Charles Parker is pastor of the church and George Husk is minister of youth.

Fourteen laymen from Central Baptist Church in Martin recently participated in a mission project along with Richard L. Skidmore, director of missions for Weakley County Baptist Association. The group constructed a new building for Pleasants Baptist Church in Belmont, W.Va. The Central church men were assisted by men from Christian Mission Fellowship Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa., the site of a previous mission project of the Martin church. Robert Orr is serving as interim pastor of the church.

The Girls in Action of Cedar Hill Baptist Church in Baxter raised \$605 for a 2½-year-old liver transplant candidate by washing cars. Joshua Clinton's operation will cost \$200,000. June Fields is GA leader at the Cedar Hill church and James McAfee is the pastor.

J. L. Phillips accepts Lockeland position

John Larry Phillips is the new pastor of Lockeland Baptist Church, Nashville. A native of Murfreesboro and former attorney, Phillips comes from Central Baptist Church, Olympia Fields, Ill., where he was pastor. Prior to that he was pastor of the Locke Station Baptist Church, Marks, Miss. His first service at Lockeland Baptist Church will be September 14, the church's homecoming day.

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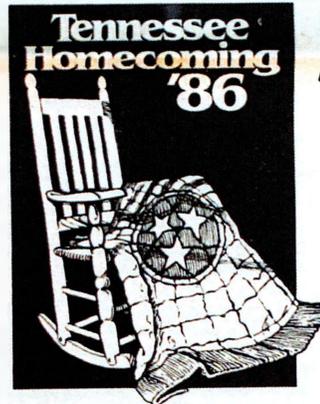
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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for Sept. 14

The nation's repentance

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

Basic Passage: Joel 2:18 to 3:21

Focal Passages: Joel 2:18-19, 28 to 3:3, 16-17

Joel's book falls into two natural divisions.

Beginning with 2:18, the situation changed. No longer did the prophet condemn sin and threaten punishment. He began a series of promises to the nation. Scholars are in virtual agreement that something marvelous had occurred. The people repented and God heard their prayers!

The remainder of the book tells of brighter days, including one of the greatest pictures of the New Testament to be found anywhere in the Old Testament.

A promise to restore the land
(2:18-27)

Since the first result of the plague was a cessation of life's staple necessities, the prophet mentioned their restoration first when the people repented.

The land belonged to God in a very special way. The Old Testament speaks of it often as His land and the people as His tenants. The worshipers paid rent in tithes, sacrifices, and offerings. Disasters were judgments for failure to render God His dues, but a faithful fulfillment of His requirements were considered as a point of honor with God.

The grain, drink, and oil that had been destroyed by the locusts and the drought would be more than made good by the new harvests that would come. No longer would the heathen nations sneer at Israel as a people deserted by their God.

One of the most striking statements in the book occurs in this section. Joel said, "I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten" (2:25). What a marvelous declaration of God's grace!

A promise to pour out His Spirit
(2:28-29)

The material blessings would be only the beginning of God's gracious activity toward His people. The word "afterward" indicated an indefinite period of time.

Simon Peter, speaking in Jerusalem at the Pentecost Feast (Acts 2:14-18), at-

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Wood

tributed the wonders that occurred as a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.

The Lord's face was set against cruelty and oppression, but He had other ways of conquering than through military might. God's energizing work would, in His time, become a part of the new kingdom of God in the future. After atonement had been made for sin, and the resurrection had demonstrated God's approval of Christ's sacrifice, a new era would be instituted.

Peter, when he saw the effect of the gospel in the lives of thousands, said, "this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel" (2:16). The Holy Spirit's presence had become a demonstrable proof of the new birth experience in a redeemed person's nature.

What a marvelous prediction from one of the lesser known prophets!

A promise to deliver all who call
upon Him (2:30-32)

Though some connect these verses with a yet unfulfilled prophecy, the context in the Book of Acts suggests that the entire section (vv.28-32) became historical reality at the preaching of Peter. He followed with a gospel sermon and an invitation. Three thousand people responded and followed the Lord in baptism.

Joel saw the gospel day, told about it, and we can rejoice to read about it in the words of this great prophet. Salvation, both in the Old and New Testaments, is primarily deliverance! Through Christ, we are delivered from the penalty and power of sin. Some day, when He comes again, we shall be delivered from its very presence! Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

Promise to judge Judah's enemies and
bless Judah (3:1-21)

Joel saw a time when God would intervene and vindicate His people. Expositors differ concerning Joel's meaning. Did he speak of national Israel or spiritual Israel?

Some words seem to apply to each. We should be cautious about getting "caught up" into a program of political events that shall occur when the Lord comes again. The greater wisdom is to major on the things of which we can be certain.

God loves His people and will see to it that in His time they are vindicated. Those who serve the Lord may be required to wait and even to suffer, but, at the time when He feels best, He will "roar out of Zion... utter His voice from Jerusalem... be the hope of His people" (3:16).

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UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for Sept. 14

A rainbow for humanity

By W. Clyde Tilley, professor of religion and philosophy
Union University, Jackson

Basic Passage: Genesis 6:1 to 9:17

Focal Passage: Genesis 9:1-15

Into the rich fabric of the early chapters of Genesis, and particularly into this week's passage, are interwoven the strong threads of sin, judgment, and mercy.

Sin: God's image and man's imagination
(6:5-6, 11-12)

Between the work of God's creation considered last week and the avalanche of God's judgment treated here, a woeful event called "the fall" has occurred. Humankind has abused the freedom God had given, compromised the goodness originally possessed, exaggerated the dominion God had assigned, and compounded the ambiguity that was our lot from the outset. Only humans were created to have kinship with both the natural and spiritual realms. But the fall resulted in botching this nature which we possessed as God's creatures by a further role for ourselves as sinners in rebellion against God.

This fall had both a vertical Godward dimension (Genesis 3, highlighted in God's question to Adam, "Where art thou?" v.9) and a horizontal human dimension (Genesis 4, highlighted in God's question to Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" v.9).

The fall was the Bible's explanation for the presence of moral evil (sin) and much of natural evil (suffering) in a world that had been originally "very good" (Genesis 1:31). What had happened to the image of God in God's highest creature? The "image" comprised a relationship with God, which had been broken, destroyed. But it also involved a capacity for this relationship, which had been only marred, damaged.

To use an analogy from an electrical appliance, human redemption will involve not only being plugged back into our source (reconciliation) but a restoration of our capacity for this renewed relationship (regeneration).

This blurred image had an adverse effect upon human imagination, our interpretation of this image in terms of what we perceive ourselves to be. What human pride led our race to do at the outset, the distortion of God's image in us leads us to persist in doing and keeps us from undoing. Thus we read as a prelude to the flood "that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (v.5).

Judgment: the warning and the waters
(6:7, 13-14, 7:11-12)

The central thrust of the flood account is to underscore God's judgment upon sin. To speak of God "repenting" of His creation of man should cause no great alarm in trying to understand God as One "with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:7). It is simply an attempt to describe divine activity by means of an inadequate human language designed to describe human action and emotion. This attempt to describe God from the standpoint of human anatomy or psychology is called anthropomorphism. To say that God repented is like saying "He walked in the garden" (Genesis 3:8).

It is characteristic of God in Scripture and in experience to warn of impending

judgment upon sin. The judgment or "wrath of God" is sometimes described as God giving people up to their sin so that the withdrawal of His active mercy results in reaping the crop from the seeds of iniquity which the sinner has sown (Romans 1:24ff; Galatians 6:7-8). At other times, however, such as here, judgment appears as divinely initiated retribution upon persistent evil.

God's warning here consists first of a warning to Noah of a great flood (6:7, 13-14). The New Testament suggests a warning through Noah to the people of his day (1 Peter 3:20). As is true with His merciful promises, God is faithful also with regard to His promises of judgment. Thus the great flood of waters came upon the earth.

Mercy: the boat and the bow
(6:8, 9:1-12)

This most severe example of divine judgment is not merciless. God's judgment is always tinged with mercy. It is never as severe and unfeeling as it might be. To say that God's mercy is always present with God's judgment is to say that God never calculates what He owes us to the penny and that His departure from strict justice is always in our favor and to our advantage when viewed from the scope of the entire human race.

Whereas the flood will always symbolize God's judgment, the boat (ark) which Noah built must symbolize not His judgment but His mercy. It is the vehicle of salvation for Noah's family of eight.

Here, for the first time, we encounter an important Biblical doctrine: the doctrine of the remnant. This doctrine was developed especially by the prophets and is seemingly present even in the teachings of Jesus (e.g., Matthew 7:13-14). It presents God's intentions and plans as undefeatable. Even when the majority of His chosen ones spurn His purposes through them, He persists in His purpose, even if by a small minority, a remnant.

A second symbol of God's mercy is the rainbow. For the post-flood population, there never again will be such far-reaching destruction by water as that incurred by a universal flood. More than just a promise to the world's people, the rainbow is given as a seal of a covenant, a much richer concept.

God's agreement with Noah for the first time involves the use of animals for food (9:2-4). This is unlike the agreement with Adam where only vegetation and plant life were intended to be eaten (Genesis 1:29-30). Presumably "nature red in tooth and claw" is depicted as belonging to a fallen world. Since all of nature participated in the fall so it shall participate in redemption (Romans 8:19-23; Isaiah 11:6-9).

Along with the provision of animal flesh for food is the provision of capital punishment for violent lethal crimes against humanity (9:8-9). This, too, is a part of a fallen world order. The later law will make provisions for its implementation. Yet it should not seem inconsistent if, in keeping with God's progressive revelation and progressive redemption of the world order, nations and states should choose not to exact the death penalty anymore than it would if persons should choose to be vegetarians (9:2-4), use anesthetics in childbirth (3:16a), share leadership roles in the family (3:16b), or use herbicides in farming (3:17-19).



Tilley

LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Sept. 14

Prayer of confession

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

Basic Passage: Psalm 51
Focal Passage: Psalm 51:1-13

One of the main reasons people can identify with the stories and teachings contained in the Bible is that they are often about real people who needed to learn the truths of God.

David is a perfect example of a man who allowed his sinful lust to overtake him. Relief from the great burden of guilt could be removed only by God. Only God could provide the forgiveness of sin that was crushing his soul and life.



Bush

The love of God and His immense capacity to forgive are beyond our comprehension. Forgiveness comes after confession.

Psalm 51 is one of the Penitential Psalms which include 6, 25, 32, 38, 39, 40, 51, 102, and 130. The writer of 1 John 1:9 surely had portions of the ancient psalter in mind when writing, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Many ministers could share story after story about persons whose lives were miserable and non-productive until they confessed of sin in their lives and asked God for forgiveness.

An important thing for you and me to remember is that confession is not a periodic special time but a daily necessity for fruitful Christian lives.

Temptation is within and around us all the time. We sometimes yield to temptation. If the sins in our lives are not open where everyone can see, they are subtle. God knows all our sins. All sin is against God so it is to Him we must confess so we can enjoy His healing and cleansing.

A statement by a sociologist is applicable as we think of sin and whose fault is sin. "Motivation is autonomous" is the statement which is very true. Each indi-

vidual must make up his or her mind about life choices, selection of actions, and sinful or righteous behavior.

It is correct to say, "To sin or not to sin, that is my choice to make each moment I live." There is a training film about self-motivation entitled, "You Pack Your Own Chute." Paratroopers are trained to pack their own chutes so if something goes wrong, the jumper has nobody to blame but himself. You better believe a fellow is careful to follow chute-packing instructions because he knows if his chute is going to work properly, he had better pack it right. The packing is up to him and each individual jumper.

God's forgiveness is not like our's because when God forgives, He forgets the sins for which His mercy was needed.

Notice in David's confession that he moves from the bearing of a sinful burden, to acknowledgement of God's ability to forgive, to admission of sin against God, to the need for honesty with God about sin, to a request for cleansing, to joy and relief in order to serve and praise God more.

We often are like Lot's wife because we say we want to follow God but keep looking back with a longing for this world, sin, selfish motivations.

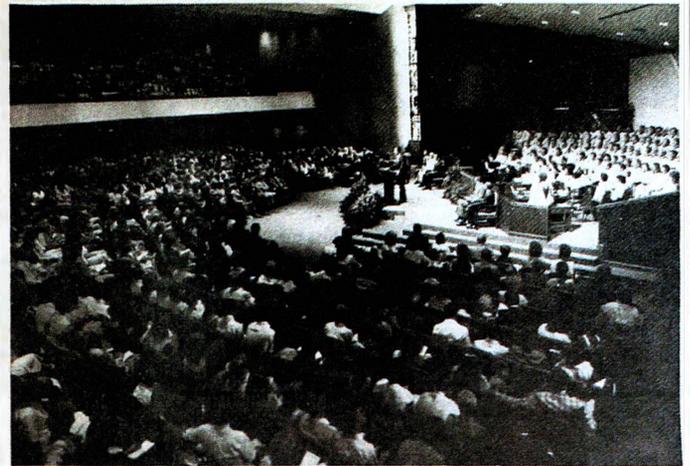
Individual prayer life and corporate worship need confessional prayer before God can work His miracle of forgiveness and dynamic purpose in His disciples, churches, Southern Baptist Convention, or any other Christian denomination.

"God, unclug the sin in my life so Your love can flow freely on through to others. Amen."

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Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge

entered a new 1500-seat Worship Center on Sunday, August 3. Overflow crowds came as ushers placed additional chairs for the more than 2000 persons gathered in worship.

The facilities also include new offices for the Pastor and church staff, conference room, music suite which includes rehearsal, robing and library area, media production for radio and television with all new equipment. The cost of the project was \$3.4-million. Renovation also began on the former sanctuary to provide much needed Sunday School space.

The project has been in planning implementation for more than seven years during which time the church was in multiple morning and evening worships and dual Sunday Schools. The plans are already working for a new education/activities building.

Dedication of the new facilities will be October 5-9, 1986, with the following arrangements:

10:50 A.M. - Sunday, October 5

Speaker: Dr. Tom Melzoni, Pastor
Music: Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra
Central Baptist's Own

7:00 P.M. - Sunday, October 5

Speaker: Dr. Jack Graham, Pastor
First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Music: Chapel Choir and Orchestra
Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge

7:00 P.M. - Monday, October 6

Speaker: Dr. Morris Chapman, Pastor
First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Tenn.

7:00 P.M. - Tuesday, October 7

Speaker: Dr. W. A. Criswell, Pastor
First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas
Music: Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra
Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge

7:00 P.M. - Wednesday, October 8

Speaker: Dr. James McCluskey, Pastor
Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

7:00 P.M. - Thursday, October 9

Speaker: Dr. James Reimer, Pastor
Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.
Music: Sanctuary Choir
Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, Tenn.

There will be a meal served prior to each service, Monday-Thursday

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Southern Baptists aid farmers across America

Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part series on Southern Baptists and the American farm crisis. It is adapted from the July-August issue of MissionsUSA, published by the Home Mission Board.

By Sherri Anthony Brown
ATLANTA (BP)— More than most denominations, Southern Baptists have reasons to be concerned about the depth and breadth of the current American farm crisis — not only because they are food consumers, but also because they are food producers. More than two-thirds

of the 14.4-million-member denomination live in rural areas or towns with under 10,000 population.

Many of these Southern Baptists will go through the "deep agony" of bankruptcy, loss of a career, change of lifestyle and home. "Churches are being challenged to ministry," says Gary Farley, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's rural-urban department.

But farmers are "staunchly independent and will not accept assistance," points out John Hopkins, director of Christian social ministries for Southern Baptists in Kansas and Nebraska. "We're trying to sensitize local churches to go to farmers. Farmers won't come to them."

In the five hardest-hit farm states, nearly three-quarters of a million Southern Baptists live in rural areas; in Missouri, the state suffering worst from farm foreclosures, Farmers Home Administration has acquired 325 farms since 1980.

Authorities predict whole communities will dry up. Businesses, schools, and churches will suffer. Some feel the crunch already.

In west Texas, bivocational pastors have replaced full-time pastors because loss of farm families moving in the economically depressed area has hurt churches, says Director of Missions Herman Lancaster. In one case, Lancaster convinced two churches to merge, using the same pastor.

Concerned about the fate of 1,065 rural churches in Missouri, state Rural-Urban Missions Director Don Evans has begun developing programs to aid struggling farm families. With \$50,000 from Home Mission Board hunger funds, Evans began distributing food, food vouchers, and money for garden seed to families in need.

Evans also has produced six educational videotapes on the farm crisis and its repercussions. "These tapes have gone all over the country," he reports. "It is one way we can get information out quickly and efficiently." Evans now is working to get legal aid for farmers in transition — whether that transition is voluntary or involuntary.

Yet his actions run counter to skeptics who proclaim, "If a farmer's in trouble, it's his own fault. He got greedy."

"For some that's true, but why kick someone when he's down?" Farley asks. "Besides, I don't see their dream as any different from the rest of America. If you criticize them, you criticize the whole capitalistic society."

Besides, Farley concludes, "The attitude, 'They made a mistake. Let'em go down,' isn't Christian."

Farley does not suggest that churches should bail farmers out. "It would take all the money all the churches collect all year long to begin to pay off the farm

debt," he notes.

In fact, total SBC receipts represent about one-sixtieth of the \$213-billion farm debt. But paying for the debt may not be as important as proving "Southern Baptists care for the farmers like they care for anybody that's hurting," Farley says.

He points to models like Evans and to the ministry of congregations like First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, which sponsored a Farm Jubilee Weekend. Seminars on finances, relocation, and other options — plus counseling opportunities — helped farmers from across the nation have a better outlook.

First Baptist Church of Lamesa, Texas, conducted a similar non-denominational weekend event called West Texas Farm Family Weekend. "We knew the church couldn't do much about the financial side of the crisis, but we could help our people handle the stress," says Pastor C. H. Murphy Jr. The church also held four follow-up meetings for the 600 people who attended.

Allen and Dolores Baugh, co-directors of missions in Sevens Valley Baptist Association in Elizabethtown, Ky., have begun holding rallies for farmers. With the help of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the association sponsored its first rally in February. Five hundred farmers attended. The Baughs, who make their living as farmers, have felt the need for helping the farmers. They are planning at least two more rallies this summer, offering aids on farm money management and stress management.

In Mississippi, Director of Missions M. C. Johnson also has provided stress conferences for hard-hit farmers in his North Delta Baptist Association. "They need to talk about their needs and problems," he says.

His association has provided food and clothing for farm hands and their families. "The farmers can't help them out in the winter anymore — and they sure can't afford to lose these workers," explains Johnson.

Stress — monetary, emotional, physical — can be crippling, farmers say. And it hides not only on farms, but in churches as well. "Imagine the tensions that can surface in a church," says Farley, "when its members include the banker who is foreclosing, the sheriff who's serving the papers, and the family who's losing its farm."

"How does a church handle that?"

Often overlooked in the farm crisis is the banker, almost as victimized by the shifts in land values and mounting debt as the farmer. Southern Baptist Charles Brazeale, president of The Paris National Bank in Paris, Mo., points out the locally owned institution suffers with the downfall of each family farm.

"It doesn't always seem that we're looking at all sides of this problem. But people need to realize when farmers go under, we suffer a considerable financial loss, too," he insists.

Beyond the professional loss is the personal pain Brazeale must handle. "I'm very much aware of the farmers' feeling," he says, noting that he's had farmers break down in his office. "I see all this crying; they offer all these promises that they'll do this or that. I try to help, but there's very little I can do..."

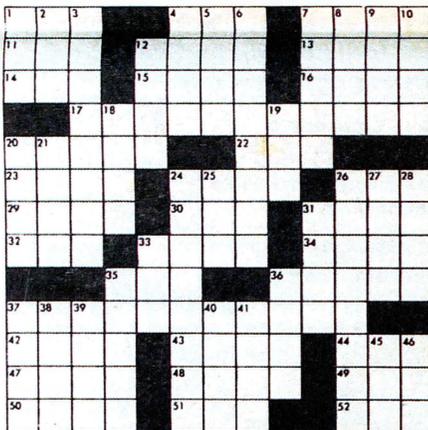
Brazeale has found farmers "get down on themselves when they lose their farm. I tell them they're still important. They still matter."

"I try to be Christian," he concludes. "I have to convince them they can't save their farm. And then I serve communion with them on Sunday. It's hard."



BEGINNING A NEW DAY — Lingering over breakfast is common for Milford and Ramalee Olson since they sold their dairy farm. The Olsons are among many Southern Baptist families hit by the farm crunch.

Bible Puzzle



- 47 European capital
- 48 One who ices
- 49 Stowe character
- 50 Word before time or day
- 51 Chinese coins
- 52 Fowl

DOWN

- 1 Lettuce
- 2 "Faerie Queene" character
- 3 "for ye —" (Matt. 23)
- 4 "— not the world" (1 John 2)
- 5 Czech river
- 6 Saul's partner (Acts 12:25)
- 7 "received —" (Rom. 1)
- 8 Talon
- 9 City of Israel
- 10 Shirts and squares
- 12 Japanese port
- 18 Lemon and orange
- 19 Off: prefix
- 20 A great Anakim (Josh. 14:15)
- 21 Served by Ahab (2 Ki. 10:18)
- 24 "love the Lord, —" (Psa. 97)
- 25 Kind of sorcery
- 26 Joseph's firstborn (Gen. 41:51)
- 27 Old Greek coin
- 28 Abjure
- 31 Morsel of food
- 33 Be in debt
- 35 He loved Tamar (2 Sam. 13:4)
- 36 Roman road
- 37 Metal
- 38 Mediocre
- 39 Nimbus
- 40 Parasitic insects
- 41 Chemical suffix: pl.
- 45 Christmas or New Years
- 46 Pallid

ACROSS

- 1 It was golden (Rev. 17:4)
- 4 Toss gently / Insect (Matt. 23:24)
- 11 South-American linguistic stock
- 1 Ditch millet
- 13 Not to the swift (Eccl. 9:11)
- 14 "to — to the sick" (Mark 2)
- 15 Word before age or all
- 16 Ancient Irish division
- 17 "feast of —" (John 7)
- 20 "— in him" (1 John 2:28)
- 22 Gorilla or gibbon
- 23 "gather a certain —" (Ex. 16)

- 24 Bum
- 26 Modern: by shortening
- 29 Exclamations of disgust
- 30 Sleeveless garment
- 31 Lying in a manger (Luke 2:16)
- 32 British country festival
- 33 American inventor
- 34 Knows about: 2 words
- 35 "— of thy word" (Psa. 119:161)
- 36 Where Aquilla came from (Acts 18:2)
- 37 Purchasers of Joseph (Gen. 37:28)
- 42 Horse color
- 43 "I am the —" (John 15)
- 44 Stitch

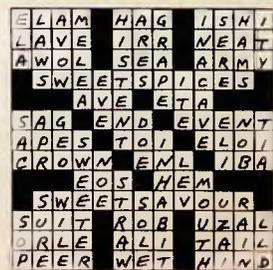
CRYPTOVERSE

Z M W O J G B W A X Y P Z Z W Z M N Q N J S C Z Z M W

E V C Z

Today's Cryptoverse clue: J equals I

Last week's Bible Puzzle answers



"My lips shall not speak wickedness" (Job 27:4).