

# Baptist and Reflector

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Mr. and Mrs. Allison

Mr. and Mrs. Brillhart

Mr. and Mrs. Brown



Shirley Farley

Mr. and Mrs. Hall

Mr. and Mrs. Hills

## MWBTS trustees act on Sparkman's views

By Bob Terry

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)— Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, meeting on Oct. 13, voted 21-11 that professor G. Temp Sparkman is teaching within the context of the seminary articles of faith.

The trustees acknowledged Sparkman's writings are controversial, but concluded that, based on written responses to specific stated concerns, Sparkman's theological views "are nevertheless within the context of the seminary's articles of faith."

Following the crucial vote about Sparkman's teachings, the trustees voted without opposition to request Sparkman to prepare a summary statement of his basic beliefs and affirmations, "especially at points where his published writings are perceived by some to be in conflict with the seminary statement of faith."

Sparkman also was requested to include explanatory materials about his theological positions in any future editions of his most recent book, *Salvation and Nurture*.

Following the vote, the religious education professor released a written statement in which he said, "The

trustees have faced extreme pressures with uncommon courage and kept faith with what has been entrusted to them. They have taken the good path, the one less traveled by, which few boards have ever done in crises of such proportion."

He added, "The trustees who were on the down side of the vote but who voted their convictions should know that their concerns have not and will not go unheeded."

Sparkman has been under fire for more than nine years about his writings. Critics charge that in his books, *Being a Disciple*, and *Salvation and Nurture*, Sparkman espouses universalism, the idea that all people are rightly related to God without faith in Jesus Christ. He also is charged with being outside mainline Baptist teachings related to baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the age at which an individual is capable of making a profession of faith.

In presenting the matter to trustees, Midwestern President Milton Ferguson told board members, "It is apparent that the books are susceptible to significant misunderstanding and misinterpretation. Some Southern Baptists have genuine concern about the writings being outside

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## Tennesseans accept overseas assignments

RICHMOND, Va.— Five couples and one single person with Tennessee connections were among the 37 people appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 14 at River Road Baptist Church, Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Dale Allison will live in Liberia, where he will be a seminary business manager and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Allison currently attends Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Before that, he was a marketing representative for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. A native of Arkansas, Allison is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Born in New Mexico, Mrs. Allison, the former Nancy Ellett, also lived in Arizona while growing up. She is a graduate of Imperial Valley (Calif.) College, Baylor University, and Southwestern seminary. The Allisons are expecting their first child in December.

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Brillhart will live in Togo, where he will be a missionary physician and they will be involved in a variety of mission outreach ministries.

Brillhart, a native of Texas, currently attends New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Earlier he was a resident in general preventive medicine at Tulane School of Public Health, New Orleans. He lived in several states, including Tennessee, while growing up.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little

Rock; and Tulane University of Louisiana, New Orleans, he also has been an intern at the University of Tennessee Center of the Health Sciences in Memphis, where he and his wife were members of Ridgeway Baptist Church.

A native of Little Rock, Mrs. Brillhart, the former Louise Bowen, attended Memphis State University and the University of New Orleans. The Brillharts have one child, Rebekah Michelle, born in 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Brown will live in Mozambique, where he will be starting and developing churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

He has been attending New Orleans seminary. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis. He has been a Foreign Miss-

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## Cooperative Program gifts top \$124-million for '85-86

NASHVILLE (BP)— Southern Baptists contributed a record \$124,232,370.54 to their convention's Cooperative Program during the 1985-86 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

Receipts reflect an increase of more than \$6.7-million — 5.71 percent — over the \$117.5-million total for 1984-85, said Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, who announced the results.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' conventionwide budget, which

finances mission, evangelistic, and educational endeavors around the world. Funds are given by individuals to their churches, and about 9 percent of those receipts are forwarded by churches to state conventions. State organizations typically retain between one-half to two-thirds of the money they receive for in-state ministry, and the rest is disbursed among 19 SBC entities.

The Cooperative Program is divided into three sections: a first-phase basic operating budget, a capital needs budget, and a second-phase basic operating budget. The entire first-phase budget must be met before money is spent on capital needs, and all budgeted capital needs must be met before funds are distributed according to the second-phase budget.

The 1985-86 Cooperative Program goal was \$130-million. The \$124.2-million that was received covered the \$120.6-million budget for phase one operating expenses, paid \$3.34-million for capital needs rolled over from the 1984-85 budget and \$167,632 of \$4.5-million targeted for the 1985-86 capital needs budget. Since that budget was not met, none of the \$1.56-million phase two budget was administered.

"I'm gratified that we received

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### 1985-86 TBC books to close Oct. 31

The convention year for the Tennessee Baptist Convention will close on Friday, Oct. 31, according to Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary-treasurer.

Madden reminded churches, pastors, and church treasurers that the convention budget year runs from Nov. 1 through Oct. 31. In order for church gifts to be counted toward the 1985-86 budget year, these must be received in the convention office in Brentwood by Friday of next week (Oct. 31).

Cooperative Program mission gifts and designated gifts received in the convention office between Nov. 1, 1985, and Oct. 31, 1986, will be listed church-by-church in the 1986 TBC Annual and in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

"We are going to be so close to making our goal," Madden said, noting that \$2,285,749.16 would be needed in October to reach the TBC-adopted \$21-million Cooperative Program goal. "Some years the calendar hurts us when October ends early in the week, but this year churches should have time to send in their gifts by Friday," Madden added.

## 'B&R' invites candidates to respond to questions

The two candidates for governor of Tennessee will be given the opportunity to share their positions on four moral issues in the Baptist and Reflector, according to Editor Al Shackleford.

A questionnaire concerning pari-mutuel gambling, a state lottery, legalized abortion, and drug and beverage alcohol abuse was mailed Oct. 15 to Winfield Dunn and Ned McWherter. Shackleford said that the candidates' responses will be printed side-by-side unedited and without editorial comment in the Oct. 29 issue of the Baptist and Reflector.

"We wanted to give the candidates the opportunity to express their views on these critical issues, and also to provide an opportunity for our readers to know the candidates' positions," Shackleford said.

The four questions in the Baptist and Reflector survey are:

(1) What is your personal position on pari-mutuel gambling on horse and dog races, and what would be your action if a bill legalizing this activity were to be passed by the General Assembly?

(2) What is your personal position on an amendment to the state Constitution which would remove the prohibition on a state lottery, and what would be your action if a bill to amend the Constitution by referendum were passed by the General Assembly?

(3) What is your personal position on legalized abortions?

(4) What actions would you take to eliminate drug and beverage alcohol abuse in Tennessee?

The candidates were asked to answer each question in 200 words or less.

In a cover letter mailed with the questionnaire, Shackleford assured Dunn and McWherter that the Baptist and Reflector would not use their answers to endorse either candidate. "Our readers will make their own decisions on November 4," the letter stated.

In announcing the survey, Shackleford said that he hopes the candidates would avail themselves of this offer to share their positions on these critical issues which are likely to surface during the next four years.



**AWARD RECIPIENTS** — These five people received medals of merit during the Carson-Newman College Alumni Association's annual meeting Oct. 11. They are (from left to right) Pete Roach, John R. Shults, Lady Kate Catlett, Jack Stewart, and James G. McCluskey.

## C-N awards medals of merit

JEFFERSON CITY — Five persons were awarded medals of merit at the annual alumni association meeting at Carson-Newman College's homecoming Oct. 11.

James G. McCluskey, Reuben R. (Pete) Roach, Lady Kate Catlett, John R. Shults, and Jack Stewart were presented their medals by Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox and alumni association president, Richard Roach.

McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville and current president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, received the Medal of Merit for Community Service.

Roach, who practices restorative dentistry in St. Petersburg, Florida, received the Medal of Merit for Professionalism. Roach has lectured extensively on restorative and esthetic dentistry

and is a co-founder of Perfect Byte, a computer software company established to serve the needs of the dental profession.

Catlett of Jefferson City; Shults of Greenville, S.C.; and Stewart of Morristown, were awarded Medals of Merit for College Support. Catlett has served on numerous college committees and has been a member of the C-N Board of Trustees since 1981. Shults is a longtime alumni leader and has served three terms as chairman of the C-N advisory board. Stewart has served on the C-N board of trustees since 1980 and is presently vice-chairman of the board.

Stuart Johnson, the new president of the alumni association, presented medals to each of Carson-Newman's three living presidents: Harley Fite (1948-68), John Fincher (1968-77), and Maddox (1977-present).

## Foreign Mission Board votes \$165-million budget

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees adopted a 1987 budget of \$165.2-million Oct. 15 for the work of its more than 3,700 missionaries worldwide.

The budget represents a nearly \$3-million increase over the 1986 budget, which included Southern Baptist hunger and relief gifts for the first time. But because hunger and relief giving for this year is predicted to fall about \$5-million short of original projections, the actual budget increase for 1987 will total almost \$8-million.

The 1986 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$75-million, if reached, will fund more than 45 percent of the 1987 budget. That reflects a continuing rise in the portion of mission work supported by Lottie Moon gifts. It is also a \$5-million jump over the 1985 goal, and \$8.1-million (more than 12 percent) above actual Lottie Moon receipts for 1985.

"In a time when inflation is in the 1.5 to 2 percent range, we're talking about a Lottie Moon increase that's six times the rate of inflation," said Carl Johnson, Foreign Mission Board vice-president for finance. "It's reachable, but it's definitely a challenge for Southern Baptists."

Southern Baptists' regular Cooperative Program giving through local churches will provide \$63.5-million, or 38.5 percent of the board's budget. Other income sources include a projected \$11-million from investments and \$3.7-million in designated contributions.

Hunger and relief gifts, projected at \$7-million for 1987, will total 4.2 percent of the budget. These gifts are used entirely for overseas hunger and relief projects. Domestic administrative expenses related to the relief efforts come from general board funds.

Overseas ministries and projects claim more than 87 percent of the total budget. Nearly \$96-million will support missionaries and their families. Another \$33-million will pay for field mission work, and \$15.2-million will finance capital needs such as missionary housing, churches, schools, and medical facilities.

The domestic budget for home office staff salaries, administration, and promotion is about \$20.3-million, or 12.3 percent of the total budget.

The fall in value of the U.S. dollar against some overseas currencies such as the Japanese yen will continue to push up the overall cost of living overseas for missionaries, as well as their operating and capital expenses.

## CP budget . . .

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\$3.6-million more than the first phase of the basic operating budget," Bennett said. "However, I'm disappointed we were not able to achieve our total budget."

"Coming out of years of double-digit inflation into a couple of years of low inflation has meant difficulty for Southern Baptist budgeting processes," he added. "It will take another two years, perhaps more, before our SBC Cooperative Program budget will be met."

Another factor that kept the Cooperative Program below budget this year was a two-pronged problem spurred by crises in the petroleum and farming industries, said Tim A. Hedquist, vice-president for business and finance.

"We anticipated a slowing of the Cooperative Program's percentage increase because of the problems some state conventions have been having, due to economic conditions," Hedquist said. He noted, however, the 1985-86 increase of 5.71 percent compares favorably to an inflation rate of about 1.4 percent.

Hedquist said the full budget does not reflect all needs. "We need to keep in mind that had we made the total budget we still would not have met all our missions-needs," he said. "While we can be grateful for the gifts of the people, we have a long, long way to go with missions needs."

## Tennesseans accept . . .

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Southern seminary, Hall also has served as minister of music at churches in Kentucky, Indiana, and Alabama, and in part-time positions at North Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield; Ivy Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville; and First Baptist Church, Dickson.

Born in Dickson, Mrs. Hall, the former Claudia Estes, also lived in Nashville while growing up. She considers Dickson her hometown and First Baptist Church there her home church. She is a graduate of the University of North Alabama, Florence, and also attended Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro.

The Halls have two children: Stephanie Rose, born in 1974; and Clayton Frederic, 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hills Jr. will live in the Niger Republic, where he will work in agricultural development and starting and developing churches. They will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Hills attends Southern seminary. Before that, he was a district manager for Ralston Purina Co., Murray, Ky. Born in Nashville, he also lived in Memphis, as well as in Georgia and North Carolina. He is a graduate of Berry College, Mount Berry, Ga.

Born in Florida, Mrs. Hills, the former Donna Flowers, also lived in Georgia while growing up. She attended Kennesaw College, Marietta, Ga.; Berry College; and Shorter College, Rome, Ga., and has been a dental assistant in Rome.

The Hillses have two children: Hugh Kenneth III, born in 1981; and April Eileen, 1985.

Each of the new missionaries will go to Rockville, Va., in January for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field.

A graduate of Belmont College and



**PARTNERSHIP ORIENTATION** — Clarence Stewart (left) the TBC's foreign mission ministries consultant, leads orientation at the TBC Executive Board Building in Brentwood on Oct. 4 for volunteers (from left to right) A. J. Northcut of Waverly; Doss Spencer of Lobelville; Glenn Reynolds of Bradford; George Tittsworth of Shelbyville; Archie King, TBC Brotherhood director; and Tim Spencer, a student at Union University in Jackson. Doris Haynes (background) assisted during the meeting. The volunteers will be doing construction and RA work to support the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership.

## Sparkman's views . . .

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the 'Baptist Faith and Message.'

He also noted that controversy persists because of "organized, intentional efforts to attack Sparkman's writing as evidence of liberalism in Southern Baptist seminaries."

Truett Gannon, pastor of Smokerise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Ga., and chairman of the trustees' instructional committee, explained his committee had met four times since the April board meeting to find a way out of the controversy. Two of the meetings were with Sparkman.

During those meetings, the instructional committee concluded the best solution would be voluntary relocation by Sparkman, it was reported. However, Ferguson told the board that although Sparkman did have local church opportunities, the professor feels called to a teaching ministry and had not been offered other teaching opportunities.

Because the instructional committee benefited from conversations with Sparkman, Gannon said he asked the professor to speak to the board. However, trustees were not allowed to ask Sparkman specific questions about his writings, based on the advice of the seminary's legal counsel.

"Does God save us regardless of whether we want to be saved?" Sparkman asked the board members. "No. We must make an affirmative response for salvation to be complete."

Sparkman told the trustees that for him, sin is a reality and sin separates from God. "Ever since Adam's transgression, it has been impossible for creation to move as God intended. There has been a break, and the break is the result of sin and the name of the break is estrangement from God," he said. "I am a conversionist, not a universalist," Sparkman said.

The professor defended his use of the term "children of God" to apply to all

men and women. He explained that all people are children of God by creation. "But created sons and daughters of God grow up and become accountable for their sin. There comes a time that if they do not embrace God, they start to turn away from the God," he added.

Sparkman also defended his position that adolescence is the best time for individual conversion by pointing to quotes from W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, in which Criswell expressed concern about baptizing young children and preschoolers.

Following Sparkman's presentation, trustees discussed the recommendation for more than three hours. Seventeen trustees spoke on the issue.

"I'm proud of the process we used," Ferguson later told the board members. "We are part of the reconciliation process within the Southern Baptist Convention. Reconciliation is more than just smiling and saying, 'I love you.' Reconciliation is openly and honestly facing differences and working through them as Christian brothers."

Gannon told the board members that before reaching its recommendations, the instructional committee had considered every charge raised against Sparkman.

Kerry Powell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Forrest City, Ark., and a member of the instructional committee agreed. "We have faced every issue. That is right. Even though I voted against the recommendation, I agree that the trustees have faced the issues and voted to affirm Sparkman," he said.

The trustee action is not likely to bring an end to the controversy, according to trustee Sid Peterson, pastor of Stine Road Baptist Church of Bakersfield, Calif. Peterson already has asked to bring a minority report when Midwestern seminary reports to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Peterson said he believes most Southern Baptists differ with the action taken by the trustees.

"I don't believe what Sparkman said to us is consistent with what he wrote in his books," Peterson said. "You really have to twist his writing to make his statements agree with his writing."

Powell said he thinks the controversy might die down if Sparkman doesn't write anything else. "I've always thought when the church voted on something, that settled the issue. As trustees, we are the responsible body. We have examined the issues and voted. My side didn't win but for me that settles it."

## Golden Gate trustees elect William Crews as president

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — William O. Crews, a veteran California pastor and member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee, was elected president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary during the regular meeting of the seminary's board of trustees Oct. 13.

Crews, pastor of the 2,300-member Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif., since 1978, was elected 24-5 after being unanimously recommended by the eight-member search committee. He will move to the Mill Valley campus in late November and assume the presidency Dec. 1.

He succeeds Franklin Pollard, who was president of the seminary for three years before resigning in March 1986, to return to the pastorate at First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss. Since Pollard's resignation, Harold Graves, who was president 1952-77, has been interim president.

Crews, who had been chairman of the search committee and a trustee, resigned from the search committee after he became a potential candidate. The committee interviewed Crews in Dallas Sept. 25, and unanimously recommended his election as president of the SBC's westernmost seminary.

During the trustee meeting, Crews was questioned for about an hour and a half before the trustees, by secret ballot in an executive session, elected him to be president.

Crews, who said he believes the 24-5 vote was a "strong vote, particularly given the dynamics of the convention at this time," was asked by Baptist Press if it appeared the five members who voted not to elect him had done so because of the theological/political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Because the ballot was secret, it is

difficult to determine whether the voting was along political lines or not," he said. "But judging from the questions asked me during the interview period, I would guess they were. Some apparently perceive my theological position is more to the right than I would be willing to be placed."

Later, he told trustees, faculty, and staff: "Obviously, my theology is very conservative, but I have been and continue to remain unaligned with any political group in the convention. And that is where I believe both the seminary and I should be."

Crews, a native of Houston, is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He was a pastor in Texas for 14 years, and in the Northwest Baptist Convention 10 years. Crews also was director of communications and editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness in 1977-78, prior to becoming pastor of the California congregation. He also has been president and chairman of the executive boards of both conventions.

He also was a member of the SBC Foreign Mission Board 1973-78 and was on the SBC Tellers Committee in 1976, the Credentials Committee in 1984, and the Committee on Committees in 1972, 1975, 1977, and 1979.

In 1985, Crews was elected to the 22-member SBC Peace Committee, which was charged with determining the causes of the controversy in the SBC and making recommendations on ways the controversy can be solved.

Crews told Baptist Press he has discussed his place on the Peace Committee with chairman Charles Fuller. "He advised me that I should resign and I plan to do so Dec. 1, when I become president of Golden Gate seminary," Crews said.

## Midwestern designs degree plan for graduates of Baptist colleges

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — A dozen students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary are participating in a new degree plan designed to "relate their college and seminary work more effectively and more productively," seminary President Milton Ferguson announced.

The program of study, "Master of Divinity: Correlated," was initiated at the Kansas City, Mo., school this fall as a five-year pilot project. A first for any Southern Baptist seminary, it is open to graduates of Baptist colleges who have majored in religion, maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average, and been recommended for the program by their college religion department.

In its initial year, the correlated program is limited to 12 students. Those 12 come from nine Baptist colleges in seven states.

Midwestern Academic Dean Larry Baker said the goal of the program "is to provide the student the opportunity to build on what he already has and to fashion his degree in a more personal manner." He said that is accomplished by offering "a greatly reduced core of required classes and greatly increased electives, providing more options and tailoring for the student."

Like Midwestern's more traditional Master of Divinity: Comprehensive degree, the correlated degree requires 88

hours of seminary academic credit. The difference, Baker noted, is how those 88 hours are structured.

During the students' initial eight-week term, they participate in an intensive educational experience called "foundations for theological education."

Taught this fall by a four-member core teaching team, the term's foundational topics include Biblical, theological-historical and ministry studies. Upon the successful completion of the foundations study, each student will earn 20 hours of academic credit. That will be followed by work with Baker to tailor their remaining seminary training to their individual interests, needs, and goals. That process results in the students being able to complete the Master of Divinity degree in two years rather than the traditional three.

In addition to aiding qualified students, the program also promises to be of benefit to participating Baptist colleges.

"Rather than creating a two-year program, this is actually expanding a three-year program to a six-year program, with four years taking place at the undergraduate level, noted Daniel Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. "It puts the spotlight on our undergraduate Baptist colleges to strengthen our pre-seminary classes."

## Allen Quiett serves Carson Island church

Allen Quiett recently became pastor of Carson Island Baptist Church in Maryville.

He was ordained by Birchfield Baptist Church in Maryville, Aug. 10. He had served in the Birchfield church as music director, a member of the building committee, and adult men's Sunday School teacher.

Quiett is a native of Blount County, Tennessee.

## NEWS INTERPRETATION

# Christians and the political process

By Will Burns

The democratic political process has been described as "the art of people governing themselves."

One part of this process is the right to vote. For Christians, it should be much more than a right. Because of all of the varying philosophies and political viewpoints espoused by those more concerned with this world, Christians should consider it their duty to exercise this right.

Further, it is essential that you cast an intelligent vote — based on your knowledge of what the candidates stand for. It is not enough to vote for a person or to take a stance on an issue because a political party, a union, a friend, or a family member supports that person or position. Certainly that is something to consider, but you should seek to determine why they support that candidate or issue. You may come to the same conclusion; however, unless you have come to a decision based on your weighing the issue in your mind, you have not made an informed decision.

A lot of attention is rightly focused on the Nov. 4 statewide elections, but there will also be elections of representatives and senators for the General Assembly, representatives to the U.S. Congress, and many important local officials. Here are some principles which you can use in this and other elections.

## HOW TO BECOME INFORMED

The first step in becoming informed is to determine when an election is going to be held and what offices are to be decided. Obviously you will need to know who is running in those races. A call to your local election commission will provide you with this information, as well as whether there are any referenda elections to be held at that time.

One way to become informed is through newspapers, radio, and television accounts of the campaign. These are probably the prime sources of our information.

Another means of becoming informed is by attending events where the candidates are making public appearances. There will almost always be speeches

from the candidates at these events. At the very least, the candidates will walk through the crowd shaking hands. This would be an opportunity to ask a question or two. Since candidates are concerned about your vote, they will take the time to answer your questions.

To find out when a candidate will be making an appearance near you, call the local campaign headquarters, which will be glad to provide you with schedules as well as give you information on the candidates' positions on matters of concern to you.

Debates are also a means of determining a candidate's position. Almost all candidates for statewide races, as well as congressional or legislative races, will debate their opponent. Many are broadcast over television or radio. Again, the candidate's headquarters can provide you with the times and places of these debates, and whether they will be broadcast in some manner. Your local chapter of the League of Women Voters will also likely have this information.

If there is no debate scheduled, your church may want to consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring with another church a candidates' forum to be open to the public for the candidates to air their views and debate the issues raised by questions from the audience. This should be coordinated with each of the candidates' campaign managers. All candidates should be invited or the result will be a less than productive forum.

However you choose to become informed, do not be timid in your approach. Read and listen to all available information. If you have the opportunity to speak to a candidate face to face, ask him directly how he feels about a particular issue. Don't allow him to sidestep the question just because he does not feel it is an issue. If it is important to you, let him know this.

The candidate is being elected to serve you. If he is bothered by a question you ask, that may be an indication of how well he will serve you if elected.

## IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVEMENT

Candidates are often unwilling to take a strong position on controversial issues

unless they know a solid majority of those they will represent are behind them on those issues. This makes participation of Christians so important. Participation in the campaign results in visibility. When a candidate sees where his support is coming from, he will obviously be swayed by their opinions.

Although candidates need money to finance campaigns, unless they have volunteers to spread the literature this money buys, they will not go too far. All candidates need volunteers to put up signs, operate telephone banks, work polling places on election day, and a variety of other tasks which are relatively simple.

— Find a candidate with deep moral convictions.

— Volunteer to work for that candidate and get other Christian friends to volunteer as well. Given the busy schedules of today, it may be hard to find the time, but it is important that you make the time. Often there are things such as stuffing envelopes that you can do at home in the evenings.

— Contact the candidate's headquarters and let them know of your availability. They will work with you to determine a task you can do within your time limitation.

Reminder: Elected officials seldom vote contrary to the desires of a large block of their visible and active supporters for fear of losing that valuable asset to their opponent in later elections. So if you want your candidate's ear after he is elected, give him a hand before the election.

## ISSUES

Two of the biggest concerns to Christians that are before us today are gambling and liquor referenda. Although these are by no means the only issues, they are two that always seem to be at the forefront.

## GAMBLING

The gambling issue really involves two separate issues. One is pari-mutuel betting, such as that found at horse and dog race tracks. The second issue involves a state lottery.

Pari-mutuel betting could be legalized in Tennessee merely by the passage of a bill by the General Assembly that is then signed by the governor.

A lottery on the other hand is prohibited by the state Constitution and therefore would require a Constitutional amendment. This would entail a referendum by the people either to (1) ratify an amendment passed by the legislature in a manner provided in the Constitution, or (2) establish and then ratify the actions of a Constitutional convention.

When asked about their position on the gambling issue, many candidates and legislators state that they are in favor of letting the people decide the issues through a referendum. This sounds like a very "democratic" answer; however, this is merely an attempt to avoid a controversial subject without having to take a stand. These men and women are elected to make these hard decisions.

Ask them specifically, "What is your personal opinion on gambling in Tennessee?" and "Can I count on you to do all you can to work against any bill which would allow pari-mutuel gambling or

any attempt to amend the Constitution to allow a state lottery?"

Given the political sensitivity of these questions, chances are slim you will get a firm commitment from a candidate. The best route would then be to select the candidate who appears most sensitive on this and other questions of concern to you and work for that candidate. As a result, when the issue is before him, your opinion will carry twice the weight: (1) because you are his constituent, and (2) because you are a valued volunteer.

## LIQUOR REFERENDUM

Every year some cities in Tennessee have a question on the ballot that would allow the sale of alcohol in some form or fashion. Christians should be at the forefront in defeating these referenda.

## REGISTERING TO VOTE

Tennessee law provides that in order to vote, a person must register at least 30 days prior to the election in which you wish to vote.

This can be done in one of two ways: In person at the local election commission office or by mail. Forms to register by mail can be obtained through the local election commission, post office, or public library.

If you are not registered to vote and there are less than 30 days before the next election, go ahead and register now. By doing this — although you will not be eligible for the upcoming election — you will not have to worry about letting the next deadline slip up on you.

## EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT

Both the state Constitution and the U.S. Constitution provide us with the right to vote. By exercising this right, it is one way we can spread the light of Christ. When we vote for candidates with strong moral convictions, Christ's light can be reflected through the actions and stands of those we help to elect.

However, it is difficult for such a candidate to get elected unless Christians vote. We must vote regardless of how inconvenient it may be.

The law makes provisions for those who find it is difficult to vote on election day. If you are going to be out of town on election day, or if you are in a nursing home or otherwise shut in as a result of a physical impairment, or if you are 65 years of age and don't like to deal with crowds, then you are entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Just as with registration, absentee voting can be done in person at the local election commissioner's office or by mail.

To take advantage of this, you must vote in person no later than five days before the election. To vote by mail, the election commission must receive your signed request for an application at least seven days before the election.

For further information, you should contact your local election commission for details as well as whether you qualify to vote by absentee ballot.

—Will Burns, a Nashville attorney, has served in the offices of the Tennessee Supreme Court, Davidson County Chancery Court, and Tennessee Health Care Association. He is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in his hometown of Murfreesboro. He is a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville. This article was requested by the Baptist and Reflector.

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters on any religion-related subject are welcomed. Letters of over 300 words will not be used. Other letters may be shortened at the discretion of the editor. No unsigned letters will be printed, but writer's name will be withheld for sufficient reason. Letters must contain complete address and telephone number. Letters must not make personal attacks on the character or integrity of individuals.

## Removal of dignity

Dear editor:

I'm concerned about a growing trend in our Baptist churches — the removal of dignity from our services. Let me be clear though, that I do not want our services to be ritualistic or stuffy. However, the worship of Almighty God should not be taken lightly!

The great hymns of our faith are being replaced by "cutesy" choruses. The tones of a magnificent pipe organ are all too often covered up by an out of tune "orchestra." Choir "specials" appear to be choreographed. You cannot grow deep Christians on a diet of shallow music.

Respect for the special holiness of the place of worship is on the wane. Congregations are clapping their hands for everything but the announcements, and I've seen that done too. People are wearing blue jeans (women included) and other clothes to church that they would not be allowed to wear to work or school. If we do not show respect (even awe) for our Great God and His house, how can we expect unbelievers to do so?

I'm reminded of a Sunday School teacher who used to call her class to order by saying "Let's get reverent." Maybe some of our pastors should begin our services with this admonishment.

Leslie J. Murphy  
6371 Camberley Court West  
Memphis, TN 38119

## Getting laity involved

Dear editor:

Concerning the article urging laypersons to fight the controversy in our convention (Sept. 24), I also urge those in the pews to get involved.

Our laity must be awakened to the facts concerning the theological problem in our convention. Regretably, this problem has resulted in politics becoming a vital necessity.

Still, too many of our people do not realize that there is a major problem in our convention. A factor in this is that many pastors do not tell them.

Some pastors are indifferent to the situation, failing to recognize that widespread indifference over the years has added to our problem and will continue to do so.

Some admit ignorance of the facts; thus they are neglecting part of their responsibility to keep abreast of current events within the denomination and informing their churches.

Others would leave it to God, but I remind them that God works in and through His called-out ones in this age, using mankind as His mediatorial agent, except in specific cases according to His sovereignty.

Many declare "I'm too busy preaching the gospel to preach on such matters," but I contend that we can and should address any issue confronting God's church while preaching the gospel. Indeed, all we preach should be examined in the light of Christ's teachings and life.

Let's stop dodging the issues with righteous copouts. The people in the pews will get involved and will speak out — IF pastors will give them the FACTS!

Our Southern Baptist clergy who hide behind their evangelical work, refusing to take sides in this controversy, need to "choose you this day who you will serve." Since God uses our actions in directing the course of history, our choices do matter.

Jesus expects obedience and loyalty. May none of us "be found wanting" in either.

Johnny Miller  
Rt. 3, Box 50  
Dickson, TN 37055

## SBC 'disinformation'

Dear editor:

Recently the president of the United States was shown to have provided "disinformation" about Libya in his zeal against terrorism.

In his recent statement to denominational newspaper editors, SBC President Rogers appears to provide "disinformation" about the Bible in his goal to be faithful to God's Word. His statement is that Scripture "is without error historically, philosophically, theologically, and scientifically."

The facts do not support such statements about the content of the Bible. For example, Genesis 1-2 affirms both that man was created after the "living creatures" (Genesis 1:24-26), as well as that man was created before "every beast of the field" (Genesis 2:18-19).

In our zeal to affirm the unity of the Bible, we make statements about the Bible when we need to allow the Bible to speak for itself. The unity and trustworthiness of the Bible is not founded on such statements about the Bible, but upon the Author of the Bible and His purpose in the world. And the need of the hour both in our country and in our convention is for leaders who are committed to truth and not some good philosophical views about the Bible.

Donald K. Dixon  
808 West Hickory St.  
Tulahoma, TN 37388

## Sharing speakers

Dear editor:

In recent years the Forum was organized to precede the Southern Baptist Convention because many of our pastors believed they had been ostracized from the SBC Pastors' Conference. Whether one agrees with the necessity of this action or not, there can be little

doubt that it has helped polarize our convention.

Is there a way to begin bringing our pastors back together where they can at least sit beside one another and worship? Let me offer this possibility.

Would our Pastors' Conference president, Nelson Price, and the organizers of the Forum agree to use one speaker chosen by the other on their respective programs? Certainly one speaker could pose no threat to anyone on either side. It could only serve to help reconciliation. If this were to happen, it would be my suggestion that the speakers be asked not to refer to the convention controversy but simply to preach their best sermon in a way that will lift up their hearers.

I pray that this suggestion will be taken seriously by those who have the power to make it happen.

Barry D. Dennis  
P. O. Box 446  
Taylorsville, KY 40071

## Thanks from Venezuela

Dear editor:

We can truly say with the Psalmist that God has done great things in our midst. Again we have seen His Spirit work in the lives of His people, and we have seen people come to new life in Christ.

During the recent Partnership Evangelism Crusades, 2,105 people professed faith in Christ and over 600 came forward for rededication. Only time will tell what all was accomplished during your week with us in Venezuela.

I praise God for sending Tennessee Baptists to work with us in reaping the harvest, and I also want to thank those who stayed in Tennessee, but who helped to make it possible for others to come. You also prayed for us during this campaign. Your support was invaluable.

We praise God for putting Venezuela and Tennessee together in partnership, and we have just begun to see what God is going to accomplish through us together. May the Lord bless you richly.

Ben Kirby  
Apartado 8  
Guanare  
Edo. Portuguesa 3310-A  
Venezuela

## New abortion case tests waiting period for minors

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court will decide if states may impose a waiting period on legally underage women before they are allowed to obtain abortions.

At issue in the case — to be argued and decided later this term — is a provision in the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1983 requiring that parents of

a minor woman or her legal guardian be notified 24 hours before an abortion can be performed.

According to papers filed by Illinois Attorney General Neil F. Hartigan and Cook County State's Attorney Richard M. Daley, the law was designed "to protect minors against their own immaturity, to foster and preserve the family structure, and to protect the rights of parents to rear their children."

Another section of the law waives the waiting period requirement if both parents have been notified and they either accompany the minor child to the clinic or hospital where the abortion is to be performed or submit signed, notarized statements indicating they have been notified.

In addition, the requirement for waiting may be waived altogether if the minor so petitions the circuit court in the county where the abortion is to be performed and demonstrates either that she is mature and sufficiently well informed to make the decision for herself or that notification of her parents would not be in her own best interest. The law requires that if the young woman seeks such a waiver, the court must keep the procedure confidential and reach a decision within 48 hours.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in 1981 that states may require parental notification when minors seek abortions, more than half the states have enacted laws requiring some form of involvement by parents in their minor daughters' decisions to have abortions.

Although it was enacted in November 1983, the Illinois law never has been enforced. The physicians' challenge was filed in January 1984 before the law took effect.

In earlier proceedings in the case, a federal district court struck down the law in May 1984. A year later, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed in part, upholding the district court's invalidation of the provision requiring the 24-hour waiting period. At the same time, it ruled the parental notification feature did not violate the Constitutional rights of minor women.

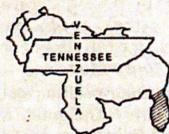
## Crockett County holds annual meet in Bells

Messengers from member churches of Crockett County Baptist Association met for its annual meeting Oct. 6-7 at Walnut Hill Baptist Church in Bells.

The association's officers were all re-elected and include Jim Austin, a member of First Baptist Church in Maury City, as moderator; David Green, pastor of Cairo Baptist Church in Alamo, as assistant moderator; Delma Austin, a member of First Baptist Church in Maury City, as treasurer; and Mrs. R. V. Via, a member of Cross Roads Baptist Church in Bells, as clerk.

Herbert R. Higdon is director of missions of the association.

The association will hold its next annual meeting on Oct. 5-6, 1987, at First Baptist Church in Alamo.



## Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray that the 156 Tennesseans who worked in the August crusades will use the witnessing skills, which they developed in Venezuela, in their own communities.

—Many interpreters need to be trained to assist Tennessee volunteers working in next year's crusades in Venezuela.

—On Oct. 23, Tom Vassar has a birthday. He is a general evangelist living in San Cristobal and is chairman of the organization of Venezuelan Baptist missionaries.

—Pray for the spread of the gospel among the Amazon Indians in Venezuela.

# U.S. Senate confirms ambassador to Holy See

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — During a flurry of end-of-the-session votes, the U.S. Senate Oct. 15 confirmed the nomination of Frank Shakespeare Jr. as new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

The Oct. 15 action came despite protests from a number of religious and church-state organizations, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole, the Baptist Joint Committee asked the Senate to delay its confirmation vote until the U.S. Supreme Court decides whether to review a pending case.

That case, *American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. vs. Reagan*, would test the legality of such a diplomatic appointment to the Holy See, also known as the

Vatican. The Baptist Joint Committee has filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the high court to review the case.

In the Dole letter, Oliver S. Thomas, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel, wrote, "Because the court has not yet ruled on the petition for review in this case, we urge you to postpone this important vote until after the November recess. Baptists throughout the nation would be grateful for your delaying this vote until the court has reached its decision."

The joint committee's opposition to a U.S. ambassador to the Holy See is based on its stance that the First Amendment demands government impartiality toward various faiths and such an appointment confers upon the Roman Catholic Church a status not enjoyed by any other religious group.

Shakespeare, who currently is U.S. ambassador to Portugal, will replace William A. Wilson, who resigned the Vatican post May 19. President Ronald Reagan's appointment of Wilson in January 1984 ended a 117-year period during which the United States was forbidden by Congress to establish formal diplomatic ties with the Holy See. When the Senate repealed the 1867 ban in November 1983, it cleared the way for re-establishment of such ties.

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, however, ruled in May 1985 that plaintiffs had no legal standing to bring the suit. Even if standing had been granted, the panel indicated the plaintiffs would have lost 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 3rd 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. Thus, the case was refashioned as *American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. vs. Reagan*.

During his confirmation hearing — which was held three days following announcement of his nomination and attended by only two members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee — Shakespeare, a Catholic, was asked whether the U.S. ambassador should relate to the Vatican on a political or religious basis.

"I have nothing to do in representing the United States where the pope is the leader of the Catholic Church but, rather, as the chief executive officer of the Holy See," Shakespeare said. "It is my very strong view, both my personal view and my professional assignment, as I see it, to represent in the Vatican not the United States' Catholics, of whom I happen to be one, but the secular society of the United States, the government, and the people of the United States to the Holy See."

## Rogers affirms missions as 'bottom line' for SBC

By Craig Bird

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "Foreign missions is the bottom line of everything else that exists in the Southern Baptist Convention," SBC President Adrian Rogers told Foreign Mission Board trustees Oct. 15.

Describing himself as "thrilled and excited" by what he had seen during a Monday to Wednesday visit to the board, Rogers challenged the trustees and the staff to remain faithful to their God-given command to tell the world that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

Rogers, elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention last June, is pastor of the 17,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

In addition to delivering the closing address at the board meeting, Rogers attended a Monday night service recognizing 67 retiring missionaries, a Tuesday night appointment service for 37 new missionaries, sat in on committee meetings, and held a press conference while he was in Richmond.

"What I have seen is so exciting it is almost electrifying what God is doing," he told reporters. He urged local churches to become aware of the needs and complimented the board "for giving people concrete opportunities to get involved (through short-term, volunteer projects).

"When you tell people we need a school teacher here, an evangelist there, and a bricklayer over here — then someone can say 'yes, I can do that.'"

Most of the questions during the press conference, however, dealt with the strife in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rogers said he was "moderately optimistic" about the prospects for peace. "I feel a willingness to talk about issues, we are hearing less of controversy and when fires do flare up, they seem to go out more quickly."

Repeating his belief that "90 to 95 percent of us (Southern Baptists) are brothers under the skin" and share common beliefs about the Bible, Rogers disavowed any attempt to "force anyone into a straitjacket" and promised to fight for anyone's right to believe whatever he wants, "even if it's that you have to believe the moon is made of green cheese or you have to be baptized upside down in oil" to be saved.

However, he stressed, people who work in Southern Baptist agencies "ought to believe what the majority of the people who pay their salary believe."

Among beliefs he said he feels are not acceptable to "the vast preponderance" of Southern Baptists are refusal to accept Adam and Eve as real people who were the ancestors of all mankind; to say that some of the miracles of Jesus did not really happen but are simply parables;

to disavow that Peter wrote the New Testament books of First Peter and Second Peter or to say that David did not write the Psalms; and that the devil is not a real person.

"Obviously the Bible is literature and it contains poetry and symbolism," he said. "I don't know of anyone who is contending for wooden literalism of the Scriptures — but just because the Bible speaks of something symbolically, that doesn't mean it isn't literal."

The description of Satan as a "great red dragon with multiple heads" is symbolic, Rogers explained. "That doesn't mean he is literally a dragon — but it does mean he is a literal, personal devil, not just some spirit of evil."

"I think 99.44 percent of Southern Baptists believe there is a personal devil — most of us have done business with him."

Rogers said he hasn't thought much about how far down the organizational charts of SBC agencies such uniformity of theological positions should go, but noted it definitely should include "the opinion makers, the leaders, primarily those who teach our students."

He said once a "safety net" was in position as to the place and reliability of the Scriptures, "then we can be free to talk" about areas where there can be legitimate diversity such as "Calvinism, hyper-Calvinism, Armenianism, premillennialism, and post-millennialism."

A primary goal of his presidency is to depoliticize the annual SBC meeting, "so we can gather to do business instead of to do battle." He has not reached a decision about whether he will run for re-election when the convention meets next June.

"I know if I do run, some people will see that as divisive but I also know that if it is perceived that I was intimidated into not running, some would think that was divisive too," he said.

## Shepard assumes duties with Centerville church

Roy Shepard began his new position with Cross Roads Baptist Church in Centerville Sept. 7.

A native of Centerville, Shepard previously served as pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church there. Other former pastorates include Upper Green River Baptist Church in Waynesboro; Viola Baptist Church in Columbia; First Baptist Church in Lobelville; Macedonia Baptist Church in Greenville, Ky.; Water Valley Baptist Church in Water Valley, Ky.; and Ryan Road Baptist Church in Warren, Mich.

Shepard's denominational service includes serving as moderator of Eaves County Baptist Association in Kentucky; as clerk and song director for Alpha Baptist Association; and on the mission board of Maury Baptist Association.

## FMB adds 108th country, OKs church growth center

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted Oct. 15 to join European Baptists in establishing a new Institute of World Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and added its 108th mission field.

The institute, already approved by the European Baptist Federation Council and the International Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, will adjoin the seminary structures on the campus near Zurich. It will be part of the Baptist Center facilities serving all European Baptists.

Approval of the Ruschlikon project came during the October board meeting in which trustees also approved a \$165.2-million budget for 1987, appointed 37 new missionaries, and reappointed one former missionary couple. In a special service the board honored 67 missionaries retiring with a combined service of 1,962 years. Through October, the board has added 363 to its missionary force, which now stands at 3,740.

Madagascar became Southern Baptists' 108th mission field with the assignment of Fred and Sami Sorrells, formerly of Burundi, to this island off the east coast of Africa. The board also authorized opening work in Lesotho, in southern Africa, but will not officially add it to its list of fields until the transfer of Randy and Nancy Sprinkle from Botswana takes effect Jan. 1.

Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers, along with his wife, Joyce, and their son, David, attended the full meeting of the board, of which he is an ex-officio member. In the concluding address of the meeting, Rogers affirmed his commitment to foreign missions as

the "bottom line" of everything Southern Baptists do.

Thirty board trustees and a number of their spouses came to Richmond a day early for a prayer retreat at the Cauthen Missionary Learning Center outside Richmond. Trustees and members of the executive staff took turns praying through the night. In its business session three days later, the board issued a special call to all Southern Baptists to join in making 1987 a yearlong "concert of frequent and united prayer that the world's untold billions will know Jesus."

In other actions the board authorized sale of the Baptist Hospital in Ajloun, Jordan, which has experienced a declining patient load as government hospitals have increased in that country, and gave final approval to a bylaw change which eliminates annual election of the board's president, treasurer, and assistant recording secretary since this is no longer required by Virginia corporate law.

It also approved the \$2,295,000 purchase of a nearby office building containing 26,250 square feet of space, as an investment and to provide room for future staff needs. The three-story brick building, which adjoins one of the board's home office parking areas, is fully leased but eventually will provide offices equivalent to about one-fourth of the board's present space.

Guidelines for development of the new European church growth institute in Switzerland will be developed by representatives of the Ruschlikon seminary, the European Baptist Federation, and the Foreign Mission Board early in 1987, according to Isam Ballenger, director of work in Europe and the Middle East.

# Missouri flood victims receive Tennessee aid

To assist Missouri flood victims, 21 Tennessee disaster relief volunteers served about 7,200 meals Oct. 10-14, reported Archie King, Tennessee Baptist Brotherhood department director who coordinates the relief work. The volunteers were based in Hermann, Mo., to aid flood victims along the Missouri River.

Working with church members of the First Baptist Church, Hermann, and about eight Red Cross workers, the volunteers spent most of their time preparing and helping distribute meals to persons up to 50 miles from the town.

King reported that the heavy rainfall caused 73 levees on the river to break. Gov. John Ashcroft reported more than 7,000 people were homeless across the state. Initial residential property and agricultural damage was estimated at nearly \$100-million.

Persons in the area told the volunteers that many received only 30 minutes warning before a wall of water swept through the area.

The Tennesseans, who had transported 6,000 meals to the site, received additional food to prepare from a government agency and the Red Cross. They assisted the Red Cross by riding in their vans to distribute the meals and by delivering the food in three church vans they also brought with them.

The vans were from West Lonsdale Baptist Church in Knoxville, First Baptist Church in Troy, and First Baptist Church in Humboldt.

The volunteers worked alongside members of Hermann's First Baptist Church, whom King described as "cordial" and "cooperative."



**FLOOD CLEANUP** — People work in a yard which is cluttered with water-damaged items. This home, which had water just below the windows, is in the community of Richland, Mo.

The Tennesseans cleaned homes, a church, and helped move equipment in a local business.

They discovered workers in several factories who were trying to clean the mud deposited by the flood waters.

King noted that he helped several persons who had lost everything. One family's trailer house had washed away. He

referred them to the church's pastor who had access to relief funds from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Missouri Baptist Convention.

King also purchased blankets, towels, pillows, paper products, and some other personal items for these victims, and gave them health and sewing kits prepared for the disaster unit by groups in Tennessee churches.

The Tennessee volunteers include the following: Jim Hadley and Lyndell Bunn, First Baptist Church, Humboldt; Tom Gibson, Estle McCool, Joe Nave, and Richard Todd, Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville; Bob Mayes, First Baptist Church, Franklin; Herbert and Marie Adams, First Baptist Church, Alamo; Bobby J. Brown, First Baptist Church, Trenton; Toy Poyner, New



**PEELING ONIONS** — Curtis Fowler (left) of West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, and Marie Adams of First Baptist Church Alamo, prepare chili to feed flood victims near Hermann, Mo.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Dyer; Floyd Cole, Second Baptist Church, Union City; Hollis Littrell, Felix McGehee, and Harold Waggoner, Mount Pelia Baptist Church, Martin; Frank Whitehead, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church No. 2, Union City; and Don Byrd, Ken Ford, Curtis Fowler, and Charles Roberts, West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville.

## Conference set on 'parenting'

A conference to help churches and associations to train leaders in conducting "Parenting By Grace" courses will be held Nov. 8 at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 2 p.m.

Participants will need the "Parenting By Grace" leaders notebook which can be obtained from material services at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Pre-registration will not be necessary. A lunch break will be taken, so participants will need to bring their own lunches or plan to eat in Fayetteville.

The session will be led by Pastor and Mrs. Emerson Wiles who received special training at Ridgcrest Baptist Conference Center.

Additional information concerning the "Parenting By Grace" training session can be obtained by calling Fayetteville's First Baptist Church, (615) 433-7187.

## Union association meets, honors Lee

The Union Association of Southern Baptist Churches honored Johnnie E. Lee, recently retired director of missions, during their annual meeting Oct. 9.

The messengers, who met at Greenwood Baptist Church in Doyle, dedicated the 1986 minutes to Lee. A presentation of the Baptist Telecommunication Network also was made.

Quinton Rose, pastor of BonDeCroit Baptist Mission in Sparta, was elected as moderator. He succeeds Don Baker, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spring City. Other officers elected were Lofton Graves, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spencer, as assistant moderator; Gregory Boston, a member of First Baptist Church in Sparta, as treasurer; and Louise Howard, a member of Bear Cove Baptist Church in Sparta, as clerk.

The 1987 meeting will be Oct. 8 at BonDeCroit Baptist Mission in Sparta. The director of missions of the association is Ray A. Maynard.

## TBREA announces Johnson City meet

A pre-convention meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association will be held Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Johnson City.

Church staff members who lead religious education, associate pastors, and spouses are invited.

Tickets can be purchased through Hollis I. Marshall, First Baptist Church, Box 99, Greeneville, TN 37744. They cost \$8.50 for the dinner or \$18.50, which includes the association's membership fee. The tickets should be purchased by Nov. 1 and checks should be made payable to TBREA.

## Northern elects four as officers at meet

The Northern Baptist Association, of which Horace J. Dyer is director of missions, gathered Oct. 3-4 at Taylor's Grove Baptist Church and at Blue Springs Baptist Church in Sharps Chapel.

The messengers to the annual meeting re-elected Dyer as moderator. Other officers re-elected were George Walker, pastor of Carr's Branch Baptist Church in New Tazewell, as assistant moderator; Arthur Johnson, a deacon at Clear Branch Baptist Church in Luttrell, as treasurer; and Leslie L. Corum, a deacon at Milan Baptist Church in Maynardville, as clerk.

Other action of the meeting included setting the 1987 meeting for Oct. 2-3 at Nave Hill Baptist Church in Maynardville and Willow Springs Baptist Church in Luttrell.

## Gary Aslin accepts role in Brownsville

Gary Aslin recently has been called as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Brownsville.

He has served for 22 years in churches in west Tennessee as pastor, minister of music, and minister of youth.

Aslin is a graduate of Union University in Jackson and Memphis State University in Memphis.

## Pastors to meet on C-N campus

JEFFERSON CITY — The fall East Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference will be held Oct. 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Carson-Newman College campus.

The program will feature Joe Stacker, director of church administration at the Baptist Sunday School Board; William Blevins, chairman of the religious studies division at Carson-Newman College; and Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville. Sessions will take place in Gentry Auditorium in the Henderson Humanities Building.

The conference will begin with a presentation on shared ministry by Stacker. Blevins will discuss the Book of James and Page will lead an inspirational service at 11:30. At 12:15 the pastors will be guests of the college for lunch.

Following lunch, the afternoon session will continue until 3.

## Frankie Humphreys dies

Frankie Humphreys, mother of James E. Humphreys, director of missions in Carroll-Benton Baptist Association, died Oct. 19 in Memphis. She was 91 years old. The funeral was scheduled to be Oct. 21 at Cordova Baptist Church in Cordova and burial was at Cordova Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

## Carlton Bell leads Shelbyville church

H. Carlton Bell recently began serving in his new position as pastor of Longview Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

He is a native of Shelbyville, and previously served as pastor of Southside Baptist Church in that city. Other pastorates include Covenant Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga.; West Hunt Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.; Hall Street Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky.; and Ridgewood Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.



Bell

## Parrott begins new post at Rogersville church

John R. Parrott Jr. recently became pastor of East Rogersville Baptist Church in Rogersville, his hometown.

Former pastorates include West View Baptist Church and Henard's Chapel Baptist Church, both in Rogersville, First Baptist Church in Sneedville, and First Baptist Church in Byrdstown.

Parrott has held several associational leadership positions in both Riverside Baptist Association and Holston Valley Missionary Baptist Association.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.



Parrott

## SEBTS elects officers, alters hiring procedure

WAKE FOREST, N.C.(BP)— Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected a new chairman, made changes in the process for employing new faculty members, and dedicated a new student center during their October board meeting.

Jesse P. Chapman, a deacon at First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., was elected chairman of the 30-member board, winning 14 to 13 over James R. DeLoach, a staff member of Second Baptist Church in Houston. One member was absent and Chapman and the current chairman of the board, O. Charles Horton of Orlando, Fla., did not vote.

DeLoach then was elected vice-chairman 15 to 11 over W. Jerry Holcomb of Virginia Beach, Va.

Chapman, a surgeon, said he wants to be known as a peacemaker in the present crisis in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Just describe me as an independent Baptist layman who doesn't know any theology," he told the news media. "I'm not a moderate-conservative or a fundamental-conservative. I just want to do what I can for my church and my denomination."

DeLoach, identified with fundamental-conservatives in Southern Baptist life, described himself as not only "a representative of the 30 trustees but also of all Southern Baptists."

He expressed a displeasure at any trustees being cast as "adversarial" toward the seminary and its administration. "If someone is after a faculty member, tell us," he said to Seminary President Randall Lolley. Lolley responded that he would bring such matters to the trustees.

Several other trustees expressed their concern in the same session for the atmosphere which seemed to exist. Among them was Thomas M. Metts Jr., who "sensed politics in the board meetings. My vocational work involves politics," said the staff member of Charles Colson's ministry to prisoners. "I sometimes vote here as a conservative, sometimes as a moderate. Sometimes I am confused."

He lamented the fact that he sensed a struggle for power, "the power to control," he added.

During the two-day meeting, trustees adopted a recommendation which calls for changes in the procedure used for employing faculty members. The changes were proposed by Robert D. Crowley of Rockville, Md., and recommended by the executive committee and the instructional committee.

Currently, the trustee instructional committee comes into the selection process only when a potential candidate is selected for a vacant faculty post. Under the revision, the committee will become more fully involved much earlier in the process, receiving information on the top five or six candidates for the post.

Seminary officials say that while the instructional committee still will not vote until there is a single nominee, they will have an opportunity to comment on potential faculty members early in the process. The process will continue to start with the president, the dean, and the faculty. The dean will receive recommendations and they will be winnowed by the faculty. The instructional committee will receive the information on the top five or six candidates for a vacant teaching job.

The change also modifies the use of

mail ballots for the election of faculty members. As reported out of committee, the action would have prohibited mail ballots, but an amendment adopted during the plenary session allows for the use of such ballots in the case of "exigent circumstances" and upon the recommendation of both the president and the instructional committee.

During the meeting, the new Ledford Student Center, which includes the Cannon Gymnasium, was dedicated. The new facilities are named in honor of the Hubert F. Ledfords of Raleigh, and Charles A. Cannon of Concord, N.C.

In other actions, the trustees established several trust funds for aid to students, laid plans for renovation and improvement of Binkley Chapel and the development of a Mackie Hall Faculty Center, and granted the city of Wake Forest right-of-way for some street adjustments.

The trustees applauded Lolley for his "openness and willingness to implement change."

John Cosier, a first-year master of divinity student from Jackson, Miss. brought a statement, signed by 333 students which expressed confidence, love, and appreciation for the seminary, and concern for the suffering, distress, and anxiety experienced by the faculty and their families in the present SBC crisis.

The statement, addressed to the trustees and all Southern Baptists, affirmed faith in the abiding devotion to the Bible, soul-competency, the Articles of Faith of the seminary, and called for love, oneness, and unity without uniformity. Cosier said he felt the statement reflected the prevailing spirit of the student body and many more signatures could have been obtained if there had been more time.

Before the meeting was adjourned Dade Sherman, a new member of the trustee board and pastor in Monroe, N.C., asked to address the trustees about faculty members who he said tried to block his nomination to the board by bringing up rumors about his past.

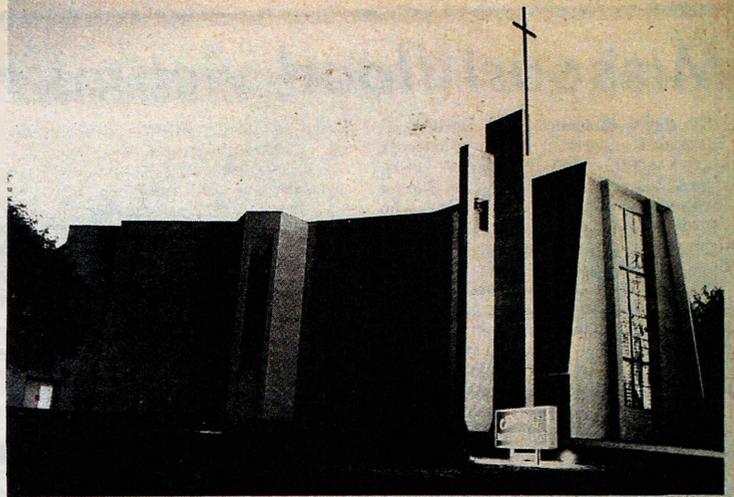
Sherman, a recent graduate of Southeastern who was elected to the Southeastern board of trustees during the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC, said his detractors made an attempt to stop his nomination by publicly disapproving of his carrying a gun to seminary classes and by questioning former employers about his work record.

"I was a police officer, and I was responsible for that weapon (a \$500 Smith and Wesson)," Sherman said, explaining he was working for the Rolesville (N.C.) Police Department while a seminary student. "When I was informed it (carrying the weapon) bothered people, I stopped."

Sherman said Thomas Graves, a seminary professor, had asked the Rolesville Police Department about his work record. Graves, currently on sabbatical in Zimbabwe, was not available for comment.

### CORRECTION

In an article in last week's paper, Timothy C. Jones was reported to have graduated from Criswell Bible College in Dallas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Jones did attend these schools but did not receive a degree.



**NEW SANCTUARY** — Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, recently dedicated their new church building. The \$3,250,000 structure houses the sanctuary which can seat 1,500, and administrative offices. Special guests during the week of dedication included Jack Graham, Kenneth B. Combs, Morris Chapman, James E. Leonard, W. A. Criswell, James McCluskey, and James Reimer. Tom Melzoni is pastor of the church.

## Trustees commend Dilday rather than silence him

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)— Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have voted 19-11 to approve a motion praising seminary President Russell Dilday for restrained and "judicious" leadership.

The motion of praise was made by Davis Cooper, pastor of University Hills Baptist Church in Denver, during the trustees' meeting Oct. 15 on the seminary campus in Fort Worth, Texas. It replaced a motion by Ralph Pulley, an attorney and member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, which attempted to silence Dilday's opinions on controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cooper's motion praised Dilday for "the obvious restraint which he has manifested over the last two years" of the SBC controversy and encouraged him to "continue this judicious style of leadership."

Pulley's original motion asked Dilday to "refrain from writing ... criticizing the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention" and to "evidence positive support of convention leadership and trustees of this institution."

It further asked Dilday to "refrain from further public comments orally or in writing that the issue before the Southern Baptist Convention is political and not theological."

Furthermore, the motion called for Dilday to refrain from "any joint seminary presentation to the Peace Committee" and to "cease public involvement in any dispute in the Southern Baptist Convention."

Dilday and the five other Southern Baptist seminary presidents have promised to present a proposal for peace within the denomination when they meet with the Peace Committee this week in Glorieta, N.M.

Pulley's motion also would have required involving trustees from the beginning stages of discussion with any prospective faculty member.

The motion called on administrators to invite the president of the Southern Baptist Convention to speak on campus each year and to allow trustees to approve all speakers for commencement exercises, revivals, seminars, and other "significant events" on campus.

The afternoon before, Dilday had told trustees of his "personal and deliberate decision this year not to be involved at a public level" in the controversy. "I have turned down every interview," he said. "I have refused speaking engagements. I have not addressed the convention issue directly in publications."

"Frankly, that goes against my grain," Dilday said. "I've had to bite my tongue when this institution has been slandered."

Later, trustees voted unanimously to "affirm our support for the elected leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Peace Committee."

Terrell M. Peace was named instructor in foundations of education and Royce Alan Rose will be assistant professor of administration.

Peace currently teaches at Bauder College in Arlington, Texas, and is interim minister of education at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas. He previously taught on Southwestern's adjunct faculty. Peace has been on the staff of North Fort Worth Baptist Church and Central Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas. He is a graduate of Clemson (S.C.) University and Southwestern seminary.

Rose is director of independent study education with the Southern Baptist Seminary External Education Division in Nashville. He has been an associational director of missions and minister of education in Texas. Rose is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern seminary.

Trustees also approved two new chairs, the Fred M. and Edith M. Hale Chair of Prayer and Spiritual Formation and the Ralph M. and Bess Smith Chair of Preaching.

Hale and his late wife, Edith, were honored last spring with Southwestern's B. H. Carroll award. He is the retired chairman of the board of Henderson Clay Products in Henderson, Texas.

Smith is pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. He was instrumental in securing Southwestern's largest cash gift in August, \$2.47-million from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Carl McEachern.

**BOOK REVIEW**  
By Michael Davis

## Rethinking the subject of holiness

Holiness: Every Christian's Calling by Roger Roberts; Broadman; 141 pages.

Southern Baptists who shy away from serious consideration of growing in holiness because of reactions to Pentecostals or other groups associated with the neo-charismatics will find this book a helpful guide.

The author does not see holiness as an unattainable ideal, sinless perfection, or oppressive discipline. In fact, his view offers a constructive and enlightening approach to the popular notion of holiness which sees the whole concept as irrelevant and otherworldly.

The fear of being identified with those who hold fanatical opinions of holiness has caused the subject of holiness to be neglected, according to Roberts. He writes, "In our fear of extremes we have neglected the teaching and practice of

holiness to the detriment of individual lives, and eventually unto the erosion of the vitality of our churches and denominational mission enterprise, all of which are fueled by the zeal and devotion of people serious about the call to a holy life."

Roberts organizes his study of holiness around an exposition of Galatians 5:22ff, using W. E. Sangster's *The Pure in Heart: A Study of Christian Sanctity* as a pattern. Chapters 10-12, which follow Roberts' fine exposition of the fruit of the Spirit as related to an understanding of holiness, gives readers three practical steps to help them grow in holiness.

The book is positive in tone. Roberts has come to see this aspect of holiness as a result of his study. He writes, "My study of holiness has moved me away from a narrowly defined, passive notion that to be holy one has only to refrain from certain negative behavior. Holiness, as I am beginning to understand it, demands rigorous spiritual self-discipline and a life of active service to the cause of Christ."

This is not the usual self-help approach that assumes a positive attitude is all that is needed to make personal problems disappear. Christians are not promised a life free of difficulties if they only have enough positive faith. "Only a cheap 'Hollywoodish' type gospel," writes Roberts, "will tell you your problems are over when you become a Christian, that you will be rich, famous, and successful if you only have faith."

This is a fine book that will guide and stimulate the thinking of those who want to take a fresh look at the Biblical view of holiness.

## Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden

TBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer



One of the words that was often on the lips of our Lord was "must." Recently I looked again at some of the times when our Lord used this word during His ministry.

As a 12-year-old child talking to His mother, Jesus said, "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?"

To Nicodemus He said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again." In that same context He said, "Even so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

He said on other occasions, "I must preach unto cities also" or "I must work the works of Him that sent Me while it is day."

He said to Zaccheus, "Zaccheus today ... I must abide at thy house."

Looking beyond His work on this earth, He said, "Other sheep I have ... them I also must bring."

We see in these statements that Christ recognizes and accepts willingly the necessity for His death. The work of Christ could not be done unless He died. He could not be the Saviour of the world unless He was the sacrifice for the sins of the world. I do not think our Lord used "must" expressing an unwelcome awareness of the consciousness of His mission. He was saying that there was an inward necessity springing from His Sonship and recognition of the work He had to do. His was not reluctant obedience but a happy, radiant kind of obedience.

His use of the word "must" anticipated a future triumph. His work was to continue after His death. There is to be sure results of His death on the cross.

The use of the word "must" applies to our daily routine kind of duties. He said to Zaccheus, "I must abide at thy house." It was absolutely imperative that He stop for an hour or two on the road to the cross because Zaccheus needed to be saved.

As we consider how our Lord used the word "must," I believe you would agree with me that there are some "musts" in our own lives. If we want joy and liberty and power and peace to fill our own hearts then we "must" say together, "all that the Lord has spoken, that must I do."

## Hunger expert fears impact of 'Reader's Digest' article

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE (BP)— Has American famine aid to Ethiopia been massively misappropriated?

That question, raised by *Reader's Digest* magazine, is "sowing seeds of doubt" which threaten to erode Americans' confidence in private hunger relief organizations as well as U.S. foreign aid, a Southern Baptist hunger expert claimed.

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, questioned both the content and the timing of an article in the October issue of *Reader's Digest* titled, "Famine Aid: Were We Duped?"

The magazine, which has a circulation of 28-million, also reprinted the article in full-page advertisements in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

The article claims representatives from relief agencies and donor governments were "duped" by the Ethiopian government, which misused the famine aid for political purposes.

"We watched the cynical betrayal of the international-aid campaign," wrote Rony Brauman of Doctors Without Borders, a non-profit, humanitarian French group that worked in Ethiopia. "Here is the harsh truth: Your donations have been massively misappropriated."

Brauman wrote that money, food, and equipment intended for starving people were "hijacked" by authorities of the Marxist-backed government. Much of the food, he charged, was used "like bait in a trap" to lure starving people into

deportation centers in a massive, politically motivated resettlement project.

Parham said while abuses have occurred, the article makes "sweeping statements based either on incomplete information or complete misunderstanding."

"Either way," he said, "the editors of *Reader's Digest* have masked a complex situation in simplicity. Seeds of doubt have been scattered which, if not crushed, will yield a whirlwind of unnecessary skepticism about hunger relief efforts."

The timing of the article came in a month when many private and religious groups conduct annual world hunger emphases, Parham added. Southern Baptist churches observed World Hunger Day Oct. 12.

John Cheyne, senior consultant for human needs ministries at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said the *Reader's Digest* article "does not represent what Southern Baptists are doing."

Southern Baptists who contribute to their denomination's program of hunger relief "can be assured that all funding and all commodities go directly to the needy people and are administered by our own missionary staff," Cheyne said.

In the last two years, the Foreign Mission Board has allocated about \$4.75-million in hunger relief funds to Ethiopia.

Cheyne said the board often works in cooperation with government officials. "but we still maintain control" of the relief process. The board's distribution system in Ethiopia, he said, has been studied as a model program by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Ethiopian government.

Parham, who praised "the integrity and credibility" of Foreign Mission Board ministries in Ethiopia, also said the *Reader's Digest* charge of massive misappropriation of famine aid misses "the necessary distinction between unfortunate yet expected relief problems and the deliberate misuse of aid." He pointed out only 50,000 of 800,000 tons of food assistance from the United States were channeled through the Ethiopian government, and use of that aid was monitored by U.S. AID.

The remaining 750,000 tons went from the U.S. government through private relief agencies.

Parham also faulted *Reader's Digest* with telling only the "half-truth" about the government's resettlement program. He noted about 600,000 Ethiopians were coercively moved from the northern region plagued by famine and civil war to the more fertile and less populated southern region in a "poorly implemented and brutal" project.

Parham agreed with Brauman's charge that one of the government's motives for the resettlement program was to weaken support for rebel forces in the north. The "larger picture," he added, is that the program was originally drafted in the early 1970s by U.S. AID under the pro-Western government of Haile Selassie.

"Furthermore, Brauman writes as if the resettlement effort is still continuing," he said. "The truth is that the article has been published nine months after the program was halted, in part because of international criticism."

## War evokes hunger in Africa

WASHINGTON (BP)— War, not drought, is becoming the primary contributor to massive starvation in Africa.

According to the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, 80 percent of Africans facing critical food shortages today live in four countries in the midst of civil war — Angola, Mozambique, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

The most critical situation exists in Sudan where more than 2-million people in the southern region of the country face imminent starvation.

Ironically, food is available. Unlike the great famine of 1984-85, northern Sudan and neighboring Kenya have experienced record harvests this season. The problem is the fighting between the Sudanese government, dominated by the Moslem Arabic people of northern Sudan, and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a coalition of Christian and animistic Africans in the south.

While both sides use food as a weapon, millions of innocent Sudanese men, women, and children have been caught in the middle.

The Sudanese government has refused to let food out of the towns and garrisons to people in rural areas, fearing it might be used to feed rebel soldiers. In turn, the SPLA has blocked food shipments to the towns and garrisons, fearing the food might get to government troops.

The fighting also has grounded emergency food airlifts and blocked truck convoys loaded with food.

The International Red Cross halted an airlift of food relief in September after the SPLA shot down a civilian airliner, killing 60 people, and warned that its airspace must not be violated.

In late August, Uganda closed its border with Sudan's alleged support of rebels in northern Uganda, eliminating an important departure point for relief aid into southern Sudan. The United Nations is now using Zaire as a departure point for relief efforts.

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, pointed out that "hunger is the legacy of war" in Sudan and other African nations, claiming many more lives than bombs or bullets.

In addition to the immediate crisis, war has a long-term impact, Parham said. "It disrupts farming, destroys marketing facilities, and displaces farmers. In a crossfire, seeds cannot be planted and crops cannot be harvested."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board currently has no missionaries in Sudan. Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are ministering in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda which will be affected by Sudanese refugees fleeing the famine and war.

## Young changes roles at Belmont College

NASHVILLE — David Young, admissions counselor at Belmont College since 1975, has been named assistant director of admissions for the Tennessee Baptist college.

The Ohio native is a graduate of Belmont. Before joining the Belmont staff, he was a teacher-coach in Nashville's Metro Public School System.

Young also coaches the men's and women's cross-country and track teams at Belmont.

*Give to World Hunger through SBC mission boards*

**BIBLE BOOK SERIES**  
Lesson for Oct. 26

# Jesus: way to new birth

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

Basic Passage: John 3:1-36  
Focal Passages: John 3:1-7, 14-21

God's work of salvation is a mystery. Salvation is not to be fully understood, if at all. Belief in Jesus requires hearing, a revelation of His work, and active faith.

In verses 1-13, we read about the patient manner in which Jesus, the Master Teacher, dealt with a teacher who himself was in the position of being a pupil at the feet of One Whose knowledge far exceeded his own.

Jesus makes it very clear that there is a separation between the physical and spiritual. Any confusion someone may have about the role of physical water in spiritual rebirth can be cleared up with careful study of this passage. It is about as absurd to view baptismal water as having an almost magical spiritual cleansing effect as it is to believe communion juice and bread turn into the blood and body of Christ.

Nicodemus may have later accepted and believed Jesus to be the Messiah, because John says in 7:50-51 that he defended Jesus before the Sanhedrin and in 19:39-40 that he assisted Joseph of Arimathea in Jesus' burial. If he did become a believer, he, like you and me, had to believe and experience the spiritual renewal that comes to anyone who places belief and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Certainly our physical countenances should change and reflect the internal spiritual cleansing and transforming work of God.

Jesus urged Nicodemus to recall the



Bush

incident in Numbers 21:4-9 when Moses was commanded by God to place a brass serpent on a rod raised up where people could see it and be healed from snake bites. Of course the brass serpent did not heal them. Healing came only when anyone accepted God's way, God's plan for overcoming death.

It is only when people look to Jesus with belief that they are able to overcome death, spiritual death. It is not a cross that saves but the work of Christ on the cross and His conquering of death through the resurrection. His death makes eternal life available to everyone "who believes on His name."

John rightly emphasizes the spiritual dimension that only Jesus could offer (22-30) because of His absolute superiority (31-36).

Stepping aside and pointing people to Jesus remains the task and function of Christians today. Sometimes ministers, church leaders, and programs get in the way or do not point people to Christ the One for Whom they are to be ambassadors and aids, allowing others to hear and know about Him.

My father used to say about people who like to be the focus of attention that, "They like to get people to gather around to love them." It was love that sent Jesus to the cross in the first place and it is "agape" love, selfless Christian love, that works in believers and thrusts them out into a world filled with people who need to hear and accept the love of God in Christ Jesus.

At Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center this summer, I learned a beautiful song. The words haunt and challenge me and I hope fellow Christians will be influenced as they read or sing the words: "People need the Lord... At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door... When will we realize people need the Lord."

## Charles Huskey begins Four Mile church post

Four Mile Missionary Baptist Church in Maryville called Charles Huskey as pastor. He began Aug. 31.

A native of Sevierville, he is a graduate of Hiwassee College in Madisonville.

Huskey previously served as pastor of Happy Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Tallassee.

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Guest Speaker - Rev. Cecil J. Clark  
(First full-time pastor)  
All former members and friends are invited.

**UNIFORM LESSON SERIES**  
Lesson for Oct. 26

# A kingdom divided

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

Basic Passage: 1 Kings 11:1 to 12:33  
Focal Passages: 1 Kings 12:13-17, 20, 26-29

The kingdom split in a day but it was a long process that paved the way for it. It is difficult to imagine that only one king reigned between the glorious kingdom of David and the shattered inheritance of Rehoboam - Solomon. Solomon was such a strange mix. Although presented as a person of unprecedented wisdom, his reign was often marked by inexcusable folly.

The road to ruin (12:13-15)

Solomon's weakness can be reduced to two basic ones: First, he was insensitive to needs and feelings of the common people. Unlike his father David, Solomon had experienced a sheltered life in the palace and was unable to identify with the plight of his subjects. His tastes were expensive. He was insulated from life's hurts. He lived in a different world.

Second, his rule was characterized by religious compromise. The many treaties he made with other nations resulted in many wives of diverse religions. He permitted the religions to be imported and even built shrines for them. The Jerusalem visitor until this day is shown the Mount of Offense where these shrines were situated.

These and attendant grievances took their toll with the people of Israel. An attempted labor reform by Jeroboam had been squashed and Jeroboam found himself in Egyptian exile. When Solomon died, the aggrieved tribes to the north decided to have an understanding with Rehoboam, Solomon's son and successor. Because of stubborn willfulness, bad advice, and poor judgment, Rehoboam did not give them the satisfaction for which they had hoped. This proved a catalyst for the break that had been in the making.

The revolt against Rehoboam (12:16-17, 20)

"To your tents, O Israel" is a cry of resistance. It is a call for entrenchment against the arrogant and unheeding Rehoboam, if need be to the extent of violence. The denial of the portion or an inheritance in David (v. 15) has the effect of opening old wounds. Geographical and ideological differences between north and south were already so pronounced that one is reminded of the directions "cut along dotted line." The kingdom was easy to break

because it was already so badly bent.

Fortunate for the hope of the northern dissidents, Jeroboam had come from Egypt to champion their cause. They installed him as king over the 10 northern tribes while Rehoboam was left with a greatly diminished kingdom centering in Judah, his own native tribe. Despite the much smaller land area and population, Rehoboam and his southern kingdom were left with three decided advantages: the magnificent Temple, the Davidic dynasty, and a mountainous stronghold.

The relaxation of religion (12:26-33)

Deprived as they were of their Temple, Israel was brought to a time of religious crisis. The political break and expediency seem to dictate a revamping of their religious practices. The politically astute Jeroboam was smart enough to see it; if the people returned to Jerusalem for worship, the success of his new kingdom was imperiled and his own days were numbered.

Bowing to this dictate of expediency, Jeroboam chose to erect convenient shrines at the extreme southern and northern points of his kingdom, Bethel and Dan. Reminiscent of Aaron's day, he installed golden calves at these shrines. He appealed to the consideration of convenience by saying "it is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem." He redirected their allegiance by saying, "Behold your gods, Israel." He even rewrote their history by claiming that these gods were their deliverers (v. 28).

Whatever Jeroboam's intentions were, whether of outright idolatry or a compromising veneer that sought merely to represent the true deity, it was an act of apostasy that set sails for the whole of the life of the North Kingdom. Every subsequent king is condemned because "he... walked... in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nabat, who made Israel to sin" (compare 1 Kings 22:52).

The temptation is always present for those who would shape their religious faith and life by the practical demands of convention and convenience. Our lives center around the ambitions of material prosperity, so our religious life follows a form that is always consistent with that goal.

We commit our churches to growth, so we compromise those prophetic aspects of our faith that might prove offensive to our membership. We want our institutions to do well by worldly standards, so we mold our policy by the popular demands of the world rather than by the costly way of the cross.

It is only a short distance from Jeroboam's call, "To your tents, O Israel" to his dictum, "Behold your gods."

## Owens assumes new post with Grace congregation

Grace Baptist Church in Elizabethton has called Ron D. Owens as pastor. He began his new pastorate Sept. 7.

Born in Jamestown, he is a former pastor of Skyline Baptist Church in Johnson City.

Owens' educational background includes degrees from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Denominational service includes several positions in Holston Baptist Association. He also served on the Committee on the Journal for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

## Central church calls Crocker to pastorate

David W. Crocker assumed the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, Johnson City, Sept. 1.

He previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky.; as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.; and as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Crocker is a graduate of Belmont College in Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Rock Hill, S.C., is Crocker's hometown.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES  
Lesson for Oct. 26

# Rebellion

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

Basic Passage: Genesis 3:1-13  
Focal Passage: Genesis 3:1-13

Someone once said that the Bible is so deep and profound that an elephant can swim in it, but that it is so simple a child can wade in it.

This is true of the Scripture we study this week. Those among us of tender age can understand that sin caused Adam and Eve to be driven out of their first home, a paradise from God. No theologian, however, has ever exhausted the depths of this story.



Wood

the depths of this story.

It tells how rebellion against God set in motion a terrible flood of sin that only Calvary's cross could conquer.

An attractive appeal (3:1-6a)  
Let no one minimize the winsome personality of Satan! Paul said he masquerades as an angel of light ( 2 Corinthians 11:14, NIV). Long discussions about the serpent's previous form before he was cursed are an exercise in futility, nor does it matter. The spiritual truth is that sin comes today, as then, sometimes clothed with such a superficial glamour that the best of people are susceptible to it.

Eve sought to protect herself from Satan's proposition by overstating God's requirements. Perhaps she was trying to bolster her courage or she could have been subconsciously rebelling against the restriction by claiming it was greater than God commanded. Whatever the explanation, she was obviously emotionally disturbed and probably overreacted in an effort to refrain from the direction she was being pulled by her desire.

The three areas in which the temptation appealed to her are the three found everywhere in the Scripture. First, it appealed to her flesh — good for food. Second, it appealed to the greedy part of her nature — a delight to the eye. Third, it appealed to her vanity or pride — a tree desired to make one wise.

These three basic temptations were the ones the devil presented to Jesus — appetite, avarice, and ambition (Luke 4:3-12).

A defiant decision (3:6b)  
Wrongdoing has been called by many names. The Old Testament most often uses three terms to describe it. One Hebrew word is translated "sin" and means literally, to miss the mark or fall short of a standard. Another is rendered "iniquity" and conveys the idea of moral impurity. The sharpest one, however, is the word translated "transgression"

which means to rebel or trespass into territory that God has told us to avoid.

One fact should be emphasized strongly about the woman's decision to follow Satan's temptation. It was an act of her will, a personal decision to doubt God.

Every sin essentially follows this same pattern. A temptation is followed by a deliberate choice — to rebel against God's standard.

Her husband followed her in the act. Though she enticed him, he was equally guilty of a choice to disobey God's will for his life. People cannot excuse themselves because of pressure from others. Every person's decision is an individual one and carries personal responsibility.

The horrible outcome (3:7-13)  
Though we are free to choose between sin and obedience, we have no option concerning the results of our decision. When we take one road, we automatically become a recipient of the results down

the way.  
One indulger wrote, "The thorns that I have reaped are from the tree I planted. They have torn me and I bleed."

This story has a tragic ending. All sin brings about the same result! "Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death" (James 1:15 NIV). Rebellion is an awful thing!

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### T. Baines accepts call of Smithville church

Thomas L. Baines has accepted the call of Calvary Baptist Church in Smithville to become its new pastor. He began his ministry on Sept. 7.



Baines

A native of Lebanon, Baines served previously as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church there. He also led Mount Herman Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, as pastor.

Baines is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and plans to graduate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in May 1987.

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## Regional Youth Rally

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Cookeville**

**Saturday  
October 25  
7:00 p.m. CST**

**Speaker: David Ring  
Cerebral Palsy VICTOR!**

(David was a speaker at the 1986 Youth Evangelism Conference)



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# Stewardship visionary leads five-year effort

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Stewardship is not determined by economic status, the leader of a five-year stewardship campaign for Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain contended.

"We need to talk to every person, rich or poor" about the time, talent, and finances he or she invests in his or her local church, Aldo Broda noted, "because God wants to bless all people who have the good will to give."

Broda, an Argentine, has been director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, for the past nine years. He will become full-time coordinator of the Baptist Campaign for Total Stewardship in January.

The campaign's high point will come in 1989 as churches throughout the three regions emphasize stewardship in special studies for adults and in special Sunday School lessons for all age groups.

A range of stewardship materials is being published in four languages spoken in the regions: Spanish, Portuguese, English, and French.

Next year, 620 stewardship leaders are to be trained — roughly 10 for every 4,000 Baptists in the participating countries.

The following year, each is to train at least 10 more individuals to undergird the local church campaigns in 1989.

A 20-member committee of representatives of various Baptist conventions in the three regions and several Southern Baptist missionaries has been working with Broda for two years in planning the pioneering campaign.

"I've had a dream for many years" for such an effort, Broda said during a mid-September stewardship conference at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center near Rockville, Va.

His dream is rooted in his own pilgrimage. As a young Christian, he sensed God was asking, "What do you have in your hands?" He regularly replied that he had little money and minimal training, "but all I have I bring to you."

In subsequent years, he moved from being a businessman to a 13-year tenure as director of Argentina's Baptist publishing house. During three of those years, he was the convention's president and for 10 years the stewardship promoter. Through stewardship campaigns across Argentina, he saw "wonderful changes in the life of the church and in the life of the members."

Among the highlights of his nine years at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House is a new Spanish translation of the Bible.

Looking back on his opportunities for service, he said, "God has made the multiplication more than the bread and the fishes," referring to the Bible's accounts of Jesus feeding the multitudes.

Broda believes positive, dramatic changes are in store for Christians who embark on a life of stewardship —

changes with impact akin to new birth. "When I teach about stewardship, I want to change the mentality," the notion that stewardship equals a plea for money, he said. "It's total stewardship. God wants all of you, not just one part." Money, however, reflects a person's use of time and talent, he noted.

A church's budget, he added, reflects what it is committed to do and thus what is needed in finances and in church members' involvement. Sunday School, for example, requires money for literature and people as leaders. "God moves the church with people's money and their capacity," to use their talents, Broda said.

Stewardship is crucial to everyone's Christianity regardless of their income, Broda believes, asking, "Why deprive the poor of God's blessing for their own offerings? Without stewardship, the Christian life is very poor. You don't enjoy the blessings of God and the challenges of every day."

Broda has written *The Challenge of Stewardship and Missions*, one of two adult study books for the campaign. The other is *The Theology of Christian Stewardship* by Joao Falcao Sobrinho, emeritus executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

One workbook for families on money management is being developed as are two workbooks for church stewardship committees and a series of five Sunday School lessons for all age groups.

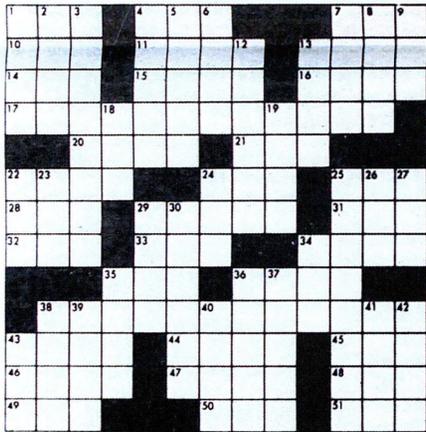
In 1990, Broda said, campaign leaders will explore ongoing ways of emphasizing stewardship in local churches.



VISIONARY — Argentine Aldo Broda is leading a pioneering five-year Baptist Campaign for Total Stewardship in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain.

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## Bible Puzzle



- 46 Insects
- 47 Word with glades or greens
- 48 Book: abbr.
- 49 Philippine town
- 50 Before
- 51 Stretch

### DOWN

- 1 Where Jesus came again (John 4:46)
- 2 Consumer
- 3 Place (John 19:13)
- 4 Audible
- 5 "The — of the mountains" (Job 39)
- 6 Noun suffix
- 7 Alaskan island
- 8 New Mexico town
- 9 Edition: abbr.
- 12 Mar
- 13 Air: comb. form
- 18 "The night is — spent" (Rom. 13)
- 19 Literary forms
- 22 Beast of burden
- 23 Female deer
- 24 Presidential nickname
- 25 "No servant — — two masters" (Luke 16)
- 26 Chemical suffix
- 27 Fenced city (Josh. 19:35)
- 29 Molten rock
- 30 "he will — them" (Luke 18:8)
- 34 New Zealand tribe
- 35 Odds and —
- 36 Fall flower
- 37 In that place
- 38 Mount (Acts 7:30)
- 39 Until
- 40 Man's nickname
- 41 Demeanor
- 42 Printer's word
- 43 Mass

### ACROSS

- 1 "into the — of his indignation" (Rev. 14)
- 4 "as ye — called in one" (Eph. 4)
- 7 Gnawed
- 10 He built Geba (1 Ki. 15:22)
- 11 "for ye compass sea and —" (Matt. 23:15)
- 13 Place of mourning (Gen. 50:11)
- 14 Western state: abbr.
- 15 Formerly
- 16 Harrow's rival
- 17 God (Psa. 62:8; 4 words)
- 20 Compelled
- 21 To-do
- 22 Arad's kin (1 Chron. 8:15)
- 24 Glace
- 25 Man (1 Chron. 4:8)
- 28 He honors his father (Mal. 1:6)
- 29 Bodies of water
- 31 Chemical suffix
- 32 "hope — before us" (Heb. 6:18)
- 33 Salutation
- 34 Eschol's brother (Gen. 14:13)
- 35 Garden dweller
- 36 Courtroom figures: abbr.
- 38 The Lord God (Eph. 4)
- 43 "every — of doctrine" (Eph. 4)
- 44 Portal
- 45 Fish eggs

### CRYPTOVERSE

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Today's Cryptoverse clue: E equals C

## Interpretations

### What kind of Messiah?

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Then was Jesus led up of the spirit (Spirit) into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" (Matthew 4:1).

"To be tempted" is an infinitive of purpose. So God took the initiative in His Son's temptations. The issue is what kind of Messiah Jesus would be. The Father never coerced the Son's will. He permitted the devil to tempt Jesus to forsake the Father's will. As a Person, the Son had the right of choice.

The temptations were in three areas: physical appetite, aesthetic nature, and ambition. (Note the same in Genesis 3:6. Also Luke 4 reverses the order of two and three.) Jesus had been without food for 40 days and nights (Matthew 4:2). In verses 3 and 6, "If Thou be the Son of God" is a condition assumed as true; that is, "since You are the Son of God." Jesus had so been declared at His baptism. The devil does not question it, but tempts Jesus on that basis.

First, Jesus should use His power for

selfish reasons: turn stones into bread for Himself (physical appetite, v.3). Involved also was the idea of being a "Bread Messiah." Roman emperors kept the people of Rome under control by giving them free bread and circuses. The devil tempted Jesus to gain people's loyalty thus.

Second, Jesus should do the risk by casting Himself from the pinnacle of the Temple (aesthetic nature, v.6). This reflects the popular Jewish idea that when the Messiah came, He would float down into the Temple area (Malachi 3:1).

Third, bow down and worship the devil, and he would give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world (ambition, vv.8-9). In Luke 4:5-7, the devil falsely claims world sovereignty which he will give to Jesus. It was not his to give, he is a liar and would not have given it; even had this been true and he had done it, Jesus would reign as a vassal of Satan. Unthinkable!

Each temptation was designed to lead Jesus to avoid the cross which was God's will. Jesus refused all three. Note that to each temptation, Jesus replied with Scripture from Deuteronomy (8:3; 6:16, 6:13). Satan snared Adam and Eve with these three kinds of temptations; he did not snare Jesus.

Jesus was tempted in His humanity and resisted in the same. Not once did He call upon His divine power. He resisted through prayer, meditation, the Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and total dedication to God's will.

All these are available to us if we will only use them.

### Jeffcoat takes PR post for S.C. convention

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — Mark R. Jeffcoat was named director of public relations for South Carolina Baptist Convention by the convention's general board during its fall meeting in Columbia, S.C., Oct. 13-14.

He has been associate in the office of public relations since February 1981 and was appointed interim director last April after Larry S. Crisman resigned to begin an evangelistic ministry in Dallas.