

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

BSSB names Union as site for Centrifuge this summer

JACKSON — Union University has been selected as the new Southern Baptist Convention Centrifuge site beginning in the summer of 1987, announced Interim President Hyran Barefoot.

Centrifuge, the youth camping experience for the Southern Baptist Convention, is operated by the church recreation department of the Sunday School Board. The program which will last 10 weeks beginning June 10 will bring 3,000 to 4,000 young people to the Union campus each summer.

"We are excited Union is offering us their campus for summer use," said Don Mattingly, supervisor of program services for the church recreation department.

The need for another site came about due to a sudden growth spurt in the

number of people wanting to attend the camps, according to Mattingly. Last year nearly 7,000 people who wanted to attend the camps had to be turned away due to lack of space. Because of this great demand for the camping experience, Union was selected for the fifth Centrifuge site.

"The central location of the college, which is easily accessible for people throughout the South, makes it an ideal choice," said Mattingly. "We also liked the fact that the college itself was away from town. This will give the campers a better sense of camp experience as opposed to being located within the confines of a city."

"Union is very pleased to be associated with the Sunday School Board in the Centrifuge program," said Barefoot. "The camp provides a very wholesome program of activities for young people and at the same time, it allows us to utilize the facilities of the college in the summer months when we are less than full. Another important aspect for us here at Union is that it will expose our entire college to a group of students who will be at least thinking about considering a college to attend."

Linn Stranak, chairman of the health and physical education department, will serve as the director of Centrifuge for the college. He will be responsible for coordinating the use of the school's facilities with the Centrifuge staff. Stranak, who has previously directed a summer recreation program for over 3,000 in Montreat, N.C., will also hire about 20 Union students in a part-time capacity.

"I am really excited about Centrifuge coming to Union's campus because it is a blend of recreation which is a part of my profession and an emphasis on Bible study, which is directly in line with the purpose of Union University as a Christian higher education institution," said Stranak.

The camps are open to students who have completed the seventh through 12th grade. The camp begins each week with the Saturday evening meal and ends with lunch the following Friday.

The church recreation department provides 16 faculty instructors for the summer. The faculty is made up of seminary students and upper level college students who serve as camp director, camp pastor, Bible study teachers, recreation leaders, and track program teachers.

The track program allows each camper to choose a major emphasis area such as photography, backpacking, drama, physical fitness, and sign language to study throughout the week.

The camp program, which began in the summer of 1979, also is located at four other sites: Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.; Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center; Mobile (Ala.) Baptist College; North Greenville Junior College, Tigerville, S.C.



HONORED FOR SERVICE — Virginia Todd (left) receives a clock from Gerald Stow, executive director of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc., in honor of her 25 years of service to TBCH as secretary and bookkeeper in the central office. A native of LaVergne, Todd joined the TBCH staff when W. C. Creasman was director and continued serving during the administrations of James M. Gregg, E. B. Bowen, and Stow. She is an active member of Glendale Baptist Church, Nashville.

Jury in Liberia indicts Morris

SANNIQUELLIE, Liberia (BP) — A Liberian grand jury indicted Benjamin M. Morris Dec. 16 for the murders of Southern Baptist Missionary Libby Senter and her 10-year-old daughter, Rachel.

A February trial date was set during the brief indictment proceeding at the Nimba County courthouse in Sanniquellie, Liberia. Missionaries George Senter, the husband and father of the murder victims, and Earl Williams, who first found the bodies at the Senter home in Yekepa, were present at the proceeding. Defense counsel for Morris has been appointed.

Morris, 32, was arrested Nov. 27 near the Liberian border with Ivory Coast, one day after he allegedly stabbed Libby and Rachel Senter. He later gave oral and written confessions to the crimes. Liberian police also have indicated they have physical evidence against Morris, a Liberian Baptist seminary graduate who was befriended by the Senters and other missionaries.

The criminal investigation "has been handled very professionally" by Liberian authorities, said Missionary Bradley Brown, administrator for the 67 Southern Baptist mission workers in the country.

Liberians have expressed high admiration of George Senter's face-to-face expression of forgiveness to Morris, according to Brown. But everyone wants "justice to be done," Brown said. "Liberians take it as a matter of shame to Liberians and Liberia that such a thing as this, such an unheard of thing, could happen."

Senter tried to visit Morris a second time in Yekepa, Brown said, but authorities had transferred the accused killer to custody in Sanniquellie. Senter and his son, Philip, left Liberia Dec. 17 for a month-long stay in the United States with Senter's brother, Fred, pastor of English Road Baptist Church in High Point, N.C.

Conservative group creates new mission organization

RICHMOND, Va. — "Conservative" Southern Baptists are planning to create a new foreign missionary organization, according to a copyrighted Dec. 21 article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The article, which was also carried by Associated Press, said the organization, known as Genesis Commission, had already raised \$2-million and employed Bill Darnell of Germantown as its executive secretary.

The newspaper said Genesis Commission founders stated that the purpose of the organization is to use foreign-born fundamentalist evangelists in established foreign Baptist seminaries, to bypass standard missionary support programs, such as running hospitals and schools, and get right to creating churches.

According to the founders, the com-

mission's work will begin in Mexico, then spread into Central and South America, the Times-Dispatch article said.

Darnell told the Richmond newspaper that Genesis Commission will open temporary headquarters in Houston by the first of the year in the offices of Randy Best, a Houston businessman and commission supporter.

The Baptist and Reflector attempted to contact Darnell on Monday, but he was out of town and could not be reached by telephone. Since April, when he resigned the pastorate of Memphis' Kirby Woods Baptist Church after five years, Darnell has been serving in People Sharing Jesus' Ministry Inc.

The Times-Dispatch article reported that Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Institute for Biblical Studies in Dallas, had said that some Genesis Commission supporters are dissatisfied with the way the Foreign Mission Board operates.

"This commission has no intention to be in anything other than beginning new churches. The usual parameters of hospitals, schools, etc., are not on our agenda," Patterson told the newspaper.

"There has been no attempt to get any money from churches, per se," Patterson is quoted by the Times-Dispatch. "But you can't deny individuals who want to support such a program on their own."

Patterson, who is a member of the Genesis Commission's board of directors, has been a leader in the "conser-

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'Reflector' to omit next week's issue

The Baptist and Reflector will not be printed and mailed next week.

The Tennessee state Baptist newspaper is printed every week of the year — except New Year's week. Therefore, there will be no issue dated Dec. 31, 1986.

This issue (Dec. 24, 1986), our 51st of the year, closes Vol. 152 of the Baptist and Reflector.

The next issue will be dated Jan. 7, 1987, and will begin the 153rd year of publication.

Seventh-day Adventist case reaches nation's high court

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)— Paula A. Hobbie, a Seventh-day Adventist fired from her job in a jewelry store for refusing to work on the Sabbath and then denied unemployment compensation by the state of Florida, had her day at the nation's highest court Dec. 10, as her attorney argued she was denied the Constitutionally protected right of free exercise of religion.

Attorney Walter E. Carson of Washington told Supreme Court justices the decision in Hobbie's case will have "a profound effect on the free exercise rights of all Americans." Hobbie, he argued, "was forced to choose between her religion and her work."

Hobbie converted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church after working two and a half years in a Winter Park, Fla., store owned by Lawton and Co., a nationwide chain of more than 650 jewelry stores. She initially worked out an agreement with her immediate supervisor through which she would work every Sunday in exchange for having Saturdays off. Seventh-day Adventists give strict observance to a Sabbath that begins at sundown Friday and ends at sundown Saturday.

But when higher management learned of the arrangement, Hobbie was informed it was unacceptable. After she refused on religious grounds to work on Saturdays, she was dismissed. Florida's Department of Labor and Employment Security subsequently rejected Hobbie's application for unemployment compensation benefits.

After exhausting all possible administrative appeals, the Florida woman filed suit against the state agency in a state court. But that panel also agreed with the state's position. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed last April to review Hobbie's claim.

Attorney Carson repeatedly cited a pair of earlier Supreme Court decisions in similar disputes, claiming they are clear precedents controlling his client's case. In 1963, the high court upheld the unemployment benefits claim of another Seventh-day Adventist discharged by a South Carolina employer because she declined a job when informed she would not be given time off every week to observe the Sabbath. In the second decision, the court in 1981 ruled in favor of a Jehovah's Witness denied unemployment benefits after quitting his job at an armaments factory on religious grounds.

On the other side, attorney John D. Maher of Tallahassee, Fla., faced close questioning from a number of the justices on his basic contention that the earlier Sabbath-worker cases do not apply in Hobbie's case. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor told Maher she found his reasoning "strange," adding it "seems to allow the state to place a special burden on religion."

Maher repeatedly made the point that Hobbie's case broke new legal ground. "She wants the state to carve out a special exception" to meet her peculiar religious claims, he argued. The state unemployment commission's policy involved no coercion, he added, but a simple refusal "to carve out a special exception."

Although Mayer alone represented the state's position during oral arguments, the federal government has filed a

friend-of-the-court brief asking the court to reject Hobbie's claim.

That move recently prompted a strong reply from 15 religious and other organizations, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. In a letter to Attorney General Edwin Meese III, attorneys for the groups accused the government of seeking a "radical interpretation" of the earlier Sabbath worker cases, adding, "We are hard pressed to identify any interest of the United States which justifies the taking of such a position." Among those signing the letter was Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee.

In a separate statement following the oral arguments, Thomas told Baptist Press, "It's fascinating that the Reagan administration is perceived as being pro-religion when here it is asking the Supreme Court to throw out the most important safeguard for religious exercise of the last 25 years." Referring to the long-standing Supreme Court test that government must prove a compelling state interest in such cases, Thomas added, "When you look beneath the surface, the administration could be more accurately described as pro-government on church-state matters."

While administration officials "think government should be able to promote religion if it so chooses," Thomas said further, "they also find it acceptable for government to burden or inhibit legitimate free exercise." The contradiction, he said, amounts to "a statist mentality that, thank God, the Supreme Court and most of the American people haven't bought."

Last June, Thomas filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Hobbie case for the Baptist Joint Committee urging the high court to uphold its previous holdings that free exercise may be burdened "only if it is necessary to achieving a compelling state interest."

A decision in Hobbie's appeal is not expected until next spring.



TRUST ESTABLISHED — Hyran Barefoot (left), interim president of Union University, Jackson, and Olen Law (right), director of planned giving, look on as Earl Wilson, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, receives a \$20,000 check establishing a charitable remainder annuity trust from Emma Stewart, wife of the late Jonas Stewart who was the foundation's previous top executive. Upon her death, the trust will establish the Jonas L. and Emma Lee Stewart Scholarship Fund at Union.

Oakley, team set Venezuela trip

The Tennessee Baptist Convention president, Jerry Oakley, will be the first volunteer in 1987 to serve in Venezuela as a part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership which began in November 1985.

Oakley, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield, and his wife will be representing the TBC at the annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention of Venezuela in Valencia and visiting other mission sites Jan. 2-9.

Five volunteers also will be serving Jan. 19-30 at the Baptist theological seminary in Los Teques. They will begin construction on a fourth floor addition to a building and on a new girls' dormitory.

The team members are Mr. and Mrs. David Allen, Flewellyn Baptist Church in Springfield; Kenneth Bush, Parkway Baptist Church in Goodlettsville; Lee Evans Jr., Ridgeview Baptist Church in Chattanooga; and Norman Lerch from Tulsa, Okla.

Clarence Stewart, TBC coordinator of the three-year partnership which is also coordinated by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, noted that 271 persons served in 1986.

Persons interested in serving as volunteers should contact Stewart, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Bartlett church calls Kay

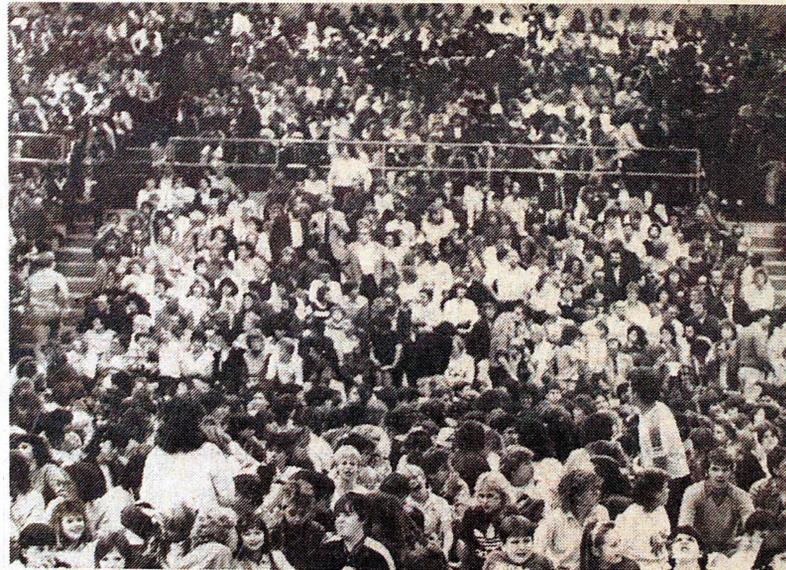
James A. "Jackie" Kay accepted the call of Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett, to serve as pastor, effective Nov. 9.

He returns to Tennessee from Gulfport, Miss., where he has been serving as pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church. Kay began his ministry in Fayetteville, as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church there.

He is a graduate of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.



Kay



GO TELL CRUSADE — Freddie Gage (right photo) and his evangelistic team led a youth crusade Nov. 16-19 at Cumberland County High School in Crossville. Over 30 area churches participated in the crusade that resulted in 688 decisions, 419

of which were professions of faith. Program personalities also included Rick Stanley and Paul Gage, with special music by Fay and Mike Speck. Youth from all over Cumberland County packed the gym to hear testimonies and messages.



FMB trustees urge prayer; appointments break record

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Pray like never before, especially the first Sunday of every month, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees urged the denomination's churches during their December meeting.

The trustees' plea is that churches will join in a monthly "concert of prayer" for world evangelization beginning Feb. 1.

"Widespread spiritual awakening and world evangelization will never take place without a united, sustained concert of extraordinary prayer," said Barbara Cunningham, chairwoman of the committee that brought the recommendation.

"I cannot expect," she added, her voice breaking with emotion, "to see extraordinary prayer take place across my convention, if it's not happening in my own life."

A toll-free telephone number to inform churches of the latest prayer requests will be established at the Foreign Mission Board.

In addition to the toll-free number, the board's prayer office will continue its monthly prayer alerts. The current mailing list is comprised of 23,000 Southern Baptists.

The board's human resources committee reported the missionary force continues to grow. Additions to the force in 1986 totaled 411, the second-highest total

for a single year but below last year's record 429.

The total for this year includes a record 256 career missionaries; 11 career missionary reappointees; 25 missionary associates, including two who were re-employed; 99 journeymen; and 20 special assignment personnel.

Harlan Spurgeon, vice-president for human resources, said the high number of appointments, coupled with a low attrition rate, has helped put the board almost two years ahead of schedule toward meeting its goal of 5,000 missionaries by the year 2000.

Throughout the meeting, special prayers were offered for George Senter and his son, Philip, 15, in the aftermath of the Nov. 26 murders in Liberia of George's wife, Libby, and Rachel, their 10-year-old daughter. In a resolution of "deep appreciation for faithful service," the board pledged its prayer support for the family in the days ahead.

The board ended the year by adding Canada to its mission fields with the appointment of a third couple to work as fraternal representatives with Canadian Baptists, but removed Brunei from the list. Brunei officials turned down a visa renewal application by Bob and Dorothy Evans, who have lived in Brunei since 1981, and said there could be no appeal of the decision. This leaves the total mission field count at 108.



Hendricks



Gibson



Altom

Tennessee students to attend Baptist Student Union retreats

William Hendricks, professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; John Gibson, director of college relations at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; and Ken Altom, pastor of First Baptist Church in Cookeville, will lead the Baptist Student Union regional retreats across the state.

Altom will direct students attending the middle Tennessee retreat in a program based on the January Bible study. The retreat is Jan. 16-18 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

"Science and Religion - Making Deci-

sions in a Contemporary Society" is the theme of the east Tennessee retreat scheduled for Feb. 6-8 at Camp Carson in Newport. Hendricks is the speaker for the east Tennessee retreat.

On Feb. 27-28, students in west Tennessee will gather to study "Prayer - Power Unlimited," with John Gibson leading. The site is Camp Pinecrest in LaGrange.

The retreats are planned by the BSU state council and campus presidents.

Interested students may contact the TBC, student department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Mission organization...

(Continued from page 1)

vative" faction of the Southern Baptist Convention.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told the Baptist and Reflector on Monday that since hearing about plans for the new mission group he had talked with Patterson and invited him, Darnell, and Best to come to Richmond in January. Parks said that possible dates for the visit were discussed, but Patterson later said these would not work out and the visit would have to be scheduled at another time.

"I wanted them to get a little clearer understanding about what we do," Parks said. "I don't think they fully appreciate the focus we're making on evangelism and the starting of churches."

For a long time, Parks noted, the FMB has not started hospitals or schools, which the Texas group appeared to think were still major emphases of the board.

"Our primary emphasis is evangelism that results in churches," Parks said. He emphasized that the ratio of baptisms to church members in overseas churches related to the board runs 12 to 1, far above the 42 to 1 ratio in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1985, these overseas churches baptized 158,626 people, an average of 435 a day. Membership in these churches has topped the 2-million mark. The number of churches increased to 15,635, almost a 6 percent gain over 1984. Counting chapels and preaching points, which are the churches of the future, the total was nearly 33,000.

But certain other ministries are vital to such evangelism, Parks said. "We feel that training leadership through seminars and training membership through the production of literature is really supportive of the evangelistic church-starting thrust."

He emphasized that "the only support

we have comes from Southern Baptists, and if they (the new mission organization) go to the same Southern Baptists for support, I can't see it as being anything else than direct competition.

"I also feel that since our convention, according to our Constitution and our history, has organized around missions, that when someone sets out to form a new mission board, I think they're dealing with the very heart of who we are as Southern Baptists and I think it is a development we should be very concerned about.

"I think it comes down to the question of whether we are committed to cooperative efforts inclusive of the wide range of Southern Baptist interests, or whether we want to trim back from that stream of Southern Baptist life and focus on restrictive viewpoints."

Southern Baptists' missionary force of more than 3,700 includes a variety of specialists, such as doctors, business managers, and musicians, but the missionary preacher is considered the backbone of the force, he pointed out. All missionaries, regardless of specialty, are expected to practice personal evangelism and to encourage church growth.

Elder supports peace, missions

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder pledged continuing support of peace efforts in the Southern Baptist Convention while focusing the resources of the denomination's church program and publishing agency "on the purpose that joins us together."

"Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC goal of sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000) is our commitment as we walk in the Spirit of God," Elder said in an address to state convention program leaders and board staff members attending the annual planning meetings in Nashville in mid-December.

In response to 1986 SBC statistical projections showing relatively small gains in baptisms and church membership, he said: "What we do not yet have is a breakthrough in Bold Mission Thrust. As we labor toward a breakthrough, anticipate it, and strategize for it, we must be utterly dependent on God."

He cited several projects under way within the board — Bold Mission Thrust planning, a marketing/ministry study, space study, and reorganization — which he said are designed to support churches in their mission of reaching people and developing believers.

"The only reason the Sunday School Board exists is to fulfill its mission, not to maintain itself," said Elder. "Results don't happen in the Sunday School

Board. They happen in the churches, or they don't happen at all. What we're really looking for is results outside the Sunday School Board.

"We are committed to doing the best job in such a way that results take place in the lives of people and churches."

In the changing environment of today's world, Elder said, churches, the denomination and the Sunday School Board face threats of erosion of purpose, confusion of identity, and fragmentation of constituency.

He predicted the denomination can move forward to greater growth "if we can keep a constancy of purpose with a network of strong gifted leaders. This is a time when we focus on the purpose of God that joins us together."

Carson-Newman wins NAIA title

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College won the 1986 football championship of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Saturday with a 17-0 victory over Cameron University of Lawton, Okla.

This is the third time in the last four years that the Tennessee Baptist Convention college has been NAIA football champions or co-champions. The Eagles won the 1983 and tied the 1984 title games.

Carson-Newman's first touchdown in the defensive struggle came on an 80-yard punt return by Pat Johnson. A second touchdown was a one-yard dive by Kenneth Tyson, after a 54-yard run by Edwin Lowery. A 45-yard field goal by Louis Reveiz completed the scoring.

The Eagles finished the season with 12 wins and one loss.

The Dec. 20 game at Burke-Tarr Stadium on the Carson-Newman College campus provided two firsts — the first college football championship game held in the state and the first sporting event to be televised live by the ACTS network of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

ACTS airs Christmas special

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Billy Graham, Terry Waite, and Mother Teresa head the list of an all-star cast in "A Worldwide Christmas Celebration," slated to appear on the American Christian Television System (ACTS) Network on Christmas Eve.

The program is being sponsored by The Church of the Nations in New York and will be seen in countries around the world.

Other guests include the Vienna Boys Choir, Placido Domingo, Sandi Patti, Ray Charles, the Chinese Choir from Beijing, Phil Driscoll, Johnny Cash, and the Singers of Praise from Bethlehem.

Participating countries include the United States, Austria, Spain, USSR, Great Britain, and Israel.

The two-hour special will be telecast on ACTS at 10 p.m. EST.

CICERO'S COMMENT — Just suppose there had been daily newspapers at the time Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. The front page of the next day's edition might have looked something like this...

JERUSALEM JOURNAL

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December 25, A.D. 0000

Shepherds tell of angels, strange birth

BETHLEHEM — A band of shepherds from this area were seen wandering around the streets of Bethlehem last night, relating a wild story of angels appearing and a miraculous birth of a baby.

These shepherds openly explained to passers-by that they had visited a stable at the Bethlehem Inn and saw a newborn baby cradled in a feed trough.

They claimed there was religious significance to the birth, declaring that the new baby was to be a king of some kind or even the long-expected "Messiah" of Israel.

Those on the Bethlehem streets who stopped to listen to the excited shepherds found that ridicule of the improbable tale did not seem to dampen the shepherds' enthusiasm.

To make their story even more incredible, the sheep herders told the listeners that they had been informed by an angel about the birth.

According to some who talked with the shepherds, the angel had told the group not to be afraid, but to believe that a "Saviour" had been born in the City of David, the traditional name for Bethlehem.

The shepherds supposedly said that the angel had declared that this "good news" was for all the world's people and it would bring "great joy."

The herdsmen reportedly had stated that this angel was joined by a large group of other angels, which they said sang praises to God.

According to their account, they were told that they could find the infant in a manger in a Bethlehem stable. They hurried into the city and said they found the baby, which was with a young couple from Nazareth, who had come to Bethlehem for the tax roll census.

The couple, named Joseph and Mary, were reported to have told the shepherds that the baby was the "Child of God." Allegedly the husband had said that he was not the child's father, but that Mary had conceived the child by "God's Holy Spirit."

There were other rumors about the child being spread by the shepherds and those who talked with them, but these are too absurd to be repeated in this news article.

At press time, a team of reporters from the Jerusalem Journal were traveling to Bethlehem to find out the

truth, if any, of the incident.

N. A. Dither, Jerusalem Journal editor, said the newspaper ordinarily does not report unsubstantiated rumors, such as those being spread by these shepherds, "but the group's apparent sincerity caused us to report their unusual tale in today's edition."

WEATHER REPORT

The official forecast issued by meteorologists at Jerusalem Lilies of the AirField predicts that today's weather will be unseasonably cool with partly cloudy skies — quite different from the bright, starry heavens of last night.

Night Sanhedrin session denies request from eastern scholars

JERUSALEM — The 70-member Sanhedrin held an unprecedented early morning session today to respond to an unusual request from eastern astrologers.

Ben Stern, Sanhedrin president, told the Jerusalem Journal that he had received an urgent telegram from three eastern scholars, who claimed they had seen a bright star and wanted to know the religious significance of the occurrence.

Galilee father claims son like 'new Elijah'

GALILEE — Rumors are rampant in northern Galilee that a 6-month-old child might be the forerunner of the promised "Messiah," as explained in Scriptural scrolls.

According to Galilean gossip, a robust son born to Zacharias, a deaf mute, and Elisabeth could be the person which God would send to prepare the way for the "Deliverer" of Israel. The baby has been named John.

Ben A. Priest, leader of the local synagogue, told the Jerusalem Journal that the forerunner is to be Elijah. "I have visited the young lad, and he certainly doesn't look like that honored prophet to me!"

Priest said that the baby's father, who now can speak, has been making some wild claims about his son, "but such boasting is not unusual for any proud father."

Caesar Augustus takes credit for success of tax roll census

ROME — Government officials have commented that Jewish citizens of Israel have responded "politely" to the order that they must go to their family hometowns and register for taxes.

At a press conference yesterday, Emperor Caesar Augustus stated that the census was necessary to ensure that all Israelites are paying appropriate taxes.

He pointed out the tremendous costs needed to finance the worldwide services of the Roman government, adding that it is necessary for each person to pay his part.

Caesar justified hardships caused by the census, noting that he was only following a precedent started by Cyrenius when he was governor of Syria.

Cash Coffers, Rome's Secretary of the Treasury, told the press conference that the new census lists would be turned over to publicans in Israel to collect the government's needed tax funds. Publicans are Jewish citizens who collect taxes on a percentage basis.

Coffers defended the "publican system," although he admitted that some publicans do charge more than

the required taxes and keep the excess for themselves.

"What they do and how they do it is no concern of mine — as long as we get our taxes," Coffers said.

Caesar Augustus said that all citizens were apparently responding to his enrollment decree, and he did not anticipate having to enforce the strict penalties and punishments permitted on those who do not enroll.

The emperor denied that requiring travel to family hometowns for the census was done as a favor to the hotel owners and travel agents who provide junkets for government officials.

Planetarium reports strange light

MT. HERMON — Astronomers at Mt. Hermon Planetarium reported an unusually "strange light" south of Jerusalem last night. The light occurred in the early hours of this morning.

Gaye Zeer, spokesperson for the observatory, said that astronomers at the observatory were at a loss to explain the unique occurrence. She said that at first there seemed to be a wide area of light, but later it changed into a pinpoint of light, much like a bright star.

Juan Char, chief astronomer at the observatory, told the Jerusalem Journal that the bright light was not a star, in that it did not rotate around the earth as normal stars.

He reported that the pinpoint of light seemed to hover in the area of the small town of Bethlehem, eight miles south of Jerusalem.

Historian analyzes Bethlehem reports

JERUSALEM — Noted Biblical historian, Art Chives, was contacted last night by the Jerusalem Journal to interpret the strange events which are rumored to have been occurring.

Chives is in Jerusalem to address a meeting today of the Middle Israel Premillennium Conference on the subject, "The First Coming."

The theologian said that few specifics of the appearance of God's Anointed One are contained in the Scriptural scrolls. "Actually, much of our theories concerning the fulfillment of these ancient prophecies come from tradition," Chives added.

He did express some interest in that the reports are coming from Bethlehem, citing a prophecy by Micah which declares, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be the ruler of Israel."

High court hears arguments on creationism, evolution

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)— A simmering national debate over the validity of teaching "creation science" in public school classrooms came to the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 10, leaving justices with the dilemma of deciding whether the hotly disputed discipline amounts to true science or religion.

Hearing oral arguments in a case challenging the Constitutionality of a Louisiana law requiring "balanced treatment" in the teaching of creationism and evolution as theories for the origins of the universe, the high court also was presented the option of sending the dispute back to lower courts before deciding the basic questions at a later time.

That option was urged upon the justices by a special assistant attorney general for Louisiana, Wendell R. Bird of Atlanta, who argued a federal court of appeals erred by not accepting as true what he called "uncontroverted evidence" presented by expert witnesses that creation science is indeed scientifically valid. Bird said the case should be sent back to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans with instructions to weigh that evidence in making a new ruling.

The lower panel held last year that Louisiana's law, "The Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolu-

tion-Science Act," violates the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion. Bird reminded the high court that the vote in that decision was 8-7. Earlier, a U.S. district court also had stricken the law as unconstitutional.

Although Bird said he preferred for the high court to send the case back to the 5th Circuit, he suggested the justices could decide instead to reverse the lower panels, both of which found the law to have a religious rather than secular purpose. For the last 15 years, the Supreme Court has decided such disputes by using a three-prong test requiring that a challenged law or public policy have a secular purpose, have the "primary effect" of neither advancing nor inhibiting religion, and have a result that does not involve "excessive entanglement" between church and state.

Questioned on the point, Bird acknowledged that while some Louisiana

legislators might have had a religious purpose in mind when they enacted the challenged statute five years ago, their main purpose was secular. At most, he insisted, some lawmakers might have had a "tertiary" — but not a "primary" or even "secondary" — religious purpose in passing the law.

Asked by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor if the Constitution permits the teaching of a purely religious concept to balance what is perceived to be an anti-religious view, Bird refused to concede creation science is a religious concept, a key argument throughout his half-hour presentation.

When asked by new Justice Antonin Scalia if creation science requires the teaching of a personal God, Bird replied with an emphatic "no." Creation science, he elaborated, requires neither belief in a creator-God nor the account of creation in the book of Genesis.

But in a lengthy exchange with Justice John Paul Stevens, Bird reluctantly acknowledged the categories of creationism and evolution are mutually exclusive, thus requiring a basic choice between them.

Arguing the high court should uphold the lower court rulings, American Civil Liberties Union attorney Jay Topkis of New York City admonished the justices to heed the late Justice Felix Frankfurter's view that when legislative purpose is questioned, the "plain language" of the disputed law be taken at face value.

In an unusually animated presentation — at one point likening opposing attorney Bird to Tweedledum, a less than brilliant character in "Alice in Wonderland" — Topkis heaped ridicule on the notion that the Louisiana legislature's purpose was anything but religious. Reading definitions of "creation" from different editions of Webster's New International Dictionary, he deflected questions from several justices with short, tart replies.

At one point, asked by Stevens if the record of debate in the legislature did not reflect a stated concern for academic freedom as one reason for enactment of the law, Topkis shot back, "Oh, sure ... let's give God equal time." He added the statute "calls for the very antithesis" of academic freedom.

At that, Scalia countered, "It never occurred to me that Louisiana was dominated by fundamentalists."

A decision in the case is expected by early July 1987.

Liberia murders fail to deter Georgia Baptist ministry there

ATLANTA (BP)— The murders of a Southern Baptist missionary and her 10-year-old daughter in Liberia have not deterred the partnership mission project between Georgia Baptists and the west African nation, reported Eugene Dailey, project coordinator.

Dailey was acquainted personally with George and Libby Senter through his leadership in the partnership project between the Georgia Baptist Convention and Baptists in Liberia. "George (Senter) was mission chairman when we began the project," Dailey said.

Following the brutal murder of Libby Senter and the couple's daughter, Rachel, volunteer participation in future projects that have been planned in Liberia was in question.

"If anything, we have seen a deepened commitment to the ministry," Dailey said. He noted five major projects are planned for 1987, in addition to a number of special ministry projects by individuals.

The five areas of specific interest which will involve more than 200 Georgia volunteers are:

— Literacy: Seven people will go for literacy training for Liberians.

— Well-drilling: Twenty people are scheduled to leave Jan. 7 for this project.

— Building of 12 churches: A total of 84

volunteers will go during the next year, working in teams of seven persons in each group, to work alongside nationals in the construction projects.

— Medical assistance: About 75 medical personnel will go from across the state in short-term medical service.

— Evangelism crusades: Scheduled for Nov. 11-28, 30 preachers and 30 musicians will take part in the national effort in 1987.

James N. Griffith, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention added, "The fact that there is a tragedy does not change our reason for going to Liberia in the first place. The need is still there and the commitment on our part is still there."

Dailey said the reason for the partnership project is "to minister to persons who have needs — and who are lost. The Senter murders are not part of a conspiracy; this is an isolated incident which only serves to focus on the deep needs of the people of Liberia."

The Georgia Baptist Convention-Liberia Partnership Mission began in 1984. Since that time, more than 300 Georgians have gone on a volunteer basis as a part of the ministry.

Sevier County cites Ray F. Williams

Ray F. Williams, associational camp director for Sevier County Baptist Association, was honored during its annual meeting Oct. 20-22.

While gathered at French Broad Valley Baptist Church in Kodak and Bethel Baptist Church, Valley View Baptist Church, and Oldham's Creek Baptist Church in Sevierville, a resolution was passed to note Williams' retirement as camp director after six years of service. Williams is also pastor of Gists Creek Baptist Church in Sevierville.

In other action, the messengers elected Joe Wren, pastor of First Baptist Church in Sevierville, moderator; Mike Rutherford, pastor of Union Valley Baptist Church in Knoxville, vice-moderator; and Bobbie Williams, a member of Gists Creek Baptist Church in Sevierville, treasurer/clerk.

Frank E. Proffitt, who had been elected director of missions before the meeting, began serving Dec. 8.

The next annual meeting will be in Sevierville at Antioch Baptist Church, Jones Chapel Baptist Church, and Zion Hill Baptist Church; and in Seymour at Dupont Baptist Church on Oct. 19-21, 1987.

Carson-Newman grants degrees to 50 seniors

JEFFERSON CITY — Fifty seniors received their baccalaureate degrees at Carson-Newman College's winter commencement Dec. 19.

Howard Olive, pastor of Monte Vista Baptist Church in Maryville, spoke to the graduates on what to wish for "If You Had One Wish," suggesting they should wish for wisdom.

Karen Cole, an accounting major from Russellville, received the Senior Scholarship /Award, which is presented to the graduating senior with the highest academic average.

Sullivan association honors moderator

David Frazier, pastor of Orebank Baptist Church in Kingsport, has honored for serving the past two years as moderator of the Sullivan Baptist Association during its annual meeting.

The Oct. 21 gathering was held at Glenwood Baptist Church in Kingsport. In 1987, the annual assembly will be Oct. 20 at West Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Kingsport.

Frazier was succeeded as moderator by Herman Norton, pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Kingsport.

Other 1986-87 officers elected were assistant moderator, John Compton, pastor of Glenwood Baptist Church; treasurer, Dorothy Dean, a member of Lynn Garden Baptist Church, Kingsport; and clerk, Virginia Barton, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Kingsport.

R. Thomas Holtzclaw is the association's director of missions.

C-N Bible School receives library

JEFFERSON CITY — The Bible School of Carson-Newman College has received a gift of the 800-volume library of the late Arthur B. Griffin.

The library was donated by Mrs. Griffin in honor of her husband to be used by students preparing for the ministry.

Griffin, who died Jan. 17, 1979, served as pastor of a number of Tennessee Baptist churches, including Bristol's Woodlawn Baptist Church; Erwin's Calvary Baptist Church; Bluff City Baptist Church in Bluff City, and Knoxville's Belmont Heights Baptist Church.

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Court refuses to reconsider rejection of Vatican appeal

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)— Opponents of renewed diplomatic relations between the United States and the Roman Catholic Church lost a last-ditch effort to challenge the new arrangement at the Supreme Court Dec. 9.

Responding as it normally does to petitions for reconsideration of cases already rejected, the court issued a one-line order declining such a petition from the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and other religious bodies and leaders. The routine action ends an unsuccessful three-year bid to have federal courts invalidate President Ronald Reagan's appointment of two ambassadors to the Holy See and the latter's sending of Archbishop Pio Laghi as papal pronuncio to the United States.

Following Reagan's January 1984 appointment of William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Holy See, 20 religious groups and more than 80 individuals filed suit against the president in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania. That panel ruled in May 1985 that plaintiffs had no legal standing to bring the suit and that even if standing had been granted, the challenge would have been disallowed because the president alone is given the authority under the Constitution to conduct foreign policy.

Last March, a three-judge panel of the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia affirmed the lower ruling, setting the stage for a final appeal to the Supreme Court.

Despite the high court's refusal to reconsider its Oct. 20 rejection of the appeal, representatives of organizations that mounted the legal challenge were quick to promise further action.

Robert L. Maddox, executive director of Americans United for Separation of

Church and State, issued a statement pledging to press Congress for the relief denied by the courts: "We intend to seek a legislative remedy in Congress and to make sure the public understands the harm it is suffering today. I have no doubt that eventually the truth will prevail. My only regret is that such an egregious violation was ever allowed to take place. This action shows once again that if Americans want to keep their rights, they have to fight for them."

Maddox, whose organization filed the original lawsuit challenging renewed relations, described the Supreme Court's final rejection of the appeal as "both disappointing and troubling." He further said, "Justice has not been served, and I can only surmise that the justices were not aware of the serious harm done to American religious liberty and to the rights of individual Catholics by diplomatic ties with the Holy See."

Legal arguments pressed by Americans United and the other plaintiffs included insistence that the exchange of ambassadors violated the First Amendment by preferring one religion over all others and that American Catholics themselves would suffer by the pope's ability to deal with the American government through an official envoy, thereby bypassing U.S. Catholic bishops. The latter have been outspokenly critical of official U.S. economic and military policies in recently issued pastoral letters.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, likewise pledged that the fight is not finished. "We will continue fighting politically, educationally, and philosophically until on some good day in the future we will see the First Amendment honored once more," he said.

"We may have lost this round," Dunn added, "but we have not given up."



RAS AND FRIEND — Elois Robertson (center) is surrounded by RAs and their counselors from her church, Puryear Baptist Church in Puryear, who are wearing the 30 denim vest uniforms she made by hand. Robertson is paralyzed on the left side, which leaves her with the use of only one hand. She also sewed patches earned by the RAs onto the vests.

FMB evaluates deaf ministries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is studying ways to involve more deaf Southern Baptists in missions and increase ministries to an estimated 5-million to 10-million deaf people of the world.

During its December meeting, the board adopted a statement on deaf ministries in response to a motion made at the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta. The motion, referred to the Foreign Mission Board by the convention's Committee on Order of Business, called on the board to reverse a perceived policy that it would not appoint deaf people as missionaries.

"Contrary to the perception noted in the motion at the Southern Baptist Convention, the Foreign Mission Board does not have policies precluding the appointment of deaf personnel," the statement said. "Our appointments are based on field requests. We do not have field requests calling for the matching of gifts and skills of the non-hearing with related field needs and opportunities."

But the statement went on to report that mission board staff members have been meeting for several years with representatives from the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf, a national fellowship. Meetings and correspondence have centered on exploring the needs for ministry among deaf people overseas and ways deaf Southern Baptists can get involved.

In October, several deaf volunteers from Applewood Baptist Church in Wheat Ridge, Colo., participated in a partnership evangelism crusade coordinated by missionaries and Baptists in South Korea.

Board staff members and missionaries are investigating possible ministries for deaf mission workers in other countries. Baptist ministries to the deaf or deaf congregations already exist in Japan, Taiwan, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Colombia.

In February, board personnel and leaders from the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf will travel together to the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Trinidad. They will survey the potential for ministries to the deaf in those countries and the possibilities for using deaf mission personnel.

Staff members also have identified at least a dozen missionaries with ability to communicate in American Sign Language. A manual may be developed to aid them, other missionaries, and volunteers in ministering to the deaf.



APPRECIATION — Ralph Duncan (right) expresses appreciation to Hugh Vancel for giving him the opportunity 40 years ago to preach his first sermon at Red Hill Baptist Church, Speedwell, where Duncan will preach Jan. 4 from the same text as the Jan. 5, 1947 message.

Pastor recycles sermon of 1947

Ralph Duncan, pastor of Mt. View Baptist Church, Antioch, preached his first sermon 40 years ago — a milestone reached by many Southern Baptist pastors.

But Duncan will celebrate the milestone by preaching from the same Biblical text in the same church where he preached that first sermon Jan. 5, 1947, when he was 16 years old.

And the man who was then pastor of that church, Hugh Vancel, will be there to introduce him Jan. 4 as he stands to preach at Red Hill Baptist Church, Speedwell. Vancel is currently pastor of Dogwood Heights Baptist Church, Tazewell.

Reflecting on the 1947 sermon, Duncan recalled, "I told my mother, 'God has called me to preach,' that cold winter Saturday night, and preached my first sermon the next day through the kind consent of the pastor of the church (Vancel)."

He credits the event as launching his 40-year ministry. He was ordained at age 17 by Providence Baptist Church, Cumberland Gap. At 20, he accepted his first pastorate, Horton Road Baptist Church (now Calvary Baptist Church), Jackson, Mich.

While in Michigan, he started a new congregation in Battle Creek, and was founder and first pastor of Bethel Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church, both in Adrian, Mich. During his career, he also was founder and first pastor of two Ohio churches and also served churches in Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee.

He has been pastor of the Antioch church for nine years.



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—The following missionaries are having birthdays: Roy Hawkins, general evangelist in Valencia, Dec. 25; Charlotte Parris, church/home worker in Maracalbo, Dec. 30; and Pam Strickland, church/home worker in Maracalbo, Dec. 31.

—Irmer Barrios Camejo is temporarily serving as pastor of Iglesia Bautista La Amour De Dios in Maracay until it can find a pastor.

—Church workers and transportation for those who wish to attend church are needed in San Carlos.

—The pastor and workers of the mission in San Juan hope to establish a church soon.



NEW ASSOCIATIONAL BUILDING — The new office center for the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association in Crossville was dedicated recently. Participating in the service were H. C. Couch; Houston Inman; Russell Honeycutt; Buddy Dicken; Debbie Wood; Leslie Baumgartner, director of the missions department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Roy Davis, director of missions for the association.

Mudslide survivors need encouragement

By Art Toalston

IBAGUE, Colombia (BP)— Simple letters of encouragement would mean much to survivors of the massive mudslide that buried the town of Armero, Colombia, last year.

Most of the 5,000 survivors are living in tents at the small village of Lerida, near Armero.

Colombian Baptist social worker Lidia Kelly has asked Baptists in the United States to spend a few moments during the Christmas season to write to Armero survivors, particularly to encourage those without faith to "go ahead and get to know the Lord."

In a telephone interview, Kelly said each letter "will tell them that someone who is far away is thinking about them. I think this can be a great help."

Kelly works at the Center of Hope, a Baptist ministry to several dozen mudslide survivors who have settled in Ibague, a city 70 miles from Armero. The Center of Hope will be the distribution point for letters of Christian love. Its address is Box 1235, Ibague, Tolima, Colombia.

The intensity of trauma and grief has lessened somewhat in recent months among the survivors. By official estimates, they lost 24,000 of their relatives and friends in the volcano-triggered mudslide of November 1985. Many survivors are former agricultural workers now without a means of income.

Southern Baptist missionaries and Colombian Baptists have sent two medical-dental-pastoral teams to Lerida, one in November at the one-year anniversary mark and an earlier one last summer. About 450 people received medical or dental care during each team's four-day visit.

Survivors regularly mentioned their losses last summer, recalled Southern Baptist Missionary Jeni Hester, "and as soon as they did, they started crying. (In November) the people seemed to be coping better." Even so, the teams' pastors and social workers stayed busy with tent-to-tent visits and small-group Bible studies. Hester is a nurse who coordinates the medical caravan work of the Baptist Hospital in Barranquilla.

Last summer, many survivors still did not believe so many of their family members and friends had died, added Richard Rolfe, a missionary evangelist

based in Ibague.

"They didn't see them die," Rolfe said. "Secretly they were hoping they had gotten out and were alive somewhere else." That hope was fueled by false rumors that some of the injured had been taken to other countries for medical care.

A one-year anniversary observance at the hardened-mud-and-debris site of Armero drew not just survivors but thousands of Colombians on Nov. 13. "It helped a lot of people finally bury the past," Rolfe said. "Armero has become a graveyard. There are grave markers all over. A lot of them are made of concrete and stone." He added no efforts are planned to rebuild the once-thriving agricultural town.

"Each tent (in Lerida) contains all that is left of each family unit," Rolfe said. "Sometimes the father or mother is missing. Often one or more of the children are gone. In one tent, a 60-year-old grandmother lives with her three small grandchildren. Her main concern was that she will not live long enough to care for the children, 'and then who will care for them?'"

Southern Baptist world hunger funds will help feed a number of elderly adults in Lerida as well as young orphans, he added.

Lerida's water supply and its schools cannot handle the influx of Armero survivors, and these needs may lead to ministry opportunities, the missionary said. The village also needs a Baptist pastor, "somebody stable to build the work around."

Two-year-old Alexis Acuna and 6-year-old Deison Valderrama, two children spotlighted in last year's news coverage of the tragedy, are doing well.

A photograph of Acuna, then thought to be orphaned, appeared in many newspapers across the United States last year. He was shown with his arms outstretched crying for his "Mami." By year's end, his widowed mother had been located.

The toddler is doing well, although his mother still receives treatment for a leg injury, said Southern Baptist Missionary Ellis Leagans.

Valderrama, who lost his left foot to gangrene, also was thought to be orphaned after the mudslide. But he was reunited with his widowed mother about

two weeks later. He has become one of Kelly's special concerns at the Center of Hope.

"When he reached here, he had a lot of problems," Kelly recounted, "but now I feel he is trying to do his best."

Also working with Kelly at the center are fellow Colombian Baptists Rafael and Mary Blanco. While Kelly leads a women's Bible study each Friday and handles children's work, the Blancos are

leading a blossoming mission and assisting about 15 amputees in visits to a prosthetist.

Valderrama's grandmother and an aunt and uncle were among 30 people baptized in the mission's first such service in early November. Forty to 60 people attend the mission's Sunday services, and 70 to 80 come on Thursdays. The mission, Kelly said, has the makings of "a great church."

Universalism among laity threatens SBC evangelism

ATLANTA (BP)—"Creeping universalism, either professed or assumed, will ultimately strike the death knell for missions and evangelism" in the Southern Baptist Convention, the director of evangelism for Alabama Baptists warned.

Harper Shannon, former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and former pastor in Birmingham, Ala., lamented that many Southern Baptist church members believe "somehow, someday, everyone is going to be saved."

Speaking to Southern Baptist state and national leaders in evangelism, Shannon said the problem is not that universalism is being preached from the pulpit or taught in seminary classrooms, but rather is among the laity.

"You won't hear universalism preached or taught openly from our pulpits or in our classrooms, but I dare you to slip in unawares into some of our Sunday School (Bible) classes and hear what is being said," Shannon said.

"The truth is that for the most part, our (Baptist) people don't really believe that people are lost and going to hell. They believe that a good and just and loving God could not allow such a place as hell to exist."

Shannon noted, however, the Bible does not teach universalism; it teaches eternal retribution and judgment.

"If we ever allow ourselves to believe that people can get to heaven any other way than through personal faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, then there is no place for missions and evangelism," he insisted.

Baptists "need a fresh vision of what it means to be lost without Jesus Christ and what it means to be saved," he said.

Another speaker, Avery Willis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said although he strongly supported the goal of proclaiming the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000, Baptists need to understand what an overwhelming task that really is.

He pointed out there were 4.5-billion people in the world when Bold Mission Thrust began in 1976, and there will be 6-billion to 8-billion by the year 2000. Even if "pentecost were repeated every day" and Southern Baptists baptized 3,000 new converts a day — three times the current rate — it would take 5,479 years to baptize the whole world, Willis said.

That means that if Abraham had started baptizing 3,000 people per day, and this was continued every day up to the year 2000, it would still take another thousand years to baptize every person in the world, Willis said.

"It is an overwhelming task," said Willis, a former missionary to Indonesia. "But it's not just a Southern Baptist goal.

It is God's goal. It just took Southern Baptists 2000 years to vote on it."

To achieve the goal of proclaiming the gospel to every person in the world, Baptists will have to reach 1-million new persons every day from now until the year 2000, he said.

Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, preached to the evangelism leaders on the keys to a victorious life.

Everyone in the world, Rogers said, wants three things in life: significance, sufficiency, and security. Those three things, he said, are found completely only in Jesus Christ. In order to live a victorious life, he said, Christians must recognize their righteousness, rely on God's resources, and rest in their relationship to Christ.

Howard Ramsey, director of the Home Mission Board personal evangelism department, pointed out that there are 85,000 ordained ministers and church staff members in the Southern Baptist Convention, and if each one were to lead five people to faith in Christ each year, the SBC would have 400,000 baptisms a year.

In a luncheon meeting, the Fellowship of Evangelism Directors for Baptist State Conventions elected George Worrell, director of evangelism for Missouri Baptists, president. Other officers are Monty McWhorter, associate director of evangelism for California Southern Baptists, vice-president; and Dan Agee, evangelism director for Virginia Baptists, secretary-treasurer.

State rates high in study awards

NASHVILLE — Three Tennessee associations and four Tennessee churches were among the top 25 in the Southern Baptist Convention receiving study course awards during 1985-86, according to statistics compiled in the church study course records office at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Among all associations, Shelby County Baptist Association ranked fifth with 5,526 awards; Nashville Baptist Association was ninth with 5,188; and Knox County Baptist Association was 11th with 4,871.

Among churches, Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, led Tennessee and was seventh in the top 25 SBC churches with 989.

Manley Baptist Church, Morristown, was second in Tennessee and 13th in the SBC with 780; and First Baptist Church, Nashville, was third in the state and 22nd in the SBC with 666. Audubon Park Baptist Church, Memphis, ranked 23rd in the SBC and fourth in the state with 652.



CONTINUING TO CARE — Somewhere under hardened mud and debris are the bodies named on these markers, bodies of a few of the estimated 24,000 Colombians who perished when a mudslide destroyed the town of Armero on the slope of a volcano in the Andes Mountains. Baptists began to help survivors within hours of the tragedy last year and such efforts continue today.



DEDICATION — Mr. and Mrs. Burl McMillan (left) and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Stow flank the marker noting the dedication of the new McMillan Christian Life Center in Chattanooga. McMillan, for whom the center was named, is regional director for East Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. Stow is executive director-treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc.

TBCH dedicates McMillan center

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc. dedicated the new McMillan Christian Life Center in Chattanooga during services Dec. 10.

The new 10,725 square-foot facility on the East Tennessee Baptist Children's Home campus was built at a cost of about \$457,000.

Trustees named the building in honor of Burl McMillan, regional director for the east Tennessee home. McMillan has served TBCH as a superintendent since Feb. 1, 1978.

The center includes a full regulation athletic court, a meeting room, kitchen, office, crafts room, and small game room. The facility will be used to develop therapeutic programs for the children at the east Tennessee campus. Judy Ogren, activities director, will develop the programs.

Varnell Construction Company Inc. of Chattanooga built the structure, designed by Orr/Houk and Associates Architects Inc. of Nashville.

FMB names Davis to recruit blacks

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A Suffolk, Va., pastor has been named manager of the black church relations section of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Victor L. Davis, pastor of the East End Baptist Church in Suffolk since 1980, started work Oct. 22. He replaced Willie Simmons, who left the position in August to return to Los Angeles as a bivocational pastor.

Davis is to promote foreign missions in churches, recruit black Southern Baptists for foreign mission service, serve as a liaison between the Foreign Mission Board and black Baptist conventions in the United States, and communicate with pastors and lay people of the 900 black Southern Baptist churches.

Davis wants to see more blacks in the missionary force, both short term and long term. He wants more blacks to get "hands-on experience so they can come back and share among their own community about the experience," he said.

Another of Davis' goals is to improve relationships with "not only the black Southern Baptist churches in our convention, but also other black Baptist conventions across the nation."



Davis

He sees a need to help build trust and acceptance between black Baptists and white Southern Baptists in light of racial problems of the past. "There are many who are somewhat leery of white or predominantly white organizations, especially if they have had a history that has not always been favorable to blacks."

Davis is a graduate of Norfolk (Va.) State University; Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.



ANTIOCH BREAKS GROUND — First Baptist Church in Antioch recently broke ground for additional educational facilities. Pictured above are (from left to right) Roy Gilleland Jr., Wallace J. Hutcherson, Pastor Ronald D. Lowery, and Joe Evans.

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HMB hears report on Easter offering

ATLANTA (BP) — Gifts to Southern Baptist home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are running 3.45 percent ahead of last year and are expected to reach \$28-million by year's end, executive committee members of the denomination's Home Mission Board have been told.

Robert T. Banks, acting president of the agency, told board members that \$27,605,757, or 82.41 percent of the goal, has been received and reflects an increase of \$921,575 over the same period a year ago.

In other business during its December meeting, the board promoted three staff members and elected two employees.

David Bunch, director of the board's mission service corps since 1978, was named director of the church extension division. Bunch succeeds Jack Redford who retired earlier in the year to become director of missions for the Baptist association in Cisco, Texas.

Gary Jones, director of counseling services, was elevated to director of the board's personnel division. Jones succeeds Margrette Stevenson, who was promoted to associate vice-president of the services section.

Nona Junkin, who has worked in the personnel division for the past year as part of a major study of staff salaries, has been promoted to director of employment services. She succeeds Loretta Hayes, who resigned to accompany her husband to a new pastorate in Lexington, Ky.

New employees are William Barner, missionary associate for the Greater Columbus Baptist Association in Ohio, who was employed as regional associate director for the church loans division; and William Thaddeus Hamilton, vocational evangelist in Asheville, N.C., who was named associate director in the mass evangelism department.

The board also appointed 19 missionar-

ies, eight missionary associates, and nine church planter apprentices. It approved 34 mission pastors, three mission pastor interns, and three language pastors.

Discipleship group in SBC organizes

DALLAS (BP) — A group of 50 ministers whose primary responsibility in their churches is discipleship ministries recently formed the Association of Ministers and Coordinators of Discipleship.

Gathered at a discipleship institute at First Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, those attending a workshop of discipleship coordinators formed the association to assist Southern Baptist churches in beginning or strengthening discipleship ministries.

The goals of the discipleship coordinators' organization are to develop a fellowship of ministers and coordinators of discipleship who will meet for encouragement and training; act as a liaison for churches and individuals seeking staff positions in discipleship ministry; serve as a resource for Baptist colleges, universities, and seminaries as they train students in discipleship ministry; provide research and development services for Southern Baptists in discipleship materials and methods; and offer leadership personnel for discipleship emphases sponsored by churches, associations, states, and Southern Baptist boards and agencies.

Officers are Larry Roberts, minister of evangelism/discipleship, First Baptist Church of Nashville, president; John Kramp, associate pastor for discipleship ministries, First Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, vice-president; and Edward Thiele, associate professor of discipleship, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, secretary-treasurer.



BMHCS OFFICERS — New officers of Baptist Memorial Health Care System Inc. were elected recently. The new officers, pictured with BMHCS President Joseph H. Powell (extreme left) are (left to right) Larry Sloan of Walnut Ridge, Ark., chairman; Herbert T. Conley of Corinth, Miss., secretary; Robert E. Flowers of Memphis, first vice-chairman; and William H. Preston Jr. of Booneville, Miss., second vice-chairman.

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Christmas All Year

James Haynes, pastor of South Whitwell Baptist Church, Whitwell, is sharing "Christmas All Year" with Renee, Sharlene, Tommy, Michael and Larry, residents of the Chattanooga campus. Each Sunday through the year for 12 years a collection has been taken for the children for Christmas. Early in December on a Saturday morning, members of the church have journeyed to the home to share the offerings they have taken through the year. The pastor brings a devotion, refreshments are served, and



each child receives a monetary gift. Becky Eaves, a member of Concord Baptist Church, Chattanooga, has for a number of years organized volunteers to take the children Christmas shopping. They use their money to purchase gifts for their family members and are thereby taught that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Christmas is celebrating the coming of Christ into the world and another way of celebrating Christmas all year is by constantly witnessing to the children in our care of the saving grace of Jesus. There is always rejoicing when one accepts Jesus as his personal Saviour and last year there were 59 such occasions. It is wonderful to have Christmas all year.



A Missions Mission

RAs and their counselors from the First Baptist Church of Kingston planned a mission to personally participate in missions. They came to the Chattanooga children's home and helped rake and haul away the many truck loads of

leaves which fall each year. While doing this they had a good time playing as boys will, and getting acquainted with residents of the home. No doubt, they will long remember their personal involvement in missions.

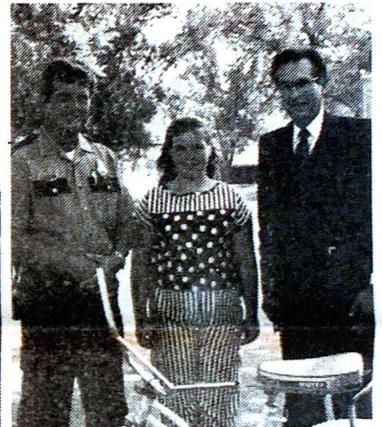
Students enjoy riverboat ride

Rainy weather did not dampen the spirits of the young people from the children's home in Memphis, their dates, and chaperones who cruised down Mississippi River on a recent evening. The Mississippi Queen riverboat provided an excellent setting for the evening of good times, good friends, and good food.

This special event for the 26 high school students began with a picture-taking session on campus. The couples were dressed in their Sunday best and the portraits will provide a lasting keepsake. The highlight of the evening was the two-hour cruise down "Ole Man River" complete with a barbecue dinner.

After the boat ride, the young people played a game designed to see how well each person knew his or her date for the evening. Chris Hall and Connie Hubbard took home the prize of a dinner for two with a correct answer on a tie-breaker.

The second annual Riverboat Ride will be remembered by the young people at the Memphis home as a special time during their stay.



Bike Rodeo

The Franklin campus recently held a bike rodeo on the campus. A Tennessee highway patrolman talked about bicycle safety and the importance of keeping bicycles in good working order. Everyone then participated in different events and were awarded points for each event.

Dr. Gerald L. Stow, executive director of TBCH stands with the overall winner of the bike rodeo, Cheryl Cox, of Horrell Cottage.

Everyone had a good time and eagerly await next year's rodeo.



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The Best Season

This has to be the very best season of the entire year. Our boys and girls are excited about Christmas. It has been a joy to be with each campus for their annual Christmas celebration. Many of you help us make it a good Christmas



Dr. Gerald Stow for the children by giving gifts. Thank you for caring for these who need our love. More and more individuals and church groups are responding to our children's needs.

It is the best season because of the celebration of our Saviour's birth. What a gift it is to have one who loved me before I was born, who loves me now in spite of my sin and walks with me daily through every trial. Hallelujah! What a Saviour! And it is because of our love for Him that we introduce our children to Him and His love. We believe this.

This month closed out another calendar year. It also is the time when many of our friends make year end gifts to our work. An investment in the life of a child can produce tremendous blessings and benefits.

Pray for all our children and their families. Pray for our staff, come to visit us, and continue to help us meet the growing need of caring for dependent children across our state.

Student of the week

Pictured is William Aycock from the Memphis children's home with his houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Reynolds, and



his social worker, Robyn Payne. William is a 12-year-old attending Shadowlawn Middle School. He was recently honored with the "Student of the Week" award from his teacher for his excellent achievement and behavior in the classroom.

William has made tremendous progress in these areas over the past few months. We at the home are very proud of William and all his good work.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for Dec. 28

Jesus the Good Shepherd

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

Basic Passage: John 10:1-42
Focal Passages: John 10:7-21, 27-28

In his sermon, "The Joy With God," based on Luke 15:16 which is part of a passage which refers to our Lord as a Shepherd, Phillips Brooks is insightful when he says, "Nothing that we have seen of Him ever gives us the idea of a great Lord standing outside of His estate and helping, however kindly, each one of His subjects by Himself, without reference to the rest When God calls in the aid of man for fellowman, or when God summons man to rejoice in fellowman's salvation, it is not a baffled workman calling for help to do work which he cannot do himself, nor is it a conqueror commanding the crowd to shout his praises. It is something wholly different from either. It is the father of a family gathering around himself the other children and telling them of the need or of the rescue of one child whose interests are theirs as well as his, in saving whom they and he are really one."



Bush

The religious leaders as recorded in the 10th chapter of John see only rules and regulations, traditions, and religious systems. They do not see people. Jesus saw people in their need then and He still sees the deep physical and spiritual longings of people today.

Do you? Do I? Do our churches? Christ not only calls His followers to seek the lost and hurting people around them but He personally works in and through them to meet the needs of the lost and hurting "sheep." Have modern churches become exclusive? Are all the "sheep" scattered around welcome to join the fold?

To those who will listen, Jesus makes it clear He is the Source Who provides deliverance, safety, preservation, salvation (John 10:9). The salvation Jesus offers is for Him to offer exclusively. There is no other source for salvation. Jesus is the door, He is the access to abundant life.

Our first home was next door to one of the best neighbors we have ever had. We were a young couple with a preschool child and they were well adjusted and energetic grandparents.

They had a beautiful basset hound. She gave birth to the cutest litter of basset puppies one could ever see. After the pups were able to walk they would walk single file behind their mother along a trail all the way around the backyard next to the fence. As they marched along, the big feet of the inexperienced puppies would periodically step on the long floppy ears and the little dogs would stumble. Between the desire of the puppies to stay with the little band and the

concern of the leader to keep everybody together, this happy little troupe managed to successfully make the rounds.

We followers of Christ are similar to those basset puppies. In our attempts to follow our leader, we stumble around. Fortunately, because of His patience and love and our sincere desire to stay on the trail, we make the rounds, we keep moving forward.

Another curious thing about the litter of puppies was that they all looked and acted so much like their mother, their leader. The same is true of followers of the Lord Jesus Christ — they resemble their Leader. If they do not resemble Christ, something is wrong.

Jesus got with those religious leaders in His incarnated days when He referred to them as thieves and wolves rather than gracious, caring, and humble caretakers of the flock. Ministers and volunteer church leaders need to constantly be on guard that they avoid making the same mistakes. We are to point people to "Jesus the Good Shepherd." Our Shepherd is so good that He died on the cross fighting our chief enemies — sin and death.

Another marvelous fact about the Great Shepherd of the sheep is that He not only considers them as a flock but He also knows them as individual sheep, important members, or as the familiar words in the childhood song say, "They are precious in His sight."

Baptists receive Belmont awards

NASHVILLE — Five Baptist students received awards during December commencement exercises at Belmont College.

Paula Marie Duke, a member of Oak Valley Baptist Church, Franklin, received the Kathleen B. Horrell Award for academic achievement. She had a 3.875 grade-point average, the highest in the 159-member graduating class.

David Walter Landrith, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, was presented the Kenneth B. Sidwell Award for "best all-around student."

Janet Evelyn Rutledge, a member of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, received the Alumni Association Award for outstanding service and loyalty to the college.

Patricia S. Graves, a member of Crieviewood Baptist Church, Nashville, received the Rutherford Award, given to the female student who through hard work and strength of character has provided for her own expenses.

Rhonda Leigh Rutherford, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, was given the Byrn Memorial Award for exemplary service and loyalty to Belmont College.

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UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for Dec. 28

Suffering Saviour

By Al Shackelford, editor
'Baptist and Reflector,' Brentwood

Basic Passage: Mark 8:27-38
Focal Passage: Mark 8:27-38

With this lesson we begin a 17-lesson study of the life and ministry of Jesus. This study is unique, in that we will use all four gospels and other New Testament passages which relate Jesus' life to the life of the believer.

The first four lessons view basically how Jesus is depicted in the four gospels. This lesson deals with Mark's gospel.

The special emphasis in Mark's account would seem to be the superhuman power of Jesus, demonstrating His deity through His miracles. Mark focuses on the three-year public ministry of Jesus — with very few references to Jesus' discourses. Specifically, Mark highlights what Jesus did, rather than what Jesus said.

Who Jesus is (Mark 8:27-29)

It is impossible to limit Mark's view of Jesus to one descriptive phrase, so this lesson focuses on an important one — the suffering Saviour.

The activities of Jesus' early Galilean ministry had raised the question, "Who is Jesus?"

In Caesarea Philippi, Jesus gathered the disciples around Him and asked two significant questions. The first was, "Whom do men say that I am?" (v.27).

The disciples' answers are revealing. They had heard people describe Jesus as John the Baptist, a great proclaimer of God's message. Doubtless, many of those who had seen Jesus had also heard John's fearless preaching.

By this time, John had been beheaded because of his commitment to proclaiming the truth.

Others considered Jesus to be Elijah (Greek: *Elias*), an honored prophet of God who had been used to call a whole nation to faith (1 Kings 18). Elijah experienced the high honor shared by only one other in the Bible (Enoch) of not facing death. Elijah was taken alive to heaven in a whirlwind.

Some saw Jesus as an embodiment of one of the Old Testament prophets. Although Mark gives little attention to Jesus' preaching, it appears that this aspect of Jesus' ministry must have overwhelmed His listeners.

Jesus next asked for a personal declaration, "Whom say ye that I am?" (v.29). Peter, probably speaking for the whole group, declared simply, "Thou art the Christ."

What Jesus was to do (Mark 8:30-33)

Even though the disciples had grasped Who Jesus was, they did not fully understand what the Christ was to be and to do. Because of this wide misinterpretation of the Messiah's mission, Jesus commanded the disciples not to tell others the truth they had discovered (v.30).

At this point, Jesus began to teach the twelve what being the Messiah means in God's purpose. The Messiah was not to be a military or political leader to restore Israel to its former glory. He was to suffer, to be rejected, and to be killed — but He was to rise from the grave (v.31).

From later accounts in the gospels, it is obvious that the disciples were "slow learners" of Jesus' purpose.

Unable to grasp Jesus' mission, Peter

took Jesus aside and rebuked His theology (v.32). "God forbid, Lord. This shall never happen to You" (Matthew 16:22 RSV).

What Jesus wants (Mark 8:34-38)

Because Jesus' response to Peter's attitude was so important, Jesus called others to hear what He was to say to the disciples.

(1) To follow Jesus, one must have the same commitment to God's will that Jesus had. It requires denial of one's position, ambitions, and reputation — and a willingness to suffer the humiliation of a cross (v.34).

(2) The greatest personal possession is one's soul, and the most important goal must be to redeem that soul. The soul is more valuable than physical life and even the whole world (v.35-37). In this passage, we must not confuse "life" and "soul," since the same Greek word is used for both.

(3) Jesus' glory and judgment are coming; therefore we must never be ashamed of Jesus (v.38). "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

Next week's lesson

Since the Baptist and Reflector is not published next week, I will comment that the gospel attributed to Matthew gives special emphasis to Jesus as the Messiah. Matthew quotes many Old Testament prophecies which are fulfilled by Jesus.

The Jan. 4 lesson, "Teacher of righteousness," will center on the magnificent teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, to help us understand what being a Christian must mean to a believer.

SBC Annuity Board refunds \$3-million

DALLAS(BP) — Southern Baptists covered by their Annuity Board's church insurance program received an early Christmas present this year. Their December medical premium was free.

The Annuity Board refunded nearly \$3-million to 21,989 ministers and church employees or churches in November, according to statistics released by the board.

The free premium could mean an extra \$30 for an individual, or up to \$250 for a family of three or more.

The rebate was an incentive in last year's "open enrollment" campaign to get new people enrolled in the medical plan and reward current participants who were covered since January 1986. The campaign opened medical coverage during October and November 1985 to all eligible ministers and church employees who had been denied participation in any medical plan.

About 6,000 people enrolled in the Southern Baptist medical plan, a board spokesperson said.

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for Dec. 28

Salvation for all

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

Basic Passage: Luke 2:21-52
Focal Passages: Luke 2:22, 24-35

The study for this quarter began with God creating the world and its original inhabitants. It closes with an affirmation that, though people have lost their way because of sin, He loves them and has provided for their salvation. We shall continue, for the first four months of 1987, to study the Redeemer's life and work as recorded by Luke.



Wood

Duties of new parents (2:22-24)

Jewish law required three things after a male child's birth.

First, he must be circumcised.

Second, since the Lord, in a unique way, claims every first born as His own, he must be redeemed by the parents through bringing a gift to the Temple. This custom dated back to the exodus from Egypt and was, in a sense, a dedication of the child.

Third, the mother must be purified from her uncleanness because of child-bearing. This also required an offering to the priest. The ordinary gift was a lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or turtle dove for a sin offering. Poor people, however, could bring two turtle doves or two pigeons. Mary and Joseph brought the latter, indicating their meager economic state.

A patient waiter (2:25-32)

God has a special blessing for those who continue to trust Him having faith

He will do as He promises.

Simeon refused to "give up on God" but kept alive in his own life, and in those to whom he ministered, the messianic hope of Israel. God had revealed to him that he would live to see His Chosen One appear in history.

Though he was probably not one of the official Temple staff, God led him to be present when Mary and Joseph arrived with their baby. Led by the Spirit of God, he recognized Jesus as being the promised Messiah.

In contrast to the popular idea of the coming Messiah, Simeon perceived the spiritual nature of the messianic hope. Most people connected His appearance

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden

TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



I hope and pray you are having a wonderful Christmas season.

To some of our Tennessee Baptist family Christmas means the joy of going home. To others it means the privilege of loved ones coming home. For others, who are alone, Christmas is a time of memories and blessings of days gone by.

I have thought about what Christmas might have meant to God. It meant giving up His Son to earth for a period of some 33 years. I know in our own family the emotions we have experienced when our children have left home for schools and occupations. While we knew it was the thing to do, we also knew it would never be the same again. With mixed emotions, we have watched as our children left home. I am sure that our Father and our Christ talked many times about Christ coming to earth. Still, it must have been traumatic when Christ left all the glory of heaven to come to earth.

To Christ Himself Christmas meant self-emptying. Paul said, "Let this mind be in ye which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). Our Lord, Who had a face to face relationship with God, gave it all up to become a baby and then to become the Christ of Galilee and to live 33 years on this earth and then to die on Calvary only to be resurrected.

Christmas means to us that Christ has become our Lord, our Saviour, and our constant source of strength. I read just the other day where a young lady who had polio was baptized. When she came up out of the water, she said, "The next time I am buried, I will rise walking." Christ makes a difference.

As we come to these last days of 1986 and face 1987, let me suggest some things that we can keep on giving. We can keep on giving God first place - first place in our lives, the first part of each day, the first day of each week, the first fruits of our income.

We can keep on giving to others. We can give them our love, our testimony, our attention. We can give to them our personal presence and our encouragement.

As God through Christ keeps on giving to us, we can keep on giving to Him as we minister to His people.

with a revolt against Roman authority and the bringing of national independence to Israel. Simeon saw more than deliverance for the nation. He perceived that the spiritual message and blessings of the messianic age, which began with Jesus, would spill over into the Gentile world.

This was a revolutionary thought for most people of that day, even though the prophets had declared it many times. How marvelous that at this early moment in Jesus' life, God provided a clear and forceful word that the salvation Jesus brought was to be for all people.

The cross foreshadowed (2:33-35)

Though Mary was chosen of God to be the Saviour's mother, she was neither a prophet nor a theologian. The words of Simeon must have baffled and perhaps even shocked her. He perceived the redemptive mission of Christ, but he also understood the controversial nature of His coming ministry.

The "falling and rising" of many in Israel would be based on their acceptance or rejection of the Saviour. The message of Christ's cross offended many people, especially those Jews who wanted a national messiah who would

free them from Rome rather than a spiritual deliverer from sin.

The suffering of Christ brought agony to His mother at many stages during His ministry. His constant refusal to conform to Jewish expectations of what religion was "all about" must have given Mary many anxious moments. The final blow was, of course, when He was crucified like a common criminal.

With keen insight, guided by God's Spirit, Simeon anticipated the results of Jesus' ministry. He foresaw the hostility He would arouse as He sought to move the people from a legalistic concept of serving God to a spiritual fellowship based on faith and love.

Times have not changed. People still resent, often with physical violence, a religious approach that majors on kindness and unselfishness.

The Christmas story is not complete until we see that the cradle and the cross are inseparably linked in God's redemptive program.

As we face a new year with Christ, suffering will be a part of our experiences. Yet, as God made His Son complete through His sufferings, we, too, can be assured that if we suffer with Him, we shall also be glorified with Him.



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Rick Nelson accepts Knoxville pastorate

Trinity Baptist Church in Knoxville has called Rick Nelson as pastor.

A native of Oak Ridge, he comes to the church from Harriman, where he has been serving as pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church.

Nelson is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Previous church staff positions include serving as associate pastor and pastor of First Baptist Church, Peaster, Texas. He also served as minister of youth at Washington Pike Baptist Church in Knoxville, and First Baptist Church, Oliver Springs.

Markham sets retirement

Wayne O. Markham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lake City, for the past seven years, announces his retirement effective Dec. 28.

In the 40 years that he has been in the ministry, Markham has served as pastor in Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and South Dakota.

Denominational service includes serving as president of the state pastors' conference in South Dakota, a member of the state administrative committee, and vice-chairman of the state executive board. On the associational level, he has been moderator and Sunday School director.

While making his home in Crossville, he will be available for supply, interim, and evangelistic ministry.

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Youth concerns turn two jobs into calling

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE (BP) — As both a consultant and a minister to youth, Richard Ross spends a lot of time trying to help Southern Baptist churches build successful, ongoing youth organizations.

Ross, youth ministry consultant in the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, also serves as minister to youth at Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Old Hickory, a suburb of Nashville.

About a year and a half ago, Ross was called as minister to youth at the church where he had been a member for almost a year. Even though he estimates he spends 15 to 25 hours per week, he says it is worth it, because youth ministry is a calling for him.

He came to the Sunday School Board from Royal Haven Baptist Church in Dallas where he was youth minister for 12 years. After a year as a consultant, he says, he just could not resist the possibility of working again with youth on a weekly basis. In September, the number of youth in the program at Tulip Grove reached 100, which is almost double the number involved when he became minister to youth.

During the average week, he participates in a weekly workers meeting, visitation, counsels with youth, and talks with parents of youth.

Working with parents of youth is an area of concentration that has only recently become a major focus of youth ministry.

"The most significant way to impact the life of teen-agers is to affect the life in that teen-ager's home," he explains. "Sometimes you can make a greater difference in the life of a teen-ager by work-



RELATING TO YOUTH — Tall tales were the order of the evening during an after-church fellowship with youth from Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and their youth director, Richard Ross of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department.

ing through significant adults in his life than if you spend time working directly with the teen-ager. Consequently, I try to give one-third of my time ministering to parents of youth, one-third ministering to the adult leaders who work with youth, and one-third working with the youth themselves.

"I try to channel all youth activities through the organizations in the church, rather than organizing everything around the minister of youth. When you involve youth and adult leaders through the organization, they can support it

because they had a part in planning it."

A primary reason the ministry with parents presently is being emphasized is because of several ministers of youth who have experienced success by planning a well-balanced youth program that includes parents of youth, he notes.

Sometimes Ross finds that a scheduled event or commitment related to the Sunday School Board must take precedence over something he would like to participate in at Tulip Grove, but he is convinced the ministry at the church will continue uninterrupted because of the

team approach in the youth ministry there.

"I know that if I'm out for a week, a quality ministry can continue through the trained leaders at the church," he says.

Ross notes he is called to be a youth minister and is dedicated to training ministers to plan better programs for youth in local Southern Baptist churches.

In both of his responsibilities, his foremost goal is to lead young people to make a personal commitment in their lives to Christ.

"As a youth minister, another of my goals is to try to establish a personal relationship with teen-agers which is characterized by unconditional love and affirmation," he says. "I also try to lead other adults to build that same kind of relationship with teen-agers."

Ross, who is author or contributor to three books related to youth ministry, says at 36 years old he feels closer to youth than he did at 25 because of close relationships developed through love and affirmation.

"Age does not close doors to deeply meaningful relationships with teen-agers," he insists.

"I serve as a minister of youth because I am called to do it," he adds. "However, as a sidelight of my direct involvement with youth in a church, it has turned out to be an advantage in my role at the Sunday School Board.

"Serving as a minister of youth keeps me fresh in my understanding of the same issues faced daily by teen-agers and youth ministers. Ministers of youth I have met this past year have responded very positively to one who shares and understands their struggles."

Tennessean evaluates trend toward discipleship in SBC

By Terry Barone

DALLAS (BP) — Discipleship is the answer to Southern Baptists' hunger for spiritual growth, according to Larry Roberts, minister of evangelism/discipleship at First Baptist Church of Nashville.

Roberts is a rare breed, one of a small number of full-time ministers of discipleship in Southern Baptist churches. But, his breed is growing because of the trend toward discipleship in the denomination.

Roberts was one of 50 "discipleship coordinators" who recently attended the Institute of Christian Discipleship at First Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, to discuss how to improve discipleship ministries in their churches.

The discipleship emphasis is growing "out of a grassroots level of frustration to get on with what needs to be done," Roberts said, noting people are "dissatisfied with their own level of spiritual growth and want to get into something that will help them with their problems and meet needs."

Programs alone will no longer get the job done, he insisted: "A process must occur. Something must happen in people's lives so they will go out and share the gospel with others."

Southern Baptist laypersons are no longer willing "to sit back and rely on someone else to do the work. Laypersons are realizing they must help do it," Roberts said.

John Kramp, associate pastor for discipleship ministries at First Church of Garland, Texas, added he believes the trend in discipleship is due to "God doing something supernatural in awakening

which is evidenced by spiritual hunger."

Roberts agreed and said the stirrings not only are being experienced by Christians in the United States but by Christians throughout the world in countries such as Japan, Korea, and nations in Africa. "In our world with barriers such as culture, language, and denomina-

tions, God is speaking and beginning His movement," he noted.

Roberts said churches must begin re-assessing where they are and where they are headed. "Churches will have to take a new look at who is to do ministry and the role of the pastor, other staff members, and the congregation," he said.

Interpretations

The True Temple

Herschel H. Hobbs

"Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19).

When word reached "the Jews" (Jewish religious leaders) about Jesus' cleansing of the Temple, they challenged His authority to do so (John 2:18). Apart from themselves they held that only a prophet, the Messiah, or God Himself had such authority. They did not recognize Jesus as a prophet (John 7:52), certainly not the Messiah or God. So they demanded a "sign" (miracle) from Him to prove His authority.

Jesus' sign was that if they would destroy "this Temple" He would raise it in three days. "Temple" renders *naos*, sometimes used of the entire Temple area (*hieros*) but more specifically of the Holy of Holies where God was said to dwell in mercy with His people. Jesus intended the latter meaning; the Jews thought of the former.

Actually the Temple area had been 46 years in building. The entire area was

not finished until A.D. 64, six years before it was destroyed by the Romans. So to the Jews, Jesus' claim was preposterous. Even Jesus' disciples did not understand Jesus' meaning at the time (v.22).

But Jesus spoke of the "Temple of His body" (v.21). The Jews did destroy that Temple. Jesus did rise from the dead in three days. It was only then that the disciples recalled Jesus' words. Jesus gave the Sanhedrin (Jews) the "sign" they demanded. But they sought to deny it through a lie (Matthew 28:12-15).

If one wills not to believe, even God's greatest "sign" will not convince him.

This statement of Jesus was a definite claim to deity, even at this early stage in His ministry. For 33 years, God dwelt among men in a Temple of flesh and blood — and He did so in order to extend His greatest offer of mercy to all people. Truly, Jesus was the true Temple of God, for "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

With this movement toward discipleship, Roberts said the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board "has been responsive to the groundswell and is moving rapidly to meet these needs."

MasterLife was one of the board's early discipleship tools. More than 150,000 people worldwide have been certified to lead MasterLife. It has been translated into 42 languages and has been presented in all 50 states and in more than 100 foreign nations.

With the church members wanting discipleship tools and with the Sunday School Board responding to those needs, Roberts said the church will have to respond with people who can interpret and lead congregations in this direction.

"Churches are going to have to do something," Roberts insisted. "Sometimes it will be a person in a volunteer position, or the church will add a staff person." He also suggested that it may be the pastor who will shift his emphasis from one of "physical growth" to one of "spiritual growth."

Russellville congregation ordains White as pastor

Billy Frank White accepted the call of Robertson Creek Baptist Church in Whitesburg to serve as pastor. He began his first pastorate Oct. 13.

A native of Russellville, White was ordained in a service at Rocky Point Baptist Church on Oct. 26. The pastor of the Russellville church is Nathan Livingston.