

Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 153/No. 10/March 11, 1987

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Conference draws youth to Jesus Christ

By Al Shackleford

It does not matter if one is an All-American football player, Miss Tennessee, or the stepbrother of a celebrity, a person must accept Jesus Christ as Saviour. That was the theme of last week-end's Youth Evangelism Conference.

More than 30,000 Baptist young people gathered March 6-7 in Memorial Gymnasium at Vanderbilt for the 18th annual conference.

The youth from Tennessee and surrounding states responded enthusiastically to the messages and music, which emphasized personal salvation, purity of life, and sharing one's faith.

Rick Stanley of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and a stepbrother of the late Elvis Presley, began the conference's closing message by stating, "I am not a celebrity; I am a Christian."

Stanley was 6 years old when his mother married Vernon Presley and they moved into Graceland in Memphis. Elvis, who was 25 at the time, was described by Stanley as the most generous and compassionate person he has ever known.

But this lifestyle led Stanley into five years of heroin addiction as a teen-ager. "I am proof there is a God in heaven," Stanley said. Noting pressures to be socially accepted, Stanley asked, "How many of you are killing yourselves to make yourself accepted to your friends?"

Upon the urging of a young lady — who later became his wife — Stanley attended a church service in Fort Walton Beach. There he became a Christian and "came off all the drugs and everything."

Feeling God's leadership into the ministry, Stanley went back to high school, attended Criswell Bible College in Dallas, Texas, and last May graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

"I don't care what you listen to, what you wear, or where you live," Stanley said, "but I want you to answer this question: Are you committed to Jesus?"

Stanley concluded, "If your answer is 'Yes,' you can go out those doors with these words controlling your life, 'To God be the glory.'"

At the Friday duplicate session, Ike Reighard reminded the conference, "We are here because we love Jesus more than anything else in the world."

The pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., said, "God has a plan for your life, but the devil will fight you."

Using Samson's life as an illustration, Reighard said that Samson's mistakes were dates outside his faith, the wrong kind of friends, and disobedience to parents.

"I am one of those old-fashioned preachers who believes that Christians should date only Christians," he exclaimed. "Missionary dating" does not work.

Reighard urged the youth not to smoke and not to drink alcoholic beverages.



OVERFLOW CROWD — Atlanta, Ga., contemporary Christian quartet, NewSong, sang to more than 15,000 youth at each session in the Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville during the annual Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference.

More than 30,000 youth attended the meeting as youth from west and middle Tennessee alternated with youth from east Tennessee to fill the gym during each of the four sessions held there. Photo by Charlie Warren.

"They should change the warning on cigarette packages to read, 'Hey, stupid. This stuff will kill you.'" He added that "the only thing drunks ever do is sit around and throw up."

"You don't go to heaven because you play 'church,' but because you experience Jesus in your heart and life," Reighard said.

He urged the young people to declare to themselves, "I am going to be somebody, because God is in my life."

Karen Compton, Miss Tennessee USA 1986, shared her testimony of how she learned that Jesus was her friend, as well as her Saviour.

Although she became a Christian at age 9, "I had put Christ on the shelf during my high school days." She said she had a low self-esteem because she was the "tallest, skinniest girl with the biggest feet" in her class.

Through the influence of a church youth group, "I learned that God loves

me regardless" and she recommitted her life to God.

Compton is a nurse and youth director at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, and because of winning the Miss Tennessee USA Pageant, "God has

opened opportunities for me to share His good news."

She told the youth, "Regardless of how many mistakes you have made, establish your number one priority as putting (Continued on page 3)

Pari-mutuel gambling campaign moves along on 'fast track'

The campaign to bring pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing to Tennessee is moving along on a "fast track" in the General Assembly, according to political observers.

Similar bills which would legalize gambling on horse races were introduced last month in both houses of the legislature; HB 1068 in the House of Representatives and SB 1077 in the Senate.

The bills would create a Tennessee

Racing Commission and would permit one major pari-mutuel gambling racetrack in each of Tennessee's Grand Divisions, and minor tracks for pari-mutuel gambling horse races at each county fair. Such facilities must be approved by voters in a public referendum.

On Tuesday of last week, the House State and Local Government Committee voted 9-6 to approve the racetrack gambling bill. At press time on March 9, the bill was in the hands of the Calendar Committee, which will place it on the House agenda for voting. This could come during the latter part of this week.

Meanwhile, the Senate version is on the March 11 agenda of the Senate's Government Operations Committee. However, observers note that this committee is mainly to review the bill's relationship to the operation of the state government, so that the key confrontation will come in the Senate's State and

(Continued on page 2)

Search committee requests input

The committee assigned the responsibility of seeking a new editor for the Baptist and Reflector met March 6 and approved the following request:

"The Baptist and Reflector Editor Search Committee requests the prayers and input of any interested Tennessee Baptist. Please send personal statements and resumes to chairman Calvin Metcalf, 5364 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37918, or any of the following members of the committee: Perry Michel, David Drumel, James Hutson, and Ray Fowler."

Jury finds Liberian 'guilty' of murdering missionary

SANNIQUELLE, Liberia — A 15-member jury convicted Liberian Benjamin M. Morris on March 6 of murdering Southern Baptist Missionary Libby Senter and her 10-year-old daughter, Rachel.

The jury took about 30 minutes to return a verdict in the Nimba County Courthouse after hearing 5 days of testimony from nine prosecution witnesses and from Morris. Circuit Court Judge Timothy Swope said he would pronounce a sentence sometime during the next week.

Morris, 32, was arrested Nov. 27 near the Liberian-Ivory Coast border, one day after he knifed Mrs. Senter, 47, and her daughter. He later gave oral and written confession that the murder occurred after Mrs. Senter intervened in her Yekepa, Liberia, home to prevent him from molesting Rachel. Mrs. Senter was from Shelby, N.C.

Southern Baptist missionaries, including the Senter family, had befriended Morris, a Liberian Baptist seminary graduate. The missionaries knew that Morris was suspected of committing sex crimes in his past, but they dismissed the accusations after coming to know him, according to Bradley Brown, chairman

for the group of 67 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to work in Liberia.

Brown, who attended the first two days of the trial, said the trial "had engendered widespread interest." Some of that interest grew out of the much-publicized forgiveness which husband and father George Senter expressed to Morris just before his initial confession.

Those in attendance at the trial included Antoinette Marwith, U.S. consul from the embassy in Monrovia.

In his own defense, Morris admitted in court to the murders but, departing from his earlier testimony, he said Senter hired him to commit them. "Obviously, the judge and the jury did not believe this, because the jury came back in less than a half-hour with a unanimous guilty verdict," said John Mills, who directs SBC mission work in western Africa. Under Liberian law, Morris could be hanged for the killings.

Senter, who grew up in Virginia and worked in Indiana before his appointment as a missionary, is assigned as a field evangelist and has been working to start and strengthen churches in about 20 villages in Nimba County. Mrs. Senter actively participated in her husband's work.

Missionary escapes injury during robbery in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP) — Southern Baptist Missionary Sharon Pumpelly narrowly escaped a bullet wound in mid-February when she and her husband, Larry, were robbed inside their home.

The Pumpellys were saying a late-evening goodbye to visiting neighbors at the security gate to the fence around their home when five robbers approached and forced them back inside the house. The robbers took Pumpelly's watch and all of the electronic equipment in the house.

The one shot fired during the robbery ricocheted off the floor and whizzed by Mrs. Pumpelly, smashing the sliding glass door directly behind her, according to John Faulkner, the Foreign Mission Board's associate director for mission work in eastern Africa.

The next night, the Pumpellys slept in their hallway during a gun battle behind their house. They believe police set up a trap to catch the robbers but ran into a skirmish with a group rebellious to government forces, Faulkner said. To their knowledge, no suspect was apprehended.

Pumpelly lost a new van, his briefcase, and a watch in front of their home in January when three robbers approached him with guns. Pumpelly also has been

involved in a third robbery in Uganda since he and his family arrived there more than four years ago.

Pumpelly, a student worker in Kampala, is from Newark, Ohio. His wife is from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. They have two children.

Tornado kills Baptist boy

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — At least one Baptist died and probably more than 25 Baptists were injured when a tornado swept through rural Jones County, Miss., Feb. 28, reported Maurice Flowers, director of missions for Jones Baptist Association.

The one known Baptist death was a 14-year-old boy, Dale Smith, a member of Highland Baptist Church. The boy had gone to spend the night with a friend who lived in a mobile home in the Glade Community. When the storm hit, the boys left the mobile home and went to a car parked outside. The car was thrown into a tree, and the Smith boy was killed.

Two Baptist churches, Glade and Lawn Haven, both about six miles from Laurel, were damaged. The parsonage at Bethlehem Baptist Church was destroyed, and the homes of the pastors of the other two churches also were damaged.

The two church buildings are repairable, Flowers said.

At least seven people died in the storm, and more than 100 people were injured. Since Baptists comprise 25 percent of the local population, Flowers estimated about 25 of the injured were probably Baptists.

Before the storm, the two damaged churches both had four pillars holding up the roofs, Flowers said. After the storm, each church had one pillar remaining. The roofs were propped up, however, and remaining in place, he said.

The damaged churches probably will



STUDY BREAK — The rockers take a break during the night to listen to Steve Steinmann, RA director, tell a mission story.

RAs at Woodmont 'rock' to raise \$3,000 offering

By Connie Davis

Though the Royal Ambassadors from a Nashville church raised more than half of the \$5,000 state goal for the annual RA Congress offering, their counselors do not plan for the group to receive special recognition.

The 17 RAs in grades 1-12 raised \$3,058.73 during a 12-hour rock-a-thon at Woodmont Baptist Church. They rocked all night in rocking chairs, though they had breaks for snacks, missions stories, prayers, and stretching their legs.

Their work and fun was a success, but the counselors and RAs do not want to discourage RAs in small churches who cannot raise as much money as they can.

The boys should learn that giving is part of missions, according to Steve Steinmann, RA director.

The counselors emphasized the purpose of the event, Steinmann explained.

The offering will be taken during the 1987 RA Congress held April 17-18 at Bayside Baptist Church in Harrison near Chattanooga. The money will help purchase a trailer for state RA equipment and support Brotherhood work in Venezuela.

The RA counselors, though, did not hesitate to praise the boys' work. They prayed several months before setting their goal. The RAs asked members of the 2,600-member church, friends, neighbors, and even school teachers for pledges. Some of the RAs spent a lot of time on the phone calling church members to request pledges. Even first graders rocked all night, the counselors added.

Brad Welch, who is in the 11th grade and raised the largest amount — \$1,148, added that he followed fund-raising techniques he learned for school projects.

An additional bonus for the participating RAs was an award auction. The RAs earned points based on the amount of money they raised. They used their points to bid on awards that businesses donated. The counselors discovered that businesses would donate promotional items such as meals at restaurants and sports equipment.

Steinmann also pointed out that he limits the fund-raising activities of the RA program to two activities a year to keep the program balanced. In addition to the RA Congress offering activity, the RAs raise money for a project supporting the missionary currently living in the church's missionary house.



SLEEPY EYES — Jonathan Morrell, an RA in the first grade, got sleepy but was still rocking when morning arrived.

Pari-mutuel . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Local Government Committee.

"It looks like they might have enough votes to pass it in the House of Representatives," said Bill Bates, public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "We need for people to pray and also to contact their representatives before it comes to a vote."

Attempts in other years to legalize gambling on races have failed, although it was approved by the House of Representatives and defeated by the Senate in 1982, and it was approved by the Senate and defeated by the House in 1985.



PREACHING TO THOUSANDS — Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., warned the youth about the evils and danger of smoking, drinking, and drugs.



CHRISTIAN MUSIC — NewSong, a Christian quartet from Atlanta, Ga., led in music worship during all four sessions of the Youth Evangelism Conference.



IN HIS WILL — Rick Stanley, stepbrother of the late Elvis Presley, noted that he was not in Presley's will, but he is in God's will.



WINNING SPEECH — Cindy Dodd, winner of the 1986 TBC Youth Speakers' Tournament, delivered her message to youth at the Youth Evangelism Conference.

Youth conference...

(Continued from page 1)
 God in control of your life."

Brent Collins of Morristown, a 1985 All-American high school football player, testified that he was lucky that "the Lord let me live until I found Jesus." He is a member of Manley Baptist Church.

He told the youth that several years ago he had come to these conferences, but at that time he did not know Jesus Christ as Saviour. "I grew up in a Christian home, went to church, and even read the Bible," he said. "I put up a fake image."

Admitting that athletics was his "god" in high school, Collins said that God changed that when "He made me realize that He gave me my body and my strength, and my purpose must be to use that body to glorify Him."

A freshman at the University of Georgia, Collins declared, "I am a sinner just like you. I am not ashamed to stand up for Jesus Christ."

Cindy Dodd, a freshman at Union University, Jackson, from First Baptist Church, Huntingdon, told the youth, "I have a challenge that you examine your life and become a new person in Jesus Christ."

The winner of the Tennessee youth speakers' tournament last July, Dodd shared her winning speech which asked, "Will the rest of your life be lived in darkness, or will your life be touched by the Master's hand?"

Leading in prayer and Scripture reading during the conference were John Herron, a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, and Tennessee state Royal Ambassador president; Virginia Ping, a member of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, who serves on the state Acteen Advisory Panel; and Dae Keun Lee, a member of the Korean congregation of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville.

Special music for the two-day conference was provided by the All-State Youth Choir, NewSong of Atlanta, Ga., and the Belmont Reasons from Belmont College, Nashville.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the All-State Youth Choir has been organized for the Youth Evangelism Conference. Directed by Richard Ham, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Richmond, Ky., this year's choir had 190 members from 55 Tennessee churches.

In addition to the sessions at the Vanderbilt University gymnasium, the young people also attended personal witnessing conferences on Saturday at 11 different locations in the Nashville area.

The annual Youth Evangelism Conference, which is said to be the largest attended regularly scheduled Baptist event in the nation, is sponsored by the evangelism department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Government denies Lebanon appeals

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. government again has turned down renewed appeals that Southern Baptist missionaries be allowed to keep working in Lebanon.

"To allow the people to stay over there on valid passports would not really be consistent with our responsibilities to safeguard the safety and lives of U.S. citizens," State Department official William Wharton said March 3. Wharton is the department's director of citizen appeals.

March 6 was the final deadline for departure of American citizens from Lebanon, Wharton said. The U.S. ban on travel and residence there will remain in effect for one year, after which it will be reviewed and either lifted or renewed. "We're always hopeful that we might be able" to lift the ban, he said, "but I have no information as to when that might occur."

Most Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon already had departed for Cyprus in late February and early March. The few who stayed behind finally left March 5, the day before the government's deadline.

Wharton reported the State Department had received "quite a few" appeals from American humanitarian and religious workers in Lebanon for exemption from the U.S.

government's Jan. 28 order that all Americans leave the embattled country. All such appeals have been turned down, he said.

Wharton said the government recognized the valuable work done by American missionaries in Lebanon but repeated the State Department's refusal to risk more kidnappings or deaths of U.S. citizens in Beirut.

In applying for exemption, Southern Baptist missionaries insisted most of their work was carried out in the relative safety of Christian East Beirut and asked for the right to make their own decisions about personal risk in service to God and the Lebanese people.

Their applications were turned down Feb. 12. R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, then appealed directly to President Ronald Reagan, asking that a skeleton force of 13 missionaries be allowed to remain. The White House forwarded the appeal to the State Department.

In a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz, U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina also asked for reconsideration of the refusal to exempt Southern Baptist missionaries from the evacuation order.

Letters to the Editor

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

Mixed feelings

Dear editor:

As a colleague of N. Larry Baker, I have mixed feelings over his recent election as executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

I regret that Midwestern seminary is losing his service as dean and teacher. He has ably taught courses in Christian ethics and worship leadership. For several years he has been dean, in which position he has demonstrated superior qualities in planning, directing, and supervising in an academic community. He has always taken a team approach. He thoughtfully and courteously relates to those with whom he works. He has been a good colleague and friend.

I rejoice, however, that Southern Baptists will have the benefit of his professional knowledge, administrative and other skills, and personal commitment. He will serve Southern Baptists and the

kingdom of God well as he leads the Christian Life Commission in addressing social problems and helps Southern Baptists to apply Christian principles to them.

I respect his competence, admire his personal qualities, and value his friendship — and commend him to all Southern Baptists as one worthy of confidence.

Hugh Wamble
5001 North Oak Street Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64118

Women in the pulpit?

Dear editor:

Regarding Biblical perspective on women, let the Holy Bible, and not man place this issue to rest once and for all!

I personally along with Scripture, support Brother Rowland's opinion (Baptist and Reflector Feb. 11).

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the Law" (1 Corinthians 14:34).

Am I against women in churches? NO! I believe all of us ought not only read the Bible but most importantly of all, study the Word of God, and then be a doer of His Word! "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all

thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

By studying the Word of God we will KNOW what is to be done and by whom, rather than talking about what we would LIKE to do.

It's high time we all get ourselves into studying and then doing God's Word. Enough said!

John Gubicza
423 Airways Apt. #302
Jackson, TN 38301

TBC plans events for small churches

Three training events called "Small Church Whistle Stops" and a two-day seminar will provide training for Sunday School workers and leaders from churches of 200 members or less.

The "Small Church Whistle Stops" will be March 30 at Fairview Baptist Church in Watauga, March 31 at Henard's Chapel Baptist Church in Rogersville, and April 2 at East Wilsonville Baptist Church in Newport. Each will be held from 7-9 p.m.

The leaders include David Apple, adult consultant in the Sunday School department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Charlene Talent, special youth worker for the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Liz Lee, program associate, children's work for the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Belvin Cox, preschool consultant in the BSSB Sunday School department.

The Small Church Sunday School Seminar will be April 3-4 at Camp Carson in Newport. Conferences will be available for all age groups.

The registration cost is \$15. For reservations, send \$5 to TBC, Sunday School department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Tennessee ranks high in media library awards

Tennessee ranked first in the Southern Baptist Convention for the number of church media libraries that earned 1985-86 achievement guide awards. The state also ranked second for the number of church study course media library awards earned by individuals in 1985-86.

The awards are presented through the church media library department and the church study course department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Eleanor Yarborough of the Tennessee Baptist Convention media ministries department reported that 49 churches in the state earned achievement guide awards for their church media libraries.

She also noted that Tennesseans earned 525 church study course media library awards, with Hamilton County Baptist Association earning the most awards in the SBC — 76.

The top five churches in the number of church study course awards earned are: Bethlehem Baptist Church in Crossville with 26, Concord Baptist Church in Chattanooga with 23, Central Baptist Church in Alcoa with 22, Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville with 14, and First Baptist Church in Kingston and Island Creek Baptist Church in Madisonville, both with 12 to tie for fifth place.

Cicero's comment



By the editor

It is traditional for a writer to place the designation "-30-" at the end of an article — to let the typesetter know that "this is the end."

There are various theories about how the -30- came into usage. The most plausible is that in the old days newspaper columns measured 30 inches long and most articles were written to fill a column — so the -30- signified that this would fill the entire column.

I have no idea how many times during my 21 years as a state paper editor in Indiana and Tennessee, I have typed or scribbled my -30-. And there were those other articles for The Gold and Black at Carrollton (Ga.) High School; for The Mercer Cluster at Mercer University; for The Red & Black at the University of Georgia; for The Fort Worth Star-Telegram; for The Beam at the SBC Radio-TV Commission; and for the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Now, I must write my last -30- for the Baptist and Reflector.

Sometimes a writer comes to the end of an article with a feeling of fulfillment. Other times, he faces such questions as, "Did I fully cover the subject?" or "Did I present the material truthfully and fairly?" or "Did I let the pressures of deadlines keep me from doing my best?"

As I count, this is my 529th issue as editor of the Baptist and Reflector.

I estimate that these 529 issues have contained about 15-million words!

I would not pretend that all of those words were appropriate or even needed. Writers know the frustration of re-reading something penned years before — wishing that it had been written differently. But, once it is published, it is there for all to see — and remember!

When those words have been offensive, I ask your forgiveness; when constructive, I rejoice.

Before I write my final -30-, let me offer a few "thank yous."

Thank you to the members of the Executive Board who elected me in September 1976 and have supported me during the past 10 years.

Thank you to two executive secretaries — Ralph Norton and Tom Madden — who have not only been encouragers, but also personal friends.

Thank you to Curley Printing Co. and Franklin Web Printing Co. who have worked with me to publish an attractive, timely newspaper.

Thank you to the United States Postal Service who delivers the Baptist and Reflector to you each week.

Thank you to those 900 churches and pastors who trust us enough to share the paper with their members.

Thank you to a devoted staff, who never watches the clock or those Monday holidays in their commitment to publish the paper.

But, most of all, thank you to you the readers for your support — and your comments, compliments, and criticism.

To all of you, I express my deep love and appreciation for all that you mean to the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the cause of Christ.

-30-

Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

- Missionary Dee Nelson has a birthday March 14. She is currently in language school in Costa Rica, preparing for service in Venezuela.
- Missionary Patsy Davis celebrates her birthday March 15. She is a women's worker in Venezuela, currently on furlough in North Carolina.
- A new Spanish translation of the New Testament, "Venid a Mi," is now available in Venezuela. Pray for the acceptance and impact of this new translation.
- Pray for Ed and Elaine Jump who have moved to the Prebo area of Valencia, where no Baptist church exists. They will begin by starting a Bible study group.
- Missionary Annette Jackson is beginning an English language Bible study among her neighbors who wish to learn English.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 71,823

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Post Office Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027
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Baptist and Reflector (USPS 041-780) is published weekly except New Year's week by the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Brentwood, Tennessee 37027. Subscription prices: \$6.55 individual; clubs of ten or more, \$6.25; church budget, 10.9¢ per family per week when sent to 50 percent or more of church homes. Second class postage paid at Brentwood, Tennessee, and at additional mailing office.

Space forbids printing of resolutions and obituaries. Advertising rates on request. Member of Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

News Journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention
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Smith, Rogers, Falwell lead Missouri conference

By Trennis Henderson

ARNOLD, Mo. (BP)— Presenting "an old-fashioned hootenanny for Jesus," former Southern Baptist Convention president Bailey Smith and his "Real Evangelism" organization brought a three-day "Nationwide Conference on Soul Winning" to the St. Louis area in late February.

Featuring such well-known preachers as current SBC president Adrian Rogers and independent Baptist Pastor Jerry Falwell, the conference included 13 sermons by 11 pastors and evangelists.

Smith said the conference was not a "political meeting. What we want to do is have an old-fashioned hootenanny for Jesus. I have instructed every one of our speakers not to get into the convention controversy. We are only interested in

encouraging our pastors to do old-fashioned soul-winning."

Although the speakers generally succeeded in steering clear of convention politics during their sermons, remarks during introductions and spontaneous comments from the platform were not always as subdued.

Introducing Florida Pastor Jerry Vines, evangelist Freddie Gage told the crowd he had voted twice for Adrian Rogers as SBC president and looked forward to voting for him a third time. He then added, "If Jesus does not come, I'm

planning on voting for Jerry Vines the first time and the second time."

Responding to that introduction, Vines quipped, "Brother Freddie, if the Lord will forgive you for saying that, maybe He'll forgive me for enjoying it."

Prior to voicing the closing prayer on the final night of the conference, Rogers compared the fundamental-conservative takeover of the denomination to the Biblical account of Naaman being cured of leprosy by dipping seven times in the Jordan River. "We're getting ready for the seventh dip," the SBC president

declared. The conservative effort to change the course of the denomination began in 1979.

Smith, a full-time evangelist and former pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., emphasized the need for soul-winning throughout the denomination. Citing recent SBC baptism statistics, he added, "Southern Baptists are now experiencing what many denominations have experienced — almost no growth or diminishing growth."

Noting that "it takes 55 Southern Baptists a full year to win one person to Jesus Christ," Smith continued, "I believe we need a revival, don't you? I believe we need an emphasis on winning souls."

During the Friday night service, Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, said, "The key to living victoriously is knowing who you are. ... When you see who you are in Christ, it will explode in your brain and it will radically, dramatically, eternally change how you behave and how you live."

Also preaching on Friday night, Vines spoke on "how to go through the fire." He noted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow, bend, or burn.

"It's not easy to go up against the current. It's not easy to buck the tide," said Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla. "The trend of the times is, 'If you want to get along, you've got to go along.' ... These are times when men need to learn to stand and have the courage of their convictions."

During the Thursday night session which featured Falwell, a standing room only crowd of more than 2,000 people gathered at the church. Before Falwell's message, three students from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., gave testimonies concerning their experience at the independent Baptist university which Falwell founded and serves as president.

With four Baptist colleges in the state being affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention and two of those colleges' presidents sitting in the Thursday night crowd, conference coordinators agreed to make time on the Friday night program for representatives of three of Missouri Baptists' four colleges to have equal time. Current and former students from Hannibal-LaGrange College, Missouri Baptist College, and Southwest Baptist University responded by sharing testimonies of their experience in those Missouri Baptist-related institutions.

Discussing ministry into the 21st century, Falwell pointed to "Soviet Union expansionism on our southern borders and a Congress lacking the spine to do anything about it. I don't know who sent that money down to the Contras but I applaud them."

"I think of the troubles of teenage pregnancies and 1.5-million abortions annually and the drug epidemic and the secularizing of our society, the purging our nation of any and all religious heritage," he continued. "As far as the textbooks are concerned, a child can grow up in America's public schools and receive exactly the same secular education as one would receive in the Soviet Union."

Other speakers during the three-day conference included Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas; Jack Milwood, pastor of First Baptist Church in Chickasaw, Ala.; Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.; and evangelists Manley Beasley, Ron Dunn, Bill Stafford, and Jay Strack.



McGill

Tim Shaw

Lee Shaw

FMB commissions Tennesseans as 1987 missionary journeymen

RICHMOND, Va. — Three people with Tennessee connections were among the 50 new missionary journeymen commissioned Feb. 27 for work in 26 countries during the next two years.

Journeymen, college graduates under age 27, serve alongside Southern Baptist career missionaries, working in youth evangelism; social, music, and medical ministries; and teaching and computer positions.

Diane McGill will be a nurse in a hospital in Jibla, Yemen. Born in Knoxville, she considers Lenoir City her hometown. A graduate of Clemson (S.C.) University, she was most recently employed as a nurse at Oconee Memorial Hospital, Seneca, S.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Shaw, both graduates of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, will serve in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, where he will assist the Bible course director and she will work in the

Baptist publishing house.

A native Georgian, Shaw attended the University of Georgia, Athens, before earning his degree at Carson-Newman. Mrs. Shaw, the former Lee Ford, also is a Georgia native. In addition to Carson-Newman, she also attended Georgia Southern College, Statesboro; DeKalb Community College, Clarkston, Ga.; and Georgia State University, Atlanta. She has been a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Michigan.

The new journeymen will travel overseas in a few weeks.

BMHCS names Tabor to controller position

MEMPHIS — Noel E. Tabor, former director of finance for Baptist Memorial Health Care Development Corp., has been named controller and assistant treasurer for Baptist Memorial Health Care System Inc.

In the new position, Tabor will work with Charles Baker, senior vice-president for finance, in coordinating financing, accounting, and financial planning activities for the more than 20 corporations in the health care system.

Tabor also will assist with the evaluation of all potential acquisitions and divestitures and take part in closing such transactions for the system. The appointment was effective Feb. 15.

Before joining Baptist Memorial in 1982, Tabor was a health care consultant for Cannon and Co., and director of corporate auditing for Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Memphis. He is a certified public accountant.

Born in Oxford, Miss., Tabor is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, University, Miss.



Tabor

Tennesseans join Venezuelan effort

Nine more persons will be traveling to Venezuela to participate in the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership, which began in November 1985. A total of 312 persons have been partnership volunteers.

On March 16-27, four persons will be serving at the Baptist theological seminary in Los Teques. The team will be continuing construction of a girls' dormitory and the addition of a fourth floor to another building.

A team will work March 30 through April 10 at the Baptist center in Caracas, doing maintenance work.

The team going to Los Teques includes Willard Cox of Glenwood Baptist Church in Kingsport, Michael E. Bush of Lynn Garden Baptist Church in Kingsport, Bob Scoggins of First Baptist Church in Kingsport, and Charles Sampsel of Trenton Street Baptist Church in Hariman.

Those who will work in Caracas are Bobby Ray Moore of Cherry Creek Baptist Church in Sparta; Royce Hutchings, Clifford R. Stanley, and Mike Pullum, all of Bear Cove Baptist Church in Sparta; and Wilson W. Toney of First Baptist Church in Old Hickory.

The partnership is coordinated through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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



DEACONS HONORED — Powell's Chapel Baptist Church presented Pete Summar (left), who had served as a deacon for 36 years, and Glenn Arnold, who had served 31 years, with certificates on Dec. 14, naming each a deacon emeritus on his retirement. Kevin Bennett is the pastor of the Murfreesboro church.

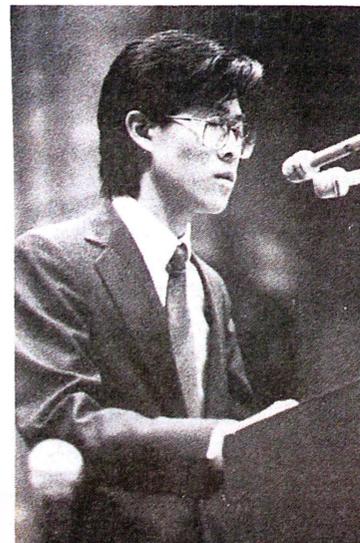
Youth who attend the evangelism conference — where they come from



"WE'VE GOT SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR" — Left to right, Tommy Zills, Anne Marie Boner, Pam Waggoner, Corey Jackson, and Jason Zills sing that they have so, so, so much to be thankful for as NewSong leads.



PREACHING THE WORD — Ike Reighard held the attention of youth as he compared the struggles of Biblical Samson with the temptations youth face today.



LEADING IN PRAYER — Dae Keun Lee, a Baptist youth from the Korean congregation of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, led in prayer during the Youth Evangelism Conference.



CHURCH ORGANIST — Shelley Ladd, a member of the Trace Creek Baptist Church youth group, plays the organ for the morning worship service on Sunday following the Youth Evangelism Conference. Four of the New Johnsonville youth gave testimonies during the service, telling what the weekend conference had meant to them.



INTERPRETING THE REASONS — Lynn Ragland, deaf interpreter at Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, interpreted the music of the Belmont Reasons as they sang during the Youth Evangelism Conference.

By Mona Collett
 Among the hundreds of churches from across Tennessee represented at this year's Youth Evangelism Conference was Trace Creek Baptist Church in New Johnsonville. The 500-member church sent 35 young people to Nashville.

"Kickin'?"
 With the weekend coming to a close, Richie Flowers summed up the experience in one word for his church on Sunday morning by saying the conference was "kickin'."

"A lot of times we (Christians) feel like a minority," he explained. Anyone in Nashville for any other reason this weekend might have felt like a minority after waiting in long restaurant lines and slow traffic caused by the large numbers of Baptist youth. Flowers went on to describe the weekend as a "youth revival."

Jason McCauley celebrates the completion of his first year as part of the Trace Creek Baptist youth. He began attending the church after someone invited him to last year's conference.

Realizing during the Friday evening session the need to witness, Marty Wallace made a renewed commitment. Saying the conference helps her grow personally, it also "helps youth realize others are trying to do the same things."

Chuck Gibbs and Chris Hamilton participated in the All-State Youth Choir. Gibbs will be preaching during youth week, filling in for his father, Charles Gibbs, who is pastor of the church. He got his sermon idea from the choir director, Richard Ham, who has posted in his office that "God expects and deserves our very best — nothing less is acceptable."

For "older youth" who might not understand "kickin'," chaperone Bob Moseley says the conference was inspiring. According to the Trace Creek youth, Moseley is welcomed to accompany them on group activities because "he likes to have a good time like we do."

The affection is mutual, as Moseley explains that at home, the youth are a good witness for the community. Area youth look up to them and want to have what they have, he says. His wife Sue puts it all in perspective when she says that "it is all done out of love."

Loving leaders
 The love the group shares for one



PRAYER TIME — Chris Rollins prays with one of the counselors during the time of invitation at the personal witnessing conference on Saturday.

another has no conditions, certainly not age, says Moseley. The wide age-range of members varies from junior high to college. Described by his peers as enthusiastic about his love for the Lord, Chris Rollins says he knows he is not doing enough for Christ.

Emphasizing the advanced level of intellect, maturity, and talent in the group, music/youth director D. J. Roberts points out that the youth are very active in the community and have roles of responsibility in the church.

Shelley Ladd is church organist and Anne Marie Boner is church pianist. Richie Flowers is custodian for the church. Another of the youth, Tommy Zills, is a volunteer fireman for the community.

Ladd, along with Karen and Sharen Brown, will be participating in the Rising Seniors program at Union University this summer.

Personalities of some of the groups attending the evangelism conference were easily distinguished. The group wearing matching sweatshirts stood out in the crowd. The group that did an attitude check upon arriving at Vanderbilt gym was easily heard.

Trace Creek Baptist youth might get lost in a crowd of 16,000, but their strength is easily seen in the roles they fulfill in their church and community.



TESTIMONY — Karen Compton, Miss Tennessee USA 1986, told the youth of the low self-esteem she experienced during her teen years. She told how a Baptist youth group turned her life around as she discovered her self-worth through God's love.



ATTENDING THE 1981 CONFERENCE — Eddie Winters (far left) and Phil Nelson (far right) were pictured along with other Rockwood youth on the front page of the Baptist and Reflector after attending the 1981 Youth Evangelism Conference.



PRAYER — Youth all over the Vanderbilt gymnasium bowed in prayer during a commitment time Friday night. Hundreds of youth stood indicating they were making first-time commitments to Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

— where they go

Editor's note: Mona Collett, church news assistant for the Baptist and Reflector, was part of the youth group at First Baptist Church, Rockwood, about which she writes. She, too, attended Youth Evangelism Conferences from 1977 to 1980.

By Mona Collett

Every year more than 30,000 youth from across Tennessee travel by car, bus, or van to Nashville to attend the Youth Evangelism Conference at Vanderbilt Memorial Gymnasium.

What happens when they leave? What long-term effects does attending the largest Baptist youth gathering in the nation have on individual lives?

Though Baptists are notorious for numbers and statistics, there is no accurate means of measuring the spiritual impact of such a gathering.

It is possible, however, to take a look back at one youth group that attended the conference 10 years ago, to get an idea of what happens when they leave Vanderbilt gym.

In 1977, the youth from First Baptist Church, Rockwood, sat among about 30,000 participants and heard author and lecturer Ann Kiemel Anderson introduced. Her first words were, "Hi, my name is Ann and I'm out to change my world."

In her view the Christian's primary objective should be to reach out and touch people in everyday life. The youth from Rockwood returned home and 10 years later, they continue to change their world, as teachers, social workers, youth leaders, homemakers, and missionaries.

"You've got to believe in youth," says Ben McNees who served as music/youth director at the church for about five years. Under his leadership, the group led personal witnessing conferences for the evangelism conference for the next three years.

Eddie Winters was one youth who traveled to Nashville with the Rockwood group in 1978. During the week prior to the conference, Winters watched the other youth prepare to lead one of the personal witnessing conferences during the Saturday morning session. Being there with a group who was participating in the program made it difficult to get lost in the crowd, according to Winters.

"I felt connected — very much a part," he reflects, "except that I was not a part of the church."

Seeing the excitement and dedication

of his peers as they prepared heightened Winters' curiosity as to the source of their motivation.

"Being immersed in that atmosphere, and surrounded by young people dedicated to one purpose, was sort of the straw that broke the camel's back," states Winters. He committed his life to Christ, along with youth from other cities, during the personal witnessing conference led by his classmates from Rockwood High School.

McNees, who now directs the music program at Mulberry Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., attributes the closeness of the group to the fact that they were working towards a common goal — winning the lost to Christ. Recognizing that being from one school system cultivates the team spirit among youth, McNees says that working together in the local church is another opportunity for youth to draw strength from one another.

It was always rewarding to return home and share the effects of the evangelism conference with the church.

McNees adds, "Though some thought the 'spiritual high' was only for the moment, I know the experience will always live in the hearts of the young people and the adults who participated.

"Anytime you do something for other people, you receive the reward of love inwardly." McNees is quick to give proper credit, "That bond of love was from the Lord, I really believe that."

Leadership qualities that have helped in later life were recognized and developed, suspects McNees. A number of those young people have pursued careers in Southern Baptist work.

Winters is now a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and plans to be a youth leader. He was graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, in December of 1985.

Phil Nelson is presently teaching English in Bangkok, Thailand, as a missionary journeyman sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board. He is a graduate of Roane State Community College in Harriman, where he was active in the BSU program. He also attended Carson-Newman, where he was president of the BSU and made a mission trip to Hong Kong. Before his involvement in the journeyman program, he worked for an insurance firm in Chattanooga. He is a member of Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

Nelson became a Christian at the age of 17, through his involvement with the youth program at First Baptist Church,



YOUTH CHOIR — A 190-voice All-State Youth Choir sang during the Saturday sessions of the Youth Evangelism Conference. Richard Ham, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky., directed the choir.

Rockwood. He spoke during his commissioning service last July. "That's all that matters in this life — to do God's will — nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."

Susan Fuller is serving as a semester missionary in Nagasaki, Japan. She began Jan. 3 and will return to the states in mid-July. Fuller is a journalism student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Two of her summers have been spent in Colorado serving as a summer missionary.

Rhonda Smith is a social worker for the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes. She, too, is a graduate of Carson-Newman, as well as Southern seminary. Presently, she works with unwed mothers at the maternity home in Asheville.

Smith remembers being awed by the massive crowds at the annual gathering in Nashville. Teen-agers from varied backgrounds had an opportunity to see that Christian young people could have fun, she reflects. Since she now lives in North Carolina, Smith does not see many people from the group regularly.

"As we rekindle those relationships," she notes, referring to a reunion of the group a few years ago, "there is a natural coming together because we shared those experiences in the Lord."

Yes, 10 years later, the young adults from Rockwood who struggled through adolescence together are touching people in everyday life. Many have families.

Melanie Campbell Kendall lives in Memphis with her husband and son. A graduate of Union University in Jackson, she was selected Miss Union in 1983. She continues her music ministry through singing engagements in local churches.

Her father, Robert Campbell, was pastor of First Baptist Church, Rockwood,

for 9½ years. He is now associate director of specialized evangelism at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga. James A. Hutson is now pastor of the Rockwood church.

"It's exciting to work with youth," exclaims Lee Wilkerson, one of several who have pursued careers in education. He has returned to his high school alma mater to teach and coach after graduating from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. The Rockwood High School faculty member attended six or seven youth evangelism conferences in a row as a teen-ager. Wilkerson looked forward to that time each year when "big numbers of fellow Christians got together to celebrate that way of life."

Following her brother into the field of education, Beth Wilkerson Mead recently was graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a degree in elementary education.

Also touching people — young people — in everyday life through the teaching profession, Joyce Collett is pursuing her degree in elementary education at Tennessee Tech.

It is impossible to measure the impact of the evangelism conference on youth and their futures, just as it is impossible to know what impact these individuals mentioned will have on their world.

In 1977, Ann Kiemel Anderson boldly proclaimed that she was out to change her world. Ten years later, at least the few sampled in this study are following her example. They are reaching out and touching people in everyday life.

What about the other youth who attended the same conference? Circumstantial speculation would indicate that a large number also are changing their world as teachers, social workers, youth leaders, homemakers, and missionaries.

Subcommittee holds hearing on church break-ins

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)— Representatives of five churches and several other organizations told a congressional subcommittee that numerous break-ins at churches and other facilities across the country have a "striking similarity" and may point to involvement by federal agencies.

About 50 reported break-ins at churches, offices, and homes of opponents of U.S. policy in Central America followed a pattern in which burglars searched files for letters, records, and membership lists; but left cash, office equipment, and other items of value untouched, according to testimony given before the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

An FBI representative, who also offered testimony, denied any involvement in the incidents by his agency.

When questioned about possible FBI involvement in the break-ins, Oliver B. Revell, FBI executive assistant director for investigations, responded, "The FBI is not involved in any way with these in-

idents." He added the bureau has found "no connections between the break-ins" and "no indication of conspiracy."

But other witnesses voiced suspicion that federal agencies may have been involved with the break-ins.

"Given the unfolding record of covert action by this administration... it seems reasonable to conclude that one or more federal agencies may well have been involved in this unprecedented action against American religious communities and citizen organizations that oppose this administration's policies," said Donovan J. Cook, pastor of University Baptist Church, an American Baptist congregation in Seattle.

Several witnesses pointed to recent allegations by a long-time informer that his FBI supervisors broke into the Dallas headquarters of a group opposed to Reagan administration policy in Central America, wiretapped members' telephones, and kept files on almost 700 people, including two U.S. senators, a congressman, and a former ambassador.

The informer, Frank Varelli, who has filed a civil suit seeking back pay from the FBI, testified during the second day of hearings held by the subcommittee. The FBI currently is investigating Varelli's charges.

Subcommittee chairman Don Edwards said the testimony "confirms my fear that there is indeed a national pattern of break-ins against churches and organizations who are opposed to the present policies in Central America."

Edwards added while he has believed "from the outset that these break-ins were not the work of the FBI," Varelli's allegations make it "all the more important to find out who did do these break-ins."

Revell and James P. Turner, deputy assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice's civil rights division, told subcommittee members of federal criminal civil rights statutes limiting the FBI's ability to investigate such break-ins. The FBI has agreed to investigate only one of the break-ins reported to it by the House subcommittee, Turner said.

Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., the ranking Republican on the subcommittee, denounced the hearings as "McCarthyism in reverse" and an attempt to "bash" the FBI and Department of Justice.

Witnesses consistently told of a "chilling effect" the break-ins have had on members of their churches and organizations.

"That groups engaging in lawful First Amendment activities are having experiences such as the break-ins and harassment that are the subject of these hearings is a matter of great concern, not only to those groups but to their fellow Americans," said Victor Carpenter, pastor of Arlington Street Church in Boston, Mass. "We hope that Congress will make every effort to investigate allegations of past surveillance, to end any such that may now be being carried out, and make citizens again feel comfortable acting as we believe the founders of our nation thought citizens should be able to act and as they acted."

Synagogue seeks protection under civil rights statute

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)— A Silver Spring, Md., synagogue asked the nation's highest court Feb. 25 to apply a 120-year-old federal civil rights law designed for protection of racial minorities to other groups victimized by racially motivated acts.

Patricia A. Brannan, attorney for the Shaare Tefila Congregation, argued that while Jews are not a distinct racial group, the federal statute should be interpreted so as to provide relief from discriminatory acts based on the belief

that Jews are a separate and inferior race.

Brannan contended the actions of eight men charged with spray-painting anti-Semitic slogans and pro-Nazi symbols on the synagogue in 1982 were so motivated. Under Maryland law, one of the accused men was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison for destruction of property, four were convicted of vandalism-related offenses, and three were not prosecuted.

In a separate 1984 civil suit filed against the men on the basis of the federal race discrimination law, the congregation sought \$3,000 in real and punitive damages. When the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the synagogue could not bring the suit on that basis, attorneys for the congregation appealed to the Supreme Court.

Arguing that the Congress that drafted the 1866 Civil Rights Act "had an open-ended concept of what would be covered," Brannan said the statute should be applied to any racially motivated incident of violence regardless of the victims' actual membership in a distinct racial group.

But Deborah T. Garren, a Baltimore attorney representing one of the men charged with defacing the synagogue, said the high court should not stretch the race discrimination statute to cover other forms of discrimination, including religious discrimination.

Garren argued the law, which gave non-whites a number of rights previously reserved for white citizens, was designed not "to root out all forms of discrimination," but rather to protect newly freed slaves.

While calling the defacing of the synagogue an "egregious wrong" that "cries out for a remedy," Garren said adequate

state remedies exist and application of the federal statute would be inappropriate.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Antonin Scalia questioned Brannan about potential problems in the application of her theory that such court decisions should be based on the intent of the discriminator rather than on the racial distinction of the victim. Rehnquist and Scalia pressed for a clear definition of "racially motivated," while O'Connor said she did not see anything in the statute's legislative history "relative to the sophistication of the discriminator."

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House considers bill to counter religious violence, vandalism

WASHINGTON (BP)— A bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives would impose federal criminal penalties for damage to religious property and injury to persons in the free exercise of religious beliefs.

A similar bill — also introduced by Rep. Dan Glickman, sponsor of the current bill — passed the House last year but was not acted upon by the Senate.

"The problem of violence aimed at religious property and the exercise of religious beliefs has not abated," Glickman said during a press conference. "It is still a serious problem."

"Our nation was founded on the basis of religious freedom and tolerance, yet there are those within our country who still vandalize religious property and jeopardize the freedom of others to safely practice their religious beliefs."

The bill would establish federal penalties up to life imprisonment and up to \$500,000 in fines for interstate violations of damaging religious property or obstructing persons' free exercise of religion.

At the press conference with Glickman were representatives from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the American Jewish Committee.

In an issued statement, Oliver S. Thomas, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel, said: "Because religious freedom is guaranteed by the federal Constitution, it is altogether appropriate for federal authorities to act when religious freedom is threatened. By passing this bill, Congress can ensure the highest possible protections for the free exercise of religion."

"Ideological labels and partisan politics have no place here. Protecting free exercise is an issue that unites all Americans. Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, people of all faiths and creeds, all are entitled to the fullest and freest exercise of their religious beliefs. To the extent government protects that free exercise, it preserves the highest traditions of our society."

Glickman also introduced a bill combining his original criminal penalties bill with a hate crime statistics bill, originally co-sponsored by Rep. Barbara Kennelly. The hate crime statistics portion of the bill would provide for collection by the U.S. attorney general of data about crimes motivated by racial, religious, or ethnic hatred. A similar combined bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum.

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Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



"Amerika" occupied about 14 hours of TV time a few days ago. I did not see a great deal of it, but I saw enough and read enough about it to know it was depicting what our country might be like if we were taken over by a Communist power.

There need be no question in our minds as to whether or not there are forces that would like to take over our country. Satan has been plotting this for a long time. Sin, evil, erosion, moral compromise, pornography, pari-mutuel gambling, drugs, including beverage alcohol have become increasingly brazen in our land. Satan wants our nation and there is no secret about his relentless efforts to take it.

In 1985, William G. Tanner, who was then the president of our Home Mission Board said, "We are dangerously near losing America." Statistics indicate that 156-million people in the United States are unsaved. I understand that the present population is about 240-million. There is a battle going on and we need to seriously consider the question, who will win America?

No theme could be more appropriate than this year's theme for our emphasis on home missions, "Who Will Win America?"

We cannot answer with just emotions. We must undergird it with personal evangelism, prayers, support of our local churches, and an increase in our mission giving, including generous gifts to the Annie-Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

"Who will win America?" is more than a TV program. The issue is real - eternally real!

BSU hosts Clawson

NASHVILLE - Cynthia Clawson will perform a benefit concert for Belmont College, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Massey Auditorium. The concert, sponsored by Belmont's Baptist Student Union (BSU), will benefit the BSU summer missions program.

Clawson, artist-in-residence at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will perform songs from her Grammy-nominated album, "Immortal" (Word).

Tickets, \$3 for children and students and \$4 for adults, may be purchased at the door. One free admission will be given to each group of 10 or more.

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EDITORS' LEADERS — Presnall H. Wood (center), editor of the *Baptist Standard*, news journal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, became president of the Southern Baptist Press Association during the group's annual meeting in February. He is flanked by the other officers: Herb Hollinger (left), editor of the *California Southern Baptist*, president-elect; and Jack E. Brymer Sr., editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness*, secretary.



STATE EXECUTIVES' LEADERS — Tom Madden (center), executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, became president of the Southern Baptist Association of State Executive Directors during the groups' annual meeting in February. The other officers are Jack B. Johnson (left) of Arizona, secretary; and Ernest B. Myers of Nevada, president-elect.

Union gets endowed chair

JACKSON - The Hammons Memorial Chair of Premedical Studies has been established at Union University as a part of the recent \$10-million endowment campaign.

This chair has been endowed by Otis Parnell Hammons, Mrs. Evalyn Pierce Hammons, and their son, Edward Parnell Hammons, all of Forrest City, Ark. Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Hammons are members of the 1928 graduating class of Union University.

The chair is funded by a charitable remainder unitrust. The initial funding of this trust is the third largest financial gift ever received by Union University.

"This is the first endowed chair in our long history," said Larry Stewart, vice-president for development. "It has come from an alumni family with long, long ties to Union. Five generations of the Hammons family attended here. This

gift is the one that 'put us over the top' of our \$10-million endowment campaign."

The proceeds from this endowed fund will be used in the years ahead to provide salary and benefits for a professor in the field of premedical studies.

O. P. Hammons is a retired school teacher, school principal, superintendent, and farmer. He also served a number of years in the Arkansas State Legislature. Edward Hammons is a medical doctor specializing in family practice in Forrest City.

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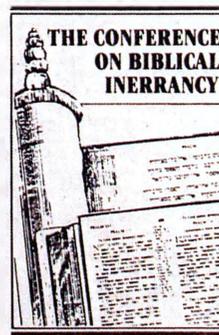
Southern Baptists will sit down together to discuss the scholarly issues of biblical inerrancy at the first national Conference on Biblical Inerrancy May 4-7.

Serious answers will be given to serious questions — What is inerrancy? What do Southern Baptists believe about the Bible? Do biblical scholars support inerrancy?

Speakers include J. I. Packer, Kenneth Kantzer, Clark Pinnock, Millard Erickson, Mark Noll and Robert Preus — all experts on biblical inerrancy. Noted Southern Baptists will respond to each speaker's address. Also, professors from the six SBC seminaries will lead small-group discussions.

Get the facts on biblical inerrancy. Reserve your space today by writing the Conference on Biblical Inerrancy, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.

Conference rates per person are \$148.75/single, \$110.50/double, \$101.80/triple and \$97.45/four, including meals, lodging and registration. A deposit of \$12.75 per person must accompany reservations.



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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for March 15

Jesus unjustly condemned

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

Basic Passage: John 18:28 to 19:16
Focal Passages: John 18:33-36, 19:5-12, 15-16a

"Were it not for Jesus' dignity the whole proceeding would be a farce." With this statement Bible teacher Massey Shepherd Jr. gives an accurate summary of the civil and religious court scenes in which our Lord conducted Himself as the God of Truth, the God of Love, and the God of Time.



Bush

Pilate overlooked truth in order to protect his Roman rule. Jewish religious officials overlooked truth in order to protect their organized religious rule. The masses of people overlooked truth in order to go along with the crowd rather than think for themselves or to risk personal involvement that might endanger their own lives.

How very much like all these ancient men and women are we! Rather than let the truth of God, the love of God, and the rule of the Eternal God mold us and work through us, we too often acquiesce to the appearance of truth, self-centered ambition or indulgence, and immediate solutions which are easier to come by.

In a devotional commentary now published by our denomination, R. E. Nixon provides us with an excellent summary of this passage which speaks pointedly to all of us. He says, "It is an ironic end. The Jews reject their King-Messiah, whom they cannot and will not recognize, by declaring their allegiance to an emperor and an army of occupation which they hate. It is always the same. To reject Christ as King involves accepting or declaring allegiance to some other master, who will turn out to be empty and unsatisfying at best, and a tyrant at worst."

Christianity around the world and Christianity within the Southern Baptist Convention is being put to the trials of religious and civil opinion. How is Christianity faring? I'm not talking about religious Christianity but true Holy Spirit-motivated and Biblically sound Christianity that manifests itself in purity of motive, total unselfishness in

nature, and humility in character and application!

Recently I had the honor of leading Grace Baptist Church in Karns in a study of the Epistle of James. During each of the four sessions, somewhere in my exposition I exclaimed, "I don't like the book of James! I don't like it because it speaks to me and makes me analyze Whose I am and how I should behave as a disciple of Christ!"

In preparation for that study I researched the original Greek text and read what various scholars had written concerning this little but provocative New Testament book. This study led me to write what I call a "Down-to-Earth Outline-Translation." James 1:14-16 came through this way: "You know temptation exists and want to know where it comes from, I understand. Look within yourself and "bingo" there is temptation! You want something, the want keeps growing, and before you know it, your self-centered wants become sinful passions and they kill pure spiritual motives."

For the religious system that should have eagerly responded to Jesus, His life, and teaching, a totally ridiculous and vicious response displayed itself. How truly ridiculous - mere mortal man judging and condemning the Son of Man, the Son of God, the Saviour of the World, the King of Kings!

Before you continue cheering these accurate titles for Jesus and condemning those ancient folk, it might be best that you evaluate your own behavior. The study of both John and James has brought me to a new awareness of my unworthiness to judge anybody.

Consider, if you will, my brothers and sisters in Christ, James 4:11-12 and 17 as I was led of God to translate these convicting verses: "Stop putting down one another, my brothers. If you criticize a brother, you are judging him. Judging is not your place. God is the only judge as to who is obeying or disobeying His laws. Who do you think you are that you can judge a neighbor? To know how to do a good deed and then not do it is to ignore God and select sinful thoughts and actions.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for March 15

Love faces the cross

By W. Fred Kendall II
vice-president for religious affairs
Belmont College, Nashville

Basic Passage: Luke 22:1-23
Focal Passages: Luke 22:1-2, 7-23

The first Lord's Supper was the last night of the old covenant.

The first Passover took place in Egypt preceding the Exodus. God delivered the Israelites from bondage.

The first Lord's Supper took place preceding the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross. God made possible the deliverance of persons from the bondage of sin and death.

There have been many cathedrals, works of great art, and music written in remembrance of Jesus; but the observance of the Lord's Supper has meant more to Christians throughout history than all the architecture, music, and art produced for His glory.

The Lord's Supper is a simple observance. The symbols of bread and the fruit of the vine can be afforded in the poorest home. But the bread, symbolic of the body of Jesus, and the fruit of the vine, symbolic of His shed blood, convey a meaning beyond the power of words or even of art.

The service is one of remembrance. The Lord said: "This do in remembrance of Me."

The Lord's Supper also should be a service of personal encounter with the living Lord. The Lord has promised to be present in a worship service when we gather in His name. He has invited Christians to His table. If we were not limited to the physical, we could see Him face to face as we celebrate the new "exodus." As one man recently stated as he departed from a Lord's Supper service, "I felt as if I could reach out and touch Him."

The passover drew nigh (22:1-2)

The observance of the Passover focused upon the Exodus from bondage in Egypt. On the night before the deliverance, the Israelites ate from a slain lamb; the blood of the lamb was sprinkled on doorposts and lintels (Exodus 2:1-17).

As the Passover approached, the chief priests and scribes plotted to kill Jesus.

Preparation for the meal (22:7-23)

Jesus gave Peter and John instructions concerning the observance of the Lord's Supper. They were to follow a man carrying a heavy water pot to a house. Since carrying water pots was a woman's task, this was easy to do. In the designated house, an upper room was to be the location of the Passover observance meal.

The two disciples would have to purchase a lamb that had been inspected by a priest, have it killed in the Temple between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m., and then roasted. Also, they would obtain other ingredients for the meal, such as unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and sweet fruit preserves.

The Lord's Supper (22:14-20)

Jesus and the disciples reclined around a low table. Jesus had longed for this last meal with His disciples before His death on the cross. In Luke 22:28, the Lord said to His disciples. "It is you who have stood by Me in My trials." This was such a gracious thing to say. The disciples had not always totally supported Him. In a brief time, Peter would deny Him and the disciples would temporarily flee. But through all the hardships and trials, they never quit. In the upper room, before the cross, they were still there, and all but one would continue to follow Him, no matter the cost.

It will be a thrilling experience at the banquet in heaven when the Lord will say to His faithful followers, "Even in a difficult time to be a Christian, you stood by Me." Will the Lord be able to say this to you?

Jesus, as always, gave thanks before the meal. The Lord told His disciples that the bread represented His body, and the cup symbolized His shed blood. In the Jewish sacrificial system, the animal's life was given in the pouring out of its blood. Salvation is made possible by the pouring out of Jesus' life on the cross when His blood was shed. Animal blood had sealed the old covenant. The new covenant was sealed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The traitor (22:21-23)

Judas was engaged in the act of betraying Jesus to His enemies. There have been many theories offered as to why Judas betrayed our Lord. But, to be realistic, our Lord-condemned Judas for his betrayal. Judas had become bitter. He wanted revenge. He believed he had wasted years of his life for nothing and all he received was trouble. Not even the washing of his feet by Jesus could change his mind, nor the experience in the upper room. Judas revealed the depth of his infamy when he identified Jesus to His enemies with a kiss.

In conclusion, the Lord's Supper is ever a service of hope. It is a service of anticipation as well as remembrance. The Christian is reminded of the ultimate victory of God's kingdom. The Lord came as prophesied and as He predicted, He will come again. Paul wrote: "You do shew the Lord's death till He come" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Christians will participate with our living Lord and the redeemed of all ages in the heavenly banquet in the Father's house. "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9).

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LIFE AND WORK SERIES
Lesson for March 15

Consider the consequences

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

Basic Passage: Luke 13:1 to 14:35
Focal Passage: Luke 14:25-35

A man who did not claim to be a Christian expressed a truth that we who seek to follow Jesus can accept, though we might word it a bit differently. He said, "There are in nature neither rewards nor punishments — there are consequences."

He was stressing moral law which, of course, we recognize as existent, but we also know God established the moral law. It is an expression of His holiness.

If you are looking for a preacher who knew how to give an invitation in such a way as to make people "walk the aisles" and "join up," Jesus does not qualify. He is not even in the race. People were more apt to walk out the back door when He laid down the requirements for membership in His kingdom. On one occasion (John 6:66) almost everyone deserted Him because He stressed so strongly the spiritual nature of His kingdom and the necessity for full consecration.

Examine your relationships (14:25-27)
Most of the people who thronged Jesus as He moved toward Jerusalem considered Him to be the leader of a movement that would correct existing abuses. They, however, misunderstood His method of doing it. Rather than using military means, Jesus proposed to change the hearts and lives of people.

His statement concerning a Christian's attitude toward family must be viewed in light of other Biblical teachings. No one

has a right to refuse responsibility in domestic matters because of a spiritual commitment. Those who are linguistic students are certain the Aramaic word for "hate," had a different thrust from our English word today. The best modern equivalent is "to love less," which is exactly what our Master meant.

Fortunately, many of us grew up in homes where our family was delighted when we became a Christian. Sometimes, however, even good Christian families fail to understand the unreserved commitment that one child might have to God's work. Whatever the situation, a Christian must decide his first loyalty will be to the claims of Christ, regardless of what conflict such an action brings in family relationships.

Realize the contingencies (14:28-33)
When a contractor bids on a job, he always has an amount that he sets aside for possible problems that he never anticipated. Before engaging in any type of confrontation with another, a wise person will evaluate the strength of the opponent.

Christians are not seeking to outbid anyone nor defeat their competitors in contest. We do, however, need to realize the possible conflicts that might arise when Christian commitment encounters worldly goals.

As said before, parables have one central truth. Both of the stories in this sec-

tion have the same warning. Be sure you understand that Jesus must "be Lord of all or He will not be Lord at all." He did not mean, however, that we should "wait until we can hold out" before we become a Christian. That excuse which some use is merely a "cop out" and really means, "I am not humble enough to start in the first grade and grow." Such people have usually wasted some years and are embarrassed. Their pride prevents them from entering the kingdom of God as a child. As the old truism says, "It doesn't take much of a man to be a Christian, but it takes all that there is of him."

Understand your mission

Few symbols carried as much "punch" in the ancient world as that of salt for the followers of Jesus. A precious commodity, soldiers were paid with it. The word "salary" comes from the Latin word "salt." Because they considered it as having come from the sea and sun, the

Romans regarded it as a symbol for complete purity.

In many religions people considered it an appropriate offering for their gods. It served as a flavoring, preservative, healing agent, and fertilizer. Yet, the most worthless thing that could be found was salt that had mixed with other substances and become impure.

Almost every use the people had for salt in order to improve their lives serves as a symbol for the Christian in a sinful society. The applications and implications are many. Is the world a better place because of you?



Wood

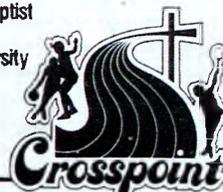
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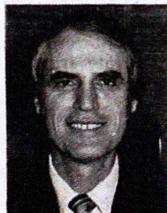
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This seminar is for churches with budgets of one-half million dollars or more. Basically, this will be a time of sharing successful financial and stewardship methods being used by these specific churches.

There is a \$35 registration fee per church, which will include the cost of materials and dinner on Thursday. Room rates are \$33 for a single and \$45 for a double.

Bring any of your staff that you deem necessary.



Dr. Charles Page



Dr. Bill Sherman



Rev. Phillip Weatherwax



Rev. Richard White

M.S. victim plans to bike across America

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP) — In 1981, a physician walked into Ed Chasteen's hospital room, fumbled with his charts, turned, and walked toward the door. As he left, the doctor told him, "You have M.S. It's a terrible disease. You won't be able to be active."

For runner Chasteen, professor of sociology at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., those words could have had dire consequences. Instead, they changed his life.

This summer, Chasteen, who also directs the Missouri Baptist school's

Ethnic Center, will bike more than 3,000 miles to raise funds for two causes dear to his heart — multiple sclerosis and Jewell's Ethnic Center. He hopes to raise a minimum of \$25,000 for each, quite a goal for a man told he would never be active.

Chasteen calls his trip "Ed's Bike-America: A Two-Penny Odyssey." One cent a mile will go to fight multiple sclerosis, while one cent a mile will go to the Ethnic Center. He chose the Bike-America theme because 1987 is the 200th anniversary of America's Constitution.

Chasteen plans to paint his bike red and name it "The Spirit of Kansas City." He has mapped out a summer route across America from Disney World in Orlando, Fla., to Disney Land in Anaheim, Calif.

Chasteen's BikeAmerica trip will help fund the battle against multiple sclerosis, a disease of the central nervous system. As M.S. progresses, the insulation surrounding the nerves is destroyed, leaving nerves exposed. Nerve impulses then short out, and the brain's message to various body parts can not get through. The disease can kill, paralyze, or blind, or symptoms can disappear for years.

In addition to M.S., the trip also will generate funds for the Ethnic Center, dedicated to increasing awareness of Mid-America's diverse ethnic heritage. The center sponsors the Human Family Reunion, an ethnic festival including music, food, native costumes, and dances. The reunion includes all kinds of religious ethnic communities.

Six years ago, Chasteen discovered something was wrong when he realized his tread on his left running shoe was getting thin before his right one. When he ran, he kept stubbing his left toe. After tests revealed M.S., he stopped running. Even walking was awkward. He wobbled and often stubbed his toe.

For more than three years, he struggled with depression. During this time, he took a sabbatical from the college to write a book about his illness. And as he wrote *Counterpoint: Life Beyond a Damnable Disease*, Chasteen began to put his life back together.

Since it was hard for him to jog, he relearned to ride a bike. Now, he bikes to school every day along a hilly, seven-mile route.

"I have more energy than I've ever had before. When I'm riding my bike, I make it a point to go find a hill that's hard to climb. Everything's a challenge to me," says Chasteen, who does calisthenics for an hour every morning.

To prepare for the trip, Chasteen has been limbering up and riding his bike every day. He is learning to repair and reconstruct a bike in case of breakdowns on the trip. He is taking tools, spare parts, spokes, saddle bags, inflatable tubes, a sleeping bag, an air mattress, and high-energy foods.

Chasteen says he is approaching the trip with a higher level of energy than he has ever experienced: "I have a sense of purpose, drive, and power unlike I've ever known. I gave into it for a couple years, but now M.S. lives with me, instead of my living with M.S. That makes all the difference. Now I'm grateful to that doctor who told me I'd never be active."

BWA sends 'Barclay Commentary' to church leaders in Soviet Union

WASHINGTON (BP) — Bible study material in the Russian language is to be placed in the hands of evangelical pastors and church workers in the Soviet Union following a decade-long effort by the Baptist World Alliance and the Mennonite Central Committee.

The All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB) in the USSR is to receive 5,000 sets of a Russian-language translation of the William Barclay Commentary on the New Testament. The project, under discussion since 1976 and in preparation for five years, will result in some 75,000 total volumes being distributed to AUCECB leaders.

BWA officials said the import authorization was agreed to during a February meeting between AUCECB General Secretary Alexei M. Bichkov and Konstantin M. Karchev, chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs of the Soviet Council of Ministers.

Also participating were BWA Deputy

General Secretary Denton Lotz of Washington; European Baptist Federation General Secretary Knud Wumplemann of Copenhagen, Denmark; Asian Baptist Federation General Secretary Edwin Lopez of Manila, Philippines; and Mennonite World Conference Executive Secretary Paul Kraybill of Akron, Pa.

According to the BWA, the import application approval is without precedent in terms of the number of pieces of Christian literature authorized for importation.

The Barclay Commentary was chosen by AUCECB leaders after a review of several possibilities. Soviet leader Kharchev said he read the commentary and found it to be a "totally religious" work which poses no political obstacles to the importation.

Fifteen volumes of the 17-volume set have been translated and the two final volumes are in production. The work was translated into Russian by Marvin Ziegenhagel of Mainz, West Germany, and will be printed by the Mennonite-related Herald Press in Scottsdale, Pa. Shipment of the books is being coordinated by the United Bible Societies international headquarters in Stuttgart, West Germany.

BWA officials said the project, to be shared equally by the BWA and the Mennonites, will cost \$500,000. They added the BWA needs at least \$100,000 in gifts to be able to meet its share.

Belmont hosts college day

NASHVILLE — Belmont College will offer high school students and their parents a chance to get acquainted with the college here on Saturday, March 21.

It is sponsoring its annual College Day from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The college will provide a free lunch, a student activities fair, ice cream social, and a concert by the Belmont Reasons. Participants will have the opportunity to visit with academic deans of the five undergraduate schools, as well as administrative personnel from student services and financial aid. Students will also be available to discuss their college experiences and conduct campus tours.

Belmont College presently offers seven undergraduate degrees in 43 major areas of study. To register groups or individuals, persons should contact Belmont College office of admissions, Nashville, TN 37203-5727.

Temple names pastor of 25 years emeritus

A recognition service was held March 1 at Temple Baptist Church in Old Hickory honoring Darryl Harris on his 70th birthday and naming him pastor emeritus of the church.

Robert Hammer, present pastor of the church led the service.

Harris served as pastor of the church from February 1960 until February 1985.

Hull takes position as Samford provost

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — William E. Hull, a Southern Baptist pastor and former provost of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named to the new position of provost of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

A Samford graduate and Birmingham native, Hull will assume the position of chief academic officer of the 4,000-student Alabama Baptist university June 1.

Hull "is a tough-minded academician with a pastor's heart," said Samford President Thomas E. Cortis. "His task is to lead Samford to even greater academic heights."

Hull, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., since 1975. Previously, he worked at Southern seminary in Louisville, Ky., as professor; chairman of the New Testament department, 1958-60; director of graduate studies, 1968-70; dean of the School of Theology, 1969-75; and provost, 1972-75. He has earned master's and doctoral degrees from Southern seminary.

New 'Baptistic' Korean Bible eliminates 'sprinkle' problem

NEW YORK (BP) — Southern Baptist work among Koreans will be enhanced with a new version of the Bible that translates the Greek word for immersion as "baptize" rather than "sprinkle," participants in a national language missions conference were told.

The translations problem has existed for more than a century since Christianity was introduced to Korea by non-Baptists whose translation substituted "sprinkling" for baptism, explained Oscar Romo, director of the language missions division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Publication of the corrected version, regarded as the first Korean Scripture true to Biblical language, was recognized by the American Bible Society's presentation of a Good News Bible to the Southern Baptist consultant among Koreans.

Daniel Moon of Memphis, was presented the Korean language Bible during the board's 30th annual language mis-

sions leadership conference in New York City.

Moon, Korean ministries consultant for the Home Mission Board and director of language ministries for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, accepted the Bible from Maria Martinez, vice-president of the New York-based society.

The new Bible will simplify work among the denomination's fastest growing ethnic group since there will not be a contradiction between baptism by immersion and the "sprinkle" translation, Moon explained.

Since 1971, Korean Southern Baptist congregations have grown from two to 550 in the United States. The ethnic group has projected an additional 450 congregations to be launched by 1990, he added.

The inscription in the presentation Bible stated it was given "on occasion of the first printing of Scriptures in Korean which holds true to Biblical language and interpretation basic to baptistic faith."

Interpretations

The praying Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And it came to pass, as He was alone praying ..." (Luke 9:18).

Someone said that God has only one Son Who lived without sin. But He has had no Son Who lived without prayer. The only Son Who lived without sin was the most prayerful Son.

The gospels are filled with instances where Jesus prayed — both in private (Mark 1:35) and in public (Matthew 11:25-26; Luke 9:21). If any one of His prayers should be called "The Lord's

Prayer" it is John 17, the longest of His recorded prayers. In Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4, He was teaching how to pray, so "The Model Prayer."

Luke places great emphasis upon Jesus' prayer life. He shows Him praying at great crisis times in His ministry: at His baptism (3:21-22), before choosing the apostles (6:12-13), near Caesarea-Philippi (9:18), before the transfiguration (9:28-29), in Gethsemane (22:41-46), and on the cross (23:34).

If our Lord needed to pray, how much more so do we.