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Executive Board approves Task Force plans

Proposals include reorganization, new building in Brentwood

By Charlie Warren

In a called meeting March 27, the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a new organizational structure for the TBC Executive Board programs, supported a proposal for a new building to be constructed on the present Executive Board property

in Brentwood and renovation of the existing building, and authorized the Program, Personnel, and Planning Task Force to move ahead with a review of program statements and committee structures.

The board also adopted a proposed schedule for implementation of the new organizational structure and building plans and voted to accept the Task Force's estimate on cost and personnel needs for the proposals.

"One definite and non-negotiable conviction prevailed throughout our work," said James Porch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, and chairman of the Task Force. "Ladies and gentlemen, we hold tenaciously to the primacy and essential value of the local church. Throughout, we have affirmed in faith, 'The Lord will build His church.' But He has invited us into this primary mission."

He noted that the Task Force has attempted in everything it has done to strengthen and undergird the local church.

The new organizational plan calls for the creation of two new divisions and a restructuring of an existing division to provide a three-divisional structure.

Three divisions

The Convention Ministries Division, which currently includes Brotherhood, church music, church training, Sunday School, evangelism, missions, student work, media ministries, public affairs and Christian life, and foreign mission ministries, will have seven departments in the new structure. They are evangelism, missions, student, Cooperative Program and stewardship development, church-ministers information, protection plans, and a new department, telecommunications. Bold Mission Thrust programs, including foreign mission ministries, also are assigned to Convention Ministries.

A new Central Administrative Division will include four departments: accounting, business, program services, and property management. Property management includes four sections: BSU properties, camps, buildings, and other properties.

The new church Programs Division will include Sunday School, church training, church music, Brother-

hood, church administration, and family ministry. Woman's Missionary Union, while remaining an auxiliary to the TBC, will relate to the Church Programs Division. Church administration and family ministry are both new departments.

Church administration includes media library, deacon ministries, preaching conferences, Shared Ministry, recreation, and church administration. Family ministry includes single adult work, senior adult work, parenting skills, marriage enrichment and development, family enrichment, and pre-marital counseling. Both new departments are scheduled to be initiated by the end of 1988.

The directors of each division will relate directly to the executive secretary-treasurer. Public relations also will relate to the executive secretary-treasurer.

The Task Force estimates the need for nine new employees: two division directors, a department director, a program associate, and five secretaries. The divisional structure is scheduled to be in place by 1989 and the entire organizational structure is set for completion by 1990.

Two amendments

Executive Board members approved two amendments to the Task Force's original organizational structure. The Task Force had suggested that the personnel office relate to the executive secretary and that the public affairs program be assigned to the Baptist and Reflector office.

After much discussion, Dennis Pulley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ripley, offered an amendment that the public affairs position be referred back to the Task Force for further study. Paul Barkley, pastor of Puryear Baptist Church, Puryear, made a similar amendment to refer the placement of the personnel office back for further study. Porch stated that the Task Force would try to report back on the two amendments

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NEWS TEAM — Carson-Newman's "What's Happening" news team, (left to right) John Hartman, special features reporter, and co-anchors Deborah Tyler and Jamey Tucker, will supply a daily half-hour news program to ACTS network, beginning in May.

C-N provides ACTS nightly news program

JEFFERSON CITY — This spring Carson-Newman College will make the leap from local to nationwide television when "What's Happening," a half-hour nightly news program, premieres on the American Christian Television System (ACTS) satellite network.

Last fall Carson-Newman, a Tennessee Baptist college with an enrollment of 1,700, broke into television production with a nightly cable newscast for 3,600 homes in the Jefferson City area. On May 18, the college will begin producing "What's Happening" for nearly 14-million potential viewers in homes across the country every evening.

Utilizing video clips, studio reports, and phone interviews, "What's Happening" will focus on topics of national and international interest, with special emphasis on news about Christianity and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The program will be produced in studios on the Carson-Newman campus and will air on the ACTS satellite network at 7 p.m. EST every Monday through Friday. ACTS also will telecast repeats of the show at 12:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

"Our goal has been to create a family-oriented program which can provide national exposure for Baptists and their activities," Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox said. "We are very excited to have this opportunity to work with the ACTS network."

"What's Happening" will be co-anchored by Deborah Tyler and Jamey Tucker, who have worked together on

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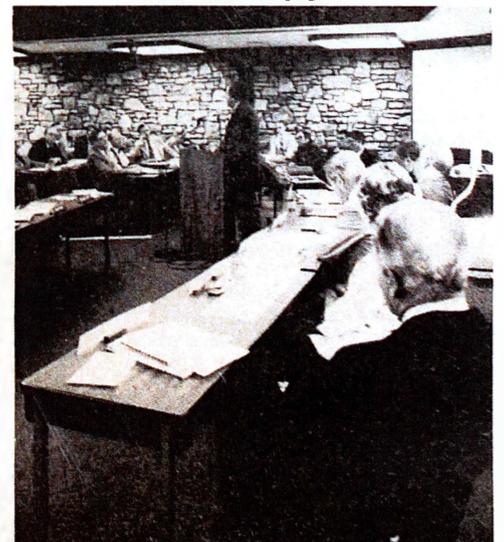
Gambling bill awaits action

The Senate version of the horse track gambling bill, SB 1077, continued to rest last week in the Senate Calendar Committee, awaiting a request from its sponsors to bring it back to the floor for a vote.

Bill Bates, public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, noted that the bill could come out of committee this week or in subsequent weeks, or it could die in committee.

Bates urged Tennessee Baptists to remain alert and be ready to contact their senators if they receive word that the bill has been scheduled to return to the Senate floor.

The original bill would have legalized parimutuel gambling in any of Tennessee's 95 counties or any city of 100,000 or more if approved by a local referendum. An amendment attached before referral back to the Calendar Committee would have required a statewide referendum.



TASK FORCE REPORTS — The 12-member Task Force, chaired by James Porch (standing), presented a report with recommendations during a called meeting March 27 of the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board.

Indiana leaders resign in funds use dispute

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — The executive director and the director of state missions of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana have resigned as the result of a dispute over the misuse of domestic hunger funds.

Executive Director-Treasurer R.V. Haygood and State Missions Division Director Glen W. Ray resigned March 20 during a special called meeting of the SCBI Executive Committee. Although the committee did not request the resignations, it did accept them — effective immediately — during the 12-hour meeting.

The Executive Committee March 23 named Lew Reynolds, director of the church growth division, and David Simpson, director of the communications division, as interim "co-advisors." B.J. Watts, Haygood's administrative assistant, was named interim treasurer.

Don Moore, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Evansville and chairman of the Executive Committee, said the "co-advisor" arrangement was agreed on "until we can get on track for a new executive director. Two men resigned and we had a big vacancy with no one in charge."

He added Reynolds will continue to supervise the church growth area and Simpson will take on the supervision of the missions division. "They will work together and I will meet with them on a weekly basis," Moore said.

Moore said the SCBI Constitution is specific in its instructions about the selection of an executive director and said the Executive Committee will meet soon "to get a handle on this."

Moore said he regrets the resignations of Haygood and Ray and said he believes the "whole matter could have — and should have — been settled before it ever got to the Executive Committee. It could have been handled quietly and easily in staff relationships. But because he (Haygood) chose to handle it in a different arena, it became public and so did some other issues," Moore added.

The chairman said the misuse of hunger funds led to Ray's resignation, but it was "an internal matter, a personnel matter" which led to Haygood's resignation.

During the March 20 called meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed "a large bulk of materials" on the controversy and called Ray and Haygood in separately for "questions and answers." Both men offered their resignations, Moore said, and the committee "accepted them, with modifications." Moore said the committee decided to accept the resignations "effective immediately" and to grant Ray and Haygood full salary and benefits through September 1987.

The resignations are the result of a

Wright accepts new post

Reed Wright began the pastorate of Maple Street Baptist Church in Cleveland on March 15.

He comes to the pastorate from Macedonia Baptist Church in Cleveland. Other pastorates include New Friendship and Candies Creek Baptist churches in Cleveland, and Fellowship Baptist Church in Chickamauga, Ga.

Wright is a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and serves on the Christian services committee.

He presently serves as director of evangelism for Bradley County Baptist Association. He has served as moderator and president of the pastors' conference.

three-month controversy over the diversion of \$8,850 in domestic hunger funds to supplement the Church Pastoral Aid budget.

According to Indiana records, missions director Ray requisitioned CPA checks for \$19,700 on Dec. 5, 1986, to pay the salary supplements of pastors receiving assistance. Of that amount, \$8,850 was covered by diverting funds from the designated hunger relief fund account.

Domestic hunger funds are designated gifts distributed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as part of Southern Baptists' program of combatting hunger around the world. Church Pastoral Aid provides funds for small congregations to be able to have a full-time pastor in order to facilitate church development.

Haygood brought the diversion of funds to the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 23. During that meeting Haygood presented and the committee adopted without opposition a strongly worded resolution which called the expenditure of hunger funds for pastoral assistance a "direct violation of the guidelines from the Home Mission Board," and put the committee "on record as strongly opposing this misuse of funds."

Moore said Haygood told the committee Ray had seen and was in agreement with the resolution. "I realized it was a hard statement and it would have a tendency to scar his (Ray's) ministry, but we accepted it because we were told he (Ray) had seen it. When we went to tell him about our action, I found out he had not seen the resolution."

Subsequently, Ray asked to speak at the March 2 meeting of the 33-member Executive Board. He was allowed to speak and told the board: "In retrospect, I probably should have requisitioned other available limited funding instead of domestic hunger funds . . ."

Haygood disagreed with the Board's decision to hear Ray. He quoted from the SCBI Constitution and from the employee policy guidelines which says staff members shall report to the executive director-treasurer and "not directly to the Executive Board or its committees."

"Protocol has been seriously violated. The staff of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana has always worked for the executive director, not the Executive Board. Unless it stays on that keel we will let the bottom fall out of what we have," Haygood told board members.

Following the March 2 meeting, the Executive Committee met and rescinded the

strongly worded resolution, substituting one which only says the use of hunger funds was a "direct violation" of HMB guidelines and instructing Ray and Haygood to work together to transfer funds to the hunger fund, "making up the difference for the mistake which has been made."

Haygood's resignation says: "Due to recent events and because I feel I no longer have the full support of the Executive Board, I do not feel that I can lead this convention any farther. I do not wish to damage it with further strife. Therefore I am submitting my resignation."

Haygood told Baptist Press he resigned "simply because I was too tired of

fighting the battle of polarization . . . polarization between the conservatives and moderates. I was just too tired to wrestle with it. I had already considered leaving. I felt like the convention could solve its problems better without me on the scene than it could with me (present)."

Haygood would not amplify on the "conservatives and moderates" remark but commented on a report of the controversy which took up three pages in the March 10 issue of the *Indiana Baptist*. "The reason I resigned is that I have built a good state convention and do not want it destroyed over something that should never have been in the paper."

Carson-Newman . . .

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the college's nightly local newscast.

Tyler, who will also be the program's news director, got her start in broadcast journalism as a researcher for Paul Harvey's ABC Radio news program and has had extensive experience as a television reporter and anchor. She will continue to serve as news director for LCNC TV-10, the cable station operated by Carson-Newman.

Co-anchor and assistant news director Jamey Tucker, a Carson-Newman senior from Springville, Ala., will graduate from the college in May with a degree in communication arts. Tucker, who has worked as a radio announcer, has already had a good deal of on-air television experience as sports features reporter for LCNC. Besides being one of LCNC's most active student volunteers, Tucker writes a column for the student newspaper and serves as secretary of entertainment in the Carson-Newman Student Government Association.

A special features reporter, John Hartman, also will also make regular appearances on the program. Hartman has had over 35 years of experience in corporate communications and most recently managed overseas communications for Westinghouse. After taking an early retirement from Westinghouse, he became involved with LCNC as a volunteer.

According to "What's Happening" producer Jerry Brittingham, the newscast will make use of several different news resources, including Baptist Press, NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) Net News Service, and Associated Press. The

program's staff also is eager to receive input directly from churches and other organizations.

"We want to encourage churches, associations, state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention schools, colleges, and agencies to become involved in this venture," Brittingham said. "We have the potential to provide prompt coverage of stories as they develop. If we receive videotape on a story by 8 a.m. or written or phone information by 10 a.m., we could conceivably have the story on the air that same evening."

Persons who wish to submit announcements, news, and videotape or to coordinate personal interviews may contact Brittingham at Carson-Newman.

"I'm delighted that Carson-Newman College is committed to providing programming on a continuing basis to the ACTS network," said Jimmy Allen, president of ACTS. "The network has been designed as a telecommunications cooperative. It is our hope that we will be able to see fresh, creative, quality programming from various areas of the nation and from various segments of the Baptist family. We are looking forward to 'What's Happening' as a creative resource for Southern Baptists for communicating to the families of our nation."

ACTS will carry "What's Happening" into 31 states via 261 cable systems. The network reaches into about 5-million households with 13.5-million potential viewers.

Besides providing "What's Happening" to ACTS five times per week, Carson-Newman will continue to produce a live local news program each evening at 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday. In addition to her "What's Happening" duties, Tyler will continue to co-anchor this newscast with John Hartman.

The local news program features taped on-location reports and in-studio interviews with area personalities and noted visitors to the college. The newscast is part of LCNC's nightly prime-time lineup, which also includes a variety of taped programs and specials. Studios for LCNC are housed on the fourth floor of the college library. The channel is operated by Carson-Newman students, staff, and community volunteers.

"The hands-on experience provided by LCNC has already proved to be a great plus for our students in broadcast journalism," Maddox said. "This communications tool has also helped to bring the community and the college closer together. Our prayer is that we will be able to make use of this wonderful opportunity offered to us by the ACTS network to serve our entire denomination."

Hunger gifts top \$9-million

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists gave more than \$9-million to worldwide hunger relief in 1986, the second-largest amount ever given through the denomination's Foreign and Home Mission boards.

The 1986 total of \$9,089,279 was 23 percent less than the record \$11.8-million given in 1985, but nearly a \$2-million increase over the amount given in 1984. The 1986 total is more than \$8-million above 1977 contributions.

For 1986, the Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$7,790,128, compared with \$10,625,897 in 1985 and \$6,548,901 in 1984. Thirty-four percent of the 1986 receipts came during the last two months of the year after the observance of the denomination's World Hunger Day in October.

Unlike the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board's hunger contributions climbed slightly to \$1,299,151 in 1986 from \$1,204,249 in 1985. The 1986 figure was more than twice the \$617,817 received in 1984.

"The increase in domestic hunger giving, beginning in 1985, reflects in large measure the implementation of the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention recommendation that undesignated contributions to world hunger be divided, with 80 percent going to the Foreign Mission Board and 20 percent going to the Home Mission Board," explained Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.



Rains



Blevins



Davis



Grossman

Tennessee RA Congress anticipates 2,000 boys

The 33rd annual state Royal Ambassador Congress is expected to draw about 2,000 boys in grades 1-12, their counselors, and sponsors to Bayside Baptist Church in Harrison near Chattanooga April 17-18. The theme is "Following Jesus."

Reggie White, the all-pro defensive lineman for the Philadelphia Eagles, a member of the John Madden all-pro team, and the most valuable player in the pro bowl last year, will speak.

White, a native of Chattanooga, is a Baptist minister and a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he was all-American defensive tackle and national defensive lineman in 1983. He also was named USFL Man of the Year while playing for the Showboats in Memphis.

Also speaking to the RAs is Kenny Rains, director of Pioneer Royal Ambassadors and High School Baptist Young Men for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis. Rains formerly served in the Brotherhood department of the TBC.

Activities will include missions conferences led by six missionaries, a missions fair with 32 exhibits, a model airplane demonstration by the Chattanooga Radio Control Club, the election of officers, and the congress mission of-

fering, which has a goal of \$5,000.

Other activities include the project competition, mission speakout competition, campcraft rodeo, RA racer competition, the Ambassador Service breakfast, and the 1987 honor chapters presentation.

The six missionaries leading the missions conferences represent foreign missions. Patsy Davis is currently a women's worker who also leads RA work in Venezuela. She also will speak in a general session on the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership.

Betty Yoars, a church and home worker, serves with her husband and three children in Hong Kong. The pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Chattanooga, C. E. Blevins, is a retired missionary associate to Zambia and conference leader.

Steve Cook, a graduate of Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, is a radio-TV programmer in Chile. C. Lamar Tribble, a native of Chattanooga, serves as a general evangelist in Bolivia. The TBC missionary-in-residence also will speak to the RAs. Paul Grossman is a general evangelist in Burkina Faso.

The 1986-87 state RA officers will preside. They include John Herron of Nashville, president; Blayne Davidson of Louisville, secretary; Chris Armstrong of Ringgold, Ga., mission activity leader; and Gregory Adams of Dickson, interest activity leader.

Herron, state RA president, also will report on his mission trip with Tim Spencer, past RA president, and Archie King, TBC Brotherhood department director, to Venezuela. They supported the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership by working at the first RA conclave in Venezuela.

Persons interested in attending the congress, which begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday and ends at about 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, may contact the TBC Brotherhood department, P.O. Box 728 Brentwood, TN 37027. The cost is \$3.50 per person. Pre-registration should be received by April 10, but is not required.

Jere Adams takes position at BSSB

Jere V. Adams, program associate of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's church music department, has accepted the position of design editor, youth adult general materials section, church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Adams, who will begin at the BSSB on May 1, has worked with Julian Suggs, director of the TBC church music department, since August 1983. He will assist Mark Blankenship, the section's director, at the BSSB.

The Douglasville, Ga., native has been minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Hixson; and minister of music at First Baptist Church, Lenoir City; Camden Baptist Church, Camden, Ala.; and Riverside Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Adams also has served as minister of music and education at Kessler Park Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; and as organist of West Manor Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; and Second Baptist Church, College Park, Ga.

For seven years Adams has served as secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Chorale. He also was president and vice-president of the chorale, association music director, and a member of the TBC Committee on Arrangements.

Adams is a graduate of Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Task Force report...

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during the September Executive Board meeting.

The new organizational structure did not affect the other agencies and institutions currently housed in the Executive Board building: the Baptist and Reflector, the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Inc., and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes Inc.

Those agencies and institutions, however, will be directly affected by the plan for a new building. They, along with WMU, will move into the new 30,000- to 40,000-square-foot building, which is scheduled for completion in 1989.

The new building, if approved by the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November, also will include supportive facilities for Executive Board programs and needs, such as conference rooms and classrooms. The Task Force estimates it will cost between \$2.25-million and \$3-million. The exact location of the new building on the six-acre Brentwood property has not been determined.

The renovation of up to 25,000 square feet of the 46,800-square-foot existing building will cost about \$750,000, according to Task Force estimates, and a new computer center will cost about \$100,000. This brings the estimate for the cost of the new building plus renovation to \$4-million. The renovation will be completed in 1990.

James McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, and a member of the Task Force, explained the plan for financing the \$4-million.

Existing assets, he noted, include the Capital Reserve Fund of \$518,625.99, the Executive Board Reserve Fund of \$190,000, and a 128-acre farm owned by the Executive Board which has appraised for \$512,000. This brings the amount already available to about \$1.6-million. In addition, he said the Oct. 31, 1986, financial statement indicates more than \$1.5-million in the Executive Board unappropriated general funds, the TBC unappropriated funds, and the TBC reserve funds.

"We cannot take all of that money and use it for this project because we need to have some money on hand with which to operate," McCluskey said. But he noted "a good portion" could be used at the discretion of the Executive Board and the convention.

He also noted that by the time the building is completed, two or possibly three more convention years will have passed. "Every year, due to good financial planning and budget control," McCluskey said, "we come to the end of a year with unexpected budget funds that average \$250,000."

He projected that more than half of the \$4-million will be in hand by the time the building and renovation are completed. If the balance is borrowed, he estimates it will be paid off within five to seven years.

"I believe that God has already given us the resources," McCluskey said. "We don't need to pray for more resources. We need to use better the resources God has already entrusted to us."

During the discussion of the Task Force report and recommendations, the placement of the public affairs program in the Baptist and Reflector office drew the most discussion.

Raymond Boston, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, and chairman of the Task Force's organizational structure subcommittee, explained the rationale for the Task Force's suggestion.

"The purpose of this office (public affairs) is to gain information, disseminate

information, and to aid those who need additional information," Boston said. "It is rather foolish to take God's consecrated money and for the public affairs and Christian life committee to have to ask for an appropriation of funds to provide (advertising) space in the Baptist and Reflector in order to disseminate information to Tennessee Baptists."

He expressed concern that the public affairs program could be interpreted to be a Political Action Committee if it were given departmental status. He also noted that a person who is gathering information has more entree in the General Assembly than a person who might be classified as a lobbyist.

"A lobbyist has to register," Boston said. "This involves entanglement of church and state."

George Coaker, pastor of Milton Baptist Church, Lascassas, noted that other TBC ministries purchase advertising space in the Baptist and Reflector and that "we need more than a reporter" in the public affairs position.

"I can get a report every night on television," Coaker said. "I'm not afraid of the law. If we're a Political Action Committee, let's admit it. Let's don't try to hide behind something."

Coaker recommended assigning the public affairs person as an administrative assistant to the executive secretary.

Fred Isaacs, a businessman from Cosby and a member of the Task Force, responded to Coaker. "We are a continuing Task Force. Some of these things we'd very much like to take back under advisement. I don't have a lot of quarrel with what you're saying."

Other Executive Board members who spoke against the public affairs program being placed in the Baptist and Reflector included Carl Price, Larry Reeves, Mike Bennett, and Paul Durham.

Bennett said combining public affairs with the Baptist and Reflector would compromise both positions. Public affairs, he noted, would "play second fiddle" to meeting a weekly deadline and getting a newspaper out. It also would jeopardize the Baptist and Reflector's independence, objectivity, and "their responsibility to just report the news," Bennett said.

Durham expressed concern about altering the position during a time when a gambling bill is pending in the Tennessee General Assembly.

In other action, Coaker made a motion that the director of the Central Administrative Division be a layperson, preferably a woman. The motion failed.

Coaker earlier had recommended putting personnel under the Central Administrative Division, which eventually resulted in Barkley's amendment.

In authorizing the Task Force to review program statements and Executive Board committee structure, the Executive Board gave the 12-member committee permission to submit appropriate suggestions for program statement changes to the Tennessee Baptist Program Committee and to make formal recommendations regarding Executive Board committee structure.

Members of the Task Force, in addition to Porch, Boston, Isaacs, and McCluskey, are Nobel Brown, Marshall Gupton, Mrs. Richard Hawkins, Calvin Harvell, Ronald Hicks, Fred Steelman, John Lee Taylor, and Judy Trivette.

The Task Force, authorized by the Executive Board in September 1985, was appointed by Jerry Oakley, then president of the Executive Board and now TBC president, and Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary.

B&R committee requests help

A circulation increase subcommittee of the Baptist and Reflector Board of Directors met March 26 to study ways to increase the Tennessee Baptist news publication's circulation.

The subcommittee is seeking feedback from Tennessee Baptists concerning ideas for increasing the circulation or making the Baptist and Reflector more appealing and helpful to Tennessee Baptists.

Anyone wishing to offer suggestions should contact the subcommittee chairman, Dennis Pulley, pastor, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 23, Ripley, TN 38063.

Inerrancy conference uses variety of SBC leaders

By Mark Wingfield

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Southern Baptists identified with both sides of the political spectrum in their denomination will share the platform at the Conference on Biblical Inerrancy at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center May 4-7.

Twenty-nine Southern Baptists will participate in the national conference sponsored by the six Southern Baptist seminaries, said Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas. Respondents include educators from both SBC and non-SBC schools and pastors espousing a variety of viewpoints on convention affairs.

Presidents of the six seminaries announced the conference Oct. 20, 1986, in their "Glorieta Statement" made to the SBC Peace Committee. Dilday said the conference is an attempt to resolve Southern Baptists' eight-year-old political and theological controversy.

The conference's 11 major addresses will be given by evangelical non-Southern Baptists who are considered authorities on Biblical inerrancy, Dilday said.

"Those to address the plenary sessions are from the conservative evangelical world," Dilday said. "They come from denominations which have already struggled with this issue of Biblical authority. They are convictional inerrantists but represent a wide diversity among themselves within that framework."

Two Southern Baptist leaders will respond to each of these addresses.

"In the respondents we chose Southern Baptist leaders, looking both to those on the right and the left within our Southern Baptist constituency," Dilday said. "They are for the most part thoughtful pastors who have worthwhile contributions to make to our general theme."

Richard Land and James Carter will respond to "Biblical Inerrancy in Historical Perspective." Land is on leave from Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas to serve as special counsel on church and state relations for Texas Gov. Bill Clements. Carter is pastor of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

William Hull and Paige Patterson will respond to "What is Biblical Inerrancy?" Hull is provost at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Patterson is president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies.

Adrian Rogers and John Lewis will respond to "Parameters of Biblical Inerrancy." Rogers is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, and Southern Baptist Convention president. Lewis is pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C.

James Flamming and Ed Young will respond to "Inerrancy and the Divinity and the Humanity of the Bible." Flamming is pastor of First Baptist Church of Richmond, Va. Young is pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston.

Peter Rhea Jones and Rick Melick will respond to "Problem Areas Related to Biblical Inerrancy." Jones is pastor of First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga. Melick is a professor at Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis.

Gene Williams and Frank Pollard will respond to "Implications of Biblical Inerrancy for the Christian Mission." Williams is president of Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla. Pollard is pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., and former president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Also, SBC seminary professors will lead 15 small-group discussions on topics related to Biblical inerrancy. Professors scheduled to participate are Robert Cate

and Kenneth Eakin, Golden Gate; Fisher Humphreys, Terry Young, and Joe Cothen, New Orleans; Hugh Wamble and Vernon Davis, Midwestern; Alan Neeley and Morris Ashcraft, Southeastern; David Mueller, Wayne Ward, William Hendricks, and Lewis Drummond, Southern; Leo Garrett, Earle Ellis, Russ Bush, and Bruce Corley, Southwestern.

Speakers for the plenary sessions are J.I. Packer, professor of historical and systematic theology at Regent College, Vancouver, Canada; Kenneth Kantzer, dean of the Christianity Today Institute, Wheaton, Ill.; Clark Pinnock, professor at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario; Millard Erickson, dean at Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.; Mark Noll, history professor at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.; and Robert Preus, president of Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dilday said addresses given at the conference will be published in two books. One book will contain addresses and responses from the plenary sessions. Lectures given by seminary professors during the small-group sessions will make up the second volume.

"Before the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion, there will be released a summary pamphlet wrapping up the conference and encouraging the distribution of the two books," Dilday said.

As of March 4, Ridgecrest had received nearly 600 reservations for the conference. The presidents anticipate attendance of more than 1,500 participants.

"The response I've received has been very positive, in fact enthusiastic," said Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

"As one pastor said, 'I've been wanting someone to explain what inerrancy really means for a long time. I'm so glad to have a chance to talk about it and learn something rather than just argue and criticize each other.'

"I think he has caught the spirit of the conference," Ferguson said.

Personal Perspective



By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

It was my privilege to be pastor of Greenbrier Baptist Church from 1952-54. James Nunnery was pastor of Orlinda Baptist Church during those years. James later went on to be pastor of Malesus Baptist Church and a few years ago went on to be with the Lord.

The reason I mention Brother Nunnery's name is that in one of the Robertson Baptist Association's annual meetings, he brought a message based upon the word "evangelizo." He translated the word from the Greek into modern day language which, as he put it, would be "gossip good news." The thrust of that message has stayed with me for these more than 30 years.

We ordinarily think of gossip that lends itself to self-destruction. There is a type of gossip, though, which is to be sought. In fact, the result of failing to gossip, in this instance, could mean the tragic fate for someone else. I think a good way to describe conversational evangelism, or to put it another way, personal witnessing, is to "gossip good news."

This is revival season across Tennessee. Many of our churches have had or will have revivals during the weeks prior to and after Easter. Let me encourage you to "gossip." Gossip with your loved ones who are lost. Seek out neighbors and friends to invite to revival services. Steer the conversation around to spiritual matters and put in a positive word about Jesus. Share your own personal experience with them.

Gossip the good news about a great salvation.

Gossip the good news about your church. Gossip the good news about the peace our Lord gives in troubled times.

Let me challenge you to give a new, and better meaning to a word that is in need of a greatly improved reputation.

Airport closing fails to delay Biblical inerrancy conference

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The national Conference on Biblical Inerrancy is still on schedule even though flights into the Asheville, N.C., airport have been grounded for the opening day.

Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., announced March 13 that the Asheville airport will be closed for resurfacing of runways from 11 p.m. May 1 until 6:50 a.m. May 5.

The conference is scheduled May 4-7 at nearby Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Ridgecrest has scheduled shuttle service from two alternate airports to the conference center. Conference participants should schedule flights into either the Greenville/Spartanburg, S.C., airport or the Charlotte, N.C., airport, said Betty Hicks, a spokeswoman for Ridgecrest.

Inerrancy Conference hospitality rooms will be clearly marked at both airports May 3 and 4, Hicks said. Participants should wait there until the next shuttle to Ridgecrest arrives.

Hicks said Greenville/Spartanburg, the preferred airport, is a one-and-one-half hour drive from Ridgecrest. The Charlotte airport is a two-hour drive, she said. Special shuttle rates will be \$15 per person from the Greenville/Spartanburg airport and \$18 per person from Charlotte.

Participants should plan to depart from the Asheville airport, which will have reopened by the time the conference ends, Hicks said.

The nearly 700 people already registered for the conference will receive a card in the mail requesting flight information, Hicks said. These cards should be returned to Ridgecrest with flight number, arrival time, date of arrival, and airport so that shuttle schedules may be planned.

Union enrolls 1,446 for spring classes

JACKSON — Union University has set a record for spring enrollment as the number of students registering for classes reached 1,446.

Total enrollment (headcount) increased by 62 students (4 percent) over spring 1986, announced President Hyran Barefoot. Enrollment of full-time students is 1,249, an increase of 28 over last year.

Madison County posted the greatest number of students with 302, followed by Shelby County with 175 and Gibson County with 108.

Freshman applications for fall 1987 are currently 10 percent above last fall's record enrollment. High school seniors should contact Union's Office of Admissions, Jackson, TN 38305, as soon as possible for details about admission procedures and scholarships.

Lovin serves in Rogersville

Dayton Lovin recently began serving as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Rogersville.

He formerly served as pastor of Starn Gap Baptist Church in Morristown and Spruce Pine Grove Baptist Church in Mooresburg.

Lovin is a native of Mooresburg.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 71,535

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Letters to the Editor

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

Which parts are 'error'?

Dear editor:
In a recent letter, Mr. J. E. Pennington stated that he can accept the inerrancy of the "original" Scriptures, but not the inerrancy of the "many copies and translations."

He also stated that "The fundamental or basic principle of Christianity is salvation by grace through faith in the blood atonement of Jesus," and that "Our salvation depends upon 'living by faith.'"

Somehow these statements seem to be contradictory. How do we know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? How do we know that He died for our sins? How do we know that we are saved by faith in Him? Because the Bible says so. But if the Bible is so full of "errors," how can we be sure that the gospel is true? Remember, we don't have the "original" gospel either. How do we determine which parts of the Bible are "error" and which parts are not?

It is true that "our salvation depends upon 'living by faith'" but doubting God's Word can hardly be called "living by faith." We accept the gospel by faith. Why, then, is it so hard to accept the rest of the Bible by faith?

One final comment: I fail to see how Mr. Pennington can call fundamentalist doctrine "heresy" when it is liberal doctrine that is contrary to the Baptist Faith and Message.

Kenneth A. Jones
Ellington Hall F211L
University of Tennessee-Martin
Martin, TN 38238

DOM Earl Wells dies in Memphis

Earl Elvin Wells, director of missions for Haywood Baptist Association, died March 26 at Baptist Hospital in Memphis after an apparent heart attack. He was 67 years old.

The funeral was March 28 at Brownsville Funeral Home in Brownsville with H. K. Sorrell, pastor of Brownsville Baptist Church in Brownsville, officiating. Wells was a member of the Brownsville church.

All 10 of the pastors in the association served as pallbearers. Wells was buried in Brownsville, Memorial Gardens.

Wells was pastor of Nashway Baptist Church in Jackson, Holly Grove Baptist Church in Bells, and Poplar Corner Baptist Church in Brownsville. He also was a pastor in Mississippi. He served the association as interim DOM and DOM since October 1983. Wells also was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board from 1981-86.

Wells was a graduate of the University of Mississippi, University, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Survivors include his wife, Josie Lee Shomake Wells; daughters, Mary Joy Ward of Lexington, Ky., and Delores Steed of Jackson; sons, Charles Earl Wells of Birmingham, Ala., and Elvin Lee Wells of Brownsville; a sister, Cordie Kurth of Coldwater, Miss.; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Openly air views

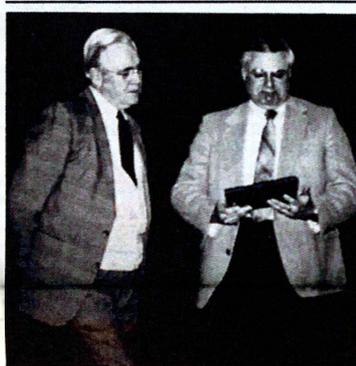
Dear editor:

In my opinion we do not need to hear inerrantists like James Packer and Kenneth Kantzer lecture about the complete trustworthiness of Scripture. We do, however, desperately need to hear what our own seminary professors think about this all-important doctrine.

Our Baptist Book Store is selling a new book, *The Southern Baptist Holy War*, by Joe Edward Barnhart. In this publication Dr. Barnhart comes out very clearly on what he thinks about the Bible. Dr. Barnhart is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He did teach at Carson-Newman College.

I feel it is fair to say that Dr. Barnhart is clearly a non-conservative. Conservatives need to listen, firsthand, to what this man has to say. And let's hope that other Southern Baptist non-conservative people will openly air their views of the Bible as Dr. Barnhart has done.

John Gill
1233 Radmoor Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421



38 YEARS OF SERVICE — Glenn Yarbrough (left), TBC student department director, receives an award recognizing his 38 years of student work from Emery Smith, South Carolina Baptist Convention's campus ministry department director and 1986-87 president of the State Baptist Student Directors' Association, during its annual meeting held recently in Birmingham, Ala.

Outreach training set in four sites

All persons interested in being trained to lead an eight-week Outreach Bible Study group may attend the conference scheduled for their area by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School department.

The schedule follows: April 6 at Ooltewah Baptist Church in Ooltewah near Chattanooga, April 7 at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood near Nashville, April 14 at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, and April 16 at Berclair Baptist Church in Memphis.

Sessions for general officers, adults, and youth will be provided. They will be from 7-9 p.m.

The study is an evangelistic plan to reach lost youth and adults fashioned after the methods of Jesus and Paul, according to the TBC Sunday School department.

No reservations are required. Persons may obtain further information from the TBC Sunday School department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Baptist nursing group sets meet

The first meeting of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship of Tennessee on April 11 will feature Mary Saunders, foreign missionary nurse from Richmond, Va.; John Morris, associate director of pastoral services at Baptist Hospital in Nashville; Larry Roberts, minister of evangelism/discipleship at First Baptist Church in Nashville; and Georgia Ridgeway Carruth, coordinator of palliative care program at Veterans Administration Medical Center in Nashville.

Organizers expect the meeting to become an annual event.

The gathering will be held at First Baptist Church in Nashville. The theme is "Meeting the Spiritual Needs of the Nurse and the Patient."

Debbie Gregory, president of the Tennessee Baptist Nursing Fellowship and a nurse at Veterans Administration Medical Center in Nashville, will preside at the meeting.

Other persons on the program include



Carruth



Saunders

Dewey Dunn, immediate past-president of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship; Carrol Kelly, associate, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union; Naomi Page, a certified nurse midwife at General Hospital in Nashville; Donna Finto Burks, a family nurse clinician at Downtown Clinic in Nashville; Carolyn Reese, a nurse at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville; and Tony Warren, a musician in Nashville.

The Tennessee fellowship was formed Nov. 22, 1986, and is a part of the national Baptist Nursing Fellowship, which will hold a meeting in Nashville Nov. 12-15, 1987.

The cost of the meeting which includes lunch, is \$10. It begins at 8:30 a.m. and will end at 3 p.m. For more information, persons may contact Debbie Gregory, 5108 Brucewood Drive, Nashville, TN 37211.

Union announces spring Bible meet

JACKSON — "Growing in Grace" will be the theme for Union University's 16th annual Spring Bible Conference slated for April 6-8.

Featured speakers will include John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.; Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Wayne E. Ward, professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Kenneth Hartley, chairman of the music department at Union University, will provide special music and lead congregational singing.

The conference will begin April 6 at 10 a.m. with Sullivan preaching. The Bible studies will continue at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8 p.m. each day in the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel.

"The Spring Bible Conference is dedicated to leading us to be more like the Master, by challenging us to grow in the fellowship of His church, in the power of His spirit, and in the strength of prayer," said John Adams, vice-president for religious affairs.

The messages are being taped and will be available to individuals and churches upon request. Persons interested in purchasing cassette or video tapes should contact the university's office of religious affairs.

Meetings to prepare church youth workers

Youth workers may learn how to reach more youth for Christ, teach them more effectively, and involve more youth in church life by attending the Youth Plus Sunday School Conference, which will be held in three sites across the state.

The meetings will be held April 7 at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, April 14 at the Tennessee Baptist Executive Board Building in Brentwood, and April 28 at Frayser Baptist Church in Memphis.

Interested persons may attend the 6-9 p.m. conference, which includes the evening meal, by making a reservation a week before the conference. Reservations may be made by contacting the TBC Sunday School department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

TBC sets meeting for secretaries

The annual Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Secretaries' Conference April 13-15 will include a new session on preparing newsletters and bulletins led by Bob Ethridge, director of the audio-visual department at the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

The conference, which will meet at Camp Carson, Newport, also will feature Lucy Hoskins, retired, church administration department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

"Secretaries Minister Also," the theme, will be covered in additional sessions led by Felix Montgomery, career support consultant, church administration department, BSSB; Jerry Oakley, TBC president and pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield; Vern Powers, director, protection plans department, TBC, Brentwood; Leonard Wedel, retired, personnel department, BSSB; and Carol Lovell, fashion academy certified consultant and color analyst, Cookeville.

Other sessions will be led by secretaries in the state.

Presiding at the sessions will be Beth Prowse of Cookeville, president of the TBC Secretaries' Association; Judy Wade of Maryville, vice-president of the association; Helen Butler of Jackson, secretary and treasurer; and Johnnie Hall Jr., TBC church training department director.

The cost of the conference is \$39.75. It covers six meals, lodging, insurance, and additional fees. To pre-register, persons should send \$10 to the TBC church training department, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Singing School

Carrs Branch Missionary Baptist Church, New Tazewell
April 9, 10, 11 — 7 p.m.
Julian Suggs, director of TBC church music department.
Rev. George C. Walker, Pastor

Senter picks up pieces of his life, ministry

By Mike Creswell

YEKEPA, Liberia (BP)— A few months after the brutal murder of his wife and daughter, Southern Baptist Missionary George Senter is struggling to pick up the pieces of his life and go on.

Senter and his 15-year-old son, Philip, were hit hard by the Nov. 26 tragedy, but they have no plans to leave Liberia. Back from a short visit home to the United States, the missionary has plunged into a busy schedule of preaching, teaching, and training Liberian Baptists to start churches throughout Nimba County.

Liberian Baptist seminary graduate Benjamin M. Morris, 32, has been convicted and sentenced to death by hanging for the murders of Libby Senter and her daughter, Rachel. But people still are talking about Senter's public expression of forgiveness toward Morris when the two met face to face at a police station following Morris' arrest.

"The thing you have done is very bad, but God loves you and wants to forgive you if you'll let Him," Senter told Morris, who broke down and wept. Moments passed. Senter put his arm on the man's shoulder and said, "With God's help, I forgive you too."

The missionary's determination to stay in Liberia and his gentle treatment of a disturbed man who had wronged him have become a powerful Christian witness across Liberia.

One Nimba County church had split over internal dissension. But in a recent meeting the two sides reunited after a woman said of Senter, "This man has forgiven a man who wiped out his family. Surely we can forgive each other and patch up our differences."

In the village of Ypain, a young Baptist man Senter had been working with was at the point of quitting the ministry because of the difficulties he encountered there. But when he saw Senter staying in Liberia after the tragedy, he resolved to stay with his ministry.

For his part, Senter admits he still fights bad feelings about Morris, whom he



COMFORT AND HOPE — George Senter shares a moment of grief and hope with Mike Gono. Returning from study abroad, Gono had just heard of the murder of Libby Senter and her daughter, Rachel. Mrs. Senter had taught him Bible and how to read the Mano language.

and his wife had tried to help by giving him a place to stay. But he realizes it will do him no good to harbor bitterness toward the man: "I had to talk to God, and I have to talk with Him every now and then about it. You have to deal with it."

"I happen to be a missionary, and my wife was a missionary, but it could have happened as easily if we weren't. When you become involved with people, you become vulnerable."

Following Morris' arrest, hundreds of angry people gathered around the police station. Many knew the Senter's personally. Others were embarrassed that such an event could happen in their country.

"I was hurting, but I soon began to realize I had to forget my feelings and minister to these people who were hurting," Senter says. "I had a deeper Christian perspective from which to view the thing. They (Libby and Rachel) were in heaven, and their pain and suffering were over. This was not in the minds of these people. Their friend, the person they'd leaned on, was taken away from them. There were so many people really hurting, both here and in the United States. She was a good woman."

Mrs. Senter had been doing very well in learning the Mano language and working in area villages. She also had been teaching at Mt. Nimba Baptist Church and a nearby school. In the weeks before her death, she spent much of her time ministering to a blind man and a woman who suffered from cancer of the jaw.

The impact of her ministry was illustrated recently when Mike Gono, a Liberian Baptist, returned to Liberia after studying in Guinea. He had not heard about the killings until his return. Meeting Senter on a street near Mt. Nimba Baptist Church, Gono wept openly, his head on the missionary's shoulder.

"Yes, they're with Jesus now," Senter whispered, infinite sadness in his voice and face. Mrs. Senter had taught Gono to read the Mano language and had encouraged him while he was in her class at church. She was his friend.

Senter is enduring a sense of loss as anyone would: He misses tucking his daughter into bed at night, their prayer together, the good-night hug and kiss. But he takes supreme comfort in knowing she is with God. Rachel had made her profession of faith in Christ during the family's last furlough in the United States.



BACK AT WORK — In Nimba County, Liberia, Missionary George Senter (second from left) talks to leaders of a local Baptist church. Following the murder of his wife and daughter last November, Senter has plunged back into a busy schedule of starting and strengthening churches.

"Both were in a good spiritual condition and were ready to meet God," Senter says. "That night (Libby) had been studying MasterLife (Christian discipleship materials). The notebooks were on the desk. Rachel had a notebook for Bible class at school. The teacher gave me her notebook, and the notes indicate she was making an effort to work on some areas of her life in light of what the Bible taught."

Prayer helped him face his family's killer, and he believes prayer support has been a tremendous help to him and Philip since the incident.

Philip could have remained in the United States with family members. But he was eager to return to Liberia, which is more like home to him, Senter said. Philip is attending the American school in Monrovia, several hours drive from Yekepa, staying in a youth hostel directed by missionaries.

Now in his second four-year missionary term, Senter works in an area in Nimba

County about the same size as the region he once served as a home missionary in Indiana. A trip from his home to the most distant churches means a bone-grinding journey of about 350 miles, most of it churned out at 25 miles per hour in a four-wheel drive vehicle.

It's a rugged land of jungle and dirt roads that turn to sticky mush in the wet season. One of Senter's joys has been increasing work with Upper Nimba Baptist Association, which has 15 churches and preaching points. Another 24 churches are in lower Nimba County.

The tragedy which struck the Senter has come at a time when Baptist work is moving well in the county and throughout Liberia. "I'm excited, because we're moving ahead more than any time since I came in 1981," he says.

Senter pauses, the pain of remembrance and loss plain on his face. "As far as I know, I'm holding up fine."

Southern Baptists are advised to pray for him and Philip just a little longer.

ETBH promotes Richard Clark

KNOXVILLE — Richard L. Clark has been promoted to assistant vice-president of administration at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital here. He was formerly assistant to the president.

In his new role, Clark will manage the following departments: physical therapy, respiratory therapy, center for neurological services, center for fertility medicine, outpatient care center, and the pain center. Clark also will be responsible for food and nutrition services on an interim basis. In addition, he will oversee product line management of the cancer program and will act as liaison between administration and data processing.

Originally from Missouri, Clark has served as assistant to the president, interim assistant vice-president of nursing operations and special services, and administrative resident at the Knoxville hospital.

Before coming to Tennessee, Clark was a health administration intern at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. Clark also has served as regional property program manager and facilities management analyst for the Internal Revenue Service in Chicago, Ill.



TENNESSEAN ELECTED — Barbara Oliver (second from right), from Elizabethton, has been elected vice-president for Christian education of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's graduating class of spring 1987 in Louisville, Ky. Other officers include (from left): Rebecca Prater, vice-president for music; Mark DeVine, vice-president for theology; Grace Powell, president; and Tami Ruckman, vice-president for social work.

Relief arrives in Ecuador; Baptists begin distribution

By Marty Croll

QUITO, Ecuador (BP) — Baptists in Ecuador are preparing to distribute about 30 tons of Southern Baptist provisions for earthquake-stricken Ecuadorans.

A cargo jet packed with food, blankets, clothing, building materials, and tools landed in Quito March 24. Although the provisions were unloaded that evening, a nationwide strike caused a two-day delay in distribution, said Larry Doyle, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Ecuador.

Ron Patterson, pastor of Lynchburg Baptist Church in Winterhaven, Fla., and a regional disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission, is helping organize distribution.

"Baptists here are very grateful for all of this," said Doyle. "You can be assured it will be put to very good use."

Missionaries are working with Ecuador Baptists in a relief program they planned together the week after two powerful earthquakes jolted an area east of the capital city in early March and destroyed sections of the region's most important roadway and the country's most important oil pipeline.

Missionaries have rented about 3,200 square feet of warehouse space at the airport. From there they and national Baptists plan to distribute the provisions primarily in four areas during the next three months, Doyle said. Surveying regions suggested by Ecuador authorities, missionaries discovered people without homes and without food in villages cut off from commerce when whole sections of road were destroyed.

In the city of Lago Agrio, First Baptist Church has turned its Sunday School facilities into a distribution center for food and supplies. The provisions will be airlifted to the city, which sits at the edge of the jungle on the eastern face of the Andes Mountains. The major thoroughfare in that area was destroyed when mountain snowcaps and watery sludge rumbled down a river valley after the quakes.

In Tabacundo, about 50 miles northeast of Quito, food and supplies will support about 90 families whose breadwinners have been forced to abandon their work while they rebuild their homes, Doyle said. Baptist young people from the 15 churches in Pichincha Baptist Association around Quito will visit house-to-house in the area around Cayambe, the village nearest the epicenter of the earthquakes. They will give away packages of food that should feed families of five for five days.

Baptists also will supply tools and building materials to six families who lost their homes just east of Quito in the town of La Merced, Doyle said. The families were identified by students at nearby Baptist Theological Seminary, who went into the grade school and talked with children, then visited their homes. Their adobe-type homes were either destroyed or cracked enough to discourage the families from going back inside.

After meeting immediate needs, missionaries may ask for volunteer work teams from the United States.

Estes accepts pastorate

Joe Estes began his ministry as pastor of Charlotte Road Baptist Church in Nashville on Feb. 1.

Previous pastorates include First Baptist Church, White Bluff; Fairfield Baptist Church, Centerville; Silver Springs Baptist Church, Mount Juliet; and Calvary Baptist Church, Lebanon.

Estes is a native Tennessean.



LEADING WORSHIP — One of the BSU group's first ministries was to lead the worship service at the center on Sunday evening. The informal setting of the center might better

meet the needs of persons in the lower east Manhattan community where Graffiti Center is located. Work by other SPOTS teams is coordinated by the Home Mission Board.

Belmont 'SPOTS' team visits New York

By Duane Simolke

NASHVILLE — Belmont College's Baptist Student Union Director Dan Walker spent spring break this year in New York City with 11 Belmont students.

The group, which comprised a SPOTS (Special Projects Other Than Summer) missions team, included Catherine Brasseaux of Tullahoma, Lynn Burson of Mt. Juliet, Lara Cole of Columbia, Sarah Hammit of Jacksonville, Fla., Tim Hamilton of Calverton, Va., Kerry Haymaker of Elk Grove, Calif., Diana Perdue of Byrdstown, Marina Rolle of the Bahamas, Nannette Ryals of Glen Ridge, N.J., Mark Teague of Seaside, Calif., and Duane Simolke of Minden, La.

Each year, Belmont's BSU, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and several area churches co-sponsor a SPOTS team for ministry during spring break. This year, students worked at the Graffiti Baptist Ministry Center in New York City.

SPOTS team members contributed their talents, as well as a willingness to do whatever was needed. The work included tutoring and leading in the after-school ministry to children and youth; leading worship services; cleaning, repairing, and painting the center and the center's apartment; passing out flyers; and preparing meals for the community meal program.

Tim Hamilton led music at two weekly services at the Graffiti Center, a service at a nearby nursing home, and the Sunday morning service at Nannette Ryals' home church in New Jersey. Sara Hammit and Kerry Haymaker sang at these ser-

VICES, while Catherine Brasseaux interpreted the songs in sign language.

Graffiti Center is located in the lower east side of Manhattan, one of the roughest areas of the city. Many residents have had their lives destroyed by drugs and/or homelessness.

Students observed that the street people are an accepted social class and their reasons for living on the street are usually more complex than simple irresponsibility on their part.

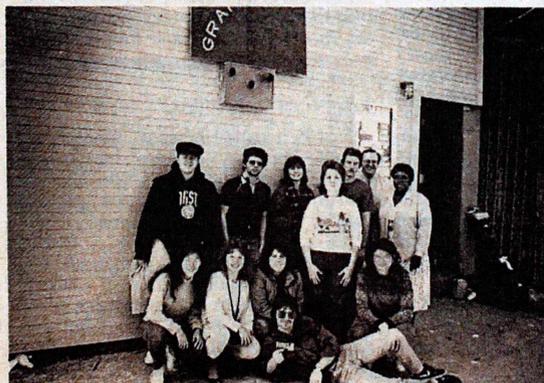
Some of the people lost their jobs and could not pay rent. Others came to the city as runaways seeking fame or employment they never found. Some spent all of their money on alcohol or drugs, which they mistakenly turned to in their moment of need. Still others lost their homes because of fires or vandalism and had no one to take them in.

Ministries like the center exist throughout the city to reach out to these forgotten people. The definition of "reaching out" seems to vary from ministry to ministry, but together the workers attempt to meet all the needs of their community.

"Any money you give to a drug addict will probably be used for drugs," said Taylor Field, the tall, streetwise home missionary who directs the Graffiti Center. "Witness to them and tell them where to get food and shelter, but don't help them destroy themselves."

The ministry depends on mission teams, such as the SPOTS team, and other short-term missionaries to assist with the work.

"Everyone accomplished even more than I expected them to," said Walker. "They not only did the assigned work, but they went out to the neighborhood and the park and spent time with people there."



IN THE BIG APPLE — Belmont College SPOTS team members include (standing, left to right): Kerry Haymaker, Duane Simolke, Diana Perdue, Nannette Ryals, Mark Teague, BSU Director Dan Walker, Marina Rolle; (kneeling) Catherine Brasseaux, Lynn Burson, Lara Cole, Tim Hamilton, and Sarah Hammit.



HOMEWORK HELPER — Belmont student Diana Perdue gives some homework help to a young inner city schoolgirl at the Graffiti Center in New York City.

Baker plans aggressiveness in attacking ethical issues

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — An age of moral crisis and dissatisfaction "is a marvelous time to step into the ministry" of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, N. Larry Baker said during his installation as the fourth executive director of the national ethics agency March 23.

"Our nation is in crisis," Baker told participants in the commission's annual seminar in Charlotte, N.C. "Dishonesty, duplicity, and deception are in epidemic proportions. Integrity is a lost commodity. . . . The social problems that plague us are complex and comprehensive."

But the Christian Life Commission "will not join the religious handwringers who say nothing constructive can be done for or with our world," he insisted. "God calls us to see the possibilities, seize our opportunities in faith, and to act aggressively. God wants us to take hold of the problems of our day with faith, hope, and love — and plunge in to do what we can with him to solve them."

The new ethics leader cited as a model for ministry the life of Jesus Christ as "the way to which we are called in our living." The source of direction for his life "is the belief that God's Word, the Bible, is able to make us wise for salvation and to equip us thoroughly for every good work."

Baker also pledged to stand for, speak in behalf of, and call for a recovery of Biblical morality and moral righteousness in every sector of our nation's life, to speak out against the evils that plague our age, to help Southern Baptists amass our strength and align our power in the cause of right and righteous living, to call Southern Baptists to be aggressive and give strong leadership in the moral arena, and "give my best energies" to developing ways and means for Southern Baptists in all walks of life to put their faith to work.

Baker will need faith and confidence for tackling the "integrity crisis in the American church" described by Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, who delivered the installation address.

Agee cited recent surveys that reveal the decline of morality in America. "Studies show that there is very little difference in the opinions and behavior of the church and the unchurched on a wide range of items," he said. And although Christians are "the only Bible some people will ever read," he claimed the behavior of many of those Christians is sending "conflicting signals" to non-Christians, with negative results.

He called for a "new agenda for the church" to correct America's integrity crisis, beginning with a rediscovery of what the Bible says about "the nature and

function of Christians in the world." This includes a priority on evangelism, growth in Christ-likeness, application of Scripture to all areas of life, and ministry in Jesus' name, he explained.

Speaking directly of the Christian Life Commission, Agee said: "We as Southern Baptists are at a major crossroads. The CLC can play a strategic role in helping us get on with the business of communicating a gospel with integrity to this lost and dying world. God has led this commission to elect Dr. Larry Baker as your leader."

"It will be a tragedy of the highest order if we do not join hands and hearts with him, his staff, and the rest of our brothers as Southern Baptists, with the commitment to pray for each other, love each other, work diligently with each other to tackle the tough issues based on a sound 'Thus saith the Lord.'"

Nail to supply lesson comments

Marvin P. Nail, pastor of Whitsitt Chapel Baptist Church, Nashville, has been selected to write the Bible Book series Sunday School lesson commentary in the Baptist and Reflector, beginning in this issue.

Nail, who recently completed 10 years as pastor of the church in Nashville, earlier was pastor of First Baptist Church in Andersonville; Beech Grove Baptist Church in Owenton, Ky.; and a church in Bad Kreuznach, West Germany. He was ordained to the ministry while serving in Germany with the U.S. Air Force.

He also has served as an instructor in the seminary extension unit at Belmont College since January 1986.

A native of Mississippi, Nail is a graduate of Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



Nail

David Markham dies

David R. Markham, son of Wayne Markham, retired minister in Crossville, and brother of Leonard Markham, pastor of First Baptist Church in Sweetwater, died suddenly March 21 in Atlanta, Ga. He was 37 years old.

Markham, a professional golfer, won the 1981 Jamaican Open. He had played golf for Knoxville's Bearden High School and the University of Tennessee.

Formerly of Lake City, Markham had moved to Atlanta, where he was in the car business. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Winter Park, Fla.

The funeral was held on March 23 at First Baptist Church in Lake City. He was buried in Knoxville's Lynnhurst Cemetery.

Survivors, other than the parents and Leonard Markham, include sons, Tony Markham of Knoxville, Andy Markham of Florida; daughters, Margaret Allison Markham of Knoxville, Ashley Markham of Florida; brothers, Harry Markham of Atlanta, and Gary Markham of Crossville.

Stanley declines PTL post

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Former Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley accepted, then one day later declined, membership on the board of directors of the PTL Club in the wake of the resignation of Jim Bakker.

Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., and new chairman of the PTL board, had announced Stanley had agreed to serve on the board of directors along with five others.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, issued a statement to news media the next day saying he could not be a member of PTL's board.

Fred Powell, senior associate pastor of the midtown Atlanta church, acknowledged that Stanley had told Falwell in a telephone conversation he was willing to serve.

"However, after consulting with advisers at the First Baptist Church in Atlanta, it was determined that in the light of Dr. Stanley's previous and prolonged involvement in Southern Baptist Convention activities and the growth and demands of his present ministry, it was best not to do so," the statement said.

Bakker, an Assemblies of God minister who founded the television ministry and Heritage USA center near Charlotte, N.C., resigned after public disclosure that he had been blackmailed over a sexual encounter with a 21-year-old church secretary. Bakker claimed he was the victim of a hostile takeover and "conspiracy to betray me into a sexual encounter" by "treacherous former friends." Bakker's attorney, Roy Grutman of New York, charged that Assemblies of God evangelist Jimmy Swaggert was behind "the religious corporate takeover," but Swaggert denied the allegation.

The Sunday evening following massive media coverage of the controversy, Stan-

ley preached a sermon to his Atlanta congregation, broadcast later in the evening on Pat Robertson's CBN network, entitled "When a Fellow Christian Stumbles."

Although Stanley did not mention Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker by name, he said that when "spiritual leaders fall, it is a warning signal to the nation" and a "call to self-examination" to other Christians.

He called for Christians to respond to the situation with gentleness, humility, and love, and for them to be caring, encouraging, accepting, and forgiving.

Stanley added Christians have an opportunity to demonstrate to an unbelieving, criticizing, mocking, jeering world that they are going to love persons who fall no matter what.

Tennessee Baptist Foundation

By Earl Wilson
President



Seven out of 10

Seven out of 10 people die without a will. This means that after all debts and taxes are paid, their property and the estate for which they worked hard will be distributed according to Tennessee state law.

Most people get mad if someone tries to tell them what to do with their money. My grandpa did and I'm just like him.

No one appreciates someone else telling them what to do with their money or property. Yet, this is what happens if you die without a will. Your estate, real property and personal property, will be distributed by the court according to state law and you will have nothing to say about who gets what or how much! Don't let this happen to you!

Prepare a will and then you, not the court and not strangers, will determine who inherits your estate.

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation will provide you, free and without obligation, helpful brochures on preparing a Christian will and the importance of estate planning.

Contact the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

BSSB names Minardi to position as editor

NASHVILLE — Ray Minardi has joined the Baptist Sunday School Board as a part-time editor of Sunday School administration materials.

He was a US-2 missionary in Manchester, N.H., from 1981 to 1983 and was minister to single adults at Clifton Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., 1985-86 while a seminary student.

Minardi is a graduate of the University of Georgia, Athens, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Judson affirms FMB

During a called business meeting on March 8, the congregation of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville voted unanimously to affirm their support for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The resolution reads: "Be it hereby resolved that we, the deacons and congregation of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, reaffirm our confidence in the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, its personnel, programs and procedures, and, be it further resolved, that we will continue to support foreign missions by encouraging our people to answer God's call to missions, by giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and by our prayers."

Raymond Langlois is pastor of the Judson congregation.

Volunteer church calls Kerr to serve as pastor

Dewey W. Kerr has accepted the call to serve as full-time pastor of Volunteer Baptist Church in Bristol. He has been serving as part-time pastor of the church since 1985.

Previous pastorates include Calvary Baptist Church in Bristol and Guarranda Drive Baptist Church in Johnson City.

Active in Holston Baptist Association, he served one term as moderator and has been on several committees.

Volunteer Baptist Church has undergone extensive renovation of their facilities, including the installation of a choir loft and a baptismal pool and complete remodeling of their main auditorium.



Kerr

Singaporeans begin church

SINGAPORE — Thirty-two charter members officially organized into the Acts Baptist Church early this year.

The church was begun nearly three years ago with 14 members, including Southern Baptist Missionaries Charles and Sharon Carroll from Fort Worth, Texas. The small group labored seven months before the first baptism, but faithful visitation and encouragement from Queenstown Baptist, the sponsoring church, helped the congregation grow.

Acts Baptist Church is searching now for a permanent place to meet.



LITERATURE PLANNERS — Involving a cross section of preschool workers and specialists has been a key element in the development of curriculum frameworks for BSSB preschool literature. Geneva Head, a Sunday School teacher from Hendersonville; Sandy Wideman, a VBS teacher from Portsmouth, N.H.; Kathryn Chapman, a professor of childhood education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Gary Foil, a preschool Sunday School associate director for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, developed frameworks for 1990-91 preschool CUS/VBS curriculum in a recent session at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood.

Interpretations

The suffering Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples how that He must ... suffer ... and be killed, and be raised again the third day" (Matthew 16:21).

Peter had just confessed that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v.16). Now Jesus tells the apostles the kind of Christ or Messiah He is — the suffering Christ.

"Must" translates dei, "it is a moral and spiritual necessity." It should be read with all the following verbs. He must go to Jerusalem, must suffer, must be killed, must be raised again the third day.

Kenny Cooper ministers to Bellevue congregation

C. Kenny Cooper has been elected pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Nashville.

Cooper, who has been pastor of Emory Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., assumes the Bellevue church pastorate April 1.

He has also been pastor of Muldraugh Baptist Church in Muldraugh, Ky., and Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford, Ky. Previously, he was community minister at Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel in Louisville, Ky.

Cooper has earned doctor of ministry and master of divinity degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also earned a bachelor of arts degree from Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.

He has been secretary-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Pastors' Conference, president and vice-president of the Atlanta Baptist Ministers' Conference, missions development program chairman of the Atlanta Baptist Association, vice-moderator of Salem Association of Baptists in Kentucky, president of the Druid Hills Churches Association in Atlanta, and a member of the Emory Ecumenical Group in Atlanta.

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Through Peter, the apostles strongly rejected such an idea. With their Jewish contemporaries they expected a political-military messiah. He would destroy the Romans, set up his kingdom in Jerusalem, and with him the Jews would rule the world. In their scheme of things, there was no place for a suffering, dying Messiah. Blinded by their desire to be free from foreign oppression, they totally ignored the Suffering Servant passages in Isaiah 42-53 (see Psalm 22).

In essence, Peter said they would not let that happen to Jesus (v.22). Peter probably did not even hear Jesus' reference to being raised on the third day. His mind froze on "be killed," which explains why Jesus' followers did not expect His resurrection (Luke 24:1-8). Peter's words were Jesus' wilderness temptations all over again — avoid the cross.

But despite man's mistaken ideas, God's will was ever the will of the Son. If Jesus must suffer to fulfill His mission, we can expect no less as we fulfill ours (Romans 8:17). Jesus suffered redemptively. We must be willing to suffer in our own spheres to make known to all people His redemptive work.

Correction

An article in the March 18 issue of the Baptist and Reflector reported that William D. Henard III came to his pastorate at First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, from First Baptist Church, Decatur, Texas. His most recent pastorate was First Baptist Church, Decatur, Tenn. The Baptist and Reflector is happy to make this correction.

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Nigerians respond to loss with prayer, praise, song

IBADAN, Nigeria (BP) — Christians in northern Nigeria returned to burned-out church buildings, picked blocks from the rubble for seating, and held joyous worship services the Sunday after Muslim-Christian riots shook the area.

Christian churches throughout the Zaria and Kaduna areas also were meeting at 9 a.m. daily for praise and prayer, said Don Reece, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria. "It was quite a witness to the people who had done all the damage," he said.

Thirteen Baptist church buildings were among the Christian churches burned in Kaduna state and a couple of neighboring towns after riots that left 13 dead and most Christian churches in Zaria burned, reported Reece after a survey trip through the area March 18 and 19. S.T. Ola Akande, general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, and four other convention staffers also were part of the survey team. "We went to encourage them, and I think we were encouraged," said Reece.

The survey team estimated damage to Baptist property at about \$37-million.

Five church buildings in the Kaduna area, seven in Zaria, and one in the home mission area around Funtua were burned, said Reece. The survey team feels parts of two buildings can be salvaged but thinks the other 10 will have to be razed and rebuilt. There are more than 200 Baptist churches in the affected Baptist associations.

Besides the churches, two nursery and primary schools run by Baptist churches were burned, and five pastors, including the home missionary in Funtua, lost their homes. The team learned of only one Baptist who was injured. F.T. Lateju, pastor of Orié Ofe Baptist Church, required stitches after being hit over the head with a club.

Already Nigerian Christians are giving through the Christian Association of Nigerians in a number of states, including Kaduna, to help Christians who lost everything, said Reece. Akande has written a letter to all Nigerian Baptist churches asking their help, and Reece sent a telegram on behalf of the Nigerian convention asking aid from the Baptist World Alliance. His own church in Ibadan, far to the southwest, already has responded with an offering of about \$300, he said.

Nigerian Baptists are handling immediate needs, but the mission organization hopes to offer some assistance in the long-term aid for reconstruction. Reece said.

Five Tennesseans join partnership

Five Tennesseans will continue the work of 321 volunteers who have previously served or are currently serving in Venezuela as a part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership, which began in November 1985.

The team will do maintenance work at Campo de Carabobo, the new campsite in Valencia, from April 6-17.

The team members are Neil Bennett of First Baptist Church in South Pittsburg, Lloyd Powell of Valley Grove Baptist Church in Knoxville, Robert F. Brown of First Baptist Church in Concord, Don Langston of Pleasant Grove Piney Baptist Church in New Market, and George Berrier of First Baptist Church in Knoxville.

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.



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

- Volunteers from South Pittsburg, Seymour, Knoxville, and Strawberry Plains will leave April 6 to go to work at Campo de Carabobo, the new campsite purchased by Venezuelan Baptists.
- Missionary Ben Kirby needs prayers as he leads a theological education by extension class and a MasterLife group.
- Pray that more MasterLife groups will begin like those started in some of the churches in Barquisimeto.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
 Lesson for April 5

Satan tests Job's faith

By Marvin P. Nail, pastor
 Whitsitt Chapel Baptist Church, Nashville

Basic Passage: Job 1:1 to 2:13
 Focal Passages: Job 1:8-12, 20-22, 2:4-10

This week we begin a new book that some scholars say may be the oldest book of the Bible. Whether or not that is true, the Book of Job certainly deals with one of the oldest questions asked by religious people, including the people of God.

The question is perhaps as old as time itself and, at the same time, as recent as the last believer who had trouble. The question is: "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

One word of caution needs to be uttered at the beginning of this study of Job. This book is a prime example of one which can do harm when a passage is taken out of context. Much of what is in this book is the mistaken opinions of Job and his friends as they wrestled with the problem of suffering. Each one has something to say about the subject, but only God has the true answer. A modern translation can help clarify which party is speaking in each section of the book.

The almost incredible opening scene in Job has the look of a theater in which mankind is on stage and the courts of heaven, even Satan, are the audience. God is pictured as admiring one particular creature, Job, about whom He would surely have said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Satan, the accuser, is not at all impressed. He thinks he understands why Job is being so faithful. He is convinced that Job and others are only faithful to God because God has provided material blessings.

Satan's attacks on Job are based on this idea. He is certain that, if this "hedge" about Job were taken away, Job's faith would collapse. Keep in mind throughout this story that it is Satan and not God who brings these trials. The little Book of James tells us that God is never their source.

Satan may destroy possessions

Much of modern American culture is not much different from the culture of the ancient days of Job. Men were measured, in terms of success, by the amount of things they possessed.

Using that yardstick to measure success would easily put Job into the category of successful men of his age. He had large herds of livestock which would have been unusual for people of his day. He also had 10 children. Children were just as much a possession as livestock. Children were also a measure of prosperity because at least the boys would bring with them a bride's dowry.

But a person whose life is built solely on the possession of things has surely built on shifting sand. Countless men and women through the ages have built such a life over the years with sweat and toil only to see it crumble into dust. The Book of James warns of the danger of building a life on things.

In the Great Depression of the early 1930s, many lives were devastated when things lost their value. In recent years many farmers have testified to losing it all due to circumstances beyond their control. Though God uses all things to bring about good for His children, Satan uses every kind of circumstance to destroy God's children.

A person who trusts in God only for these external blessings is always vulnerable prey for Satan's mischief. But Job proved to have a deeper faith than that. When he had to face the loss of all his possessions, including his children, he was still able to worship God and give praise to His name.

Satan may harm our bodies

When the loss of possessions did not destroy Job's faith in God, we might have thought Satan was finished. However, we must remember that even when he had tempted Jesus Christ, he only "went away for a season." Apparently he are never completely rid of Satan's temptations in this life.

Satan's second attack of Job's faithfulness fit well with much of the philosophy of the world today. In essence Satan said, "Job will do anything to protect his own skin." Satan knew the common wisdom that every man has his price. For most of us, saving our necks is a high priority, even if it is not number one.

This time Satan was allowed to strike Job's body but not take his life. He struck Job with boils from head to toe. If you have ever had a boil, you know the discomfort they cause and Job's whole body was covered with them. These were not life-threatening; but they caused such discomfort and pain that they would surely lead anyone to complain. Many would even be moved to accept any remedy offered.

However, when Job's wife offered a remedy, it was refused. She advised that he would do just as well to curse God and let God then put him out of his misery. Job would not do this. Instead, he remained submissive to the purpose of God.

The heart of faith is secure

Try as he might, Satan cannot destroy the heart of faith. After all, it is safe in God's hands. That does not keep Satan from trying everything he can to cause us to fall. But when we stumble, we find God's Spirit within us lifts us up. The only serious damage Satan can do is to destroy our witness. We must always guard that as Job did. He proved his faith even in adversity.



Nail



Kendall

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
 Lesson for April 5

Condemned, but not guilty

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

Basic Passages: Luke 23:1-25
 Focal Passages: Luke 23:1-5, 13-25

Both Pilate and Jesus used a washbasin. The way each used the basin revealed the difference in their philosophies of life. Jesus sacrificed His life for others; the priority in Pilate's life was self, but he also sacrificed.

Study the life of Pilate. He suffered tragically, especially during the latter years of his life, because of what he became and for actions which were dictated by his philosophy of life.

Every person makes the choice — sacrifice now for the highest, or sacrifice later by suffering. As an example, the student sacrifices who studies now. The student who refuses to study will sacrifice when the day of judgment arrives for lack of an education. We make the choice as to when and why we sacrifice, for the highest the Lord wills for us, or in judgment.

Jesus before Pilate (Luke 23:1-5)

Jesus was brought before Pilate, the Roman procurator of Judea, for the second stage of His trial. Jesus was on trial for His life, but Pilate was on trial before Jesus for his soul.

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of claiming to be a king, seeking to lead the nation to be disloyal to Rome. He was accused of treason.

Jesus sent to Herod (Luke 23:13-23)

Jesus was a Galilean. Pilate sought to avoid making a decision relative to Jesus. He sent Jesus to stand trial before Herod Antipas, who was in Jerusalem, because Galilee was in Herod's jurisdiction. Herod mocked Jesus, but did not indict Him.

Jesus sent back to Pilate (Luke 23:13-23) There is no escape from making a personal decision concerning Jesus Christ. Pilate tried to evade a decision by sending Jesus to Herod for a verdict, but Herod refused. Then Pilate had Jesus scourged, thinking this would surely satisfy the crowd who accused Jesus. Finally, he gave the crowd the choice of releasing Jesus or a hardened political rebel, Barabbas. The crowd chose Barabbas.

The crowd cried, "crucify Him, crucify Him." It would be wrong to condemn Jews for contributing to the historical crucifixion of Jesus. Many Jews in Jerusalem would not have wanted Jesus to be crucified. Accusing Jews would be analogous to accusing every American for the actions of a group within the nation.

The leaders that planned the death of Jesus had to carry out their plans in secrecy for fear of the people. Some Jewish women wept when Jesus was being led to the cross (Luke 23:27-28). In reality, each person is responsible for the death of Jesus because He died in our stead.

Pilate is an example of a person who refuses to act on what he or she knows to

be right. Pilate feared the Jewish leaders would report him to Rome if he released Jesus, which could have resulted in his impeachment. His choice was to save himself or release Jesus. Therefore, to save himself, he sentenced Jesus to death.

Pilate was not the last person to allow the crowd and self-interest to dictate decisions. The key statement in Jesus' trial before Pilate is found in John 19:12, "If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend." The choice was Christ or Caesar. Pilate chose Caesar. History has judged him as a man who sold his soul for self-interest. His name is equated with expediency.

The word "Hypocrisy" is usually reserved for people who publicly state they believe something but act in opposition to that belief. Many persons outside Christian churches accuse Christians of being hypocrites. Yet many of these accusers are hypocrites because they privately believe in the Christian way of life, and even that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but for selfish reasons they refuse to act on their secret beliefs. The world fails to recognize this as a form of hypocrisy.

Jesus was on trial before Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate. In reality, these men were on trial before Jesus. Each of their characters were revealed in encounters with Jesus Christ. The question that cannot be evaded or compromised is the most important question in life: "What will I do with Jesus?"

Livingston church calls Cobb to new ministry

Donald Cobb began his pastorate with First Baptist Church in Livingston Feb. 1.

Previous church pastorates include Audubon Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky.; Witcher Baptist Church, Belle, W. Va.; Black Oak Baptist Church, Clinton; Smith Springs Baptist Church, Nashville; Portland Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; Wolf Creek Baptist Church, Wolf Creek, Ky.; and Kickapoo Indian Baptist Church, Okla.

Cobb is a native of Shattuck, Okla. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Denominational service on the state level includes having served on the Resolutions Committee for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and on the executive board for West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

On the associational level, he is presently serving as evangelism director for Riverside Baptist Association. He formerly served in the same capacity for Green Valley Baptist Association in Henderson, Ky. He has been moderator of Clinton Baptist Association and Pioneer Baptist Association in West Virginia, and church training director for The Pioneer, Clinton, and Nashville Baptist associations.

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LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES

Lesson for April 5

The kingdom: reality, hope

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

Basic Passage: Luke 17:11-17
Focal Passage: Luke 17:20-30

When we hear the word "kingdom," we think of thrones, royalty, and pomp. The dynasties of this world have been born on the battlefield. The cradle song of every such power that has arisen was the clash of weapons. Behind that was the greed of ambition and desire for power.



Wood

The Jews of Jesus' day knew what it was to be caught in the struggle between earthly kings and volleyed back and forth across the net of international politics. For centuries their fathers had heard of a day when God would rule and His people would be vindicated. The popular

opinion was that when Messiah came, they would be restored to the glory they had known under their greatest king, David.

When Jesus began to talk about a kingdom, they identified with this common concept. The Zealots wanted to take Him over and make Him their champion. Many scholars sincerely believe that the problem of Judas was that he wanted Jesus to move toward an earthly kingdom. When Jesus refused to do so, Judas became disenchanted and turned against the Master.

As we begin the last unit of study in Luke's gospel, we shall see that the only way to victory is through suffering. No gain without pain! An old truism says, "If you succeed without suffering it is because someone has suffered before you. If you suffer without succeeding, it is in order that someone can succeed after you." God's kingdom is integrally related to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, Jesus Christ our crucified Saviour and risen Lord.

The Kingdom is now (17:20-21)

No one can read the New Testament carefully and honestly, without being assured of one certain fact. God's kingdom has already begun in this world. The Book of Acts begins (1:3) with Jesus teaching about the kingdom and ends (28:31) with Paul preaching about it. To postpone the setting up of God's kingdom to some future event is to ignore many plain Scriptural teachings.

The Pharisees misunderstood the nature of God's kingdom. They wanted an earthly organization, visible and tangible. But Jesus insisted before Pilate, when given a chance to defend Himself, that His kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36). It is the spiritual rule of God within a person's heart and begins when one accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

The kingdom is also a future prospect (17:22-24)

God's method is always to begin a good work and then see it through to a conclusion (Philippians 1:6). The writer of Hebrews said, "Thou hast put all things ... under His feet." Then immediately said, "But now we see not yet all things put under Him" (2:8). The kingdom is here, but it is also a coming kingdom.

Today, in the midst of perhaps the most sinful era in our world's history, God's kingdom is also the strongest it has ever been. This paradox is mysterious but thrilling! The kingdom is here, but we long to see it! Lord, I believe, help Thou my unbelief!

The cross and the kingdom (17:25)

Immediately after Simon Peter's great confession at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus began to tell His disciples about His future suffering, including His death. Peter objected, and Jesus used the word to describe him that many translators render by the proper noun "Satan."

Few, if any Christians today would deny that Jesus suffered and rose again, but many do not see present suffering as related inseparably to His kingdom. Through the years, however, it has been built by people who suffered. An old truism says "that the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church."

Consummation of the kingdom

A day is coming in the future when Christ will personally return to earth and

"wrap up history." Many schools of thought emerge concerning this great fact. One truth is undeniable. Jesus will have the last word in human affairs.

One great saint of God said about heaven, "I'm not near as sure about all the details of that wonderful place as I was 30 years ago, but I'm 10 times as certain of its reality." Many wise people feel the same way about the Second Coming.

The important thing for us about the kingdom of God now is that we're a part of it and need to be extending Christ's reign in the hearts of people. That's what Bold Mission Thrust is all about!

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Union Hill pastor, Harney, retires

James Harney retired as pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church in Goodlettsville, effective Feb. 28.

The church honored him with a reception Feb. 22. He has been pastor of the church for 14 years.



Harney

Harney previously served as pastor of several other churches in Tennessee including Republican Grove Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; Hurricane Grove Baptist Church, Lebanon; Mount View Baptist Church, Antioch; and Concord Baptist Church, Nashville.

He also served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Wartrace; First and Maxwell Baptist churches, Huntland; First Baptist Church, Waverly; and Immanuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

A native of Murfreesboro, Harney is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in that city. He also attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

His denominational work includes having served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. On the associational level, he was moderator for Truett and Lawrence County Baptist associations, and a member of the missions committee for Nashville Baptist Association.

Harney has participated in volunteer mission work in Korea and England.

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Terrorism cuts across religious affiliation

Editor's note: Following is the second of a three-part series exploring the relationship between terrorism and religion.

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — Terrorists pray to Jesus, Mary, Jehovah, Allah, the True Name.

They are Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, and devout believers in other religious faiths. As news accounts repeat time and again, terrorism and religion mix — violently.

During recent years, much of the world's religious violence has been associated with Islam. Followers of Allah have been blamed or have taken responsibility for shootings, bombings, and high-jackings throughout the Middle East and much of Europe.

"In Islam, a 'jihad' or holy war is a concept that has developed historically," notes Glenn Igleheart, Southern Baptists' former interfaith witness leader and now state director of missions for Baptists in New York.

According to the concept of jihad, a true follower of Allah must "be defensive of Allah or any attack on Allah's people," Igleheart explains. "It's then only a step from defense to offense. The Islamic fundamentalists have carried it further out."

That has been possible because Islam is one of the world's faiths that legitimates violence, says George Braswell, professor of world religions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary: "Islam divides the world into two parts, the world of submission to God and the world of non-submission. The Koran (Islamic scripture) says Muslims should missionize the world or jihad it — command that all people bow before God." Such a doctrine helps explain why Muslims might practice violence against people of other faiths. But terrorism is not so simple: Muslims fight Muslims.

"Islam is highly monolithic and unified, yet Muslims fight among themselves," Braswell notes. For example, violent tension exists between the Sunni and Shi'ite strains: "They have leaders with different goals in mind to bring authority to bear on the world. The Sunnis tend to be a little more flexible in terms of accommodation. The Shi'ites, under Khomeini, have probably the most radicalized ideology in the world under a theocracy.

"So you've got these groups fighting. They believe the same basic things, but their agendas are different — accommodation to the Western world, politics, power, and so forth. What happens is that religion, in this case Islam, relates to cer-

tain ingredients, such as economics or politics, which become more important than religious unity."

Although Islamic terrorists have received more attention than their counterparts from other religions, they are not representative adherents of the Islamic faith, stresses George Sheridan, regional interfaith witness coordinator for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"It would be hard to say there is a Muslim who is not a fundamentalist," he says, noting the term "Islamic fundamentalist" often is applied to terrorist groups. "Religious fundamentalism implies you go back to the basics, essential principles," he explains, noting the Koran is believed to be "an eternal, divine volume."

A Muslim is by definition a fundamentalist, "because he has to go by the root or the fundamentals of scripture," Sheridan says. "However, it usually is the case that the terrorists are an embarrassment to Muslims. Terrorists are a fraction of a percentage point of Islam."

Furthermore, terrorism is not confined to Islam. Lebanon, probably the country most in the news because of terrorism, is an example.

"Tiny Lebanon has been a country that has high educational standards, a good economy. So what's going on?" Braswell asks. "Lebanon has been factionalized by an old tribal element. You've had families that own valleys and land. They may be Christian patriarchs or Islamic. They have wedded together their religion, government, politics, militias, so it's like tribalism.

"A leader has a little nation within a nation. That's true for both Christianity and Islam in Lebanon; they want the same thing. These militias go out and fight each other, or urban terrorists fight each other."

The Palestinian refugee issue — which actually involves Muslims, Christians, and Jews — increases the problem of terrorism, notes Braidfoot, who adds, "We'll have Middle Eastern terrorism until the Palestine refugee question is settled."

Unfortunately, Christian terrorism is not isolated in Lebanon. Sheridan points to Northern Ireland, where Protestants and Catholics fight for power, as one of the most glaring examples of Christian terrorism.

Terrorism in that country revolves around "the same issues — war and peace" as terrorism elsewhere, Braswell adds. "Also, outside influences are present there — the government of Great Britain, the Roman Catholic Church — which provide different players on the scene."

And although terrorism and violence in Northern Ireland is divided along Protestant-Catholic lines, the issue of participation in government must be settled before peace can be achieved, Braidfoot says.

Closer to home, Americans are not strangers to terrorism and religious violence either.

Christians who fire-bomb abortion clinics tragically demonstrate "means-end inversion," Igleheart notes. He adds such radical action is not new for the ultra-right fringe element of Christianity, recalling, "crosses were burned in the yards of pastors, white and black, who were active in the civil rights movement."

Braidfoot points out frustrations of the civil rights movement and the Vietnam war led to violence on the part of the ultra-left fringe "whose actions followed the failure of non-violence to attain their goals."

Even today in America, Sheridan says,

"there has been a growing vandalism of Islamic buildings, even some bombing of mosques" and murder of Muslims by people bearing the name Christian.

He also points out violence, if not outright terrorism, has been utilized by Christians in South Africa, as whites seek to maintain control over other races.

Sheridan notes terrorism also can be linked with the Sikh religion, which he relates "essentially was an attempt to make a peace between Islam and Hinduism."

Braswell adds Sikh-related terrorism also is as much a "territory issue" as it is religious. "Remember it was British colonialists who came in a couple hundred years ago and used the Sikhs as their helpers, the arm of the British empire in India," he explains. "The Sikhs felt they would get the spoils when the British pulled out, but they were disappointed."

In the post-colonial period, the Sikhs "have wanted their own state or nation in the Punjab area of India," he says. "But

they are divided on that even. Some want accommodation with the Hindus; some don't trust them."

Worldwide, "there's been an increase in terrorism in the last 15 years," Sheridan observes. Although many of the terrorists have flown the banners of their religious faiths, some have not. He explains this phenomena is a matter of expediency.

"Some terrorism is and some is not predominantly religious" in orientation, he says. "Where it isn't, it's in Europe, where religion is not a useful lever for getting support." Western European terrorist groups are "not served by religion, so they don't bother with it. But in other countries — Northern Ireland, Lebanon, India — where they are served by religion, they do use it."

Consequently, religion continues to be useful in the hands of terrorists, observers agree. And unfortunately, arbiters of hate will continue to use religion to fuel the fires of terrorism.

Educators, legal experts examine church-state cases

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE (BP) — Court cases involving the separation of church and state, including a pending Supreme Court decision which could "ultimately destroy" church-related institutions, were dissected during the National Conference on Autonomy and Accountability in Nashville in mid-March.

The meeting was sponsored by the Center for Constitutional Studies, an ecumenical organization headquartered at Mercer University, a Georgia Baptist Convention-related institution in Macon.

Basil M. Thomson, general counsel for Baylor University in Waco, Texas, noted the Supreme Court case *Corporation of Presiding Bishop vs. Amos* has the "potential of ultimately destroying" religiously affiliated colleges and universities.

The case centers around the question of whether churches and their related institutions can decide for themselves whom to employ in any position. The Civil Rights Act of 1972 exempted churches from a ban on religious discrimination in employment.

Last fall, however, a U.S. district court ruled the 1972 provision unconstitutional in a case involving employees of a Mormon Church-owned business who were fired after failing to meet requirements that would have qualified them for the privileged church status of "temple recommends."

Thomson said if the Supreme Court upheld the district court's ruling, church-related institutions could be required to hire atheists, agnostics, and other non-Christians, even in religion departments.

Edward M. Gaffney, professor of law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said the district court made "four major errors in how it set up standards for review of employment discrimination cases."

Gaffney noted that the district court: — Confined religious activities to those which are directly related to spreading or teaching of religious beliefs, doctrine, or practices of the sacred rituals of the church.

— Explicitly used secular standards in order to evaluate the religious quality of church activities.

— Refused to grant Constitutional pro-

tection to sincerely held religious tenets of the Mormon community because Mormons were inconsistent.

— Confined religious activities to those that are compelled by religious doctrine.

Both Thomson and Gaffney predicted the Supreme Court would overturn the district court's ruling. They also agreed educators should not be complacent in dealing with church/state court cases.

"Educators don't have to agree with one another's particular educational goals in order to protect the most vulnerable among us from governmental interference with academic freedom and educational autonomy," Gaffney said.

He called for educators to "get their educational houses in order" and find the courage to "resist the emperor whenever he tries to diminish the rightful autonomy of the church and the institutions she needs to engage in her mission to the world."

Grove City (Pa.) College President Charles S. Mackenzie urged conference participants to give "careful attention" to the proposed Civil Rights' Restoration Act.

The proposed bill, Mackenzie said, would overturn the 1984 Supreme Court decision in *Grove City vs. Bell* that ruled government interference on campuses was limited to the specific programs receiving federal funds.

Mackenzie called the proposed bill "an incredible expansion of government power over every entity in American society which even remotely or indirectly benefits from government."

Participants in the national conference heard Leon Conlon, associate general counsel for Loyola University of Chicago, explain his school's court defense in *Pime vs. Loyola University of Chicago*, a case that dealt with the legal right of church-related institutions to make faculty appointments based on religion and value-related criteria.

Loyola, which originally lost the case, won on appeal because legislative history has shown independent universities should have discretion in matters such as the right to exercise preferential hiring of faculty members, Conlon reported.

Panamanian continues work on translation of Scripture

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Panamanian Baptists' five-year effort to translate the New Testament into the language of the Kuna Indians is making steady progress.

Lino Smith, a Panamanian Baptist pastor and full-blooded Kuna, has completed translation of seven New Testament books and predicts finishing 23 by next summer, though the July 1989 target completion date may not be met. The Southern Foreign Baptist Mission Board is funding the project.

The Kuna translation now in use is old and hard for the current generation to understand.