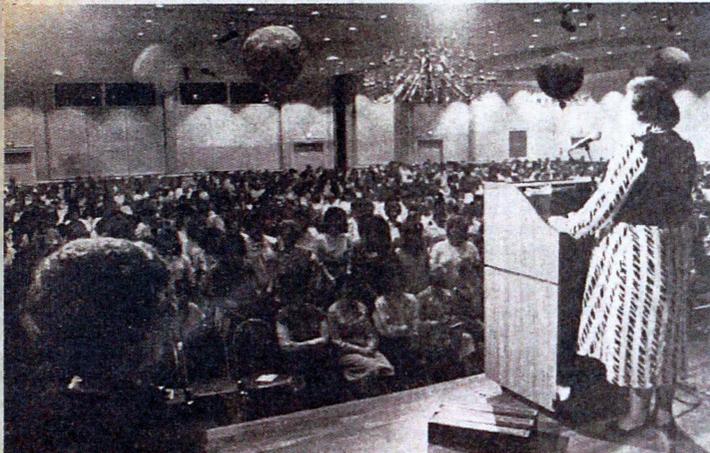


# Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 153/No. 16/April 22, 1987

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Acteens search 'beyond imagination'



**COMMISSIONING** — Barbara Joiner (right), WMU writer from Alabama, speaks words of inspiration and instruction to the 14 Activator teams represented at the summit.

By Connie Davis

As they strolled through the elegant mansion-like Opryland Hotel in Nashville last week, the young women may have imagined that they were Southern belles, but the 1,630 Acteens and leaders also were to imagine new possibilities for their lives.

They also commissioned 14 mission teams during the Tennessee Acteens Summit Meeting, April 16-18.

Gathering for the first time in several years in a statewide meeting for girls in grades 7-12, the sheer number in attendance was a highlight of the summit, in addition to the commissioning of 102 persons on Activator foreign and home mission teams.

The volunteer teams, which raise their own financial support and do at least 50 hours of training, are coordinated through the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards.

Another unique quality of the summit was the participation of five Acteens who formed the first state advisory panel. The

panel's major responsibility during its year of service is to plan and lead the summit. The panelists include Laura Barron of Dyersburg, Karen Eastep of Belfast, Paige Loveday of Louisville, Virginia Ping of Oak Ridge, and Missy Rhyme of Clinton.

The five Acteens also did a dramatic theme interpretation to introduce the three sessions and reported to the group. Their choice of the theme, "Beyond Imagination," also was seen on the summit's T-shirts, buttons, and programs.

State panelists

Barron recalled the persons she had met who had made her year "an unforgettable one," she reflected. She was thankful for new friendships with a foreign missionary, the national WMU president, state WMU president, and state WMU staff.

Rhyme reported that she had made some long-lasting friendships with the other panelists during her year of service. She also had the opportunity to speak at

(Continued on page 7)

## FMB appoints six Tennessee couples

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Six couples with Tennessee connections were among the 49 missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 7 at Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky.

John W. and Cheryl Rector Hamilton will serve in the Leeward Islands, where he will start and develop churches and they will conduct other outreach ministries.

Currently pastor of an Alabama church, Hamilton is a native of Georgia.

He lived in Memphis and Covington while growing up, and is a graduate of Belmont College, Nashville; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hamilton served in the U.S. Air Force. Before becoming pastor of the Huntsville, Ala., church, he had served as pastor of two other churches in Alabama and a church in Mississippi.

Mrs. Hamilton is a Mississippian and a graduate of Mobile (Ala.) Infirmary School of Nursing. She has worked as a nurse in Nashville, Fort Worth, and Decatur.

The Hamiltons have two daughters. James E. and Barbara Smith Hampton will work in South Korea, where he will serve in a Baptist hospital and they will direct other outreach ministries.

He is a physician in Clarksville, where they are members of First Baptist Church.

Hampton is a native of Memphis and a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences, Memphis. Before working as a physician in Clarksville, he worked in Murfreesboro.

Mrs. Hampton is a native of Oklahoma and a graduate of the University of



The Hamiltons



The Hamptons



The Nicholsons



The Penningtons



The Silvers



The Smiths

Oklahoma Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, Oklahoma City. She also worked as a nurse in Oklahoma City.

The Hamptons have five grown children.

Glenn and Pauline Vaughn Nicholson will live in Panama, where he will start and develop churches and they will lead other missions work.

Nicholson currently serves as a pastor in his native state of Arkansas.

He is a graduate of Arkansas State Uni-

versity, Jonesboro; and Southwestern seminary.

Nicholson has been a student summer missionary in Florida, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland, and also has been pastor of two other churches in Arkansas.

Mrs. Nicholson was born and reared in Arkansas. She is a graduate of Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Memphis, and has been a nurse in Fort Worth and Jonesboro, Ark.

### Committee seeks suggestions

The committee assigned the responsibility of seeking a director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention student department met April 10 and submitted the following request:

"Due to the retirement of Glenn Yarbrough on Sept. 15, the Search Committee of the State Missions Committee is now seeking someone to serve in this capacity. The search committee requests your prayers and suggestions.

"If anyone is interested in being considered for this position or if you would like to recommend someone, please send resumes to Emerson Wiles Jr., search committee chairman, P.O. Box 623, Fayetteville, TN, 37334, or Carroll Owen, director of the TBC convention ministries division."

Members of the search committee are Wiles, Pat Ellis, Wrex Hauth, M. B. Howard, James Hutson, Howard Olive, Bill Palmiter, Judy Trivette, and Jere Plunk, ex officio.

The Nicholsons have three children.

Mark and Stacey Cruse Pennington will live in Mexico, where they will work with students and other ministries. They are campus ministers for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Born and reared in Columbia, Pennington considers Highland Park Baptist Church there his home church.

He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He has been a Foreign Mission Board journeyman for two years in Kenya, and in Kentucky he served as a Baptist campus minister and a chaplain for a nursing home.

The daughter of Missionaries Darrell and Betty Lou Cruse of Brazil, Mrs. Pennington is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College and Southern seminary. She is a native of Kentucky.

She has been a nursing home chaplain and Baptist campus minister for the medical dental schools at the University of Louisville, both in Kentucky; a student summer missionary in Brazil; and a youth minister in an Ohio church.

John R. and Sandra Martin Silver will work in Paraguay, where he will start and

(Continued on page 2)

# FMB re-elects Smith, names area directors

By Bob Stanley

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP) — Bob Smith of McAllen, Texas, was re-elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by acclamation April 8. Smith was nominated by Mark Cortis, a Winston-Salem, N.C., pastor who had been identified in a secular news report as a possible second nominee for the position.

Cortis, in nominating Smith, said, "The nature and task of this board simply will not allow us to be dominated by contention."

The board's responsibility does require firmness of conviction and a willingness to discuss and hear all points of view without reproach. Cortis said: "I think Christian unity does not demand conformity. But it does demand kindness and openness, and if this board can maintain that kind of spirit, I think we can be a model for much of our convention on how to get along and work together." He said Smith "epitomizes that spirit."

After Cortis' remarks, the board re-elected Smith, a retired Baptist associational director of missions, to the customary second year as chairman.

The only contest was for first vice-chairman, with incumbent M. W. (Buck) Buckalew, a layman from Falls Church, Va., elected over Jimmie H. Carpenter,

a physician from Seneca, S.C. Voting was by written ballot and no totals were announced.

Claude Kirkpatrick of Baton Rouge, La., was re-elected second vice-chairman, and Harriet Gilbert of St. Simons Island, Ga., was elected to succeed Mary Dalton of Asheville, N.C., as recording secretary. Dalton had served two years and was ineligible for re-election.

The night before the election, a record gathering of Kentucky Baptists in Lexington's Rupp Arena witnessed the appointment of 49 new missionaries. Estimates on the crowd ranged from 13,500 to more than 15,000. In a commitment time at the close of the service, 67 people made decisions, with 50 of these expressing interest in career missions. The largest previous crowd for such an appointment service was an estimated 14,000 in 1977 at Atlanta's Omni coliseum. An appointment service in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium in April 1985 attracted 10,000 people.

With the new appointments, Southern Baptists now have 3,813 missionaries assigned to 110 mission fields. During the board meeting, 73 young adults were approved for training as journeymen but will not be added to the missionary total until they receive medical clearance and successfully complete a five-week train-

ing program July 17.

The trustees also voted to hold their June 1988 appointment service and meeting in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The board hopes to give messengers from across the nation a chance to participate in appointment of the missionaries they support as part of the Foreign Mission Board report on Wednesday night, June 15.

In other actions, the board elected four new area directors and appropriated \$540,000 to set up offices and operating budgets for moving the nine area directors' offices to mission fields as Southern Baptists mobilize for world evangelization.

Elected as new area directors were John Faulkner, eastern and southern Africa; Billy L. Bullington, western Africa; G. Keith Parker, Europe; and Dale G. Thorne, Middle East and northern Africa.

Only three area director posts remain to be filled to complete the top level of the board's reorganization gearing up for world evangelization: middle America and Canada, Brazil and the Caribbean, and southern Asia and the Pacific.

Faulkner, an Alabamian, has been associate director for eastern and southern Africa since 1985 and a missionary in Zimbabwe from 1971 to 1984. He will live in Nairobi, Kenya, and coordinate the mission work of about 550 missionaries in 21 countries in the eastern and southern portion of the continent.

Bullington, a native of Arkansas, has been associate to the area director for western Africa since 1977, most recently working with missionaries in 10 non-English speaking countries. From 1967 to 1977 he was a missionary in Togo. He is expected to continue living in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, but his new responsibilities will involve work with about 450 missionaries in 14 countries.

Faulkner succeeds Davis Saunders, who has been named regional vice-president for Africa. Bullington succeeds John Mills, who will spend his final year before retirement as part of the transition team charged with helping coordinate details of the board's reorganization and interpreting these changes to Southern Baptists and the missionaries.

In recent years, both Parker and Thorne have been associates to the director for Europe and the Middle East. Under the board's reorganization, the former area director, Isam Ballenger, was named vice-president for the region and two area director positions were created, one for Europe, the other for the Middle East and northern Africa.

Parker, a North Carolina native, had

been associate to the director for work in Europe since 1982. Earlier he was professor of practical theology at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, from 1971 to 1982. He will supervise the work of 230 missionaries in 12 European countries from his present home base in Ruschlikon.

Thorne, an Oklahoman who served in the Middle East since 1965, will oversee 170 missionaries in seven countries from his present base in Cyprus. Since 1985 he has been associate to the director for work in these Middle East countries.

Board members also heard a report that during February and March, 20,000 telephone calls came to the board's special number, 1-800-ALL-SEEK, which provides information for the "Concert of Prayer" for world evangelization on the first Sunday of each month. Barbara Cunningham, chairman of the board's prayer committee, said at this rate more than 110,000 calls would be registered by the end of the year. But she added, "We expect the momentum to gain."

In another action, the board voted to add two island nations, New Caledonia and Vanuatu, which formerly was called New Hebrides, to its South Pacific Baptist Mission, which up until now has included work in Fiji and western Samoa. No change will be made in the country count until personnel are appointed for service in the new area.

## Hobbs tells BSSB employees to keep prayer 'lines' open

NASHVILLE (BP) — Prayer is seriously neglected in the lives of many Christians who erroneously view it as a battering ram to a reluctant God. Herschel H. Hobbs told employees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board during their recent "spiritual emphasis days."

"Some people believe that because they do not receive what they asked for in prayers, they can question the veracity of what Jesus said," explained Hobbs, who is pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City.

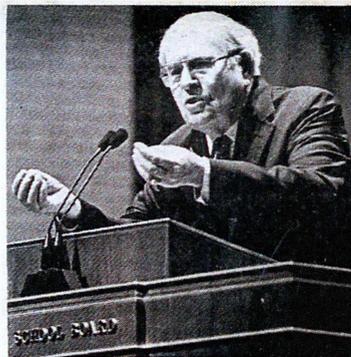
"Ours is not a name-it-and-claim-it theology but has to do with the work and will of God," said Hobbs. "Jesus loves to give gifts to His children, but He wants us to receive them in keeping with His will and authority."

"In the battle against the principalities and powers of the world, keep your lines of communication open," urged Hobbs, who preached three messages to board employees on the importance of prayer, the motivation for prayer, and how to pray.

Hobbs, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee and a former SBC president, also addressed the times in the lives of Christians when problems are so overwhelming they cannot even seem to pray: "I'm sure each of us has found ourselves in the position when we just can't pray anymore. Words are wonderful, but they are limited. They break down when the idea or burden is so heavy."

"The Holy Spirit comes to us when we have burdens and can't pray. It is then the Spirit says, 'You get on that side of the problem, and I'll get on this side, and together, we will lift your problem to the throne of grace with groanings that cannot be uttered.'"

"Through the power of the Holy Spirit, that groaning in your soul is the most eloquent prayer you ever prayed."



**SPEAKING ON PRAYER** — Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, preaches to Sunday School Board employees on the importance of prayer.

## FMB projects \$70-million offering

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — When totaled at the end of May, the 1986 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Southern Baptist foreign missions probably will be about \$70.1-million.

That total, if accurate, will top the 1985 offering by about \$3.3-million, but it will fall almost \$4.9-million short of the 1986 goal of \$75-million.

The normally reliable forecast comes from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which depends upon the annual offering for nearly half of its total budget. The money supports the work of more than 3,800 missionaries in 110 countries.

Actual receipts at the Foreign Mission Board by April 6 totaled about \$64.2-million, but the board will continue to receive contributions to the 1986 offering through May 31.

The predicted shortfall would be the biggest yet for the Lottie Moon offering, which has not surpassed its annual goal since 1981. Missionary salaries and operating funds will not be squeezed by the shortfall. But their capital budgets for housing, vehicles, and church or institutional construction will face cuts.

Planners arrive at the forecast by analyzing Lottie Moon offering receipts in 10 selected states over a three-month period and comparing them to receipts during the same period in previous years.

## Missionaries . . .

(Continued from page 1)

develop churches and they will do other ministries work together.

A pastor in Oklahoma, the native Tennesseean considers Jefferson City his hometown and Central Heights Baptist Church in Dandridge his home church.

A graduate of Walters State Community College, Morristown; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; and Southwestern seminary, Silver also has worked in a mine company in Jefferson City.

Mrs. Silver, who is from Dandridge and Central Heights Baptist Church there, also is a graduate of Carson-Newman College. She has been an instructional aide in Dandridge and a teacher in Fort Worth.

The couple has one child.

James C. And Jerilyn Wallis Smith will serve in Ecuador. He will start and develop churches and they will lead other ministries there.

Currently the pastor of Riva Lake Baptist Church in Winchester, Smith is from Alabama. He is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Smith has been a behavioral specialist and counselor for a school in North Carolina and a summer missionary in Ohio.

A Texan, Mrs. Smith graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She has taught school in North Carolina and has served in Ohio as a summer missionary for two terms and as a US-2 missionary for two years there.

The Smiths have one child and one due in August.

All of the couples will go to Rockville, Va., for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field of service. The Nichlsons will go for orientation in May, the Hamptons and the Silvers in June, the Penningtons in September, the Smiths in November, and the Hamiltons in January 1988.

# ACTS seeks boost through new approach

By Greg Warner and Dan Martin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Fund-raisers for the American Christian Television System network visited Jacksonville, Fla., April 3 in search of financial backing for the fledgling TV service.

The 1,100 ACTS supporters who met for a free banquet were told their gathering constituted the largest ACTS dinner on record and the largest banquet in Jacksonville's history, even though about 600 guests did not show up.

The Jacksonville effort is a new approach in ACTS fund-raising, because the cost was underwritten by nine corporate sponsors in advance of the event. Two of the sponsors donated \$28,000 to pay for the cost of the meal, and another \$41,000 was contributed by 10 other donors.

Previously, fund-raising events had been based on ACTS paying the costs of the campaigns, which generated donations generally in the form of one-, two-

and three-year pledges.

The necessity of spending money to generate donations has put the four-year-old network in difficult financial circumstances. During the first two years of fund raising, ACTS spent \$1.6-million in development efforts. In the same time period, the efforts generated \$2.3-million in pledges but had only received \$1.1-million in cash, leaving a negative balance of \$466,000.

ACTS officials told members of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in February they were trying new approaches to fund raising. The Jacksonville plan is the first implementation.

"Jacksonville was a good experience for us in that it has taught us a new way to hold these events without the tremendous out-of-pocket, up-front expense of putting on a dinner," said Dick McCartney, executive vice-president of ACTS' parent, the Southern Baptist Radio and

Television Commission.

McCartney, explaining that most development or fund-raising activities are long-range events, said the previous dinners, which were heavy on pledges and short on cash gifts, caused some cash-flow problems since costs were incurred immediately while proceeds were gathered slowly.

Despite the optimism of national and local ACTS officials about the new approach to fund raising, the Jacksonville campaign did not reach the goal set for the effort. Sponsors had established a "minimum goal" of \$445,000, for the dinner. They also set a "challenge goal" of \$702,000 and a "hard goal" of \$225,000.

Ray Melton, pastor of San Jose Baptist Church in Jacksonville and chairman of the local ACTS board, estimated the effort raised \$191,000, but Bill Nichols, senior vice-president of affiliate services for the RTVC, said the figure probably is closer to \$180,000.

Nichols said dinner patrons pledged \$106,000 and gave another \$5,000 in cash. The cash and pledges, added to the \$69,000 in advance gifts, total about \$180,000, he said.

Melton said: "We had hoped it would be more, but it could be significant that more people than usual asked for more information. Such inquiries often produce the largest donations, leaving open the possibility the \$445,000 goal can still be reached."

The \$111,000 in cash and pledges will be divided evenly between the local ACTS board and the national network, giving each participant pledges worth \$55,500.

The local workers and three ACTS consultants will continue to work the prospects for additional donations, Nichols said. He added another "new wrinkle" in the fund-raising approach is that there will be a follow-up contact with every person who attended the dinner but who did not make a pledge there.

The Jacksonville banquet was part of the RTVC's attempt to prop up ACTS, which has struggled to stay afloat since it went on the air four years ago. In 1985 the SBC Executive Committee authorized the commission to borrow \$10-million to cover expenses incurred in launching the network and to conduct a \$10-million development campaign to repay the loan. Commission leaders told the Executive Committee in February, however, that development results were disappointing, because income from the various fund-raising activities has not equaled expenses.

ACTS is relying on a major capital campaign in Atlanta and one-shot fund-raising dinners like the one in Jacksonville to bolster its financial fortunes. The Atlanta campaign, which by February had cost \$300,000 and yielded \$176,000 in pledges, is targeted to raise \$1.2-million by June.

A banquet in Washington earlier this year produced pledges of \$85,000. Additional banquets are planned for Harrisburg, Pa., and on Long Island, N.Y. Other campaigns have been held in Baton Rouge, La.; Birmingham and Mobile, Ala.; and San Jose, Calif. In each of the campaigns, the local ACTS board keeps a percentage of the gifts.

With the new emphasis on advance gifts, the RTVC is "looking at how many of these events we can have a year," McCartney said. "We may not be able to have as many in the future. . . . We may have to stretch them out a little longer in order to develop the up-front money."

Nichols said of the banquets, "We don't plan on doing this forever." He told the dinner guests such efforts will be necessary for "a year or two" until commercial support from businesses replaces private donations as the network's primary source of income. ACTS does not ask for donations on the air. Most of the support for ACTS now comes from "the people who already are giving to their churches," he said.

# Extremists set fire to church in Israel

ACRE, Israel (BP) — Extremists praising a rabbi well known in Israel as anti-Arab are suspected of setting fire to the Baptist center in Acre in the early morning hours of April 12.

Investigators found graffiti inside the church extolling Rabbi Meir Kahane, a member of Israel's Parliament, as "our example" and "messiah."

A neighbor, noting light inside the church, then smoke outside, called the police at 1 a.m. The witness, a Muslim who occasionally had visited the congregation, reported she saw no unusual activity before the fire.

The arsonists entered the yard through a weak place in the fence, climbed a ladder 12 feet to break through a window, set up a second ladder, and climbed down into the church.

After heaping some pews, Arabic and Hebrew Bibles, and songbooks near an organ, they poured gasoline over the pile, set it aflame, and left.

The congregation's 35 worshipers do not own the building. The Anglican church property suffered only partial damage, since few of the building materials were flammable.

Other graffiti scribbled on the walls in

Hebrew included: "Arab Christians go home to Islamic countries. . . . Death to terrorists. . . . Death to missionaries. . . . Death to (Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir) Arafat. . . . Death to PLO. . . . Death to the pope."

The caretaker of the church and also a member, Sameer Sim'an, said: "I'm just praying to know what is happening, but I'm not angry. I don't blame anyone. I know I need to open the church again with more (security) lights."

"Maybe this is the work of God," he continued. "We need to turn this to good. Maybe people in town will hear about this, and we will have opportunity to witness to them about Christ."

"If they think because of this we will close the congregation, this is a big mistake. We need to open and begin again seriously, Lord willing."

Ibrahim Sim'an, pastor of Haifa Baptist Church as well as Acre Baptist Center, described the extremists as "sick."

"They give the sickness a theological and religious name," he said. "I don't think they are less dangerous to the state of Israel than the severest enemy from outside."

# Clark undergoes heart transplant

Paul Clark, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Jackson, underwent heart transplant surgery April 15 at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

He was no longer sustained by the heart pump and respirator as of April 20, and he is reported to be in good condition.

Clark has been involved in testing and waiting for a heart transplant for about two months.

Clark acknowledged that he had undergone an operation, and when told he had another heart, he said, "That's wonderful."

Donations to the Paul Clark Agape Fund to offset travel and out-of-town living expenses of the family may be sent to Madison-Chester Association of Baptists, 603 Wallace Road, Jackson, TN 38301.



**SNOW SCULPTURE** — A snow sculpture of Jesus kneeling in prayer on the lawn of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, attracted the attention not only of passers-by but of three Knoxville TV stations and the Knoxville News-



**Sentinel.** Church member Larry Bohanan, a commercial artist, created the 8-foot statue with the help of youth from the church. Early April snow provided the material for the work of art.

# Mrs. J. H. Smothers dies April 5 at 86

Mrs. J. H. Smothers died April 5 at Quality Health Care Center in Lebanon. She was 86 years old.

Mrs. Smothers was the wife of longtime Tennessee Baptist Pastor J. H. Smothers who died in April 1985 and the mother of Hubert Smothers who was president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour when he died tragically in a house fire in January 1984.

J. H. Smothers served as pastor of Laurel Bank Baptist Church in Friendsville; Bethel Baptist Church, Townsend; Boyd's Creek Baptist Church, Boyd's Creek; New Hopewell Baptist Church, Knoxville; Eastland Heights Baptist Church, Springfield; Prosperity Baptist Church, Auburntown; and New Middleton Baptist Church, New Middleton. He retired in 1963.

Mrs. Smothers is survived by a son, Charles Smothers of Brentwood; and two daughters, Mrs. Hazel Pryor of Maryville and Mary Stafford of Donelson.

## Editorials

# 'Pray for them which despitefully use you'

Baptists are known to be a people of prayer. But too often, our prayers are much too exclusive.

This month, many Tennessee Baptist churches are studying prayer as a part of the Baptist doctrinal study emphasis. We commend this study. All of us still have some things we can learn about prayer.

Through the years, we have observed prayer as it is practiced in Baptist churches. No doubt, the private prayers of individual church members as they enter their prayer "closets" would reveal a more intensive level of prayer. But perhaps the public prayers we observe in churches can serve as a gauge by which to measure "Baptist" prayers.

There's nothing wrong with the things for which we pray. We pray for Aunt Sally who has a serious illness. We pray for our missionaries on the field. We pray for our church activities. We pray for staff members in our churches. We pray for our lost neighbor who lives across the street. We pray for the lost people around the world. We pray for the hungry in Ethiopia. We pray for the man in our church who's just lost his job.

We should pray for all of these needs and many more.

But what about the person in your Sunday School class who has an abrasive personality? What about the woman who always disagrees with you at the church business meeting? What about

the man who criticizes you to your friends? What about the nut who pulled out in front of your car as you were driving to church?

We need to spend more time in prayer for those



"ugly" people. If we did our churches would be revolutionized.

Let's take it to the Southern Baptist Convention level. What would happen if all who identify themselves as moderates would begin to pray earnestly for Paul Pressler, Paige Patterson, Adrian Rogers, and other "conservatives?" What if all conservatives would spend intensive hours in prayer for Winfred Moore, Cecil Sherman, Norman Cavender, and other "moderates?"

We're not talking about praying, "Lord, enlighten these people who disagree with me." We need to pray for the other person's well being, asking God to bless him, strengthen him, and use his talents for the glory of God and the advancement of the kingdom.

The applications could go on and on. Democrats should pray for Republicans. TV evangelists should pray for each other rather than struggle for dominance and compete for the top ratings. Teen-agers should pray for their parents. Union workers should pray for management.

We challenge all of our readers to set aside 10 minutes this week to write down the names of people you dislike, people who are different, people with whom you generally disagree, and people who are in a different socio-economic level from your own. Then, for at least a month, spend an hour or more a week in prayer for these individuals. Perhaps at the end of the month you will make it a regular part of your prayer life.

Such a practice certainly would follow the admonition of Jesus, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

In addition, let's covet together to pray diligently for the approaching annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 16-18 in St. Louis, Mo. Let's pray for God's will to be done in all of the business sessions. Pray that God will anoint every speaker with power through His Holy Spirit. Pray that every messenger will be a positive witness to the people of St. Louis. Pray for the Peace Committee as they finalize their report. Pray that the Spirit of God will be felt during the convention and its related meetings.

But let's pray especially for "them other guys." If you consider yourself a moderate, pray for the conservatives. Pray that God will open your mind to what He might be saying through them. If you identify with the conservatives, pray for the moderates. Ask God to give you understanding and insight into their perspectives.

May God give us the grace to be able to listen with open minds to what "them other guys" are saying.

And may we as Southern Baptists spend more time actually praying than we do studying about prayer or writing editorials about prayer. CEW

## Should we stone Bakker?

Jerry Clower is so funny, most of us don't take him very seriously.

Sometimes we should.

Clower, country humorist, Grand Ole Opry star, and an active Southern Baptist, was in Maryville earlier this month to kick off Blount County's Dogwood Arts Festival.

As usual, the secular press got to him. As usual, he handled their questions rather well.

The press asked Clower about Jim Bakker's re-

cent troubles that have drawn media attention like a campground garbage pail attracts flies. As every reader knows by now, Bakker resigned as head of the PTL Club after it became public knowledge that he had a sexual encounter with a church secretary.

"It bothers me, it was bad, and I wish it hadn't happened," Clower told the press. "But it did happen, so I say give Jim a break. He was tempted, his foot slipped, he said, 'I'm sorry,'" so period.

"When I saw so many Christians being so happy that this happened to Jim, it bothered me," Clower continued. "Any Christian who has his eyes glued to Jim and Tammy has got a problem. They should put their eyes on Jesus."

We agree with Clower. Why is it the Christian army is the only one that shoots its own wounded? Where is redemption and forgiveness?

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

Obviously, none of us should condone what Bakker has done. He has sinned. Then, to cover up his sin, he sinned some more — using God's money as bribe money to keep it quiet. Perhaps that was the greater sin.

But let's give him the benefit of the doubt. We believe that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). If God can forgive Jim Bakker, why can't we?

Perhaps the sin in your life or my life is not as great — who can say? And maybe you and I are not in the public eye and not trying to project ourselves as spiritual leaders.

Nevertheless, the words of Jesus should apply to us, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" (John 8:7). CEW

### CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 70,906

Charlie Warren  
Associate Editor

Connie Davis  
Assistant Editor

### Baptist and Reflector

Doris Elliott  
Advertising

Mono Collett  
Church News Assistant

Established in 1835  
Post Office Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027  
Telephone: (615) 373-2255

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

Space forbids printing of resolutions and obituaries. Advertising rates on request.

Member of Baptist Press (BP) news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention  
Tom Madden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Fred Isaacs, chairman; Paul Bryant, vice-chairman; Paul Barkley, David Drumel, Ray Fowler, Marshall Gupton, Calvin Harvell, Mrs. Richard Hawkins, James Hutson, Murray Mathis, Calvin Metcalf, Perry Michel, Jerry Oakley, Jere Plunk, Dennis Pulley, James Robertson, Lon Shoopman Jr., and Fred Steelman.

## Speaking of prayer . . .

President Ronald Reagan has proclaimed May 7 as a National Day of Prayer. We urge Tennessee Baptists to set aside additional time that day to pray for our nation and its leaders and for world peace.

In 1952, Congress adopted a resolution calling upon the nation's president to set aside and proclaim a National Day of Prayer each year.

In a written proclamation, Reagan recently urged U.S. citizens to gather together May 7 "in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity of the hearts of all mankind." CEW

# 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.

## 'Come and see'

Dear editor:

Labeling, being a routine occurrence in convention life, one must decide to use or be abused by the system. Thus stated, I am an inerrantist, fundamentalist conservative, SBC loyalist, and a student at Southern Baptist seminary in Louisville, Ky.

With books autographed by Patterson, Stanley, John Rawlins, I arrived at the school, "I would never attend." Suffering from "martyr syndrome," I attended classes with an argumentative, critical spirit.

The following are indicative of Southern:

Rather than resisting me, instructors asked me to give fundamentalist conservative presentations.

I informed a professor that I believed the historicity of such passages as Balaam's speaking donkey. He said, "That's all right, begin where you are and deal with the text."

I found Dale Moody and informed him that I was a fundamentalist. Surprisingly he said, "That's the best background to come from!" I was stunned. I checked to see if I had gotten off the bus in Lynchburg.

No professor has intimidated, insulted, or used me as an object of ridicule in class, though I deserved it. Saying that I have been "treated with integrity" leaves too much unsaid. Greater than being treated with integrity, I have been received; there is a difference. I have been shown love in abundance.

Therefore, I extend an invitation to all who would endure rigorous academic demands to acquire one of the finest theological educations offered. Where, when one has been introduced to a wide spectrum of theology, one may be encouraged and rewarded for a theology as conservative as he or she chooses.

There will be those who refuse to believe even when confronted with insurmountable evidence. These mistake skepticism for fundamentalism. Due to mistrust within our convention, I join the chorus sung by Nathaniel and the Samaritan woman, "Come and see!"

Keith Garris  
Box 756  
SBTS  
Louisville, KY 40280

## God is shaking SBC

Dear editor:

We are witnessing a shaking among evangelicals. Since 1979, God has been shaking the Southern Baptist Convention. In the March 4 issue of the Baptist and Reflector, there was a letter titled, "Essentials of salvation." The writer listed the five points of "fundamentalism." (1) the plenary inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture; (2) the deity of Jesus; (3) substitutional blood atonement; (4) the virgin birth; and (5) the bodily resurrection and second coming. Then he followed

that with the question, "Are they essential to salvation?"

My answer is: I've never met an adult who has been saved for any length of time that did not accept these five points. The author mentioned the fundamentalist heresy plaguing the SBC. The heresy is not among believers, but among those who reject God's Word and the fundamentals of the faith. We are not playing a game of pick and choose, when it comes to the Word of God; "You take this one and I'll take that one."

I believe that God is shaking loose everything that He has not ordained (Hebrews 12:27). I have asked God what He wanted me to do in the midst of all the shaking. This was His answer as He is doing a fresh work in my heart.

- (1) That the wheat and the tares are growing together. I am not to do the separating. He will do that when He is ready.
- (2) That I must obey (Galatians 6:1-3).
- (3) That I must stand with my brothers who believe the Bible in defense of the faith.
- (4) That I must pray for a mighty outpouring of God's power and love upon our churches.
- (5) That I must share the Lord Jesus Christ with unbelievers and those who are lost.
- (6) That above all else, I am to do it in love.

Vaughn W. Denton  
4480 Kirby Parkway  
Memphis, TN 38115

## Apology

Dear editor:

I apologize to my fundamentalist brethren for being so hard on them in my letters. They do have some valid concerns such as the need to return to (some) Biblical values and the need for a spiritual revival. But I still oppose their intention to take over the SBC. I do not want to impose my "non-literal" or "liberal" views on them, nor do I want them to impose their "absolute" and "literal" views on me.

However, it is time to stop pandering to their demands, even if it means a denominational split. The opposing camps are sincere in their convictions and any compromise seems unlikely. A split appears inevitable.

It is ironic that a Catholic doctrine should divide Baptists and destroy our fellowship. The doctrine of the virgin birth is so ingrained in our thinking that we can no longer view it objectively or dispassionately. It has become pivotal to our concept of the incarnation of Jesus and to our view of the Biblical record. The test for a literal inerrant Biblical view is belief in the virgin birth. But the doctrine is not

free of controversy as it introduces the idea of surrogate motherhood and raises some questions since there is a conflict between full Catholic doctrine and traditional Baptist beliefs.

The Baptist Faith and Message states, "A living faith must experience a growing understanding of truth and must be continually interpreted and related ... statements of faith ... have never been regarded as complete, infallible statements ... nor as official creeds carrying mandatory authority."

I agree with this tract in its content and intent. I do not read that it supports totally either a literal or a non-literal interpretation of the Bible.

J. E. Pennington  
Rt. 2 Box 107J  
Johnson City, TN 37601

## Open their spiritual eyes

Dear editor:

I'm much concerned about the controversy that has been going on in our convention for several years.

Now, Satan has reared his ugly head again — the Genesis Commission! How can men who are really concerned for lost people do what these men are doing?

In the early Christian era, the Jews represented mainline religion. Judaism was Biblically oriented, separatistic, and ultra-conservative, yet extremely dangerous! Read Matthew 23:1-33. This is Jesus speaking to the Scribes and Pharisees (v.24), "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel" and (v.27), "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like white washed sepulchres, which appear beautiful outside, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness!"

The Pharisees' problem was while they continued to honor God with their lips, their hearts were far from Him. They shifted their emphasis from obedience to God, to the preservation of their traditions!

The Pharisees were sincere in their teachings but sincerely wrong! I see this in the Genesis Commission. They may have good intentions, but they are going to do damage to the greatest system of reaching the lost that any denomination has ever known! The Bible also teaches that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

How can they raise money without being competitive with our Cooperative Program and mission offerings? They will be taking money away from the support of almost 8,000 missionaries, plus all the other agencies we support.

I pray God will open their spiritual eyes now, before damage is done.

Mrs. Bessie Buckner  
Rt. 13, Box 449  
Cookeville, TN 38501

## Personal Perspective



By Tom Madden  
TBC Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

Not long ago I read the sad account of a man the press described as a "drifter." The account stated that he once had held a responsible position, was a member of a respected family, but one day simply walked away and then "drifted" from place to place.

The account was still on my mind when I read, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip" (Hebrews 2:1).

The thought impacted me — there is more than one kind of a drifter. There are spiritual drifters. Let me share with you some of the questions I asked myself about spiritual drifting.

Am I drifting away from a life of vital communion with God through prayer? I don't think God expects us to spend the entire day on our knees, but I do believe He expects us to practice a life of conscious, deliberate communion with Him in prayer. We must keep the communication lines open between our soul and God.

Another question I asked was, "Do I take, or make, time to read God's Word and meditate on its glorious promises? I thought of the statements from the first Psalm, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night."

Many of us may be drifting away from the practice of corporate worship on the Lord's day. I still find great joy in associating with others who worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. John Wesley once said, "There are no solitary Christians."

Let me ask one more question: "Is Christ really a daily present Companion, Guide, and Master in my life?" I believe when we lose the sense of His presence, prayer becomes an effort, the Bible less meaningful, worship loses its impact, and God becomes afar off.

We need anchors for our soul! Why be a drifter?

## Hospital hosts meet on aging

KNOXVILLE — "Promoting Productivity and Creative Living in the Golden Years" is the theme of the fifth annual Symposium on Aging to be held April 23-24 in Knoxville.

The symposium, sponsored by the Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, will include topics of general interest and topics of interest to professionals who work with older adults.

Some topics of general interest include myths and realities of osteoporosis, managing widowhood, Medicare, Medicaid and supplemental insurance, and managing menopause.

Other topics include sensitizing health care givers to the needs of the elderly and psychosocial care of the institutionalized elderly.

The symposium will feature local, regional, and national experts on gerontology in its faculty.

The symposium will meet at the Quality Inn in downtown Knoxville and is open to the public. Registration for Thursday is \$70, for Friday, \$60. The fee for the entire symposium is \$135.

To register, contact Betty Shelley, Center for Continuing Education, East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Knoxville.



### Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for Missionary Ron Adams as he begins to lead a MasterLife group at Iglesia Bautista Salem in Naguanagua. He is still learning Spanish and this is the first MasterLife group at the church.

—Pray that the Bible study, which has recently been started in Sanare by Primera Iglesia Bautista in Barquisimeto, will grow and become a mission. This is the first Baptist group to meet in Sanare.

—God has made new opportunities for the granting of a group of visas to allow new missionaries to enter the country. Pray that they will be granted.

# 'Unaffiliated' pastors call for peace in SBC

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — More than 30,000 Southern Baptist pastors have been mailed a two-page document calling for peace within their convention.

"A Pastoral Plea for Peace Among Southern Baptists" is subtitled "No Lord but Christ, No Creed but the Bible." It was formulated by four ministers who claim no affiliation with either faction of the theological/political controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention.

They are Ralph Langley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Ala.; William Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., and former professor of church history at Southern and Southeastern Baptist Theological seminaries; Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Dan

Yeary, pastor of University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, Fla., and national alumni president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The authors described their document as "a mainstream rallying point around the Bible," noting it does not include the word "inerrancy," which has become a point of contention between groups within the convention. The four primary points of the pastoral plea are:

—"We hold to the Bible as the supreme and reliable source of authority in all matters of faith and practice, and we hold to the Bible first and foremost.

—"We hold to the duty and responsibility of every person to learn the Bible, to interpret the Bible, and to obey the Bible.

—"The Holy Spirit is the true guide in interpreting the Bible to our hearts. The Spirit, and not human theories, is the sole defender of the authority of Scripture.

—"Southern Baptists have always gathered around the Bible itself and not around theories about the Bible. This is the true secret and foundational basis of our unity and cooperation."

The document elaborates on each major point with several subpoints, then concludes: "By taking our stand upon the Bible itself, the Bible alone and not upon a human notion about Biblical inspiration, Southern Baptists can return to the basis of unity which gave us peace. By esteeming the Bible above theories about the Bible, and by esteeming the necessity of personal interpretation along with the centrality of the Bible, we choose for the Bible and for peace. We call for a return to our roots, to the tried and true way of cooperation."

"It is an old statement," Langley said of the pastors' plea. "There is nothing really new in this. It is a classic old statement of the view of Scripture Baptists have held since the 17th century."

The document is based upon the historic Baptist confessions of faith that were written in the 17th and early 18th centuries, Lumpkin said. He noted sources for the wording and ideas of the new document are derived from the First and Second London Confessions, dated 1644 and 1678, respectively; the General Baptists' Assembly Confession of 1660 and Orthodox Confession of 1678; and General and Particular Baptist associational confessions dating from 1651 and 1656.

"We regard these as basic," he added. "These were the foundational confessions

(that were written) when positions were being identified and defined by early Baptists. We want to get back to our foundations. This is how the Protestant Reformation started; the reformers got back to their Biblical foundations."

Powell explained the quartet's reason for sending the document: "We felt like we needed a good, clear, brief statement of what Baptists have always believed about the Bible and the priesthood of the believer. There is nothing inflammatory, nothing political in the statement. It's good for people to know they can affirm a statement like this and be in the mainstream, not only of traditional Baptists, but of current Baptists."

The statement already has been sent to between 30,000 and 34,000 Southern Baptist pastors, and organizers hope to send it to pastors of all the convention's 37,000-plus churches. It has been mailed from several places across the country, including Virginia, Texas, and North Carolina, Lumpkin said. The project has been funded by "free-will contributors," Langley added.

"This is not a regional nor partisan move, but rather a plea for pastors especially to employ their reasoning powers to look at the issues raised in the document," Lumpkin stressed. "We think many of our pastors have been oblivious to some of the foundational positions upon which we have stood as a denomination. We just want to review the principles, pull back to our roots, and rediscover some unity."



**SNOW DAMAGE** — Pieces of roof and the snow that caused the roof to collapse filled the big assembly room in the Camp Carson Activities Center.

## Damage to camp fails to slow plans

The partial collapse of the Camp Carson Activities Center roof April 3 in Newport from accumulated snow caused \$30,000-\$40,000 in damages, but has not slowed usage of the camp by groups across the state.

The 6,000-square-foot building which was adequately insured for \$288,750, will "hopefully be repaired by June 1," reported Jim McDonald, Tennessee Baptist Convention business office director.

The 30-inch record-breaking snowfall caused the roof on the lower level of the

building, which covered the big assembly room, to cave in. Some of the roof over the upper level, which includes the open-air stage and seating, three meeting rooms, office, and reception area, is also damaged, which may affect the usage of that area, explained McDonald.

A structural engineer and contractors have already begun work, said McDonald.

Groups using the camp before repairs are completed have agreed to use the chapel, other camp facilities, or meet outside, he concluded.

## Church responds to SS growth

The response of Bartlett Baptist Church in Bartlett to the 200 new Sunday School members since Oct. 1, 1986, has been to plan a citywide "old-fashioned tent" revival to be held in a 1,500-seat tent and a Sunday School growth program leading up to the revival.

Pastor Jackie Kay and Ron Hammonds, minister of music, will lead the revival, which will be held on a lot adjacent to the church.

The "Sunday School Glory Days" program includes attendance goals that increase each week to culminate in a goal of 1,100 on May 3, when the revival begins and a "dinner on the grounds" will be held. The 1,100 goal represents 67 percent of the present Sunday School enrollment

and a 38 percent increase over the average Sunday School attendance of 800.

"We are praying for and working toward the largest four-week Sunday School attendance in the great 138-year history of Bartlett Baptist Church," stressed Kay.

On April 12 the Sunday School had 870 in attendance.

The church staff and members have promoted the events with articles in the local newspapers, yard signs, door hangers, and buttons. They secured the tent from a Nashville company.

Other special Sunday morning worship service activities held during the growth program have included the Blackwood Brothers quartet and an Easter celebration.

## C-N Preachers' School offers study, vacation opportunities

JEFFERSON CITY — This summer's annual East Tennessee Baptist Preachers' School has been set for June 29 through July 3 at Carson-Newman College.

This session will mark the 58th year for the school, which is one of the oldest in the Southern Baptist Convention. All but two of the sessions have been held on the Carson-Newman campus.

Faculty members for the school will include: Wayne E. Oates, professor, University of Louisville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Ralph Langley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union; H. Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville; William L. Blevins, chairman of the religious studies division, Carson-Newman College; and James McCluskey, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Oates will explore the life and work of the minister. Langley will be "pastor of the week." Paschall will teach the 1988 January Bible Study and serve as Baptist heritage lecturer.

"Our primary goal for the Preachers' School is to provide a mixture of serious Bible study and practical training for pastors in an environment in which the whole family can enjoy a vacation," said Don Mitchell, director of church relations at Carson-Newman. "The school's schedule enables pastors to study in the mornings and the evenings and to have afternoons free to enjoy leisure time with their families."

A supervised children's program will be provided each morning during the week for the school-age youth of all enrolled parents.



Oates

Paschall



Langley

Weatherford

## Porter Floyd dies

Porter Floyd, retired pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Smyrna, died March 30. The 85-year-old minister contracted pneumonia while being treated for a malignancy.

Floyd had served as pastor of the Fellowship church for more than 40 years. He also served as pastor of Florence Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

A native Nashvillian, Floyd was graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Survivors are his wife, Annie White Floyd; his daughter, Sarah Ann Brandon; his son, Vernon Floyd; and three grandchildren.

# Acteens gather to imagine possibilities . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
 a church. But her most important work as a panelist was to plan the summit, which took a lot of time and energy.

During her service, Ping learned how to speak to different audiences. She spoke to an associational pastors' conference, an associational mother-daughter banquet, and to about 30,000 youth at the 1987 Youth Evangelism Conference.

Humorously referring to her "gift of talk," Ping proclaimed, "No matter what your talent is, use it for God."

Estep shared the steps she took to apply for the panel.

Loveday said, "It was my chance to get up and do things for the Lord."

### Activators

Challenged by Barbara Joiner, author and writer of WMU materials from Columbiana, Ala., to try new experiences to "learn the power of God," the 14 Activator teams, which include 102 persons were commissioned.

The teams and their assignments include Oak View Baptist Church in Waland to Cherokee, N.C.; Northpark Baptist Church in Newport to Cherokee, N.C.; Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Memphis to Dauphin Island, Ala.; Bluegrass Baptist Church in Hendersonville to Deerfield, Fla.; First Baptist Church in Smithville to Whitesbury, Ky.; First Baptist Church in Hixson to Alexandria, Va.; Russellville Baptist Church in Russellville to Poland, Ohio; First Baptist Church in Hendersonville to Michigan and to Wadsworth, Ohio; Rome Baptist Church in Lebanon to Gulfport, Miss.; Central Baptist Church in Oak Ridge and Edgemoor Baptist Church in Clinton to Hollywood, Fla.; Ardmore Baptist Church in Memphis to Kohler, Wis., and to Jamaica; and Beech Grove Baptist Church in Louisville to Jamaica.

### Missionary in Oklahoma City

As director of the Baptist center in Oklahoma City, Okla., Missionary Beverly Gray described herself as a "boring" person, but added that her life couldn't be boring because of her involvement with people in her work.

She reminded the girls and leaders that

the only limits to our influence on other persons are the ones we put on ourselves. Every person she had witnessed to through her work at the center knew the name of Jesus, "But they don't think He knows their name."

The center distributes food and clothing, has a medical and dental clinic, recreational activities, and other activities for all age groups. Gray told about the physician and his wife who both work at the center's clinic though they both have multiple sclerosis.

She said that some of her work includes washing lice out of children's hair, breaking up fights on the basketball court, and driving a van full of screaming children. She noted that sometimes she also faces racial problems between the Hispanic and black persons she tries to help.

### Missions in Brazil

Currently associate director of the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., Georgia Hill told the Acteens and leaders how the Lord prepared her for service and about her work as a missionary in Brazil.

Knowing that she had a "special ability to communicate," Hill prepared to teach before becoming a two-year missionary journeyman in Brazil. Disclosing that she "really grew to love the people," Hill returned to the United States to teach one year and attend seminary before she decided to become a career missionary in Brazil.

Hill reported that the people in Brazil are "very, very happy to hear the gospel," and that many of them have never heard it.

Her work in the Portuguese-speaking country involved leading conferences in churches to train church members and teaching at a seminary.

Hill told of one lady who was admitted to seminary studies although she had cancer. She wanted to become a medical missionary in Brazil. After four operations that were unsuccessful, an operation was finally performed that eliminated the tumors that disfigured her face.

Additional surgery improved her appearance and now she serves as a medical

missionary in an area with no medical personnel. She also has started three Baptist churches in that area, observed Hill.

She called the teen-agers to be the "salt of the earth," concluding that if they are not different from others, they are not being salty enough.

### WMU writer

Barbara Joiner, author of *The Dynamic Woman I Am* and other WMU materials, referred to her book, *Yours for the Giving* which is about spiritual gifts.

She said Baptists are "pretty retarded about spiritual gifts," and encouraged the Acteens to discover their spiritual gifts.

Recounting an experience she had with an Activator in Jamaica last year, she described how the Acteen held the attention of about 100 children with a Bible story. Joiner explained that the Acteen's spiritual gift was prophecy.

Spiritual gifts are "given to us for one reason, to give away, and the more we give away, the more we have to give," she stressed.

### Helping in Houston

Mildred McWhorter, director of the Baptist center in Houston, Texas, spoke.

She told of helping some children whose parents were alcoholics. Sixteen years later, she met one of the children at a church meeting where McWhorter was speaking. The woman, an active member, told McWhorter that her parents also had become Christians.

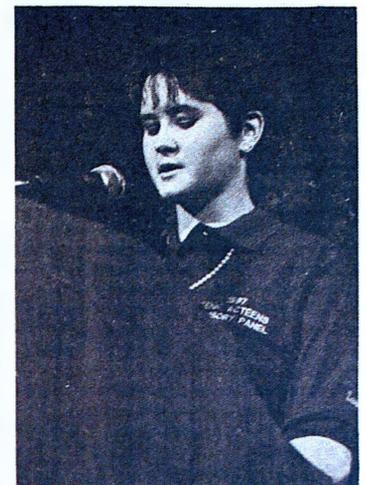
McWhorter also shared that while trying to write an article for her work, a child who wanted her attention kept knocking on a nearby window. The missionary explained to the child that she was busy and couldn't stop to play. The child kept knocking though, and when McWhorter stopped to talk to the child, he said, "I don't want to bother you. I just want to be loved."

McWhorter explained that she never finished that article.

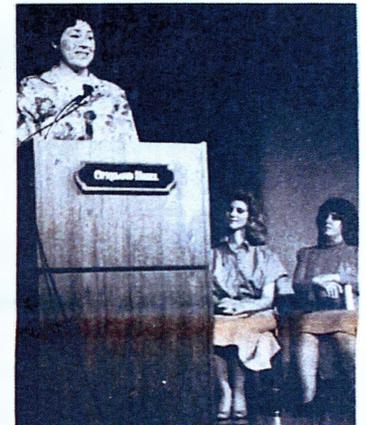
### Other activities

The girls and leaders chose from 18 different conferences and heard special music by Kay DeKalb Smith of Nashville and the Belmont Reasons of Belmont College in Nashville.

Stories and photos by Connie Davis



**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES** — Laura Barron of Dyersburg reflects on her service as a state advisory panelist.



**'REAL LIVE' MISSIONARIES** — Georgia Hill (left), spoke about serving in Brazil, and Beverly Gray (right), spoke about her work in Oklahoma, after Cindy Reed, state WMU intern, introduced them.

## Memphis Acteens act on Activator mission opportunities

Four years ago the Acteens group of Ardmore Baptist Church in Memphis heard about the opportunity for the young women and leaders to form an Ac-

tivator team that would be assigned to do several weeks of missions service.

The group decided to write the national Woman's Missionary Union head-

quarters in Birmingham, Ala., to find out more.

Since then, Activator teams from the church have served in Wichita, Kan., twice in Poland, Ohio, and in 1987 they have been assigned to work for two weeks each in Kohler, Wis., and Jamaica, though their overseas assignment may be changed to Bangkok, Thailand, reported Jamie Davidson, Acteens director.

We have been training and planning ever since we first learned about it," emphasized Davidson, explaining that the girls clean houses, clean the church kitchen, hold car washes, and do other work to raise money for the mission trips they fund themselves. The teams also must do 50 hours of training before each assignment.

The Acteens currently are conducting Big-A Clubs in Memphis in preparation for their work this summer. The clubs are Bible-study groups for children with little or no background in church.

Because of the mission work done by the Acteens in Poland, Ohio, the whole church has become involved in helping the small Baptist church there.

The Memphis church sent the Poland church money one year as a Christmas

gift. The Ohio pastor visited the Memphis church and participated in an Acteen recognition service. Other individuals in the two churches have helped each other. And this year the Ardmore Baptist Church youth will lead Vacation Bible Schools and survey communities for church prospects in Poland, reported Davidson.

The Acteens and their leaders have experienced challenges as members of Activator mission teams. Church vans have broken down during their trips. One time they had to rent a small car and squeeze the team and their luggage from the van into the car for the rest of the trip. Money for their expenses has often been hard to raise.

A plane in which they were flying had to land on a landing strip that was illuminated only by car lights. One night in a house where they were sleeping on the floor, they were awakened by ants that were crawling all over them.

Angie Goodwin revealed she wants to help teen-agers like herself. "We can show them love that they can't get anywhere else."

Jennifer Grannan said she had found joy in doing God's will in her life.



**ACTIVE ACTEENS** — These young women and their leaders are getting ready to return to Memphis after the summit to continue their preparation for mission trips to Jamaica or Thailand and to Wisconsin this summer.

# Lewis hopes presidency can rally divided SBC

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)— "I hope my presidency of the Home Mission Board can be a means of rallying our convention around the overarching goal of reaching America for Jesus Christ," Larry Lewis said.

Lewis made the comment during a news conference following his election as president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board April 10.

"I hope we can put the squabbles, strife, and dissension behind us and move on toward that overarching task," he added.

Lewis also said: "It would grieve my heart if my election is the source of greater strife and discord (in the convention). I am beholden to no man, beholden to no group of men. Nobody met somewhere and pulled me out as their candidate."

He said he had been recommended to the seven-member search committee by a "pastor's wife, who was washing dishes and thought her former pastor would be a good man for the job."

Lewis, president of the 800-student Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., dealt with doctrinal integrity, the role of women in the church, abortion, the SBC Cooperative Program budget, and

charismatics as he met with the news media following his election.

Lewis said he will be "involved" in the hiring of future staff members and will discuss their views of Scripture before employment.

He said the convention has gone on record — "and overwhelmingly so" — as believing that Article I of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on the Bible means the Bible is historically, scientifically, theologically, and philosophically true.

"I do not feel people ought to be playing word games with a clear statement of faith. ... It says what it means and means just what it says," Lewis added.

"As we employ professional staff in the future, we will be very careful about moral integrity and doctrinal integrity. ... If we have a person in a significant staff position who has questionable theology, it causes an affront to the whole denomination," he said.

Lewis was asked if the statement means that in the future he will hire only professional staff who agree with his interpretation that the Bible is "historically, scientifically, theologically, and philosophically" accurate in every respect, Lewis responded, "Yes, sir, that would be an accurate statement of my position."

Lewis also responded to other issues:

•**Women** — "I personally never have been able to discover from Scripture justification for the ordination of women, either as pastors or deacons. The Biblical guidelines are very explicit that those who are ordained to lead the church in a

pastoral role should be men."

He added the convention in 1984 had spoken against ordination of women.

"Regardless of how I feel about an issue, it behooves us to concur with the direction given us by the convention."

When a reporter pointed out the vote on women in 1984 passed by a narrow margin, Lewis said: "Seldom does a resolution represent unanimous consent." He added the HMB should reflect the majority view and "be kind, loving, and caring to all people."

He added, however, he concurs with HMB action declining to provide support to churches with women pastors. He noted the question is who the HMB will commission and support financially.

"We feel we cannot implement agency policy that is diametrically opposed to that which the convention has expressed. That is true with tongue speaking or women's ordination. We have no option but to go by that which has been given us by the convention."

"We need to take careful note when the SBC meets in annual session, drafts a resolution, and approves that resolution. That is a communique to the agencies, and I think we need to listen carefully to it."

•**The Cooperative Program** — "The Cooperative Program is a marvelous system. I strongly support the Cooperative Program and am opposed to negative designation."

He said churches who withhold support are "like children who take their ball and bat when the game is not being played their way. That kind of immaturity is un-

becoming a person who is part of the community of God and a great denomination such as ours.

"I think our support should be consistent, and if there is something in the system we don't like, then we can work to improve it or change it. If we withdraw our support, it seems to me we have forfeited the right to really have much influence in changing what we feel is a matter of concern."

•**Charismatics** — "I have never spoken in tongues and don't expect that I will," he said, in response to a question about the status of proposed action by the HMB to decline to appoint or commission people who are "involved in the charismatic movement."

"I don't think we should be part of employing or commissioning someone who is involved in speaking in tongues, but I am reluctant to see us invade the privacy of someone's prayer closet. How one prays in private should be private, and we should be very cautious in dealing with it."

•**Abortion** — "I am a strong advocate of pro-life. I think that is the Biblical position and in accord with the resolutions passed by the SBC since 1980. I am opposed to abortion except to save the life of the mother."

"I do feel the unborn baby is a human being and to terminate a pregnancy is to terminate the life of a human being. If God chooses to terminate it through miscarriage or stillbirth, that is God's election, but it is not man's prerogative."

Lewis said he believes the matter of abortion should be dealt with by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission but would like to see a "discussion by the board about crisis pregnancy centers as to whether the establishment of such centers by the HMB would be feasible and practical."

•**Missions** — Lewis said he had been called to be a missionary while in seminary, and about a year ago had begun to feel he would again become involved in missions work.

"God called me to be a missionary, and I don't think I will ever be happy until I am back in missions," he said. "I have enjoyed my work at the college. It was a beautiful thing, but I have had a difficult time seeing how that worked with my call."

•**His Commitment** — Lewis told how his great-grandfather, Marcellus Whiteside, "reportedly started more Baptist churches in Missouri than any other man. He started 46 churches, primarily in northeast and north central Missouri."

"He was a church planter at heart, and so am I."

**BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES**  
 Lights, Manufacturers, Baptistries, Signs, Steeples  
 Box 2250, Danville, VA 24541  
 In VA (804) 822-2000

**CHURCH FURNITURE**  
 Pews, Pulpits, Altars, Communion Tables  
 Free Brochures - Free Estimates  
 Write R.G. Ketron Church Furniture  
 or 3401 Montlake Dr.  
 Knoxville, TN 37920  
 Phone (615)577-8716

**To change or correct your address...**  
 Attach in this space your address label from the front page of your latest copy of the Baptist and Reflector. Please print your new address in the space provided below — including your ZIP code.  
 When changing your address, please give two weeks' advance notice.  
 Please send this information in written form, to insure accuracy.

All correspondence relating to your subscription should be accompanied by your address label from the Baptist and Reflector. If a label is not available, please write the 12-digit code from the top of your label here:

\_\_\_\_\_

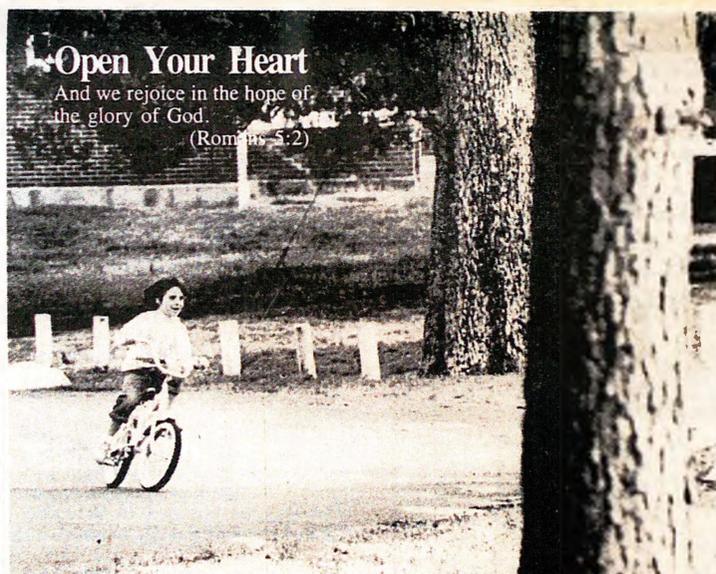
Address all requests to:  
**Baptist and Reflector**  
 Post Office Box 728  
 Brentwood, TN 37027

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Please Print

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



Riding a bike is a favorite outdoor pastime on the TBCH Memphis campus

**Open Your Heart**  
 And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.  
 (Romans 5:2)

**Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes**  
 Annual Mother's Day Offering, May 10, 1987. Our Statewide Goal: \$720,000

This special offering provides about one-third of the operation budget for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Our statewide ministries of group and foster home care provide support and spiritual guidance to children of broken homes, and young women in crisis pregnancy situations. Our adoption ministry places children in the homes of Southern Baptist families. Church leaders: it's not too late to

order Mother's Day Offering materials. Please use our toll-free number, 1-800-624-8591.

Dr. Gerald L. Stow  
 Executive Director/Treasurer

**TBCH**  
 A ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

## Congregation recognizes pastor's 30-year ministry

Pat Landrum, was honored by Brighton Baptist Church, Brighton, on March 29 for his 30th anniversary as pastor.

Erba Butler, previous pastor of the church, spoke during the special service. The climax of the celebration was an old-fashioned singing during the Sunday evening service.

The Brighton congregation surprised Landrum and his wife, Zoan, with an 11-day trip to Hawaii.

Landrum serves as Sunday School director for the Big Hatchie Baptist Association and is on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He formerly served as an officer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

# Tennessee

## PEOPLE . . .

Eric Hodge was ordained at First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, March 15. James Porch, pastor of the church and Russell Flatt, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Tullahoma, participated in the service. A student at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Hodge is minister of music at Powell's Chapel Baptist Church in that city.

Leonard Nabors was recently ordained by Edgefield Baptist Church in Nashville. Nabors is director of Anchor Home for Young Men at the Nashville Union Rescue Mission. Daniel Martin is pastor of the Edgefield church.

John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, will be preaching April 27-30 at the New Spring Bible Break Away. The event will be at Ridgecrest Conference Center and is sponsored by the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

## LEADERSHIP . . .

Ray Barrix has joined the staff of New Bethlehem Baptist Church as minister of music. A native of Humboldt, Barrix is presently a student at Jackson State Community College in Jackson. Randy Latch is pastor of the Bethlehem church in Dyer.

Leroy Carpenter has resigned as pastor of Pinecrest Baptist Church in Johnson City to accept the pastorate of North Hill Baptist Church in Minot, N.D.

### Correction

In the April issue of the Baptist and Reflector, a person was incorrectly identified in the story on page 6 about Highland Heights Baptist Church in Memphis. L. S. Stevens was identified as pictured with Pastor Touch Leng, whom he assists in the Cambodian mission, during a service. Instead Glenn Smith, the music director of the mission, was pictured.

The Baptist and Reflector staff regrets this error.

  
**WALLACE E. GOODWIN**  
Overs 30 Church Projects  
**GENERAL CONTRACTORS**  
Building Churches & Sanctuaries  
 Restoring Old Churches  
 Call DAN GOODWIN P.O. Box 3222  
 615-925-2141 Knoxville TN 37927

*Pews, pulpits, baptistries  
 steeples, chairs, tables,  
 lighting, stained glass,  
 folding doors,  
 carpet*

**VAN WINKLE  
 CHURCH  
 FURNISHINGS &  
 PEW UPHOLSTERY**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
 In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627  
 Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Silverdale Baptist Church in Chattanooga has called Tommy Taylor to serve as minister of music and youth, effective April 26. Herschel Woodburn is pastor of the church. Taylor comes to the Chattanooga church from First Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas.

## CHURCHES . . .

Scenic Drive Baptist Church was constituted Feb. 22. The church was sponsored as a mission by Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. Doyle Hayes is pastor of the new church. Joel Wood is pastor of the Belle Aire church.

## REVIVAL . . .

Gerald Stow, executive director-treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc., was the evangelist for the spring revival at First Baptist Church in Camden. There were two professions of faith and two transfers of letters. Dwayne Hollingsworth, minister of music, led the music. S. Ray Jones is the pastor.

## REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS . . . .

Miracle Baptist Church in Lavergne has revival services scheduled for April 26 through May 1. Charles Sullivan will be the evangelist. Derrell Billingsley, minister of music at the church, will lead the music. Carl Scarlett is the pastor.

Revival services will be May 1-3 at Oakland Baptist Church in Springfield. Courtney Wilson, from Hendersonville, will be the evangelist, Johnnie Harris, from Springfield, will direct the music. Charles Gallaher is pastor of the church.

First Baptist Church in Ashland City will have revival services May 17-20. Fred Kendall II will be the evangelist. Jerry Boyte, minister of music at the church, will lead the music. Bill Sims is the pastor.

## MISSION PROJECT . . .

Four volunteers from Union Baptist Association are currently serving as mission volunteers in Venezuela. Members of the team are Royce Hutchings, Mike Pullum, and Cliff Stanley of Bear Cove Baptist Church, Sparta, and Bobby Moore, pastor of Cherry Creek Baptist Church, Sparta. The team is doing maintenance work on the national headquarters building in Caracas and Campo de Carabobo in Valencia.

## Kitchings dies

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — Harold Kitchings, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, died April 8 in Jackson of bone marrow cancer. He was 60 years old.

Kitchings' funeral was April 10 at First Baptist Church of Clinton, Miss., with burial at Clinton cemetery.

A native of Eminence, Ky., Kitchings was a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He did post-graduate work at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kitchings was pastor of First Baptist Church of Kosciusko, Miss., from 1965 until 1976, when he became executive of the foundation. He also was pastor of churches in Hattiesburg, Miss., and McComb, Miss. Earlier ministry positions were as associate pastor of churches in Dallas and in Jackson, Miss.

Kitchings is survived by his wife, the former Ann Overstreet of Clinton; three children; a sister; three brothers; and six grandchildren.

# The Legal Threat

① How safe is my church?  
 ② My ministry?

## A SPECIAL CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS

The legal threat to the ministry grows week by week, as churches and ministers everywhere find themselves the target of lawsuits that total millions of dollars. More than 2,000 cases involving churches and their leaders are before the courts this year. The Samford University Center for the Study of Law and the Church will host a conference focusing on problems of church liability, ministerial malpractice and other legal complications which you or your church might face in the months ahead. This conference is a must for every concerned pastor and deacon.

### Draw on the experience of these leaders . . .

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Grady Cothen</b><br/>                 Former President<br/>                 Baptist Sunday School<br/>                 Board</p> <p><b>James Guenther</b><br/>                 Chief Counsel<br/>                 Executive Committee<br/>                 Southern Baptist Convention</p> <p><b>Arthur L. Walker</b><br/>                 Executive Secretary<br/>                 Education Commission<br/>                 Southern Baptist Convention</p> <p><b>Albert Brewer</b><br/>                 Former Governor of Alabama<br/>                 Attorney and Active Church<br/>                 Layman</p> | <p><b>Roy Herron</b><br/>                 Lecturer<br/>                 Vanderbilt Divinity School<br/>                 Attorney and Minister<br/>                 State Legislator</p> <p><b>Nancy Herron</b><br/>                 Methodist Minister<br/>                 Attorney</p> <p><b>A. Earl Potts</b><br/>                 Executive Secretary<br/>                 Treasurer<br/>                 Alabama Baptist State<br/>                 Convention</p> <p><b>Parham H. Williams, Jr.</b><br/>                 Dean<br/>                 Cumberland School of Law</p> <p><b>Chris H. Doss</b><br/>                 Director<br/>                 Center for the Study of<br/>                 Law and the Church<br/>                 Samford University</p> |
|---|--|



Center for the Study of Law and the Church  
 Samford University

May 11-12,  
**Samford University**  
 Birmingham, AL 35229

For information, write:  
 Center for the Study of Law and the Church  
 Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229

Telephone (205) 870-2409

**COMING HOME**  
  
 A DEVOTIONAL CD  
 ON ISAIAH  
**FRED M.**

Some of the richest material in the Bible is the focus of *Coming Home*, an exposition of Isaiah 40-55. Commenting on the Suffering Servant songs, this book is a helpful guide for series preaching, for Bible study, and for inspirational and devotional reading.

Intriguing, illustrative chapters include "Two Coins in the Fountain," "Even a Fool Can Be a Tool," "A Tale of Two Cities," and "Nevermore to Roam."

Uniquely qualified as a pastor and a scholar, Dr. Wood opens up an important, but often overlooked, passage of the Bible.

Paper, \$6.95

Fred M. Wood, formerly pastor of Memphis' Eudora Baptist Church, is the author of other books including *God of Grace, God of Glory*. He resides in Memphis, Tennessee.

At your Baptist Book Store



**BIBLE BOOK SERIES**  
Lesson for April 26

# Do the wicked suffer?

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

Basic Passage: Job 15:1 to 21:34

Focal Passages: Job 18:5-8, 19:23-27; 21:7-16

In our lesson two weeks ago, we left Job asking a lot of questions in the midst of his agony. Sometimes in the midst of grief and pain people ask questions to which there are no answers which can be understood in this lifetime.

His friends were trying to provide the answers. What they were saying was not helping Job at all. Apparently they were unaware that he wanted to hear from God and not from them. Still they persisted in trying to straighten Job out on his theology.



Nail

**Friends advocate traditional wisdom**

Surely you have heard persons spouting traditional wisdom. They usually begin by saying, as Job's friends did, "Everybody knows that..." Christopher Columbus was told, "Everybody knows the world is flat." William Carey was told, "Everybody knows that God can save the heathen without our help."

You can almost be certain that whatever is presented as something "everybody knows," is surely a tradition that is not supported by fact.

"Everybody knows that the wicked always suffer for their misdeeds." Such was the gist of the argument of Eliphaz (15:18-20) and the others. Of course, this was no comfort to Job (16:2). They seem to see only their traditional wisdom while Job feels all the pain. He naturally feels deserted even by his friends. Yet Job speaks mysteriously of a "witness in heaven," an "advocate on high." At this point he still seems to see God as the prosecutor; but he has hope also for a divine advocate (16:19ff).

Then Bildad paints a picture of the fate of the wicked which is, perhaps deliberately, a picture of the troubles of Job (18:5-21). His conclusion is that only the wicked suffer in that way.

Still seeing God as his tormentor. Job continues to yearn for someone to prove his case. Even in these circumstances, he clings to his conviction that he has done

nothing to deserve these calamities.

He kept believing that there was someone who could intercede with God. As Christians, we cannot help seeing Jesus as that Redeemer Who is continually interceding for us in heaven (Hebrews 7:25).

Zophar then carries on Bildad's theme of upholding the wisdom of the ages in spite of anything else. He exhorts Job to be rid of this new-fangled idea. Return to the safety of time-honored belief, he urges.

**Job challenges traditional wisdom**

Life is much simpler when people and events fit neatly into our categories. It's even simpler if someone else has supplied the categories for us.

A lot of you grew up in the South as I did. We who were white "understood" that people of "that other race" were all lazy and lacking in moral behavior. On those occasions when we saw for ourselves that some didn't fit the pattern, we were surprised. We didn't get rid of the stereotype. We simply hailed them as a credit to their race. Only gradually did some come to see that the category we had designed for the whole race was wrong.

Many discovered in the process that challenging these stereotypes, this "traditional wisdom," is a difficult thing to do. Job discovered this in his experience of suffering. Many of us change in this same way. Nothing else will shake us from these notions. Much later, Jesus became a drastic example of what happens to those who dare to cause people to see the flaws of their tradition.

Job could not see enough wickedness in himself to deserve all the tragedy he faced. At the same time he saw so many of the wicked who were prospering (chapter 21). Some might say, as Zophar had, that the wicked will suffer sooner or later even if it were the children of the wicked who suffered instead.

Job's response was that a man ought to be judged for his own sins and not his father's. However, this inherited punishment was the popular way of thinking in the days of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:29-30).

His friends, sincere though they may be, are of no help to Job in this crisis. His questions are beyond their wisdom and understanding. Seeing this, Job continues to call on heaven to hear him out and judge him fairly. He has confidence still in God.

**UNIFORM LESSON SERIES**  
Lesson for April 26

# The Emmaus encounter

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

Basic Passage: Luke 24:13-49

Focal Passages: Luke 24:13-19, 27-35

When a person attempts to live the Christian life between the cross and the resurrection, the result is tragedy. The cross and the resurrection are two distinct events, but in essence, they are one. Each requires the other.

Which side of the resurrection are you living on? Do you believe evil is on the throne and death has the final word or do you believe Jesus Christ is victorious over sin and death?



Kendall

This lesson focuses on the walk two men took with Jesus that transformed them from a state of despair to one of joy; from shattered hopes and dreams to exultant believers. Jesus led them to live on the victorious side of His resurrection.

A vital truth within this lesson is the glorious fact that Jesus Christ is always seeking us on the roads of life. He adapts His revelations to our unique needs.

A person can accept every other event in the Bible but the resurrection and still not believe in the full gospel. It is possible that a mere man could be God's means of performing miracles and ministering to man's needs, but only the Son of God could conquer death and sin. A Christian must accept the reality of the resurrection.

If you were to realize that today you were going to die, would it be the end of everything for you or would you believe that a new and glorious facet of your Christian life would begin by walking through the door of death into heaven?

**Disillusioned disciples (24:13-19)**

It was late afternoon of the day of the resurrection. Two despondent disciples, Cleopas and a companion, trudged from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. Their conversation revealed their depression. They were dejected because Jesus had died on a cross. Their hopes and

dreams had died with Him. They were living on the wrong side of the resurrection.

**Jesus' use of Scripture (24:25-29)**

As the two men walked, Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize Him. The first thing Jesus did to minister to the two was to help them identify and talk about the reason for their depression. He asked them about the conversation they were having - why they were so sad.

The men were shocked that the one walking with them had been in Jerusalem and yet did not know of the crucifixion of Jesus. They recounted the details of that event.

Jesus then recalled Old Testament prophecies to reveal to them the cross was a vital part of God's plan for the redemption of humanity. Therefore, the cross should have created joy within them, not sadness.

**Revelation and response (24:30-35)**

When the men came to their home in Emmaus, Jesus did not invite Himself to be a guest. He had to be invited (see Revelation 3:20). We can use our free will to accept Christ or reject Him by allowing Him to pass beyond our lives. This is an awesome reality.

Inside, Jesus shared a meal with the men. Suddenly they realized their guest was Jesus. He was alive. They experienced the joy of Easter.

The two returned seven long miles to Jerusalem to tell the disciples and others the good news. Notice how important it was for these men to be a part of a Christian fellowship. Also, every Christian has the responsibility of being a witness concerning what has been personally experienced in an encounter with Jesus Christ.

As Jesus came to these men who desperately needed Him on the road to Emmaus, the Lord will come to us on the road of life. We often talk about finding the meaning of life - or finding God. But this is wrong! Jesus takes the initiative in coming to us in a personal encounter. No matter how strongly we want to find the Lord, our desire can never compare to His passion to find us.

Christians are not living in B.C. We are living A.D. Also, we must live on the victorious side of the resurrection.

A missionary told of witnessing to an Indian. The man told him he had walked in the religion of his people all his life and would continue to do so. However, when the Indian was dying, he called for the missionary and said: "I want to follow your Christ. The road I have been following ends here."

"... Christ turns all our sunsets to dawns."

**Chattanooga Church Furnishings, Inc**  
Manufacturers of Quality  
Pews, Pulpits, Tables and Accessories  
Existing pews upholstered  
P.O. Box 128  
Signal Mountain, TN 37377  
(615) 886-2087



"...dedicated to helping mature persons prepare for ministry."

## BOYCE BIBLE SCHOOL

A Division of  
**The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
2825 Lexington Road      Louisville, Kentucky 40280

For information write or call toll-free 1-800-626-5525  
A Cooperative Program Institution

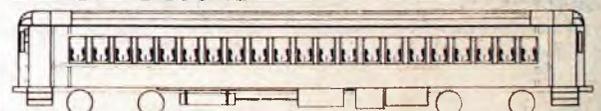
### Austria begins mission work

VIENNA, Austria - The Austrian Baptist Union has created a home mission department and selected a full-time leader.

The 12 churches in the union plan to finance the work without help from Baptists in other countries, according to a report in "Bundes Nachrichten," Austrian Baptists' official publication.

Leading the home mission effort will be Michael Herzog, who has been doing pioneer mission work in southeastern Bavaria since 1980.

## A Great Show On Rails



Bring your group to the Eureka Springs and North Arkansas Railway for a wholesome, historic adventure they'll remember forever. See the vintage rolling stock and take an excursion train through the countryside. There's even a dining car for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

The ES&NA is the ultimate nostalgia trip for older folks and a thrilling new experience for younger ones. For reservations or more information, write or call: The ES&NA Railway, P.O. Box 310, Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632; (501) 253-9623 or 253-9677.

**LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES**

Lesson for April 26

# Witnesses to the living Lord

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

Basic Passage: Luke 24:13-53  
Focal Passages: Luke 24:30-39, 45-48

Joe, captain of the small town high school football team, star basketball player, and senior class president, sat in his pastor's office. They were studying the prospect list as they planned visitation for the revival that was in progress.

Pointing to several names, Joe said, "Let me contact these fellows. I know them well."

That night Joe came in with three boys about his own age. They sat on the front row of the overflow section which was ordinarily a Sunday School room. When the invitation was given, the three walked down the aisle together with Joe leading them. They came professing faith in Christ and for baptism.

All of them became active church members and grew up to be fine Christian men. That's what "witnessing" is all about!

During college days, I heard a speaker say, "A living Savior has every reason to expect living Christians to be living witnesses for Him."

The postresurrection appearances of Jesus thrill and excite a person who has been gripped with the fact that He really died and was buried. Can you imagine the way those early disciples felt when they saw someone alive whom they had written off as dead! They needed no sermon on witnessing to send them out telling the story. They could not hold back the message!

Recognizing and remembering (24:30-32)

As the two men walked down the Emmaus road with Jesus, they poured out

their hearts of grief to this Stranger Who had joined them. He let them talk for a few moments and then tried to show them why the Messiah had to die. They still did not understand.

When they heard Him pray, however, they recognized Him. Prayer often opens our eyes to spiritual realities that were there all the time awaiting our discovery. They re-examined the past and marvelled that they had failed to see! The burning heart had been present but not the discerning spirit.

Seeking and telling (24:33-35)

The phrase "same hour" means they did not wait but hurried to share the good news with those who knew Jesus best. They felt constrained to validate the factuality of the rumors they had heard concerning the resurrection.

Because they had seen Jesus personally, they knew it was true. Many factors motivate Christian witnessing, but none is stronger than the fact that we have had a personal experience with the living Lord.

Confirming and comforting (24:36-39)

As far as we know from the New Testa-

ment record, Jesus had not appeared to any of the disciples prior to the Upper Room experience except Peter (1 Corinthians 15:5).

What do you suppose was happening before the risen Lord entered? Was Peter telling the others about how Jesus had come to him privately or was he so awed that he kept quiet until the Master came to all of them?

Whatever the facts, they were overcome with fear and, at first, did not believe Jesus was a real live person. He calmed them with an assurance of His reality. Demonstrating His resurrected body, He reminded them of His previous statements that He must die and rise again.

Explaining and exhorting (24:45-48)

No matter how exciting and life changing an experience with Jesus might be, no one can be an effective witness for Him

without a Biblical basis for the testimony. Jesus, once more, went over the Scriptural facts with them. People may have temporary and superficial alterations of life without a transformation by the Holy Spirit. The birth from above, however, is divine, complete, and permanent.

The fact of regeneration is the only basis for the doctrine of "once saved, always saved." We believe not merely in the preservation of the saints, but in the perseverance of the saints! Those who are saved will "hold out" because God's seed remains in them, and they cannot continue to practice sin" (1 John 3:9). With such spiritual help available for lost people, how can we fail to be witnesses!

On April 26 Midland Baptist Church, Bell Buckle, Tenn., will be observing its 40th anniversary along with Homecoming and Dedication service for a new fellowship hall. Lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m. with our special services to follow.

We would like to extend an invitation to all former pastors and members as well as all visitors.

Please make plans to join us on this very special day.

Mike Williams, Pastor



Wood

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT**

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415



## SPECIAL!!! INSURANCE FOR NON-DRINKERS

### AUTO • HOME • CHURCH • LIFE FOR NON-DRINKERS ONLY

For people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, we would like the opportunity to show you one of our plans or policies covering LIFE, HOME, CHURCH AND AUTO INSURANCE.

Call or see one of our Representatives listed below:

- Chattanooga (615)**  
Terry Case, Agy. Mgr. . . . . 837-7424  
Hiram Altman . . . . . 894-3275  
A & P Ins. Agency . . . . . 877-3561
- Elizabethton (615)**  
Elizabethton Ins. Agency . . . . . 542-4983  
Hart Ins. Agency . . . . . 542-5648
- Greenbrier (615)**  
Porter Rawls Ins. Agency . . . . . 643-0102
- Hendersonville (615)**  
Sherman Brown . . . . . 822-4366
- Kingsport (615)**  
Clarence Huffman . . . . . 288-6711  
Roy Strunk Agency . . . . . 239-8683  
Rogers Ins. Agency . . . . . 247-1171
- Knoxville (615)**  
Cal Elkins . . . . . 587-6226  
Donny Hodges AM . . . . . 673-4863  
Lloyd Burton . . . . . 524-1201
- Lexington (901)**  
Pat Carnal Agency . . . . . 968-6649
- Memphis (901)**  
Cairnes Ins. Agency . . . . . 795-6559  
Wilbur Milam . . . . . 388-2904
- Monterey (615)**  
Cumberland Mtns. Ins. . . . . 839-2131
- Murfreesboro (615)**  
Atlas Ins. Agency . . . . . 890-3445  
Golden Rule Ins. . . . . 893-7853
- Nashville (615)**  
Al Sutton . . . . . 367-9157  
Richard Coleman . . . . . 865-7232  
Tee Insurance Agency . . . . . 385-3700
- Paris (901)**  
H. D. Lax Ins. Agency . . . . . 642-5281
- Selmer (901)**  
Stan Wheeler Ins. Agency . . . . . 645-9839
- Tracey City (615)**  
Hendrix Ins. Service . . . . . 592-6721

## Preferred Risk Mutual INSURANCE COMPANY

**East Tennessee**  
Cal Elkins, Sales Manager  
591 Phyllis Cr.  
Talbot, TN 37877  
(615) 587-6226

**Central and West Tennessee**  
Hallice Dickey, Sales Manager  
1007 Murfreesboro Rd., Suite 101  
Nashville, TN 37217  
(615) 367-9157

**ADD-A-PAD  
PEW UPHOLSTERY  
REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS  
PEW REFINISHING**

Our installers have upholstered over 1,000 churches. 15 year wear warranty. We can upholster your pews on site for less than loose cushions! Call us for a FREE estimate.

**Church Interiors Inc.**  
CHURCH FURNITURE & STAINED GLASS  
800 Eastchester Dr. • P.O. Box 5346  
High Point, NC 27262-5346  
USA (800) 334-6130 TOLL FREE

The Baptist Sunday School Board has openings for two qualified applicants in the general area of Marketing Planning and Training. Individuals who have a college degree and at least five years experience in the general area of business and marketing are encouraged to apply.

For information write:  
Stan Heiser, Personnel Department  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
127 Ninth Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234

**1876 Inn**

- Affordable
- Capable
- Quality
- Personal Service

We are eager to serve families and groups looking for quality lodging and service with a Christian atmosphere. Large, heated pool, Jacuzzi, Cable TV. David's Place Restaurant provides excellent meals for breakfast and dinner. Give us the opportunity to make your next trip to the Ozarks really special.

**1876 Inn**  
Rt. 1, Box 247  
Eureka Springs,  
Arkansas 72632  
(501) 253-7183

Call toll-free for reservations  
**1-800-643-3030**

# 'Belongers, achievers' dominate SBC churches

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series.

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists could be in danger of permanently becoming a two-class denomination unless outreach and enlistment methods are tailored to appeal to types of people less likely to be found in Baptist churches.

The adult population of the United States can be divided into nine lifestyles or classes, according to Values and Lifestyles Program, a research service subscribed to by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. However, about 82 percent of Southern Baptists fall into two of the categories, "belongers" and "achievers," compared with 58 percent of the general population.

"We tend to perpetuate outreach

methods that work with belongers and achievers," said James Williams, executive vice-president of the board. "I think we can be effective (in reaching other groups), but we are going to have to develop new models and new strategies."

Belongers, 53 percent of Southern Baptists and 38 percent of American adults, constitute the middle-class group of Americans who are the "main stabilizers of society and the preservers and defenders of the moral status quo. The key drive is to fit in, to belong, and not to stand out," said Cliff Tharp, planning research specialist in the board's research services department.

Achievers, 29 percent of Southern Baptists compared with 20 percent of American adults, "include many leaders in business, the professions, and government. Competent, self-reliant, and efficient, achievers tend to be materialistic, hard-working, oriented to fame and success, and comfort-loving. Achievers are

well satisfied with their place in the system," Tharp said.

A third group, "survivors," who are the poorest economically, constitute 4 percent of the general population but 5 percent of Southern Baptists.

Six other groups are found in smaller numbers in Southern Baptist churches than in American society.

These include: "sustainers," struggling at the edge of poverty, 7 percent of Americans and 1 percent of Southern Baptists; "emulators," trying to make it "big" in life, 10 and 4 percent, respectively; "I-am-me" persons, who are fiercely individualistic, 3 and 2 percent; "experientials," seeking involvement in life, 5 and 1 percent; "societally conscious," who are concerned about ecological and social issues, 11 and 5 percent; and "integrated" or more mature psychologically, 2 and less than 1 percent.

Numerically, belongers and achievers constitute 101.5-million of the 175.1-million American adults. Other groups include survivors, 7-million; sustainers, 12.2-million; emulators, 17.5-million; I-am-me, 5.2-million; experientials, 8.8-million; societally conscious, 19.3-million; and integrated, 3.5-million.

Also, about 160-million to 180-million of the estimated 1986 U.S. population of 239.4-million people in all age groups are not Christians.

Alan Tungett, adult Sunday School consultant, said ministers of education to whom he has presented the Values and Lifestyle Program groupings have said they see mostly belongers and achievers in their churches and find outreach efforts are more successful with these kinds of people.

"We have strategies for reaching people, but we must ask ourselves whether they have been developed for reaching certain types of people," said Tungett. "When we say we want to reach all people, we must take lifestyle factors and values into consideration if we are going

to be successful."

For example, he said Southern Baptists are not effectively reaching some ethnic groups which have a disproportionate percentage of emulators seeking success in a new culture. Also, he noted, similar problems exist in reaching a large percentage of black Americans mired in poverty and struggling to survive.

Williams said improved efforts at reaching all groups in the American population will require "recognizing and encouraging diversity in the way we do church."

For example, he cited worship, approaches to education, and music which may, in many churches, be planned to appeal primarily to belongers and achievers. "Although these groups may see their worship services as highly informal, persons in other lifestyle groups may view the services as structured and cold," he said.

But Williams expressed optimism, based in the Bible, that solutions are possible.

"The Biblical message that God is no respecter of persons suggests that He can teach us to regard the worth of every single person," said Williams. "The best planning begins with who people are and what their needs are, planning that is rooted in ministry rather than organizational structure."

The research information is being used within the Sunday School Board to consider effective outreach methods for various groups as well as to evaluate literature in light of diverse needs and concerns, Williams said. He noted the concept of values in the research includes beliefs as well as attitudes, needs, aspirations, priorities, and prejudices that make up a person's life.

Tungett and other consultants are using information in conferences to help professional and lay church leaders consider ways to most effectively meet the needs of their congregations and communities.

## BOOK REVIEW

By Michael Davis

### A devotional odyssey

The Name Above Every Name  
by Herbert C. Gabhart Broadman;  
384 pages.

One may wonder how a daily devotional book can be associated with an odyssey. But Herbert Gabhart has made this connection more than a literary device to hold together a series of wanderings through the Bible in search of names and titles given to Jesus. He has made his study a personal adventure.

Day after day for an entire year, readers will be confronted with the different ways that those who knew and wrote about Jesus referred to Him. What Jesus was called gives insight into Who He is and what He means to people today.

For those who think there are no more undiscovered insights into the name of Jesus, and that every conceivable title has been recorded and properly categorized, this odyssey of names will be an adventure in learning.

On the 256th day of his journey, Gabhart gives Jesus the title of "Policeman." This title is suggested from the context of Mark 11:16 when Jesus would not permit anyone to take a vessel through the Temple.

"We should realize," says Gabhart, "that policemen are helpful, not to be shunned. I have seen them at museums protecting valuable objects of art. Jesus was protecting the Temple from desecra-

tion. This is the only time a reference is made to Jesus' doing something, then standing by to prevent further response."

Well known titles like King of Glory, King of Israel, King of the Jews, and King of Kings come into view with grandeur and new understanding on days 182, 183, 184, and 185.

During these daily devotions, readers are sometimes told meditations they can expect for the days ahead in their devotional journey. On day 112, he reveals what is in store for readers on day 113 and 114. On day 153, readers can anticipate what they will experience on the next three days of their journey.

The titles for Jesus in this book are derived from direct Scriptural references, suggestions from Biblical context, hymns, theologians, a sense of appropriateness, and a disciplined mind. They all pay tribute to Jesus and are authentic witnesses that the author has achieved his purpose.

"My purpose is not to be sensational or unique or shocking, but to use this as a means to pay tribute and sincere homage to the One Whose name 'is above every name' (Philippians 2:9). Personally and confessionally, it is my soul's tribute to Him, my Lord and Savior."

Herbert C. Gabhart is chancellor of Belmont College, Nashville. He served as president of Belmont College for 23 years.

## Interpretations

### The demanding Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24).

The apostles rejected Jesus' cross. In reply He handed them one.

"Will come" is not a future tense. Literally, "If anyone wills after Me to come," Jesus never sought to court popularity. Instead of counting disciples He weighed them.

"Deny himself" means to regard oneself as non-existent in favor of absolute loyalty to Christ. A person's will is submerged in the will of Christ. As someone said, it is "none of self and all of Thee."

One's cross is not some personal burden to be borne — sickness, financial problems, a wayward mate or child. In crucifixion, the Romans required the victim to bear his own cross to the place of execution. This was required even of Jesus. Such was a familiar sight to the apostles. So they fully understood the meaning of Jesus' words.

As Jesus bore His cross to Calvary for us, so we must be willing to walk in the steps of the Savior in bearing our cross for

Him. We must be willing to die for Him, if necessary.

We are saved by grace or as a gift from God through the atoning death of our Savior. But grace makes its demands. The Christian life is not a frolic but a fight. We should not expect to be carried to the skies "on flowery beds of ease." If necessary, we are to sail through bloody seas.

Jesus does not ask us to do for Him what He has not already done for us. But He has the right to expect us to do no less for Him.

### Churches get grape juice

BERLIN, East Germany — Government officials have promised to market grape juice to churches in the Federation of Evangelical (Protestant) Churches in East Germany, according to a report in the European Baptist Press Service. Previously, unfermented juice from wine grapes had not been available commercially in East Germany.

A large number of churches concerned about alcoholism have decided to offer non-alcoholic grape juice in addition to wine during their communion services.

## BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR

Please enter a subscription to the Baptist and Reflector for one year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill me for \$6.55

I am enclosing a check for \$6.55.

Clip and mail to: Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027