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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Executive Board sets new funding formula

By Charlie Warren

The Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, during its May 5 meeting, approved a funding formula that will provide equal support to all three TBC colleges in five years, set a \$23,850,000 Cooperative Program budget-goal, and placed the public affairs office under the executive secretary on the TBC organizational structure.

The board also deliberated over financial support for the Rainbow Acres Baptist

Home for retarded adults, located in Jacksboro. The Executive Board defeated an amendment to include Rainbow Acres in allocations for the Golden State Missions Offering and referred to the program committee a motion to invite Rainbow Acres to report to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1987 and "take appropriate steps to include this ministry in our work."

Drawing the most discussion was the change in the funding formula for support-

ing Tennessee's three Baptist colleges. The recommendation, which came from a subcommittee of the Executive Board's education committee, is "that from this point, we move to a five-year time equalization of the three colleges on the dollar amount of total Cooperative Program funds, including capital."

In the 1960s, a formula was devised which gave Carson-Newman College 16 percent of Tennessee's portion of the budget, Belmont College and Union University, 10 percent, and Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, 4 percent. At the time, Carson-Newman had more students than the other two colleges.

Paul Barkley of Puryear, chairman of the education committee, pointed out that through the years, Belmont and Union have increased enrollment at a steadier pace until now Belmont has more full-time equivalency students, while Union and Carson-Newman are about equal.

"We recognize that all of our schools are different," Barkley said. "They all have unique needs and they all have unique positions geographically."

While he noted that Carson-Newman has more resident students, he pointed out that the Higher Education Commission does not include dormitories and food ser-

vice in funding formulas because they see these as self-amortizing.

"The formula that the University of Tennessee uses would take a Philadelphia lawyer 30 days to read much less understand," Barkley said. "The statement that I liked best in the committee was, 'Tennessee Baptists can't understand a real complicated funding formula, but they can understand we love all our schools the same and we're going to equalize the money.' That's the spirit in which this comes."

He noted that Carson-Newman would continue to receive increases each of the next five years, but they would be smaller increases than the other two colleges to allow them to catch up.

The three college presidents were invited to address the matter.

Cordell Maddox, president of Carson-Newman, commented, "In all honesty, I must tell you I'm disappointed . . . It came about a year or so ago in a way that was disturbing to me.

"I don't think an in-depth study has been made," Maddox continued. "I think some assumptions have been made and some decisions were made from the assumptions."

He challenged the suggestion that dormitories are self-supporting, noting that resident students do cost Carson-Newman more money. He said that should have been studied, along with other budget needs, indebtedness, and other sources of income of each college.

"I think Tennessee Baptists can understand a formula," Maddox said. "I think we're smart."

He also expressed disappointment that the college presidents were never invited to meet with the subcommittee to offer their insight.

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WMU lowers '87 goal for Christmas offering

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The 1987 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions has been lowered from \$81-million to \$75-million.

The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union voted by mail ballot in late April to lower the 1987 goal by \$6-million when projections revealed Southern Baptists would fall short of the 1986 goal of \$75-million.

As of April 27, only \$67,751,032.36 of the 1986 goal had been received. Projections indicate only \$70.1-million will be given toward the 1986 goal.

The WMU executive board sets the goal several years in advance in order to include the goal amount in all publicity and promotional materials, many of which are produced months or years in advance. WMU officials did not indicate if future goals also will be lowered.

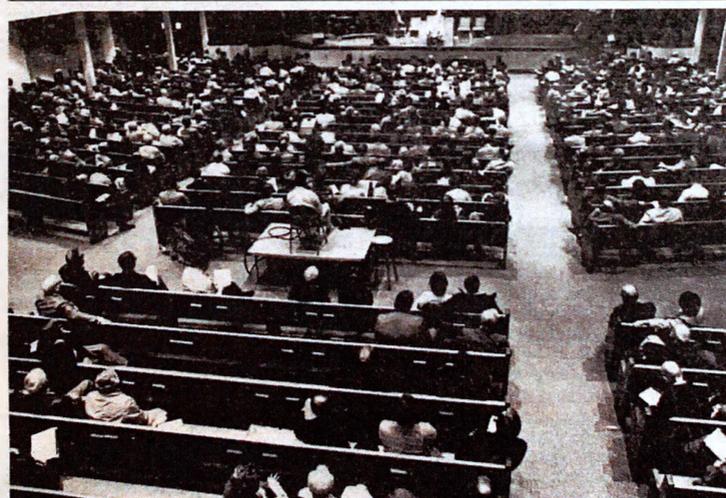
The goal change was made in time to have the revised amount shown on several promotional materials — including the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions posters and prayer guide — but not in time to get the amount changed in other promotional items, such as ads in Sunday School literature.

WMU leaders and officials at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission have expressed regret that the goal had to be decreased, but they cited the need to be realistic in setting the goal.

"We felt compelled to lower the 1987 goal when the 1986 goal wasn't reached," said Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director. "The big problem is that a lot of people think we set a goal with an allowance for fluff. But actually, there's a place already for every penny of the goal. We know exactly where that \$81-million would have gone."

Even if the \$81-million goal were to be reached, "desperate needs" still would go unmet on the foreign mission fields, Weatherford said: "We know how inadequate \$81-million would have been, and that shows just how much more inadequate \$75-million will be. It's just like sending missionaries out without the tools to do their work."

While lowering a missions offering goal is painful, "I have an emotional feeling of rightness of lowering the goal," Weatherford reported. "And I'm grateful that we have the process by which we can say, 'We've dreamed a little too high, and we've led you to dream too high. Now, we need to stop that dreaming and be realistic.'"



BAPTISTS AND THE BIBLE — About 1,000 Southern Baptists from 31 states met May 4-7 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center for the Southern Baptist Conference on Biblical Inerrancy. (See story on page 3.)

Committee invites input

The committee assigned the responsibility of seeking a public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention has met and is inviting Tennessee Baptists to offer suggestions.

The search committee requests the prayers of all Tennessee Baptists and suggests anyone wishing to recommend someone to send resumes to Fred Steelman, chairman of the committee, Red Bank Baptist Church, 4000 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga, TN 37415.

Other members of the committee are Mike Bennett, Fred Isaacs, Carl Price, and David Drummel, ex officio.

McWherter signs pari-mutuel bill

Just two days after the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board voted to notify Tennessee Gov. Ned McWherter, asking him to veto the pari-mutuel gambling bill, the governor signed the bill into law.

"I think people have the right in a democratic process" to express their opinion on pari-mutuel gambling, McWherter said. The governor had made it clear many months ago that he would sign such a bill if it provided for local referendums.

The bill legalizes gambling at horse tracks in Tennessee, but limits such tracks to one in each of the state's three grand divisions. Any city of 100,000 people or more or any county can hold a referendum on whether to allow a local track.

The bill also calls for the governor to appoint the Tennessee Racing Commission to regulate horse racing and pari-mutuel gambling. McWherter said he will be in no hurry to make his appointments.

C-N's 'What's Happening' seeks new 'niche' in news

JEFFERSON CITY — While there is no shortage of news programs on cable and network television, the people at Carson-Newman College and the American Christian Television System (ACTS) network believe there is still room in the nation's living rooms for a different type of newscast.

On May 18, "What's Happening," a nightly news program produced by the Tennessee Baptist college, will debut on ACTS at 7 EDT. That same evening, Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox will appear as a guest on the network's "Life Today" talk show at 7:30 to discuss the new broadcasting venture.

According to "What's Happening" News Director Deborah Tyler, who will co-anchor the 30-minute newscast with

1987 C-N graduate Jamey Tucker, the program will offer viewers news which will vary both in emphasis and content from the standard network fare.

"Our real challenge — and our responsibility — is to find a new niche which is separate and distinct from the network news," said Tyler, who has previously worked for ABC-TV affiliates in Texas and Florida. "While 'What's Happening' will feature national and international news, the program will also have a strong emphasis on what's going on in Christianity and in the Southern Baptist Convention in particular."

Tyler indicated that "What's Happening" will strive to cover stories that often go unnoticed by the networks.

"When was the last time you heard of a network doing a piece on a foreign mis-

sionary?" Tyler asked. "They only make the news if they're killed or kidnapped by terrorists. Missionaries are very important to Southern Baptists, and we will definitely be doing stories about them."

People-oriented stories will be a frequent feature of the program, as will what Tyler calls the "offbeat, upbeat stories which the networks can't tell in their 22 minutes of air time." The program's news team also is hoping to have a good deal of input from its viewing audience.

Thanks to the use of the latest communications technology, "What's Happening" can be taped in Carson-Newman's studios in Jefferson City and then be telecast from ACTS' master control facility in Fort Worth, Texas, the same day.

Each morning on Monday through Friday, the program's news team will final-

ize their selection of stories for that day's newscast. By noon, the script for that day's newscast will be finished, along with all videotape inserts to be used in the program.

At 1 p.m., the "What's Happening" crew will begin taping the newscast. By 3 p.m. all taping, editing, and postproduction work on the program will have been completed. A staff member will then take a tape of the program and make a 40-minute drive to Newport, where the program will be "uplinked" (sent to a communications satellite) from the Shop-at-Home satellite transmission facility.

The satellite transmission of the program will be picked up by ACTS in Fort Worth at about 4 p.m. and taped for airing by the network at 7 that evening on 261 cable systems in 31 states.

Executive Board sets funding formula . . .

(Continued from page 1)

While admitting that equalization would be difficult for Carson-Newman, Maddox pledged that his school would continue to strive to be a cooperative partner with Tennessee Baptists.

"Whatever this group and the convention decides, we're going to be happy with it, we're going to be grateful for it, and we're going to push on and be an even greater institution in the future."

William E. Troutt, president of Belmont, and Hyran Barefoot, Union's president, each expressed gratitude for the financial support of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "We have always made it on whatever that's been," said Barefoot. "Whatever this convention provides, we will take it and use it as efficiently and effectively as we know how."

George Coaker of Lascassas moved that the recommendation be tabled until the subcommittee could meet with the three presidents to "permit them to air their concerns" and then come back with a recommendation.

Hoyt Wilson of Lexington, decrying "stalling tactics," noted that the colleges are developing their 1987-88 budgets and "we need to make a decision on this."

Paul Durham of Nashville offered a substitute motion to proceed with the committee's recommendation this year, but to ask the committee to meet with the presidents and bring a report and any further recommendations back to a later meeting. "If there's a need for a change, we'll do it next year and not this year," Durham said.

Jerry Oakley of Springfield, TBC president, commented, "We're all concerned for our colleges — Carson-Newman, Union, and Belmont. . . . There is not going to be an easy way of reaching equalization. We all know that's where we should go.

"Let's put behind us 'east Tennessee, west Tennessee, and middle Tennessee' and vote as Tennessee Baptists," Oakley declared.

Durham's substitute motion failed. Fred Isaacs, a layman from Cosby, said, "You theologians have told me, 'Go back to the Word and you'll get the answer.' Let's go back to the Word and figure out that those folks that worked the last hour in the vineyard got the same thing as those that worked all day. I'm for all three colleges. . . . Let's go ahead and let's don't procrastinate."

Carl Price of Nashville asked if approval of a motion to table would kill the recommendation.

Coaker agreed that the word "defer" would have been better. The word "table" was changed to "defer" by consensus.

After Coaker's motion failed, the education committee's recommendation passed with some opposition.

The committee then presented a second recommendation "that beginning with the 6 percent increase given to Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy for the 1986-87 Cooperative Program budget year, funding increase be decreased 1 percent each year thereafter for five years, and that the declining percentage that would go to Harrison Chilhowee be added to the percentage going to the three colleges. (This adjustment is to begin with the 1987-88 budget and will be stabilized at the end of five years.)"

William L. Palmer, president of Harrison Chilhowee, told the board, "Our value (at Harrison Chilhowee) is really reflected through the transformed lives of young people. An individual must know students, staff, faculty, and graduates to make judgment upon the worth of the institution. We believe that investments in this institution will bear dividends throughout eternity.

"We're grateful for the generosity of Tennessee Baptists across the years and will continue to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us," Palmer added. "I believe this is a time to encourage and bolster the work of our school."

The motion passed with no discussion and little opposition.

The Tennessee Baptist program committee recommended that the 1987-88 Cooperative Program budget-goal be set at \$23,850,000, a 6 percent increase over the 1986-87 budget. The recommendation carried with no discussion or opposition.

The program committee also recommended that the percentage of distribution to the Southern Baptist Convention be 37 percent, with 63 percent to the Tennessee Baptist Convention — the same percentages as last year.

Howard Olive of Maryville, noting no increase in the SBC portion, commented, "I'm one of the people that entered into Planned Growth in Giving across the state with the expectation that we were beefing up for world mission outreach. I worked hard in my church to get them to increase. We're on a step increase. I believe that means that the step stops in Tennessee. This bothers me."

In recent years, the SBC portion has increased by one fourth of one percent each year. Dennis Pulley of Ripley, chairman

of the program committee noted that the committee was considering the financial demands of the proposed reorganization and new building.

Clay Frazier of Morristown said, "We've managed well these increases each of these years. God has really blessed Tennessee Baptists. . . . Several states are in an economic depression. Our state is not. Can our convention ask our churches to continue to increase our mission gifts when we, because of a building program or anything else, decide to stop? Let's keep moving ahead."

Leon Bolton of Memphis offered a substitute motion, increasing the SBC portion by a fourth of one percent. The substitute motion passed.

The TBC portion will be 62.75 percent and the SBC portion will be 37.25 percent. Messengers to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November will vote on the recommended budget-goal and percentage of distribution.

James Porch of Tullahoma, chairman of the Program, Personnel, and Planning Task Force, explained that the March 27 called meeting of the Executive Board had amended the task force's recommendation, asking the 12-member committee to restudy the placement of the public affairs consultant in the new organizational structure.

Porch reported that the task force had met with the public affairs and Christian life committee and that the groups had a "mutual concern that the office function to the fullest capacity." Originally the task force had placed the public affairs consultant within the Baptist and Reflector, an agency of the convention.

"This work relates to a wide range of potentially volatile and emotional issues," Porch said. "We believe the office can best serve Tennessee Baptists under the direct supervision of the executive secretary."

The recommendation carried without opposition or discussion.

Judy Trivette of Knoxville, chairman of the Golden State Missions Offering allocation committee, presented recommended allocations totaling \$1-million. Details of the allocations will be reported after the Woman's Missionary Union Executive Committee acts on the suggested allocations during its May 15 meeting.

James Robertson of Knoxville moved to amend the allocation committee's report to add \$10,000 for Rainbow Acres Baptist Adult Home.

Howard Olive noted that all allocations are either an approved ministry of the

TBC or earlier had been approved for inclusion by convention action.

"While this is a worthy ministry and one we ought to be involved in, this is a move through the back door to approve a ministry that Tennessee Baptists have not approved," Olive explained. "If this is a viable ministry that you're interested in, you should make the proper studies, bring the proper recommendations, let this body act on it, take it to the Tennessee Baptist Convention, let the TBC act on it, and enter the ministry through the front door."

Jere Plunk of Carthage noted that there are other worthy ministries that don't qualify for Golden State Missions Offering funds.

After the amendment failed, the committee's suggested allocations were approved.

Robertson also made the motion to invite Rainbow Acres to report to the convention and that the board pursue including the ministry in its work. The matter was referred to the program committee for consideration after a substitute motion by Howard Olive.

In other action, the Executive Board voted to go on record as officially opposing pari-mutuel gambling and to send a letter to Gov. Ned McWherter asking him to veto the pari-mutuel gambling bill. Two days after the action, however, the governor signed the bill.

The board also set aside Jan. 17, 1988, as Baptist Hospital Sunday, approved a \$270,000 renovation and new construction project for the Baptist Student Center at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, and set dates for the "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" simultaneous revivals in 1990.

The Stone Association of Baptists will fund one-third of the student center project and the Executive Board will provide the remainder.

The 1990 revival dates in Tennessee will be March 25 through April 1 in west Tennessee, April 8-15 in middle Tennessee, and April 22-29 in east Tennessee.

Coaker made a motion requesting the executive secretary to report quarterly on how TBC Cooperative Program funds are spent. The motion failed, but Marshall Gupton of Nashville, Executive Board president, referred the matter to the denominational cooperation committee for consideration.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be Sept. 11 at the Executive Board building in Brentwood.

Scholars appraise facets of inerrancy

By Marv Knox

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)— World-class conservative scholars and Southern Baptist leaders held Biblical inerrancy up to the light of critical appraisal during the convention's first Conference on Biblical Inerrancy May 4-7.

They examined facet after facet of the doctrine that has become the centerpiece of Southern Baptists' theological crown jewels — and the center of their eight-year-old theological/ political struggle. The conference, sponsored by the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina, drew about 1,000 participants.

Definitions and explanations of inerrancy refracted off the doctrine:

— "It basically means, 'not wandering from the truth,'" said Kenneth Kantzer, chancellor of Trinity College in Deerfield, Ill. Accepting inerrancy requires the Christian to believe God caused His human writers to "freely produce just such a book as God intends Scripture to be."

— Error is an "affirmation or assertion which is an attempt to tell the truth and fails," said J.I. Packer, professor of historical and systematic theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. "Nothing that we have found convicts Biblical assertions of factual or moral error. No Biblical phenomena need invalidate the confession of inerrancy that the teaching of Jesus and the apostles leads us to make."

— The inerrant Scriptures are "words taught by the Holy Spirit (having) that

quality which makes them overwhelmingly reliable witnesses to the words and deeds of the God Who has in His inspired spokesmen and in His incarnate Son disclosed Himself to men for their salvation," said Robert Preus, president of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Despite the similarity of definitions, Clark Pinnock said: "Inerrancy is not the firm and clear category we are being told that it is. It is supposed to be the very answer to all our problems, and yet the inerrantists themselves cannot agree on what it signifies."

Pinnock, professor of systematic theology at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario, was a leader in the Southern Baptist inerrancy movement in the 1960s and early 1970s.

He was echoed by Millard Erickson, dean of Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., who said a too-vigorous attempt to prove inerrancy results from a misunderstanding of the term. For example, misunderstandings of inerrancy arise out of the failure to see Biblical statements in their cultural contexts or extending the range of the Bible's authority to include "every subject which it mentions, or even beyond that, to subjects that it does not address."

That includes science, said Packer: "The Bible contains, strictly speaking, no scientific statements at all. Biblical statements about God explain natural processes in terms of God's personal purpose but do not describe them scientifically."

Packer said the Bible is more concerned with advancing knowledge of God than presenting a detailed historical outline.

Kantzer and Preus also pointed out "troublesome" Biblical problems include apparent contradictory accounts that claim to relate the same event. Kantzer warned against over-stretching the harmonization or reconciliation of apparently discrepant accounts "for which no plausible harmonization is possible," noting, "It is not necessary for us to be able to have a plausible solution to every alleged contradiction before committing ourselves to inerrancy."

Major speakers noted the doctrine of inerrancy applies only to the original autographs (writings) of Scripture, none of which exist.

Inerrantist urges SBC reconciliation

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)— A former crusader against liberalism in the Southern Baptist Convention has apologized for the hurt he has brought and pleaded for concessions from both sides in the SBC controversy.

Clark Pinnock, professor of systematic theology at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, spoke at the Southern Baptist Conference on Biblical Inerrancy at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. Pinnock taught at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary from 1965 to 1969, when he campaigned against liberalism in the convention.

"If you listened to me in the '60s about the dangers of liberal theology, perhaps you will listen to me now," Pinnock told about 1,000 people attending the conference sponsored by the six SBC seminaries.

Pinnock said he has not changed "one whit in the matter of holding to the Bible as the inspired Word of God." Although he led the fight against liberalism in SBC schools in the 1960s, he said the current controversy has gone too far.

In contrast to the 1960s, Pinnock said, he currently sees "a great evangelical denomination dangerously divided." The current debate is not between inerrancy or non-inerrancy but between an elaborate, structured view of inerrancy versus a simpler, experience-based view, he said.

"I wish that Southern Baptists would see that within evangelicalism outside their context we have been able to maintain some peace and cooperative effort

between those who think it is very important to hold a strict definition of inerrancy and those who prefer a more open attitude to the text of Scripture," Pinnock said.

"To throw out a couple of liberals you are going to hurt a lot of good people who happen to love God," he said.

As a start toward peace, Pinnock suggested both sides, whom he termed "moderates" and "militants," sign the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy developed by the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy.

Moderates must "make it much clearer than they have wanted to in the past that they are in fact Biblical conservatives and evangelical Christians," Pinnock said. "I urge the moderates to confess the faith clearly, distinguishing it as forcefully from the errors on the left as they presently do from errors on the right."

At the same time, Pinnock said militants must "stop behaving as if they are Roman Catholics. Behind inerrancy lies the desire to secure God's truth invincibly so it cannot be lost or distorted. The logic of orthodoxy taken to its full extent can lead on right to Rome," he said.

Pinnock commended the six SBC seminary presidents for adopting "language of inerrancy" in their "Glorieta Statement" issued to the SBC Peace Committee Oct. 20, 1986. The Ridgecrest conference was one promise the presidents made in the "Glorieta Statement" as a means to bring peace to the SBC.

The two speakers responding to Pinnock's address found different reasons to

praise him and object to him.

Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, called Pinnock his "beloved mentor."

Yet Patterson said he now grieves for his "professor who has forsaken the prophetic pulpit of Luther for the indecisive desk of Erasmus and the certainty of Paul for the vascillation of the Athenians who must always 'hear some new thing.'"

On the other hand, William Hull, provost at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., said he remembered Pinnock as a "brash young new professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary who unleashed a sustained and withering attack on many of my best friends."

Ironically, Hull said, Pinnock has now written a paper which espouses prudence, charity, tolerance, and a plea for Southern Baptists to live in harmony.

In a response after Patterson's and Hull's comments, Pinnock apologized for pain he caused Southern Baptists in the '60s and the problems created by his changing views in the '80s.

"I want to say I'm sorry. I've probably hurt everyone in this room," Pinnock said. But he added his opposition in the 1960s was right and necessary and that the tide of liberalism has been turned back.

The crucial question now, he said, is one he cannot solve but revolves around whether current charges of liberalism by Patterson and others are exaggerated.

"I'm so worried in having corrected a fault that we'll go too far and hurt a lot of people," Pinnock said.



DIFFERING VIEWS — Clark Pinnock (left) speaks with SBC President Adrian Rogers after the two speakers presented contrasting views on inerrancy. Rogers was one of Pinnock's students in the 1960s at New Orleans seminary.

Board honors employees on service anniversaries

Five employees of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board — with a total of 50 years of service — were recognized for their service at the May 5 board meeting in Brentwood.

The employees were honored on their work anniversaries and were presented service pins by Tom Madden, TBC executive secretary-treasurer.

Recognized for 15 years of service was Dorise Haynes, secretary in the foreign mission ministries office, who had previously served in the church music and Sunday School departments.

The following were recognized for 10 years of service: Madge Larabee, secre-

tary in the missions department; Evelyn Vaughn, computer operator/bookkeeper in the accounting office, who had previously served in a part-time position; and Helen Clifton, secretary in the church-ministers information department, who had previously served in the program services department and part-time positions.

Recognized for five years of service was Ruth Lyon, part-time Baptist Student Union director at Roane State Community College in Oak Ridge.

Executive Board employees are presented service pins at five-year intervals of Executive Board employment.



RECOGNIZED — Receiving service pins May 5 for service as employees of the Executive Board were (from left) Ruth Lyon, Dorise Haynes, Evelyn Vaughn, and Helen Clifton. Madge Larabee was not available for the photograph.

Fuller explains delay of final peace report

By Marv Knox

ATLANTA (BP) — The final report of the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee — originally scheduled for release a month in advance of the 1987 annual meeting — may be delayed, chairman Charles Fuller says.

"We wish we could have been able to fulfill our original plan of releasing the report six weeks or a month before the convention, but we find that the idea may have been ambitious," he added.

Fuller made the comments following the 14th meeting of the 22-member peace group, May 4 in Atlanta.

Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., countered rumors that the Peace Committee is "hopelessly

stale-mated," by telling Baptist Press the report "is completed as far as structure and general content is concerned."

"There are sections which have been referred back to the drafting committee for refinement and some short segments have been sent back to be rewritten. At this point, we feel it is more important to complete the report, with each member of the committee having his or her input, than to hurry the final draft," he said.

Fuller said it appears the final report will include "about 10 recommendations, touching both political and theological issues."

The report, he added, does not include any recommendations which are aimed at splitting the 14.6-million-member denomination. "The committee is committed to the idea that we will stay together; the concept of a split is not in our thinking."

When the committee met in Nashville in early April to survey the first draft of the report, committee members instructed the drafting committee, headed by Charlotte, N.C., attorney William Poe, to shorten the document from the first version's 25 pages.

"We have purposely shortened the background section of the document hoping to make it manageable and digestible by the messengers at the St. Louis convention," Fuller said.

After the May 4 meeting, attended by 21 of the 22 members, Fuller said the drafting subcommittee will refine, rewrite, and reassemble the report. Then, it will be mailed to all committee members for review.

"Following that process, members will send suggestions for revisions. Then the final report will be assembled," he said.

Fuller added the report may be released either in late May or early June, "depending on how long the finalization process takes."

He said, however, that the committee may schedule another meeting just in advance of the St. Louis convention, scheduled June 16-18 in the Cervantes Convention Center.

The committee, under the action of the 1985 convention, must make its final report at the 1987 annual meeting.

Volunteers to help build in Venezuela

Eleven members of First Baptist Church in Lenoir City and seven members from Union Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis are continuing the work of 326 volunteers who have previously served as part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership, which began in November 1985.

The Lenoir City team will do church construction in Guacara near Valencia, a city with almost 1-million people. Also working near Valencia in Naguanagua, the Memphis team will be adding classrooms to a church.

Both teams are serving from May 11-22. The team from Lenoir City includes Raymond O. Bennett, Douglas Collins, Art Gartman, Paul Harvey, Steven Kirby, Paul J. Long, Randy Powley, Byron Proaps, James Tiller, Charles Wheeler, and Patrick Wright.

The Memphis team includes Philip Brewer, Karen Akin, Gary Knight, Dorothy Grant, Janet Herriman, John Brinkley, and Rob Haener.

The three-year partnership is coordinated through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

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



GIFT REPRESENTING SECOND CHILDHOOD — James M. Gregg (left), former executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc., gives a jar of pennies to Gerald Stow, current executive director-treasurer, for the annual TBCH Mother's Day Offering. Since many children save their pennies for various special offerings, Gregg said it might appear he has entered his second childhood.

TBCH sets opening in Nashville of home for unwed mothers

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc. has announced the May 15 opening of its second alternative home for unwed mothers, reported Gerald Stow, executive director-treasurer. It will be located in north Nashville.

The TBCH has five additional state-licensed homes across the state.

Three expectant mothers can be housed at the home, which is located in a residential area. Karen Lloyd, a clerical worker and member of Mount Olive Baptist Church

in Knoxville, has been named housemother of the home. It will be under the direction of Jerry Blasingame, middle Tennessee regional director, based at the Baptist Children's Home in Franklin, and Sherry Johnson, family program director at the Franklin home.

Confidentiality is provided to the young women, along with free housing, medical assistance, professional counseling from a Christian point of view, spiritual training, academic and vocational training through local schools, colleges, and the home, and adoption services. The TBCH is a licensed adoptive agency.

The alternative home also is working with Two Rivers Baptist Church and Messiah Baptist Church in Nashville. Members of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville will become sponsors of the young women, providing friendship and support during their pregnancies. Messiah Baptist Church will work to provide adoptive families and foster homes.

Governor selects Stow for service

Tennessee Governor Ned Ray McWherter has appointed Gerald Stow, executive director-treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Inc., on May 1 to the Tennessee Children's Services Commission.

Stow will fill an unexpired term until August 1989 on the commission, which was established by Governor Lamar Alexander.

The commission is a liaison between state government and those rendering services to children, including day care, children's homes, and foster care services.

Stow is excited about the appointment "mainly from the standpoint of a Christian person who can bring some values to bear in our child care work."

Greene, volunteer, dies in Sneedville

Ralph Greene, a missions volunteer in Burkina Faso during the Tennessee special project there and a Tennessee disaster relief volunteer, died May 2 in Sneedville. He was 66 years old.

Greene had just earned his state disaster relief volunteer certificate during training March 28 in Greeneville.

The funeral was May 3 at First Baptist Church in Sneedville, where Greene served as a deacon. He was buried in Livesay-Greene Cemetery in Sneedville.

His wife, Nell Greene, was also a volunteer in Burkina Faso.

Hall recuperates after heart attack

W. F. Hall, a teacher at Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour for 44 years and first vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1971-72, suffered a severe heart attack and is recuperating at home.

Hall, who retired in 1971, lives on the academy campus. At the academy, he taught English, history, and Bible, and is currently a trustee and chairman of the academic committee.

He helped organize 15 churches in Chilhowee Baptist Association and was pastor and interim pastor of numerous churches in the area.

Watson undergoes surgery in Bolivar

Deryl G. Watson, director of mission of Hardeman County Baptist Association suffered a heart attack and on April 2 had angioplasty surgery in Bolivar.

No permanent damage to the heart was reported and he is recovering at home

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 70,815

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Letters to the editor

Letters on any religion-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.

The three bears

Dear editor:

Once upon a time there were three bears, Fundamentalist Bear, Uncommitted Bear, and Moderate Bear. Every June they meet at a place called convention in the land of Southern Baptist.

While being somewhat different, they remained friendly with only one major problem. There was only one chair between all three bears. They solved the problem by taking turns sitting in the chair.

Fundamentalist Bear said, "This chair is too soft." Uncommitted Bear said, "This chair is too hard." But Moderate Bear said, "This chair is just right," so he kept the chair and sat in it every year for several years.

Fundamentalist Bear grew weary of this and said to Uncommitted Bear, "If you will help me I will take the chair away from Moderate Bear." Uncommitted

Bear climbed down off his fence, yawned, and said, "Alright I'll help" and he did. So Fundamentalist Bear took over the chair. This made Fundamentalist Bear happy but it made Moderate Bear sad. He began to cry.

Since the chair was too soft for Fundamentalist Bear, he began to "Board" it up so that he could sit more comfortably. This made Moderate Bear angry. He started crying more loudly than before.

Moderate Bear appealed to Uncommitted Bear, "Help me get the chair back before he ruins it." Uncommitted Bear again climbed down from his fence and said, "I'll think about it."

When Fundamentalist Bear heard about their conversation, he invited Mama Bear and Papa Bear to come to the next June meeting. Of course, they supported their favorite son and Fundamentalist Bear remained in the chair with it "boarded up" to his liking.

Moderate Bear invited Goldilocks to attend but she stayed home. Goldilocks said she didn't care who sat in the chair and besides the porridge had a peculiar odor.

Frank Kemper
P.O. Box 188
Kenton, TN 38223

Call for unity

Dear editor:

In the midst of the current Southern Baptist battle, there is a need to consider a call for unity.

Whether individuals consider themselves fundamentalists or moderates, no one wishes to destroy all that the Southern Baptist Convention has been able to accomplish for the kingdom of God. While each side has voted to advance their general perspective, no one wants to see our agencies and institutions harmed.

Through the years, both fundamentalists and moderates have supported the Cooperative Program to further the cause of Christ. Having lived together this long, do we really want to destroy all we have built?

Each side would do well to avoid characterizations that lead to disunity and do not build up the body of Christ. To prevent further erosion in our fellowship, those of us anxious to get on with missions and evangelism need to make our voices heard in councils of leadership. Let us call for a mutual respect and upbuilding (Romans 14:19).

Perhaps the best way to achieve peace and unity would be to elect a solid Cooperative Program supporting fundamentalist, without a political agenda, and from outside the current circle of leadership.

Clay Smith
Finchville Baptist Church
Finchville, KY 40022

A positive word

Dear editor:

In the wake of so much negative news, may I share a positive word for all Tennessee Baptists.

After a full school year as pastor of First, Jefferson City, the nearest church to Carson-Newman College, I want to confirm from up close that which I strongly believed to be true at a distance. For nearly 18 years as pastor and wife at Signal Mountain Baptist, we kept hearing wonderful things about Carson-Newman. Soon after moving to Tennessee, we made a pilgrimage here to "get a feel" for the school ourselves, and have continued to be greatly impressed over the years.

But, fellow Baptists, you cannot fully

appreciate what we have here in higher education until you live with it each week! We have tried to get to know the students, faculty, and administration by attending various activities that we could and by eating in the cafeteria as often as possible. We are more excited about the potentials for Christian higher education than we have ever been in our lives — even when many on the field are wringing their hands in despair!

Recently you read about Don Garner, who won the prestigious award as outstanding professor. He is also one of the most conscientious Sunday School teachers and churchmen I have ever know, as well as a fine husband and father! Don and Cordell Maddox have been the high-profile personalities in the news of late and well they should be. But it is important to remember that they serve to represent many other wonderful men and women who give of themselves sacrificially, with competence and genuine concern for each student.

This is one area of Baptist life about which you can sing the "Doxology" every morning! These folks know how to be unapologetically Christian without being arrogant.

Moncrief (Monty) Jordan
709 South Russell Avenue
Jefferson City, TN 37760

Unbridgeable chasm

Dear editor:

I stand corrected!

According to the tract "Stop the Take-over" by James Watkins of Taylorsville, Ky., only a handful of fundamentalists are seeking to control the SBC.

According to a Christian brother, the beliefs and doctrines of Baptists are Biblical, not Catholic. The rule of faith and practice is Jesus as revealed in the Bible, not a pope or church tradition.

CLC stresses abortion issue

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has taken two new initiatives designed to give "urgent attention to the abortion issue," announced N. Larry Baker, executive director of the moral concerns agency.

The initiatives include the assignment of the abortion issue as a major staff responsibility and a national consultation on abortion May 28-29 in St. Louis.

"Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the commission since January 1985, has assumed staff responsibility for the abortion issue," Baker said. "Elevating the abortion issue to a major program assignment is the first step in the Christian Life Commission's commitment to provide additional help for Southern Baptists."

"Parham has already written on abortion and prepared materials for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and will be responsible for the national consultation on abortion," Baker explained. "The consultation will bring together the entire commission program staff and two dozen other Southern Baptists who represent conservative positions on abortion to chart new courses of action on the issue."

Parham will continue to be responsible for the world hunger issue, Baker said, noting, "The abortion and hunger issues are expressions of the same commitment to the sanctity of human life."

According to a fundamentalist, the conflict in the SBC is the debate over the authority of the Scriptures and whether the Bible IS or CONTAINS the Word of God. He believes "there can never be unity in the SBC as long as there is a disagreement over the authority of the Scriptures."

The conservative camp believes the Bible is the total inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. They stress having the right beliefs such as the "Five Points of Fundamentalism." They regard members of the other camp as unbelievers who do not believe the Bible is God's Word. They believe the original texts, the variations in the manuscripts, and (all) translations are the inerrant and infallible Word of God.

The liberal camp believes the Bible contains the inspired Word of God. They may or may not stress having the right beliefs. They regard members of the other camp as extremists but brothers. They believe the original texts were inspired, but see variations as errors. They use the textual criticism method to reconstruct the original texts.

There is an unfathomable and unbridgeable chasm between the two camps.

As there is little hope for a spirit of love and cooperation, I believe the SBC should split as soon as possible.

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

Dead and living

Dear editor:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).

"That I may know Him (Jesus) and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformable unto His death" (Philippians 3:10).

I cannot, or have not, found seven groups of Southern Baptists; nor do I find five or even three groups of Southern Baptists. I am sorry to say, I find two groups of Southern Baptists — dead and, thanks be to Jesus, living. Pray, pray that the dead may come alive in Jesus.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Shame, shame on all that boast, being part of the dead. Hear, please hear, Jesus is God of the living. The dead know not they are dead.

Thomas E. Gwynn
114 Ragan St.
Tulahoma, TN 37388

MK dies May 2

KETCHIKAN, Alaska — Mark Merritt, son of John and Elizabeth Merritt, Southern Baptist missionaries to West Germany, died May 2 in an auto accident in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Merritt, 25, was killed instantly around 9:30 a.m. when he lost control of his car on a highway in Ketchikan and it collided with a loaded dump truck, according to a newspaper in Ketchikan. He had been an English and photojournalism teacher at Ketchikan High School for two years.

His parents have been Southern Baptist missionaries since 1964, first in Italy and since 1972, in West Germany. The senior Merritt is executive director of the European Baptist Convention. The couple has two other sons, Michael Paul, 29, and James Philip, 23.

A memorial service was held May 6 at First Baptist Church in Ketchikan, where Merritt was a member, and a funeral service and burial was May 8 in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Alley to serve in church music

Ron Alley has been named interim program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention church music department by the state missions committee at its May 4 meeting.

Alley, who has served as a secretary in the department since September 1986, also worked part-time and as a summer music worker in 1985 for the department. He also currently serves as minister of music and youth at Calvary Baptist Church in Nashville.

His appointment to the program associate position on a permanent basis is contingent upon completion of his degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Alley is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. He has served as minister of music and youth from 1979-84 and as associate pastor at Mount Creek Baptist Church in Chattanooga from 1983-84 and as director of the singles ensemble and co-director of singles at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth from 1984-86.

"Ron's musical skills, his background in communications, and his experience as a summer music worker especially equip him to minister to churches with part-time and bi-vocational music leadership," said Julian Suggs, church music department director.

Alley is married to Jean Laseter Alley, who is a student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Bailey begins pastorate

David Bailey recently began his ministry as pastor of Walnut Log Baptist Church in Union City.

Previously, he served as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in East Jordan, Mich. He was a Mission Service Corp volunteer church starter.

Bailey is a native of Hickman, Ky., and a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky.

Tennessee medical caravan treks through Mexico

By Connie Davis

To continue the foreign mission efforts of the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Baptist Student Union, five students and two graduates journeyed to Mexico March 20-28 to conduct village clinics providing medical and dentistry services.

BSU Director John Billington noted that the trip marked the 15th mission trip since 1980 to Mexico or Honduras. The work is coordinated through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The students raised most of their own funding from their home churches and by working in revival teams. It was supplemented by former BSU members and the BSU.

This year the team assisted Raquel Morales, a physician, and four other medical workers from Mexico.

Day one was reported by Lynn Baine, nursing student:

"We arrived at the Albrights (missionary hosts Buddy and Jean Albright in Cuernavaca). Musicians were strolling with their guitars and banjos and the whole city seemed alive.

"We were joined by our fellow team members from Guadalajara. After supper, we shared songs while Fernando (a team member from Mexico) and Phillip (a team member from the U.S.) played the guitar. We shared a devotional and then the hombres went to stay with one of the interpreters. Despite where we live, we can share the love of Christ in any language."

Day two was related by Steve DeBusk, dentist:

"The clinic was set up in the church, which has a tarp for a roof and two walls. The climb to the church was incredible. The day was a big success — six people accepted Christ as their Savior. We left at 10:30 p.m. and made the journey home. P.S.: Ask Leona about her tarantulas!"

Day three was summarized by Sandra Symes, pediatric nurse practitioner:

"We arrived at Cajones, a small village in the mountains, around 11

a.m. Shortly, many patients arrived, some coming via horses or mules. Seeing Josue (a team member from Mexico) spend 30 minutes treating a patient and an hour witnessing was a precious sight. Tears came to my eyes as this patient, an elderly man, accepted Christ as his Savior. Six souls were won today."

Day four was reported by Janet Purkey, medical student:

"We were awakened by the sun and the turkeys! Today we went to Barranca Honda... which is not close to anything. We crossed treacherous territory like we have never seen before.

"We began clinic about noon. Raoul (an interpreter) was not with us today because of other work obligations at his hospital. Lauren, a U.S. student studying in Mexico, came to help. We had four medicos (doctors), four dentistas, and three enfermeras (nurses). The total number of patients for today was medicos, 203; dentistas, 105. Professions of faith in Jesus Christ totaled 25."

"We saw patients until about 1 a.m."

Day five was explained by Lisa Williams, medical student:

"Jean (Albright) fixed us a terrific breakfast as usual — lots of fruit and, of course, frijoles (beans) and chili. We gathered for the devotional and talked about the image of God.

"Today we went to Yautepec. Once again we saw lots of (people with) worms and amoebas, also tuberculosis, strep throat, and I finally got to see some gynecological patients. Five people accepted Jesus as their Savior.

"The people there were all really sweet and thanked us for coming to help them. This village had a doctor who visits their village to whom we could send these people for follow-up. "Jean met us at the van (when they returned to Cuernavaca) with the news that one of the men we had seen Monday had taken an overdose of his medicine and was in 'grava' condition. He was an older diabetic man. The rest

of us (who did not go to the hospital) prayed. The major concern, besides the man's life, was the work in establishing a mission there. We stayed up until the news came that the man was going to be okay."

Day six was highlighted by Leona Kemper, dental student:

"We left for the pueblo, Tetelpa, which is about 40 minutes from Cuernavaca. Although we saw fewer patients, we were still exhausted from the heat of that scorching 'Mexican' sun. Steve and Phillip (team dentists) performed three complicated extractions in addition to many other extractions and restorations. Church members brought lunch to our clinic and treated us with such love.

"In spite of our language barrier, I grew to especially love one member of our team because we worked so closely — Berenice Hernandez, the dentist from Guadalajara. She made some of the difficult moments not so difficult."

Phillip Kemp, dental student, reported on day seven:

"In our journey to the tiny town of Xoxocotta, we sang in Espanol as well as English. The dentists set up outside on one table and the medicos set up in a small building with a tin roof. The sun

was so hot on the tin, we were really worried about the patients as well as the doctors. We got home to enjoy Greg's birthday and a Mexican birthday tradition, pushing his head down in the cake!"

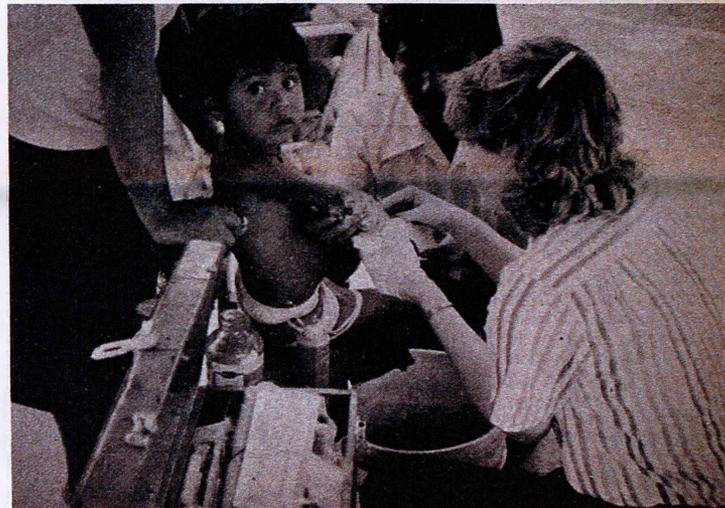
Day eight was related by Lynn Baine, nursing student:

"Rain continued all morning, which Jean said was a very unseasonal thing. She also informed us that the temperature usually does not go below 50 degrees in the winter. The flowers are of such bright colors. The buildings are colorful and, of course, the mountains are just grand.

"Despite their poverty, the people we saw every day in the villages were so pleasant and cheerful. Throughout the week, we all had exchanged salutations of 'Dios La Bendigo' (God be with you) with the patients we saw."

Steve DeBusk, dentist, commented on day nine:

"We departed for Mexico City. The team from Guadalajara left and we were all sad to see them leave. We all had a big time shopping and made it safely to our plane. We were all happy to be home safe and sound, but not so happy about departing from each other."



CHILD CARE — A boy's wound is cared for by nursing student Lynn Baine.



SAY AH — Medical student Janet Purkey examines a child at one of the temporary clinic sites while other children, who may have never seen a medical worker, look on.

African presidents praise missionaries, Baptist work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— The presidents of Kenya and Tanzania have praised the work of Baptists and missionaries.

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, who was in Washington this spring to confer with President Ronald Reagan, said earlier in Kenya that missionaries are needed and welcome in his eastern African country.

Moi played host to more than 1,000 Kenyan Baptists at his private residence. Many Southern Baptist missionaries also were present.

"As long as I am president of the Republic of Kenya, you will be welcomed in Kenya to preach the gospel," Moi said in his address to the crowd. "We need people who will help in training our people who will lead their own churches."

A Kenyan newspaper quoted Moi's explanation that, although Kenya is a sovereign state, it still welcomes missionaries and Christian organizations from other countries to assist in the spread of the gospel. Noting most people only turn to God when they face problems, Moi advised people to appreciate all that God does for them.

Kenyan Baptists presented Moi with a check for 155,000 Kenya shillings, or about

\$10,000, to be used by the president in charitable projects. Arthur Kinyanjui, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya and a friend of Moi, arranged the meeting and delivered the sermon. He said the main objective of the convention is to spread the Word of God in Kenya.

In neighboring Tanzania, President Ali Hassan Mwinyi was on hand recently to lay the cornerstone for a new building at the Baptist-affiliated Ipinda High School in the Kyela District.

Hundreds of students and family members responded with cheers when Mwinyi promised he would personally see the school was given government permission to buy as much roofing material as needed for construction. Metal roofing is one of the scarcest items in the country.

Mwinyi also thanked the Kyela Baptist Association for its part in establishing the school in 1984 and providing support and supervision. Later he personally thanked Southern Baptist Missionaries Douglas and Evelyn Knapp for their involvement with the school.

The school makes it possible for local students to receive education beyond grade seven. It has 360 students and 12 teachers and staff members.

Chaplain ministers to forgotten community



FORGOTTEN COMMUNITY — The 100-year-old administration building is just one of six buildings on the institute's 1,000 acres located near Bolivar.

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on chaplaincy work in Tennessee to support the conventionwide emphasis on the ministries of Southern Baptist chaplains during the month of May. In Tennessee, 68 Home Mission Board endorsed chaplains currently minister, and in the United States, 1,778 currently serve.

By Connie Davis

The quick step of David Cooper across the huge grounds of the Western Mental Health Institute in Bolivar also seems measured to allow him to respond to calls of "Hi, chaplain," from patients and to approach his new friends with a greeting and a quick smile.

Referring to some men planting flowers in front of the 100-year-old Gothic-style administration building, Chaplain Cooper comments, "Just because you're mentally ill, it doesn't mean you can't do anything."

Though he has been working there just eight months, the chaplain's ease in his surroundings might reveal his homecoming. Cooper grew up in Bolivar and made his profession of faith at First Baptist Church in Bolivar.

After learning that he served for a total of 25 years in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Navy Reserve, it's easy to understand his energetic quality and guess that the wrinkles around his eyes were formed from squinting into an ocean-reflected sunshine.

The retired captain misses the ocean, but he is glad to be back home, he claimed. Cooper also worked as a chaplain at a center for physically handicapped persons in Baltimore, Md., and was pastor of numerous churches.

His homecoming also brought him back to the institute, where he worked as a high school student in the post office and later led chapel services while a student at Union University in Jackson.

The state-operated institute, which has about 350 patients, employs three chaplains who are an integral part of each patient's treatment, reported Evelyn Robertson Jr., superintendent of the institute.

The chaplains are members of treatment teams that evaluate each patient, Robertson explained, adding, "Spiritual

needs are part of what makes the individual a total person."

Cooper works with Marvin Robertson, a Southern Baptist chaplain, and Bob Henry, a Presbyterian who directs the chaplaincy services at the institute.

Mental health services

The nationwide changes in the '70s by governmental services that provide for mentally ill persons have affected the institute. In its 100-year history, it has had a maximum of 2,000 patients and just 10 years ago it had 1,000 patients.

With the advent of the community-based mental health centers, fewer persons were sent away from their communities to be boarded at institutions.

The institute receives patients from 21 counties in west Tennessee. Persons can commit themselves and are referred to the institute by a mental health center, physician, or the court for evaluation to determine the person's competency to stand trial. It has about 20 units, of which four are locked.

The institute also includes a child and adolescent program and a mentally retarded program.

The chaplains observed that one difference in the patients today is that they often have no family or community support. When they are released, they often return to the institute.

They also indicated that the public's identification with the illness through the centers has returned in the past few years to the former philosophy that the government should take care of mentally ill people.

Little successes

One of Chaplain Cooper's new friends at the institute is Dan. He plucked out his eye to follow the mandate of Matthew 5:29, "if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out . . ." Miraculously, his eye was surgically replaced and his vision restored.

Cooper explained that Dan represents many patients who have delusions because their egos have been completely deflated. He has had patients claim to own the New York Yankees baseball team or to be Jesus.

He acknowledges that his hardest task is to deal with the slow progress of many of the patients.

"I like things to happen just like that," he declared, snapping his fingers. But it helps him exercise his faith, he added. "Who knows what normality is



Cooper anyway?" he proclaimed.

Tom did not speak when Cooper started working there eight months ago. Now he converses with the chaplain about places he has lived and the second coming of Jesus. He also has started going to a local Seventh Day Adventist Church and often sings while walking on the grounds.

Sarah was so depressed that she would not respond to anyone. Chaplain Cooper explained that she never forgave herself for something she did years ago. Sarah has become more responsive recently and even smiles now, he reported.

Another patient was a "success story," said Cooper. He returned home to elderly parents who were no longer able to care for themselves. The former patient gardens and does all the chores now.

Working at the institute

Cooper tries to minister to the staff and praised them, noting that many are dedicated Christians. He works with medical doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric technicians, therapists, social workers, nurses, and others.

Gary Gill of Bolivar, who works with the vocational workers, leads workers through programs that begin with stripping apart defective pieces of garden hose for a company which pays for the service. The patients receive payment and the chance for promotion every four days to other jobs in the institution. They can work in the kitchen, laundry, and other service areas. Each Friday night the workers also go to Bolivar to eat dinner in a restaurant and go shopping.

"I'm getting better every day!" is the slogan of the vocational program, reported Gill, contending that people in the general population have problems similar to his workers.

Cooper's assignment is to two of the 20 units at the institute: rehabilitation and

geriatric. He also coordinates the Sunday morning chapel services with the other chaplains, leads four ward services each week for those who cannot attend the weekly chapel service, and visits patients who are transferred from the medical/surgical unit to community hospitals.

Cooper works on the treatment teams and leads several groups for the about 200 patients in his units. One successful activity has been a drama group, though Chaplain Cooper emphasized that he always lets a group set its own agenda.

Cooper uses simple Bible materials and props to prepare for the drama of a Bible story. The chaplain also uses video tapes and other simple Bible teaching materials in activities.

Staff-led activities include group discussion, TV, classes on current events, arts and crafts, and cooking.

He said that nothing better is done at the institute than the activities led by Christians, because the patients need special attention.

He told of a Baptist Brotherhood group that regularly visits the institute. A member plays the harmonica, several members usually give their testimony, and then they visit with the patients and serve refreshments, explained Cooper.

Visits by pastors are especially important, he continued, stating that "a chaplain cannot take the place of a person's pastor."

Cooper also presents personal gifts to the staff at the institute, which includes about 600 persons, on birthdays and staff anniversaries.

On the personal side

Cooper believes that one way to solve many problems of our society is for more persons to understand the prevalence of this illness and the availability of help through state institutions.

He feels that his calling by God is distinctly to the chaplaincy.

His desire is "to help the patient get in touch with reality and a vital Christian faith rather than delusion."

His wife, Margaret, helps him cope with his job, he said, by reminding him that he also has delusions.

The chaplain also deals with the stresses of his job by having a close relationship with his church, pastors, and the associational missionary based in Bolivar. His gardening hobby also helps, he added.

Cooper noted that Tennessee Baptists can support him by sending simple Bible materials and by praying for him and the other chaplains at the institute.



BREAKTIME — Southern Baptist Chaplains Marvin Robertson (left) and David Cooper visit after lunch at the institute. They and one other chaplain minister to about 350 patients at the institute.

Scientology loses first round in 'emotional distress' battle

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)— Lawyers representing the Church of Scientology have failed to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to review a key procedural question in their larger legal effort to overcome a California jury's award of \$30-million in damages against the church.

The high court declined without comment to hear the appeal — brought by the Church of Scientology of California — to review a state court requirement that the church post a cash bond of \$60-million or a surety bond of \$45-million while it appeals a \$30-million judgment granted former Scientologist Larry Wollersheim. Last summer, a Los Angeles jury awarded Wollersheim \$5-million in compensatory damages and another \$25-million in punitive damages for what he called "emotional distress" resulting from his engagement in the Scientology practice of "auditing."

Auditing, the central religious practice of Scientology, involves private counseling of new devotees to the religion. Church ministers — or auditors — assist new adherents in reconstructing their spiritual pilgrimages and ridding them of what Scientology considers unhealthy religious experiences in this or earlier lives. According to legal papers filed in the case, the church considers auditing "the sole route to spiritual salvation."

Wollersheim convinced the jury in his case that auditing amounted to emotional distress and fraud.

Under California law, the church was required to post a cash bond of twice the amount of the judgment — \$60-million — or a \$45-million bond guaranteed by an insurance company. Church attorneys claimed throughout their unsuccessful challenge the church did not have the funds to meet the bond requirements. The church's total assets amount to \$13-million.

lion, the lawyers argued, of which only \$5.1-million is "unpledged" — or available cash.

But attorneys for Wollersheim labeled that claim a "sham," arguing the Church of Scientology has millions of dollars in assets allocated to other church units.

One of the church's lawyers, Eric Lieberman, told Baptist Press that posting of the bond is not a prerequisite to an appeal of the judgment and the church plans an immediate challenge. Lieberman of the New York firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky, and Lieberman said full legal briefs have been written on the merits of the church's case and that the California court which will hear the appeal has been asked to expedite it.

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, go near and join thyself to this chariot" (Acts 8:29).

I have often dwelt upon the experience of Philip leaving a revival where God was blessing to go into a desert highway to deal with one person.

The Ethiopian eunuch, returning from Jerusalem going to his home, was reading from Isaiah's description of the suffering Savior when the Spirit of God directed Philip to interpret the passage that the Ethiopian was reading.

As I read the account recently, I considered a new question. "Are the chariots still passing by?" My first reaction was that there are not any chariots anymore. But the probing question would not go away. The chariots may have changed their name, the highway may be different, but there are still those passing by who need someone to share Jesus with them.

I thought of the "Chariots" that passed by our Lord and He shared Himself with them. He joined Cleopas and his companion on the Emmaus Road and explained to them all that had happened and their hearts burned within them. He crossed the Sea of Galilee where the Gadarene demoniac approached Him and He forgave him and restored him and commissioned him.

I have thought of the chariots that have passed by in my life. Some of them I have joined with and some of them I should have and didn't.

I remember so vividly a man that kept driving by our church during the Sunday School hour. He drove by so regularly, I had to take knowledge of him. In time, I visited him and found that the Spirit of God was dealing with him but he was resisting. Eventually a marvelous transformation took place. I recall also an older man that used to walk by our church. I joined with him and was rebuffed in my approach to him.

Perhaps the "chariot" passes by us in our business, in our car pools, in our neighborhood, on our jobs.

I am convinced that the "chariots" are still passing by. I join my prayers with yours that our Lord might make us sensitive to the "chariots" that are passing by and waiting for someone to come and join with them.

Brotherhood Commission trustees approve restructure, set budget

MEMPHIS (BP)— Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission voted to approve a restructure of the commission staff on an interim basis and approved an operating budget of almost \$3.3-million for 1987-88 during their spring meeting in Memphis, April 24-25.

The restructure will reduce the agency's major sections of work from three to two. Business services and support services will merge into one section which will retain the name of support services. The other section will remain program services.

While trustees expressed their confidence in the make-up of the new structure, they recommended that it be set up on an interim basis with the commission executive committee to review it during their meeting in St. Louis in June. The executive committee will then take a final recommendation to the full board of trustees in October for its evaluation.

Since the Brotherhood Commission's 1987-88 budget goes into effect Oct. 1, three weeks before the full board meets, trustees approved the 1987-88 operating budget under the new structure.

Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith said: "We proposed the restructure of our staff in the interest of efficiency, economy, and effectiveness. We are grateful that the trustees have given us the green light to pursue it while

exercising our responsibility in asking us to proceed on an interim plan which provides time for review and correction if needed."

Program services, under the leadership of Norman Godfrey, houses the children and youth department, adult department, church relations department, world missions conferences, and associational relationships and graphics services.

Support services, directed by Jack Childs, includes marketing services, computer services, accounting services, customer services, purchasing, in-house printing, and shipping and receiving.

Godfrey, 51, has completed 26 years of service at the commission, and Childs, 50, has completed 25.

In reference to sweeping changes in the Brotherhood curriculum effective this fall, Godfrey reported that 812 people have been trained in the new program materials during seven Brotherhood regional skills conferences conducted throughout the United States.

Trustees also heard reports on the Brotherhood Commission's involvement in funding a professor on laymen's work at the Korean Baptist Seminary in Taegon, on the National Fellowship of Baptist Men, and on staff participation in the 1987 Baptist World Alliance World Congress in Cardiff, Wales.



C-N THANKS CHAPMAN — Standing before a plaque honoring Joe E. Chapman in the new Chapman Lab at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City are Joe Chapman, professor of biology emeritus; his wife, Frances; and his grandson, David Chapman. Chapman, who taught at C-N for 38 years, was honored at the dedication ceremonies April 11.

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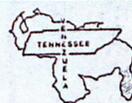
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Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for Charles Clark, missionary serving as president of the seminary at Los Teques, and his wife, Shirley, who does women's work, as they plan toward retirement in 1988 and try to find successors for their positions.

—Missionary Becki Glenn, who has a church/home assignment in Puerto La Cruz, celebrates her birthday May 15.

—Pray for Gilberto Racadin and Arsenio Romero, who are both Venezuelan pastors and seminary students.

—Pray for the team in Guacara from May 11 to 22 doing church construction. The team is from First Baptist Church, Lenoir City.

—Pray for the team from Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis in Naganagua from May 11 to 22 adding classrooms to a church building.

Tennessee

LEADERSHIP . . .

Randy Watts accepted the call to serve as minister of youth at Lucy Baptist Church, Millington. He began April 19 at the church where Bill Irvin is pastor. Watts is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Bill Poyner begins in June as minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Dyer. Jerry Legg is the pastor.

Parents, alumni visit Belmont

NASHVILLE — Over 350 parents and Belmont College students and more than 480 Belmont alumni visited the campus April 25 to attend events in their honor.

The parents were invited to the campus for Parents' Day, an event designed to introduce parents of Belmont College students to the campus and its people.

Parents heard President William E. Troutt speak in an opening assembly, toured the campus, visited Belmont's five undergraduate schools and six residence halls, and met faculty members.

Afternoon activities for parents and alumni included a concert by carillonneur Richard Shadinger on the Belmont Carillon.

Another highlight of the day was Spring Court, which featured the presentation of queen Melodie Hamblen, of Mt. Juliet, and her court. Janet Wilson, professor of English and Chaney Distinguished Professor of the Year, also spoke at the event.

Alumni gathered in Founder's Hall at 5:30 p.m. for the Annual Spring Banquet, after the classes of '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, and '82, met for their reunions.

Three awards were given during the banquet. Daisy (Pass. '67) King, owner of Miss Daisy's Restaurant, was named distinguished alumnus of the year.

C. A. Meisel ('67), teacher at Bowling Green High School, was inducted into the Alumni Association's athletic hall of fame.

In addition, the alumni admissions award was presented to the Ed Scott Family — Ed, Ann, Brenda (Scott) Jeffries, Mark, and Kert — for their recruiting efforts on behalf of the college. Kert will graduate in spring commencement, while the other members of his family are already Belmont alumni.

The day's activities culminated with an evening pop and gospel concert by the Belmont Reasons.

Dale Denning recently began serving as minister of music-youth at Avondale Baptist Church in Humboldt, where Jimmy Yarbrough is pastor.

New Bethlehem Baptist Church in Dyer recently called Ray Barrix as minister of music-youth. Randy Latch is the pastor.

Dean Armour is the new minister of music-youth for White Hall Baptist Church in Trenton. Donald Scott is the pastor.

Edwin Whiteside is serving as minister of youth at Calvary Baptist Church, Humboldt, where James Brown is pastor.

David Parlow recently began serving as interim pastor of Northern's Chapel Baptist Church in Rutherford.

TBC names Payne to BSU position

Scott Payne was elected Baptist Student Union Director at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma on March 26 by the state missions committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. He began serving April 1.

Previous to his election, Payne had served as BSU intern at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City since June 1986.

The graduate of Payne Motlow State Community College, Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., also has been state BSU vice-president and a BSU officer at Motlow State Community College and Austin Peay State University.

Payne has served as a BSU missionary in Nashville, Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Burkina Faso, Africa. He has served as summer youth minister at Spring Creek Baptist Church in Tullahoma and in a church in Missouri. He was a nursing home minister in Louisville.



Payne

REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Bellshire Baptist Church in Nashville will have revival services May 17-20. Dick Coolidge, from California, will be the evangelist. Paul Savage, minister of music at the church, will lead the music. Tom Mosley is the pastor.

Evangelists Colbert and Joyce Croft will be leading worship services at Charlotte Road Baptist Church in Nashville, May 17-20. The husband and wife team is from Jasper, Fla. Joe Estes is pastor of the Charlotte Road church.

Author to address growth of churches

Bob Dale, a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will lead a conference on why churches stop growing, May 29-30 at Central Baptist Church in Johnson City.

Holston Baptist Association is sponsoring the conference to help churches "get off dead center," reported Director of Missions Tal Thompson.

Dale's conference, which is entitled "Redreaming the Dream," is open to any interested person. Dale is also the author of two books on the subject.

The conference, which will begin at 6 p.m. and end at noon the next day, costs \$18, which includes a meal and a copy of one of Dale's books.

To make reservations, the fee should be mailed by May 26 to the associational office at 207 University Parkway, Johnson City, TN 37604.



Dale

Randy Noel, pastor of Scottsboro Baptist Church in Nashville, announces that the church will have revival services May 20-24. Jim Ryan, a Baptist Sunday School Board employee, will be the evangelist. Steve Williams, minister of music at the Scottsboro church, will lead the music.

CHURCH NEWS . . .

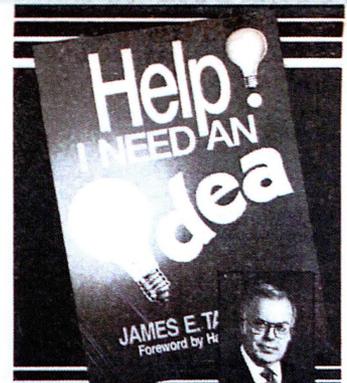
Mount Zion Baptist Church, Decaturville, had a decoration/homecoming celebration on May 3. Special services were held in honor of the church's 100th anniversary. Don Dalton is the pastor.

REVIVAL RESULTS . . .

Whorton Springs Baptist Church, Smithville, had revival services April 19-26. There were 12 additions to the church by baptism and four by letter. Pastors in the area cooperated in bringing the message each evening. Abe Silliman Jr. is pastor of the church.

Gum Springs Baptist Church held revival services April 12-19. Delbert Homol is pastor of the Clarksville church. There was one profession of faith, one addition to the church by letter, and four rededications. Marvin E. Hines Sr. was evangelist for the week.

Revival services were held April 26 through May 2 at Memorial Baptist Church, Clarksville. There were four professions of faith and three rededications at the church where John Farrar is pastor. Marvin E. Hines Sr. was evangelist for the week.



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James E. Taulman is a design editor at The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for May 17

God speaks, Job responds

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

Basic Passage: Job 38:1 to 42:17
Focal Passages: Job 38:1-7; 42:1-7, 10-12a

It has been said that the hardest lesson life teaches us is that human wisdom and resources are not enough in facing the rough edges.

From the beginning of his trouble, Job continually sought God's answer to his situation. His three colleagues presented him the best of human insight, but that failed to provide the answer for Job. Even the young upstart Elihu who offered a more thoughtful approach failed. Job had continued to appeal directly to God. Without the wisdom of God his situation appeared totally senseless. When human wisdom had reached its limit, Job and the others were ready to hear from God.



Nail

God speaks of His wisdom

God certainly does put up with a lot of foolishness from His creatures. When you pause to think of it, you cannot help marvelling at His patience and mercy. God has listened to Himself being criticized as unfair by Job, caricatured as some unfeeling dispenser of punishment by others, and actually "called on the carpet" by Job.

In His mercy, God comes to Job in a whirlwind. The whirlwind was not nearly so frightening as the words of God which came in the whirlwind. His first words to Job are a sharp rebuke of one who dares to think his wisdom compares with the wisdom of God.

There follows two chapters of rhetorical questions to Job which are designed to show Job his place in the vast scheme of things. God speaks to him of the great mysteries of the universe and its creator. He calls upon Job to remember that these are the things that have puzzled mankind from the beginning.

These are things which Job knows are a part of the creative work of God. Mankind may marvel at the vastness and intricate detail of it all, but even Job believes that these are all things prepared so perfectly by the wisdom and the hand of God.

He concludes this discourse at the beginning of chapter 40 with another rebuke designed to put Job in his place. The

rebuke and the discourse were successful. He has learned that his situation is not the full measure of God's work. He has found that in the vast scheme of things he is fairly insignificant (40:4).

God speaks of His might

Job has been brought to silence but he has not yet been brought to repentance. Job was not wrong to ask questions of God. His sin came when he chose to believe that God was not being fair. In that sense he was denying the trustworthiness of God. God's desire for Job and for any who question Him is that we all come to repentance.

God begins the final part of His discourse in the same manner as the first. Rather than being called on the carpet by Job, God calls Job on the carpet.

God speaks to Job about two of His most powerful creatures whom no man has been able to control. He reminds Job that He had created them and was Master over them. He then shows Job the arrogance of thinking that God is not powerful enough to help him.

Anytime a person can come to terms with his own powerlessness and the unlimited power of God, he is not far from seeing the source of his all-sufficient help. Job finally arrives at that point and is ready to confess that God can do anything (42:2).

When Job finally sees the power of God and the wisdom of God and is ready to repent, the solutions he had learned from many are now meaningless. The theology he had learned from men is now worthless. Now he has experienced God for himself and he can never be the same.

Setting the record straight

But God is not finished yet. After He has called Job on the carpet, God is now ready to do the same for the three friends. They have also sinned in presenting a false picture of the Lord of glory. He commands them to seek Job's forgiveness.

As final and definite proof that Job's relationship with God has been restored, Job is given more wealth than he had known before. All that Satan and the world can take away, God can restore.

Through all of this experience, Job is drawn closer to God than before. He has learned, as so many of us must learn often, that there are forces at work in our lives that we can't understand. We must depend upon God to carry us through.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for May 17

A plea for repentance

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

Basic Passage: Hosea 5:8 to 7:16
Focal Passage: Hosea 5:15 to 6:10

A homeowner attempting to sell his home to a prospective buyer said, "When we put a fresh coat of paint on the house, it will stop leaning to one side." A coat of paint will not correct a crooked house.

Jesus said the Pharisees were like whitewashed tombs (Matthew 23:27). They were painted on the outside but rotten on the inside.

Genuine Christianity controls the inner life. Christianity that directs the daily life of the Christian has been referred to as "Monday morning religion." We need to worship God in church on Sunday but we must be true to Him during the week as well.

Insincere religion cannot substitute for Christian character. A key question: how is our Christianity affecting our character? Some religious people could even put Christ on a cross. The bishop of Alexandria kicked the bishop of Constantinople to death over doctrine.

True Christianity does not lead one to say "God for me" but "my life for God." In one of His parables, Jesus told about a Pharisee who "worshiped" God in the Temple (Luke 18). The Pharisee was very "religious." He boasted to God in his prayer about what a good fellow he was. He even tried to prove it by bragging about his tithing and fasting. However, his inner life was rotten. His religion had nothing to do with his inner thoughts, feelings, and desires.

A church member shocked his fellow members by "suddenly falling" into sin. However, after his arrest, lewd literature was found in his office desk. His fall was not sudden; the inner life had broken out into the open.

Worship can please or repulse the Lord; depending on the attitude and actions of the worshiper.

On the closing Sunday morning of a revival, the pastor told me he was disappointed in a Sunday School department director because she had been involved all week in her club activities and had not been present in any of the services. He was especially disappointed since many in her department had become Christians during the week. The lady, looking very

religious, sat on the second row in the Sunday morning service and sang loudly: "I'll go where You want me to go" Her testimony in song was not effective.

God inspired Hosea, as a prophet, to call His people back to Him. God would not accept the lifestyle of the people of Israel. Polluted lives cause every act of worship and service to be polluted.

The withdrawal (5:15)

The nation of Israel had become evil. The people of God were strangers to the ways of God. They were taking Him for granted. Some still worshiped, but in insincerity. God wanted to lead His people to repent and return to Him. Therefore, He decided to withdraw from their presence, so in desperation, they would genuinely seek Him. The people were shallow in their relationship, response, and worship because of the depth of their sinful natures.

The people of Israel were exhorted to return to the Lord. The Lord sends judgment, but He also heals and binds (v.1). If Israel did repent, God would forgive and bless them. "After two days . . . in the third day" (6:2) means in a brief time God would relieve the people of His judgment. God would bestow blessings upon a repentant people.

The dilemma (6:4-10)

Verses 1-3 indicate the people repented. However, God did not trust Israel's sincerity. He said their repentance would be as short-lived as a morning cloud or dew. God was hurt by the sins of His people.

God wanted to forgive and restore Israel because of His grace, but He had to be just in His dealings with His people because of their conduct. Of necessity, God had sent prophets to minister to Israel (v.5), but Israel rejected them.

The daily lives of the people were inconsistent with their religious professions (v.6). They had transgressed the covenant (v.7). Israel had been dishonest in dealing with God. Israel had sinned (vv. 8,9). These sins were even characterized by violence and lewdness.

God demanded that the people live according to His will or He would not accept their acts of worship (compare 1 Samuel 5:22). Rites and ritual had replaced genuine religion. Israel had committed spiritual adultery (v.10).

One of the saddest, yet hopeful, sentences in the Bible is in verse 4: "O Ephraim what shall I do unto thee?"

The cross solved that dilemma. The cross blended the love, grace, and justice of God.

A love such as this demands that we commit ourselves totally to Jesus Christ.



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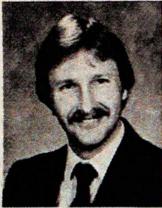
LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
Lesson for May 17

The church facing problems

By Johnny M. Johnson, pastor
Trinity Baptist Church, Clarksville

Basic Passage: Acts 3:1 to 6:7
Focal Passages: Acts 4:1-3, 29-31; 6:1-3, 7

There is every reason to be optimistic about our bold mission. Sure, we face problems. Our Lord said, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows" (John 16:33, The Living Bible). As we face our task, we must be realistic about the obstacles and difficulties we will face. We may also be confident of victory, for Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33, TLB).



This lesson shows the early church facing problems. Pressures from the outside and problems on the inside threatened to divide the church and defeat the mission. We may be encouraged by the outcome and be challenged to win our world.

Pressures without (4:1-3)

Peter and John brought healing to a man who had been lame from birth. As might be expected, this marvelous event and the man's joyous reaction attracted quite a crowd in the Temple portico. The two apostles took the opportunity to witness to the crowd. Such a gathering could not escape the notice of the Temple officials. As Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were accosted by an assortment of Jewish religious officials led by the Saducees.

The Saducees were a wealthy, aristocratic minority who controlled the Temple and carried political clout as a result of working closely with the Romans. Maintaining power, status, and wealth was a primary concern for them.

The Saducees saw the activities of the apostles as a threat to their position and had them arrested. While in custody, the apostles were ordered not to preach or teach in the name of Jesus. Thus, the church began to experience external pressures. We, too, face many outside influences that could hinder our ministry and harm our witness.

Prayer sent up (4:29-31)

When they were released, Peter and John went to their friends and shared what had befallen them. The church heard of the pressure and "they lifted their voices together to God" (v.24). Prayer was offered that the ministry might continue.

The prayer consists of three basic requests. First, they asked for boldness to keep on witnessing. The church also prayed that God would continue His healing touch through the church. The word for healing can refer both to actual physical restoration and to deliverance from ills of sin. The third petition was that signs and wonders be done in the name of Jesus. The prayer demonstrates the desire and determination that ought to characterize all Christians. With no hint of turning back, we must look to the Lord for boldness to carry on as we trust Him for the results.

Prayer is the proper response to pressure in the Christian life and mission. When this church prayed, things happened. They prayed and "the place in which they were gathered together was shaken," and they "spoke the word of God with boldness" (v.31).

Problems within (6:1-2)

Scripture is candid about problems in individuals and churches, and such real-

ism lends credence to the message of the Bible. The church faces pressures from without and problems within. Prayer and the Spirit are resources available to meet the challenges we face.

Many internal problems arise just as the one described here. Something is overlooked in the ministry (v.1). We might say that some ministry (diakonia, "ministry" or "service") is left undone. Problems spring up in the church when there is a need to be met, a job to be done, some ministering to do, and there is no servant to fulfill the ministry.

The twelve brought glory to the Lord in dealing with this internal problem. We would do well to notice their approach and apply it in our situations. The problem must be recognized. Ignoring or glossing over a problem is like pretending the nail in your tire is going to go away. Things will get worse, and eventually there may be a blowout.

Once a problem is recognized, it can be dealt with. We ought to approach solutions with prayer, humility, sensitivity, and magnanimity. Above all, we must come together in submission to the Lord. The Lord can handle any difficulty.

Servants set apart (6:3-6)

The church came together and the apostles presented a solution which "pleased the whole multitude" (v.5). A

group of servants was selected to fulfill the ministry that was lacking in the church. These servants were well thought of, spiritual, and wise.

Many see the origin of the deaconate in this passage. What better heritage could a deacon have than these spirit-filled servants?

Prevailing witness (6:7)

The pressure and the problems resulted in growth and obedience to the faith. Our churches can overcome the difficulties we face through prayer and confident obedience to the leadership of the Spirit. We are "more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

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SBC, baseball compete in St. Louis in June

By Marv Knox

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Southern Baptists' annual convention won't be the only game in town when 30,000 participants converge on St. Louis June 16-18.

The Cards play the Pirates.

So while the Southern Baptist Convention presidency is at stake in Cervantes Center, a baseball pennant will be in the making in Busch Stadium. Together the events will attract about 83,000 fans — of baseball and Baptists — to downtown St. Louis.

Merchants will be pleased with the prospect of so many outsiders visiting the Gateway to the West. Those visitors may not be so thrilled. They'll discover they don't all fit comfortably into the city's bustling business district, especially on top of all the workers who have to drive in every day.

Some common concerns:

•**Parking** — The Busch Stadium gang has the edge. While St. Louis has better-than-average downtown parking for a city its size, the situation faced by messengers to the SBC meeting on the north end of downtown "still will be difficult," says Tim A. Hedquist, convention manager.

Fortunately for the SBC crowd, the convention's local arrangements committee has done a good job of identifying parking places on special parking maps. Hedquist notes. These will be available at the information booth in Cervantes Center on Sunday and Monday, June 14 and 15.

•**Shuttles** — The SBC scores. Free shuttle buses will run from downtown and Forest Park hotels to Cervantes Center. Others may run from remote parking lots if convention planners can work out the details, Hedquist reports.

•**Vehicle routes** — Both groups win. Routes to the facilities are well-marked from all interstate highways.

•**Food** — If it's concessions — hot dogs, soft drinks and nachos — the ballpark's the winner. "Normally Cervantes Center is very good for concessions, but this year we're very, very tight," Hedquist notes. "The space we normally would give to concessions is designated for chairs" so

up to 30,000 convention messengers can fit into the center.

As far as other culinary questions are concerned, the convention center is the locale of choice. St. Louis Centre is only two blocks away, and the shopping center is crammed with eating establishments. Add to this the normal urban fare of restaurants and hotel coffee shops, and downtown St. Louis should prove to be a gastronomical delight for convention messengers.

But brown baggers better beware. Coolers and picnic baskets will be impounded, at least for folks trying to get them into Cervantes Center.

•**Restrooms** — Convention messengers might want to buy a ticket to the ballpark, just to walk eight blocks to the ballpark and walk right in a restroom. That walk could be shorter than the wait in line at Cervantes.

•**Housing** — Obviously, the baseball fans come out on top of this category. Most of them drive home after the evening games. Unfortunately, out-of-town fans and any messengers who don't already have room reservations are in a fix. All downtown hotels have been booked for months.

"We can give messengers the phone numbers of some hotels, but they're pretty far out — about 10 to 15 miles," Hedquist says. "There's no such thing as downtown hotel cancellations, at least until Monday." June 15.

Those messengers who bring their homes with them may be in better shape. Recreational vehicle parks within four miles of the convention center have space available. And people who cannot afford hotel rooms but would like to stay with local Southern Baptists may be able to secure beds for the week.

For information about housing accommodations, contact the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce #750, Nashville.

•**First aid** — Since the Cards' outfielder Willie McGee hits more hard foul balls into the stands than, say, SBC President Adrian Rogers, Cervantes Center theoret-

ically is a safer place to visit than Busch Stadium. But just in case something happens at the convention, a first aid facility will be available at the center. It will be located on the west side of the main entry hall, staffed by Missouri Baptist Hospital.

•**Handicap access** — Busch Stadium has its sections, but the entire convention center is "very, very good" in terms of handicap accessibility, Hedquist reports. All meeting halls are on the main floor, which is flat. Although registration and exhibit halls are on the second level, elevators are available for handicapped messengers.

•**Admission** — Baseball fans can simply buy a ticket and get in the stadium. Messengers to the convention go through a process that is more complicated.

All SBC messengers must be elected by their respective churches, bring their completed official messenger registration cards, and register on the second floor of Cervantes Center before they can get into the meeting halls. Registration will be open from 3 to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 14, and from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday. It will open at 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

Very few non-registered people will be able to get into the convention facility. Only messengers, preschool children who are accompanied by their messenger parents, program leaders, and the press will be admitted, Hedquist reports. Meeting halls will be open to non-messengers only if the halls are not full, but that is not likely, especially on Tuesday, June 16, first and busiest day of the convention.

Furthermore, those participants will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. "The convention center holds 30,000 max, and there is no flexibility," he explains, noting the facility — with one main hall and three overflow halls — legally accommodates only 30,000 people. That's more than 10,000 less than last year, and 15,000 less than the 1985 convention.

Other facilities in St. Louis, such as Kiel Auditorium, could accommodate additional messengers who could participate

via closed-circuit television. But logistical problems create a planner's nightmare. For instance, what if a large hall were rented at great cost, and not enough messengers showed up to warrant using it? "We don't know what we're going to do," Hedquist admits. "It's going to be very tough."

•**Children** — Baseball fans can take the whole family out to a two- or three-hour game. It's not that simple for messengers who bring their children to the convention, with its 15-hour days of business sessions.

To alleviate some of those problems, preschool child care will be provided for all seven business sessions of the convention — three Tuesday, two Wednesday, and two Thursday — and the facilities will open 30 minutes before each session. Cost will be \$5 for each session, not to exceed \$25 per child for all seven sessions.

"Parents who want the child care need to get their reservations in; it's about to close," Hedquist notes. Reservations should be sent to SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, MO. 63044.

Older children in grades 1-6 will not be allowed on the convention floor unless they are registered messengers, he says. Day care will be provided for these children by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, and preregistration is not necessary.

Southern Baptist baseball fans face a difficult decision: Convention Preacher Jerry Vines can put out a good sermon, but the Cards' Ozzie Smith can throw out a fast runner. The lines are shorter at Busch's restrooms, but votes taken at Cervantes can change the future of the SBC. Convention parking's tight, but at least no one will spill beer all over the place.

What to do? Before it comes to a flip of the coin, think of the music. At the ballpark, it's the national anthem and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame"; over at Cervantes, it'll be "Amazing Grace" and maybe even "Peace in the Valley."

Arrangements chairman brings experience, willingness

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Wally Jones hopes the third time is the proverbial charm when the Southern Baptist Convention comes to St. Louis this summer.

The June 16-18 affair will be the third SBC annual meeting for which he has been local arrangements chairman.

That's a modern-day record, reports Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist.

But Jones, pastor of Fee Fee Baptist Church in St. Louis, takes a low-key approach to the honor: "Somebody needed to do it. And I'm familiar with the process."

Jones chaired his first SBC local arrangements committee when the convention visited St. Louis in 1971. He was tapped again in 1980. So he was the natural choice to provide on-site leadership again this year.

"It's a real asset to have a person who has the experience and willingness to take on a job like this," Hedquist explains.

That job is one that has occupied Jones' attention for at least six months, when his committee began detailing all the steps it needs to take to make the annual meeting work. His job hasn't been too difficult, he says, because "some of the people who occupied key subcommittee positions before still are in the area" and have been willing to serve again.

Together, they will coordinate the work

of about 400 local Southern Baptist volunteers who will do a variety of jobs to help the convention run smoothly. The volun-

teers will come from five Southern Baptist associations of churches in western Illinois and eastern Missouri. They will

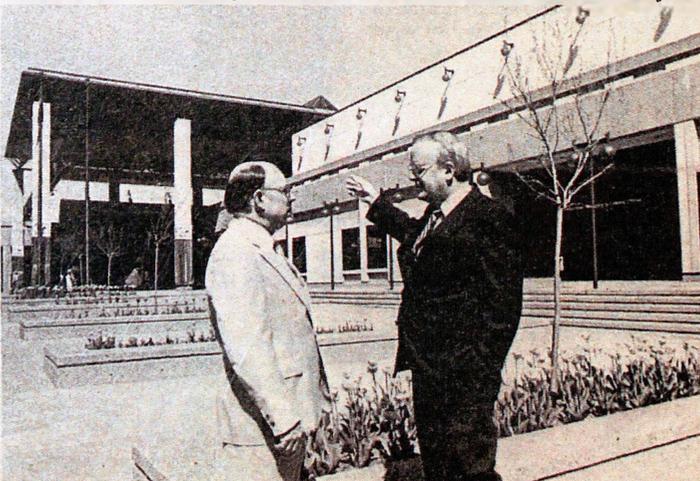
work for about 10 subcommittees that will manage everything from day care for children to first aid to ushers in the convention hall.

The best part of the job is the reward of providing a helping hand, Jones says: "I think the idea of being a help to the messengers is my favorite aspect of this work. I know what it's like to go to a strange setting and not know where things are. . . . Where families attend, there is the added problem of preschool, day care, and reasonable housing. The main thing I enjoy is being of help."

On the other hand, Jones' worst headache is the messengers' worst problem — parking. "The thing we have the least control over is the one that is the most difficult, and that's parking," he notes. "Probably there is more plain work involved in preschool care, but you can do something about that. You can't do anything about the competition for downtown parking."

By the time the convention arrives, Jones, Hedquist, and a host of volunteers will have spent countless hours preparing for the thousands of Southern Baptists who will descend on St. Louis.

For that day, Jones offers advice based on experience. "Wear comfortable walking shoes."



GETTING READY — Wally Jones (left), local arrangements committee chairman, and Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist discuss plans for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis. Jones is the first person to serve as SBC local arrangements chairman three times.