

Baptist and Reflector

Vol. 153/No. 20/ May 20, 1987

News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

Committee recommends SBC stay with BJCPA

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention will continue to be a member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs if a recommendation of a special fact-finding committee is accepted in June.

A nine-member study committee has recommended that the 14.6-million-member SBC "continue to relate to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs," a religious liberty-separation of church and state watchdog organization of nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada.

The study committee, chaired by Gary Young of Phoenix, Ariz., has been studying the issue of Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist Joint Committee since September of 1986, when it was appointed to look into the relationship between the two groups.

During the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, a retired Mobile, Ala., layman, M. G. (Dan) Daniels, made a motion to "remove the SBC from participation in the BJCPA and establish an exclusive Southern Baptist presence in Washington for the purpose of more truly reflecting our views."

Daniels' motion was the latest in a series of attacks on SBC participation in the BJCPA. The Baptist Joint Committee and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have been under increasing fire from more conservative Southern Bap-

tists, generally over questions of style and the organization's perceived unresponsiveness to the SBC, particularly the BJCPA's opposition to the school prayer amendment.

Daniels' 1986 motion was referred to the Executive Committee for further study, with instruction that a report be made during the 1987 annual meeting in St. Louis.

The recommendation will be presented to a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee June 15 in advance of the 1987 annual meeting. If the 70-member committee accepts the recommendation, it will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting June 16. Messengers then must vote to accept or reject the recommendation.

Young told Baptist Press the key to the recommendation is acceptance of a proposal to change SBC Bylaw 18, which governs the work and membership of SBC standing committees. The SBC relates to the BJCPA through the Public Affairs Committee, an 18-member standing committee.

In February, the special study committee recommended revision of Bylaw 18 in regard to the Public Affairs Committee. The revision was adopted by the Executive Committee and will be recommended to messengers at the annual meeting.

"The bottom line of our recommendation is that we will stay with the Baptist

Joint Committee, but that our relationship with them will be changed because we are changing the makeup and constituency of the Public Affairs Committee," Young told Baptist Press.

A revision of Bylaw 18 was necessitated when the Baptist Joint Committee reorganized in October, creating a 54-member board and increasing SBC membership from 15 to 18.

Under the old bylaw, the Public Affairs Committee was made up of 15 members, of whom nine served by virtue of office as executives of SBC agencies, leaving only

five slots to be filled by at-large members. The SBC president also was a voting member. Until recently, the PAC did not conduct separate meetings, and primarily served as the conduit through which the SBC funded and provided members for the BJCPA.

Under the revision, five agency executives will serve as board members — the chief executives of the Executive Committee, the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist Sunday School Board, and the Annuity Board. (Continued on page 3)

Belmont College inducts Roy Acuff, Helen Gabhart into collegiatus



HONOREE'S GIFT — Roy Acuff shows the gift he received on his induction into Belmont College's Collegiatus.

Nashvillians Roy Acuff and Helen A. Gabhart received "Belmont College's highest honor for relevant and continuing support," stated Bill Trout, college president, at the annual Belmont College Collegiatus ceremony May 14.

Acuff, country music artist, and Gabhart, wife of Herbert Gabhart who was president of Belmont College from 1959-82, were inducted into the college's Collegiatus during a banquet at the college.

The honor, which is presented to two persons annually, is endowed by Lemuel B. Stevens of Nashville, former chairman of the college's board of trustees, and his family.

George West III, chairman of the trustees, inducted the honorees and Carolyn Strode, chairperson of the 1987 Collegiatus Committee, presented a gift to each.

Acuff spoke after his induction to the crowd of collegiatus members and friends and family of the honorees. He explained that he was wearing a tuxedo because he was honored and wanted to "look real nice."

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Union elects James Edwards as academic vice-president

JACKSON (BP) — James W. Edwards, senior vice-president for finance of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will become vice-president of academic affairs and dean of Union University, effective June 1.

Edwards, who for three and a half years, has been the senior vice-president of finance and, for 15 months, chief operating officer of the RTVC, also will be professor of economics and finance in Union's business department.

At the RTVC, he was instrumental in helping the Fort Worth, Texas-based agency launch a national television network, ACTS, and in keeping the fledgling network financially viable during its most critical periods.

Hiran Barefoot, Union's president, said Edwards will be in charge of the academic program, faculty, and curriculum at Union, as well as teaching and helping to establish a new business school, which trustees approved in February.

Edwards, a native of Henderson, Ky., is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky.; Indiana University, Bloomington; and Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Prior to going to the RTVC, Edwards served as vice-president and dean of the

college as well as vice-president of administrative affairs at Dallas Baptist University; director of the graduate business program, chairman of the ac-

(Continued on page 3)

Chairman requests early resolutions

ST. LOUIS (BP) — The chairman of the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee has appealed to messengers to send drafts of proposed resolutions to him prior to the annual meeting of the SBC June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center.

Tennessee Tom Melzoni, committee chairman and pastor of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, said having advance copies of resolutions messengers intend to submit to the convention will enable his 10-member committee to do more preliminary work before convention sessions begin.

The committee has set an orientation and work session Saturday morning, June 13, in St. Louis. He said all committee meetings will be open sessions.

Drafts of proposed resolutions should be sent to Melzoni in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce, Nashville, TN 37203.

Melzoni emphasized that messengers who send proposed resolutions to the committee before the convention also must submit official copies for introduction at the convention.

Messengers may submit the resolutions at a table to the side of the main platform during miscellaneous business sessions on the first day of the annual meeting.

"I hope the resolutions process this year will be smooth and sweet and give a positive report to the world that Southern Baptists are alive and well and interested in evangelism and missions," said Melzoni.

"We will attempt to follow the leadership of the Lord and send forth a positive, affirming message of the Baptist Faith and Message and of our institutions," he added. "We want to say to the world we are evangelical Christians who love God and love each other."

In 1986, convention messengers submitted a total of 52 resolutions to the committee for consideration. The record number of resolutions submitted by messengers was 74 in 1985.

Melzoni appealed to Southern Baptists to pray for the Resolutions Committee and for all proceedings of the 130th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Golden Gate trustees set \$5.7-million '87-88 budget

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a \$5.7-million budget for 1987-88 and elected two faculty members at their spring meeting in Mill Valley, Calif.

The budget is a 9.1 percent increase over the current budget. President William O. Crews Jr. said. Basic funding of the seminary's budget will come from gifts of Southern Baptist churches through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget.

For 1987-88, Cooperative Program gifts should total more than \$2.5-million, representing only 44 percent of the budget. Crews noted. The balance will be met through fees and income from other sources. In addition, \$1.2-million is expected to be raised through the seminary's annual fund toward support of the budget.

The current financial status of the seminary was pictured as having suffered from the transition of administrations during the past year. Frank Pollard resigned as seminary president in March of 1986, and Crews was elected to succeed him in December. The seminary is short

\$657,000 in income from its annual fund for the year, which ends July 31.

As a result, the trustees voted to refinance an off-campus 32-unit apartment complex, which trustees were told could bring about \$1-million in equity to be put into an emergency operating general fund. The complex, appraised at more than \$2-million, is expected to be collateral for a \$1.2-million loan.

In other action, trustees unanimously elected Leroy Gainey and Barry A. Stricker to the faculty.

Gainey was named associate professor of religious education. He is the first black trustee-elected, full-time faculty member of a Southern Baptist seminary. Currently he is senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Syracuse, N.Y.

Stricker will be associate professor of theology and Christian philosophy. Presently he is an instructor at Golden Gate and was manager of the seminary Baptist Book Store from 1983 to 1986.

Trustees also endorsed the six Southern Baptist seminary presidents' October 1986 "Glorieta Statement" on the Bible.

Crews affirms Bible as true during inauguration address

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — William O. Crews Jr. affirmed the Bible as true and his school's ministry to the West during his inauguration as sixth president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., April 27.

"Golden Gate seminary will remain committed to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement, particularly the portion which says the Bible has truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter," said Crews, 51, who was elected president of the Southern Baptist seminary in December.

Scripture — and the way it is taught in Southern Baptists' six seminaries — has been at the center of theological/political strife within the convention for about eight years. Crews stressed that he and his seminary support the Bible as true.

He pledged his personal commitment to the October 1986 "Glorieta Statement" written by the seminary presidents two months before he was elected to lead Golden Gate seminary. The presidents' document, presented as an instrument for healing within the convention, states: "The 66 books of the Bible are not errant in any area of reality. We hold to their infallible power and binding authority."

"I am convinced that this statement, treated with integrity, could be the basis for reconciliation in our troubled denomination," Crews said during his inaugural service.

Referring to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, Crews reminded his audience that each person on the faculty of Golden Gate is asked to sign that statement and "teach in accord with, and not contrary to, the statement."

Turning his attention to the specific needs of the California seminary, Crews noted: "We who serve here in the West can ill-afford the luxury of fighting when our assignment is fishing for the souls of men. I will say again as I have said on other occasions, we here in the West must

steer our ship away from the rocky shores of debate and division."

Crews pledged to the Southern Baptist Convention to "give our best in training and equipping leaders for dynamic, growing churches, both in the West and around the world. We will do that with a program of leadership development... 'that trains the head, the heart, and the hand.'"

About 500 people, including representatives from educational institutions, churches, Southern Baptist agencies, and the seminary community, attended the inaugural ceremony.

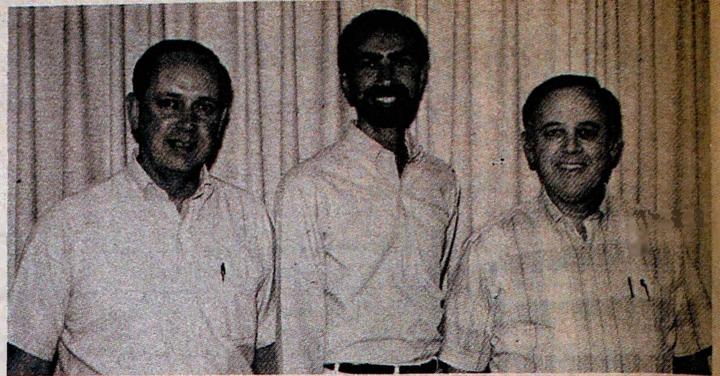
WMU annual meeting looks toward centennial event

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Southern Baptist women will look toward the centennial celebration of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union during the organization's 99th annual meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis.

"Celebrate" will be the theme for the national WMU meeting, to be held at the Clarion Hotel. The conference will be a primary event leading up to the celebration of WMU's 100th anniversary, May 13-14, 1988, in Richmond, Va.

A featured guest at the St. Louis meeting will be June Scobee, widow of Dick Scobee, who was killed in the Challenger space shuttle disaster. She will share her experiences of the tragedy and how she depended on WMU prayer support for strength.

National WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford will give an annual report on WMU, encourage participation in the national missions prayer plan, and challenge participants to reach WMU's "Vision 88" goal of enrolling 2-million women, girls, and preschoolers in WMU



TBREA OFFICERS — New officers of the Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association, elected at the May 7-8 spring retreat, are (left to right) Paul Peak, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, president; Tony Long, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Columbia, secretary-treasurer; and Don Dillingham, minister of education at Manly Baptist Church, Morristown, vice-president. Liz Lee (not pictured), an associate in the TBC Sunday School department, was elected promotion-enlistment coordinator.

SBC Pastors' Conference explores 'Emmanuel factor'

ST. LOUIS (BP) — "The Emmanuel factor" of how Christ influences and impacts the daily routine of life will be the theme of the 1987 Pastors' Conference, to be held June 14-15 in Cervantes Convention Center.

"I have urged each of the speakers to preach Jesus," said Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., and president of the Pastors' Conference.

The Pastors' Conference, expected to attract about 20,000 people, is one of the meetings held in advance of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 16-18, also in Cervantes Convention Center.

Price told Baptist Press he encouraged speakers "to preach Christ and not get involved in denominational politics. I want the conference to build up the pastors and the people who attend, and I am optimistic the speakers are going to do that."

Price said he wrote to each speaker and said: "I want to encourage you to preach

Jesus. We will have three days following the conference in which the SBC can deal with expedient 'political' issues and other vital topics. That is essential. However, our presentation of Jesus in the proper manner will include the spirit with which this is done. Therefore, it is imperative that we deal with inspiration and motivation."

The program, he said, is "loaded with people who are not big names. I wanted to blend familiar voices with some new voices. Some of the speakers were asked to speak because of personal acquaintances or hearing from friends about how these people were being used by the Lord. I felt some of them might be a contemporary voice and an encouragement."

Carl F. H. Henry, whom Price said is "Southern Baptists' best known international theologian," will speak on "The Emmanuel factor and Neo-pagan Philosophy." Price said: "I thought we needed to hear this gentleman." Henry, a former editor of Christianity Today, is from Arlington, Va., and is associated with World Vision International.

Price also invited Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, to address the conference on "The Emmanuel factor in Resurrection." Price said Leavell "is a voice that needs to be heard."

Other well known names include former SBC presidents Bailey E. Smith of Del City, Okla., and James T. Draper Jr., of Euless, Texas. Smith will speak on the compassion for souls and Draper on the search for integrity.

Among others to speak include Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla.; Richard Vera, an evangelist from Dallas; Jack Millwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Chickasaw, Ala.; E. W. McCall, pastor of St. Stephens Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif.

Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church of Austin, Texas; Richard G. Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church of Tucker, Ga.; David Miller, director of missions from Heber Springs, Ark.; Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church of Nashville; and Jerry Johnston, an evangelist from Overland Park, Kan.

Music will be led by Jim Faull, minister of music at Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

HCBA honors Hall for 44 years of teaching, additional service

SEYMOUR — W. F. Hall, retired teacher of Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, was once asked by a student if people in heaven will know one another. He replied, "Young man, I would hate to know that I would be more ignorant in heaven than I am here!"

This was just one of many instances recalled by those honoring Hall at a testimonial dinner April 28 for his 44 years of service to the academy, even though he and his wife, Nola, were unable to attend. Hall suffered two massive heart attacks several days before the dinner, but insisted that the event be held despite his absence.

The Halls' daughter, Christine Rutledge, and son, Billy Hall, represented them at the dinner which was attended by about 200 persons, including other family members and relatives of the Halls, past and present faculty, staff, students, and trustees of the academy, and denominational colleagues of Hall.

William L. Palmer, academy president; Charles C. Lemons, president emeritus; Jane Ellison, chairman of the board of trustees; Tom Madden, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Glenn Grubb, pastor of Maryville's Madison Avenue Baptist Church; and Bill Hazelwood, Cumberland Gap Baptist Association director of missions, gave testimonials of Hall's work. The academy choir, directed by Bill Hart and accompanied by Pat Johnson, presented special music.

In addition to his work at the academy, Hall was first vice-president of the TBC in 1971-72, and is currently a trustee and chairman of the academic committee. He also helped organize 15 churches in the area and was pastor and interim pastor of numerous churches.

Hall, who retired in 1971, taught English, history, and Bible at the academy. He is recuperating in his home on the academy campus.



INDUCTION — George West III, chairman of the Belmont College trustees, thanks Helen A. Gabhart during the collegiatus ceremony May 14.

Collegiatus . . .

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He stated that he tries to live a good life, though "it's not always easy in country music."

Acuff said he was especially glad to hear two Acuff music scholars, Tammy Rogers, a violinist, and Fleming McWilliams, a vocalist, perform during the evening. The Roy and Mildred Acuff Scholarships, begun in his honor in 1982 by the Joseph Cates Company and supplemented by Acuff, now assists six Belmont College music students.

Acuff, a Grand Ole Opry star who has performed for the past 50 years, is also a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Gabhart explained that Belmont College is "as much a state of mind as it is a place." She let her husband do his job, she added, but she stayed busy hosting friends and students of the college.

She organized and sponsored the Southern Baptist Student Ministers' Wives Fellowship and was an advisor of Belmont Aid for 23 years.

BJCPA study committee . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The president of the SBC also will be a voting member and the remaining 12 seats will be at-large representatives.

The executive of the SBC Christian Life Commission — who had a seat under the old bylaw — would become a non-voting ex-officio member under the revision.

Another change in the bylaw is that it "encourages the Public Affairs Committee to coordinate its work through the BJCPA," but also specifies the group can "take action on motions and resolutions of the SBC upon which the BJCPA cannot agree and/or does not support."

In addition to recommending the relationship between the BJCPA and the SBC be retained through the revised Public Affairs Committee, the fact finding committee also included a recommendation that it "encourages the trustees of the SBC Christian Life Commission to continue the consideration of opening an office in Washington to deal with those appropriate moral and social concerns within its program statement and consistent with motions and resolutions adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention."

In reaching its conclusions, the fact-finding committee issued a series of findings, which include:

— There is strength in numbers and diversity, and the estimated 27-million Baptists who are members of the nine Baptist bodies making up the BJCPA "represent a greater potential influence" in Washington than do 14.6-million Southern Baptists.

— There are a number of Baptist groups who do not participate in the BJCPA, and encouraged the Public Affairs Committee

"to work through appropriate channels within the BJCPA to pursue the most effective participation of other Baptist bodies."

— The BJCPA "has assisted Southern Baptists in some ways" such as supporting passage of the Equal Access legislation, protecting foreign mission interests, working on tax reform and minister's retirement programs, and "providing information, education, research, counsel, and advocacy to Southern Baptists on an individual, church, association, state, and national level."

— There are some things which have "created concern" among some Southern Baptists, including conducting conferences which are perceived to lack balance, making statements which are understood as personal attacks against individuals, making statements of personal opinion which have been interpreted as being the position of the BJCPA, and Executive Director Dunn's association with People for the American Way.

— There is need for the BJCPA to seek increased financial support from some member bodies.

— There is need for churches, associations, and state conventions to inform Southern Baptists about religious liberty issues through the Baptist Joint Committee.

Pressler pledges BJCPA support

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Paul Pressler has promised to oppose any effort to defund the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs if messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention approve a proposed change in SBC bylaws at the annual meeting of the convention June 16-18.

The Houston appeals court judge, who has been a leader in the effort to turn the SBC in a more conservative direction, made the remarks to a group of pastors and laypeople in Richmond May 12.

Pressler, who at times has been a vocal critic of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and its executive director, James M. Dunn, was a member of a special nine-person study committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee in September 1986 to study the relationship between the SBC and the BJCPA.

Pressler said the proposed bylaw change "will allow Southern Baptists to express themselves more directly in the affairs of the Baptist Joint Committee. I have pledged myself, and I would urge your support, to adopt this bylaw amendment at the convention."

"I also pledge, if the bylaw is adopted, to do everything I can to keep a motion from being made to defund the Baptist Joint Committee. And if, unfortunately, there is a motion to defund the Baptist Joint Committee — if the bylaw is passed — I will do everything I can to defeat the motion," he added.

Mark Short takes Louisiana position

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP) — Mark Short was elected executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention's Executive Board during a board meeting May 5.

He will assume his new position June 1, succeeding Robert L. Lee of Pineville, executive director emeritus, who retired Dec. 1, 1986, after serving in a leadership position with the Louisiana Executive Board for 33 years, 30 of them as executive director.

Short, 58, is Southern Baptist Sunday School Board professor of denominational relations at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, a post he has held for five years.

Short was presented to the Executive Board by Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, and chairman of the executive director search committee. Sanders told the board: "The committee had a sense of rightness of God's man. We had 31 nominations, any 25 of which could have led the program."

"The committee was unanimous in a secret ballot vote. We feel Mark Short has expertise in management, platform skills, and is knowledgeable in every level of Baptist life. During his association with Louisiana, he has spoken in every association and preached or taught in more than 300 churches."

Short, a native of Texas, was on the staff of the Louisiana Baptist Convention as church growth consultant prior to becoming a professor at New Orleans seminary. He also has been manager of the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, minister of music and education in several Southern Baptist churches, and associate pastor and administrator at South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

He attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and is a graduate of the University of New York and the University of Oklahoma.

Student at C-N drowns in lake

JEFFERSON CITY — Terry Vaughnier, a Carson-Newman College student from Grove City, Ohio, died in a May 6 drowning accident at Cherokee Lake.

Friends said that Vaughnier went under the water in the swimming area at Cherokee Dam a few miles from the college campus at about 3:30 p.m. Vaughnier, who was the only one swimming at the time, may have suffered cramps brought

on by relatively low water temperatures.

Vaughnier, a sophomore religion major who was a member of the college band, had stayed in Jefferson City following the end of classes to perform with the band at the college's commencement on May 8. A moment of silent prayer was observed in his memory at the commencement ceremony.

Vaughnier was a member of Highland Baptist Church in Grove City, where he was active in many youth activities. He is survived by his mother, Margaret M. Elam of Grove City, and two brothers.

Edwards . . .

(Continued from page 1)

counting department and director of financial aid at Southern Methodist University in Dallas; and chairman of the accounting department at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

Edwards has been a management consultant to the Carnegie Foundation, the Baptist General Convention of Texas Church Loans Corporation, Price-Waterhouse & Co., a national accounting firm, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tennessean to serve as convention page

MEMPHIS — Christopher Todd Armstrong, a Pioneer Royal Ambassador at Central Baptist Church, Chattanooga, will serve as one of 15 RA pages at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Armstrong was nominated for the honor by the Brotherhood department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and selected by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. The RA pages and six Acteen pages assist convention personnel in registration, the information center, the convention office, the press room, and during convention proceedings.

UT BSU director balances family role, student work

By Mark Hall

Bob Hall stands on a wooded bank, dressed in denim overalls and white sneakers, and grasps a thick vine that trails from a tall tree. With a running start, he swings out high over the damp leaves covering the bank that slopes down to his house below.

"What a charge!" he exclaims upon landing. "Your turn, Zach." Hall's 9-year-old son takes his swing, his usually straight blond-streaked hair ruffling in the wind.

"We've been doing this all day," Hall admits with an impish grin. "We love it!"

Aside from his role as playmate/father for Zach, 4-year-old son Ethan, and 11-year-old daughter Carey, Hall is director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

As many as 1,000 different students participate in the various BSU activities at UT. As director, Hall is responsible for administrative duties, the budget, the facilities, and the overall program of the group. He also plans the annual spring SPOTS mission trips for the group.

He does much of his work from his office in the Baptist Student Center. The location of the center, between the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house and the Catholic Student Center on Old Fraternity Row, is somewhat symbolic of Hall's position.

"I have to interface with the administration of a secular institution, communicate with students, and communicate religious concerns," says Hall. "I have to be able to speak the language of the church and of academia."

Hall acquired his "academic vocabulary" with his master's and doctoral

degrees in administration and supervision, and during his term as associate director of international education, all at UT.

He accepted the position of associate BSU director in 1976, and became director a year later. He was dissatisfied with his previous responsibilities, as he explains, because, although they were necessary, they "didn't help students." Hall prefers his present role in campus ministry explaining, "I am in a position to help people unconditionally."

Kent Spann, college and career minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Knoxville, attests to Hall's success as a mediator.

"I've never heard a critical word about him," says Spann, noting Hall's compassion for students and a genuine concern for their problems. "And he's well-liked by the students."

"It's exciting to watch students 'begin to breathe,'" says Hall. "By that I mean, to begin to grow and see the world and their religious faith in a new and perhaps more mature way."

Hall encourages that growth when he can.

"He's good at spotting new people and making them feel at home," says graduate student Roger Hale.

BSU Campus Minister Bill Choate, who joined the staff in 1983, says Hall is "an outgoing, positive-thinking person who cares about people. He's also a good sport."

Along with Hall's high regard for people is a staunch refusal to take them too seriously.

"Bob has a habit of bringing up embarrassing things about you in front of as many people as possible," says Hale.



FRIEND TO STUDENTS — Bob Hall, BSU director at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, talks with UT student Mark Waldron.

"I think he does it because he knows everybody really likes the attention, deep down, even though it's embarrassing," responds Choate.

Much of Hall's infectious zest for life comes from the two years he and his wife spent as Southern Baptist missionary journeymen in Africa from 1972-74. Hall was headmaster for an educational complex in Nairobi, Kenya. The two also worked to provide famine relief for a nomadic tribe there.

"I remember waking up at 6 a.m. to find little boys going through our garbage outside, looking for food," he reflects. "Dark, brooding images of hunger like

this affect you — change you. The whole experience helped me to feel life like I never had before."

Of all the people in Hall's life, "his family comes first," declares BSU secretary Ruth Adams. "Absolutely, no question."

For Hall, it is a matter of priorities. "One of the greatest gifts God gives us is our family. It is important to set special moments away for my responsibilities as a father and husband," he says.

Another "labor of love" Hall enjoys is working on his house. He and his wife built it seven years ago out of cut logs using materials they salvaged from various places and restored. The improvements he continues to add to his home provide him both physical activity and a sense of what he calls "closure," which he says is a rare feeling in student ministry because people are "never quite finished."

"With students it's very painful because you have to say goodbye. That's built into the system," Hall comments.

Despite the drawbacks, Hall finds deep fulfillment in his profession.

"I think life grows as we spend it, as we give it away," he says. "It's so amazing to be a Christian and realize how sinful I am and how humble I ought to be compared to God. But it's so paradoxical because the God of the universe loves me, and at the same time I feel terribly humble and unworthy. I also feel incredibly special and gifted and unique."

As daylight slowly fades, Bob Hall gives a nod and a wave in the growing shadows of the trees surrounding his front yard. Then, with a few quick steps and a hop, he plunks a basketball through the net on a pole beside his graveled driveway.

Editor's note: Mark Hall, a student at UT, is not related to Bob Hall.

Unprecedented input sought for Baptist hymnal content

NASHVILLE (BP) — A new Southern Baptist hymnal expected to reflect "unprecedented input" from denominational members will be released by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in 1991.

Wesley Forbis, director of the board's church music department and editor-in-chief of the hymnal, said a random sampling opinion research project will be conducted by the board's research services department.

Additional research questionnaires

distributed throughout the summer at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist conference centers and through state music secretaries will provide "unprecedented input from the grass roots of Southern Baptists," he said.

"Informally," he added, "Southern Baptists are encouraged to participate by submitting original hymns and by sending us their preferences in hymnal content."

The hymnal is expected to reflect "a unity in evangelistic message and the

diversity of worship practices that characterize music in Southern Baptist churches," Forbis said.

While similar questionnaires were used prior to publication of "Baptist Hymnal, 1975," the more extensive distribution of forms is expected to begin with pre-Southern Baptist Convention meetings this year.

Forbis also announced the selection of Terry W. York as hymnal project coordinator. York has been a youth and adult music consultant and a literary design editor during his three years in the church music department. He holds the doctor of musical arts degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Publication of the hymnal will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Sunday School Board and the 50th anniversary of the church music department.

Official unveiling of the hymnal is planned for March 11-14, 1991, during PraiSing II, a four-day celebration of the church music department's jubilee. To be held in Nashville, PraiSing II will feature vocal and instrumental presentations by groups and soloists, along with mass congregational singing. A similar event introduced "Baptist Hymnal, 1975," the last hymnal published by the Sunday School Board.

Forbis said theology of the new hymnal will be foremost in determining works for inclusion. A committee on theology and doctrine will be chosen, and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement will be the basis for textual decisions.

Forbis said there is no plan to rewrite texts to more frequently sung traditional hymns because of the desire "to preserve the historical context in which they were

written, preserve our Christian heritage, and to avoid imposing forced and artificial poetic structure."

Hymns, both text and music, will be selected from all major historical periods and from today's hymn writers.

Content is expected to come from published hymnals, song books, excerpts of larger musical works, adaptations, folk music, newly created materials, various mission fields, unsolicited manuscripts, and commissioned works.

Librarians organize SBC-wide association

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Librarians and archivists from across the Southern Baptist Convention have organized the Southern Baptist Library Association. Meetings of the organization, which began informally in 1979, will be held annually to share professional interests and pursue common goals relating to the collection, preservation, and management of libraries and archives.

Officers are Irvin Murrell, Campbellsville College, president; Tony Coursey, SBC Home Mission Board, vice-president/president elect; Myrta Garrett, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, secretary; Janet Freeman, Meredith College, treasurer; Jane Gressnickel, Grand Canyon College, newsletter editor; Edward Scott, Furman University, membership chairman; and Kathy Grenga, Belmont College, social chairman.

Membership is open to staff members of Southern Baptist affiliated libraries and archives. The next meeting will be April 26-27, 1988, in Nashville.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 70,776

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

Fiddling

Dear editor:

What will Southern Baptists be in the years of the 2,000s? Still bickering, demanding a "perfect" denomination in an imperfect world? I think it would help both our beloved denomination and our beloved proclaimers of the Word if they'd begin to look at themselves as God's individual special instruments within a denomination rather than as thousands of "Old Testament Jeremiahs and Isaiahs." The bedrock of faith remains in the hearts of those covered by the blood in all denominations — the spiritual church for

which Christ died — not with the liberal view or the fundamental view.

I believe the uniqueness of Southern Baptists — built upon the bedrock of faith — is not the ministerial system nor the scholarly absolutes but rather it is their acceptance, devotion, and implementation of the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

If the frailty of men acting as tools of Satan destroys this unction, the Lord will truly hold all of us, men and women, accountable and none will hear His words, "well done."

In our day of high tech and high level communications, Southern Baptists almost know too much, which makes it difficult if not impossible to accept God's "umbrella" of understanding in its simplicity. He accepts we babes in the Lord right along with the "prophets" which means I don't have to be on the "right side" for salvation just under the blood. I know my spiritual maturity is reflected by how I live with others and their relationship with God however they interpret it.

I really hope all the turmoil of the past 25 years has produced procedures and policies that will help the denominational structure of the future. If not, surely everyone is "fiddling while Rome burns."

Grace H. Lee
501 Waterloo St.
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

No official interpretation

Dear editor:

At the Inerrancy Conference at Ridgecrest May 4-7, I heard speculation in the corridor that there may be an effort at the Southern Baptist Convention this year to establish an "official" interpretation of Article I (Scriptures) of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

This speculation centered around the statement that the Bible "has ... truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter."

There are many reasons why Southern Baptists, in my opinion, should not adopt or impose an "official" interpretation, including the following:

1. If Southern Baptists believe that one has a right to interpret God-inspired Scriptures for himself or herself, they should also trust one to interpret a man-made confession.

2. The quoted language has served Baptists well since the New Hampshire Confession first used it in 1833. It has served Southern Baptists well since the convention adopted it in 1925 and 1963, and reaffirmed it in 1981. For over 150 years there has been no "official" interpretation. We

don't need one now.

3. Any "official" interpretation would tend to supplant what it purports to explain, thus moving Southern Baptists away from our historic language to some new language.

4. As the convention stated in 1925 and 1963, and reaffirmed in 1981, "confessions are only guides in interpretation," and "the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the Scriptures." "Official" interpretations take on a different character, it seems to me.

5. Southern Baptists should not go the way of Roman Catholicism in establishing an "official" interpreter of the Bible — the magisterium, consisting of bishops, with the pope as the ultimate interpreter. If we perceive error in Roman Catholicism's way of pursuing truth, we should avoid moving toward anything which requires "official" interpreters or, ultimately, one interpreter.

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

Watch out, McBeth

Dear editor:

Isn't Leon McBeth afraid if Southern Baptist men turned a lot of women loose on the church and world, like the proclamation of A. Lincoln turned loose all those "sub-human" blacks on society, that even God might live to regret it?

How can a male, Southern Baptist historian, paid from SBC gifts, dare read history with such an objective and unbiased slant? Doesn't he know that there is only one way to interpret the Word — the way the current party says — and he is way off base from that party? He will, no doubt, be picked off and thrown out.

I think for the male leadership in Southern Baptist life to be consistent to the selective, literal interpretation of Scripture, they should, in fact, do as Marc Mulnix suggested in a letter printed several weeks ago: "Muzzle every female who enters the door of the church building."

Come on, guys; this is getting serious. Appoint a committee, call a meeting, make an announcement, send money.

Ben W. Bledsoe
394 North McNeil
Memphis, TN 38112

A woman's place

Dear editor:

Hooray for Leon McBeth! It is high time somebody spoke up for the women of our Lord's church.

I've been saying for years there would

be no Southern Baptist missions and, in fact, no Southern Baptist Convention except for the women. I am nobody anyone would listen to, but Brother McBeth is.

I hope at least some of our women will listen and take heart. However, I do not believe our ladies are really interested in recognition or places of honor. Our Baptist men have those items pretty well filled. Our men are no different than James and John prior to the crucifixion. We like to boss and receive honor from men. The ladies will receive their rewards in heaven. Those will really count.

I began to change my mind about women when God led me to a study of women in the Bible. I discovered that a lot of preaching I'd heard against women in the Bible, such as Eve and Rebekah, was not true, but rather man's opinion. I think there is much misunderstanding of things Paul says of women in the Bible.

Just once I'd like to see all the ladies stay home on Sunday morning and see what a mess the men would make of Sunday School and church.

J. W. Glass
1025 Hillcrest
Lenoir City, TN 37771

That's not chicken

Dear editor:

I believe just about everything the Southern Baptist Alliance is saying in their mailouts these days, and one thing more. I believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God.

I am for manuscript research. I am for any honest effort to get us back as close as possible to the original manuscripts; but having done our best at that, I think we had best lock in there and treat that book as divine authority, to be obeyed, not explained away.

I am a conservative. My more moderate brethren of the Southern Baptist Alliance are just as guilty as I of having a "theory about the Bible." Their theory leaves some doubt as to whether the Bible in all its parts is really the reliable Word of God. My theory leaves me with no doubt that, in all its parts, the Bible is the reliable, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. That is my concept of THE BOOK from which I preach.

I cannot "gather around the Bible itself" in unity with those whose theory about the Bible lessens the authority of the Bible any more than I would enjoy a good chicken supper in unity with brethren who had stuffed the chicken with sauerkraut. That's not chicken to me!!

Don Strother
219 University Parkway
Johnson City, TN 37601

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



We have a grapevine at our home. For the last three years, we haven't had any grapes. The terrible winter we experienced destroyed much of the vine. The drought of last year further hampered the growth.

This year, barring other detrimental events, we should have a few bunches.

As I have observed the struggles of the vine, I have looked with renewed interest to our Lord's noble account of the parable of the vine as recorded in John 15:1-16. In a beautiful, meaningful way, it illustrates our relationship with Christ.

The account pictures a relationship between the believer and Christ. There is a oneness of the vine and the branches. The vine finds fruitage in the branches, the branches reaching for root in the vine. The vine can bear no fruit if it has no branches; the branches cannot live without the vine. Without the branches the vine is a fruitless pole; without the stem, the branches wither and die.

Also, there is an emphasis on resources. They are adequate. All the branch needs is in the vine. It does not go beyond the vine for anything. Our Lord puts at our command His unlimited resources, to be used according to our needs.

One other thought needs to be underlined and that is the result. The result is to be found in fruitbearing. The parable is described as the parable of the vine but could also be called the parable of the fruit. The recurring word throughout is "fruit." Fruit is underscored eight times in John 15:1-16, "fruit," "more fruit," "much fruit," "fruit that should remain."

All of nature combines to produce fruit. The soil, the rains, the dew, the sunshine, the buds, the tendrils, the leaves, the blossoms all are needful to produce the grapes. I am convinced our Lord has placed many things here to help us bear fruit.

"Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples" (John 15:8). "I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit" (John 15:16).



Tennessee/Venezuela Prayer Net Partnership

—Pray for the following persons having birthdays on May 25: Dickie Nelson, general evangelist; Mike Pennington, Caracas, general evangelist; and Don Smith, Barquisimeto, general evangelist.

—Pray for Missionary Mary Jo McMurray, librarian at the seminary, who is having problems with her left foot.

—Pray for Leslie Murphy and Christi Busby, missionary children who attend school 500 miles away from their families for 10 weeks at a time.

—Pray for Nevi Pamfield, a Venezuelan partner who will work as a counselor during Tennessee's GA camps. Also, pray for this cross-cultural experience, and especially the language barrier.

Holston association hosts Gatlinburg youth retreat

More than 40 churches in the Holston Baptist Association were represented as 1,100 youth and their leaders attended the annual youth gathering sponsored by the association.

The third annual spring youth retreat was held April 24-26, in Gatlinburg.

The retreat was led by a team from Buchanan, Mich. Larry Roberts, an illusionist, entertained on Friday evening.

Topics relating to spiritual development were covered in Saturday morning seminars.

Ike Rheighard, an evangelist from Fayetteville, Ga., and Steve Green, recipient of the 1987 Dove Award for outstanding male vocalist, have been enlisted for next year's retreat.

The retreat is planned each year by Holston's youth council. Pete Tackett is youth director and Tal Thompson is director of missions.

Senior adult event brings cries for more

By Terri Lackey

Photos by Jim Veneman

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The final day of the first Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention left participants wanting more, while sponsors could not promise when a second convention would be held.

"About 10,000 of you have asked us where next year's senior adult convention will be held," Bill Howse, a senior adult consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board family ministry department, told the group that swelled to about 14,000 by the third and final day of the event.

"We can offer you annual senior adult chautauques and cruises, but it will be awhile before we can assemble this many again. Now I just hope security will unlock a back door for me so I can get out," Howse quipped.

The senior adults, whose combined ages exceeded



AMONG THE OLDEST — One of the oldest participants in the senior adult convention in Fort Worth, Texas, was 98-year-old Lillian Henry of Arcadia, La., who talked with Horace Kerr of the Sunday School Board's family ministry department. Kerr was convention coordinator.

1-million years, not only survived the three-day event with relatively few mishaps but also arrived early to get good seats for each of the four sessions.

A nurse located at the convention center emergency first aid station said several came in just to sit and rest, "but they were mostly the younger people."

The convention was highlighted with music, inspirational sermons, reports from seven SBC agencies, a western-style barbecue attended by more than 6,000 people, and a special appearance by Christian entertainer Jerry Clower, who praised the optimism of the senior adults attending the event.

"Just seeing you here lets me know you're stamping out negativism," Clower told the group. "Some of y'all have come a far piece, and you've done filled this cotton-pickin' place slap dab up."

Horace Kerr, manager of the family ministry department's senior adult section and final speaker, told conventioneers they are "pioneers in the field of senior adult ministry."

After naming significant changes seniors have seen in transportation, industry, communications, and medicine, Kerr said senior adults are also seeing changes in religion as churches step up their ministries with older adults.

Because people are living longer than ever before, Kerr said, present-day senior adults must set an example in lifestyle: "There is no social structure out there. You are pioneers in social values and retirement. You are teaching us how to live in retirement, and you're succeeding."

Kerr said an average 65-year-old male can expect to live another 15 years, while a female of the same age can expect to live an additional 18 years.



LAUGHTER — Alma Hickman (left) and Minnie Youngblood of First Baptist Church, Pryor, Okla., share a minute of laughter during a break in the program at the first Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention held in Fort Worth, Texas.



GRANDPARENTING — Hilda Sommers of Laurel, Miss., found time for her grandson, Daniel Sommers of Hurst, Texas, during time off from the Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention held in Fort Worth, Texas.

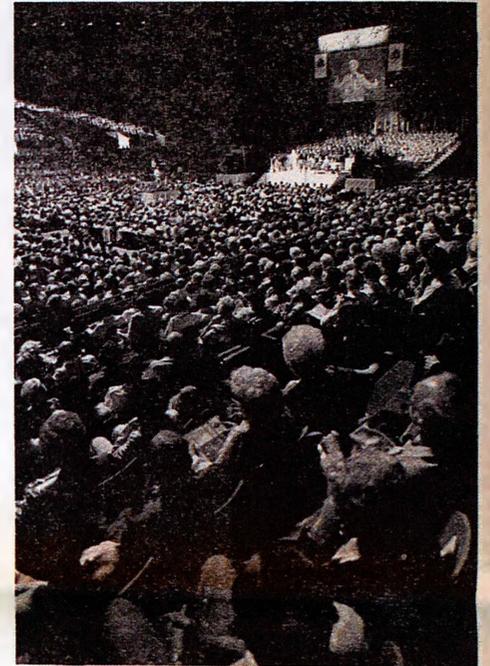


TENNESSEE TRAVELERS — One of the two busloads of Tennesseans who attended the senior adult convention in Fort Worth, Texas, enjoy the company of Gracie Stout (standing), a representative of All Seasons Travel, the company that coordinated the trip. Stout is also WMU director for Hamilton County Baptist Association.

"Your task has little direction; you must invent the ways," Kerr said of senior adults who are guiding future generations in religious values and social ideals.

Earlier in the week, Jess Moody, pastor of First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, Calif., told participants "the spiritual Holy Spirit power of senior citizens will bring a revival in this country that will blow the socks off the devil."

"You're the people who put the moral spine in this country," he continued. "Sixty percent of all the moral power in America is in the people who are 60 years of age and older."



LARGE CROWD — More than 12,000 people attended the first Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention at Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas.



Y'ALL ARE OPTIMISTS — Christian entertainer Jerry Clower praised senior adults for their optimism and stamina.

Chaplain loves boys like a father

Editor's note: This is the second 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

Floyd Key is a dad at home and at work. "We're just raising kids here," proposed Chaplain Key, referring to the 173 boys currently at the John S. Wilder Youth Development Center near Somerville.

As he crosses the campus, a teen-ager waves at the chaplain and proclaims, "I'm going home, chaplain."

In the cafeteria, the chaplain stops to ask a young man how his high school football team at home is doing. Then he thanks one of the kitchen workers for the pecan pie served that day.

On his way to his office in the chapel, a line of boys is slowed by one member who announces to the chaplain that he finally got his clothes from home.

The chaplain jests with a young man who stops in the school hallway to explain that they sent him back for a crime he didn't commit. The pat on the back and smile from his friend seem to be what the boy expected from Key.

The boys are sent to the state-operated center, which is one of five in the state, by juvenile court. They range from about 12-17 years of age.

A father's understanding

"They're not born delinquent," Key explained, but are the victims of "conditions and circumstances over which they have no control whatsoever except for that choice they made" to break the law.

Many get so involved with their peers that they don't have "much choice there either," adding that parents are not always to blame and that sometimes teachers and school officials just "don't like the child."

One boy, who stuttered, indicated that his mother banned him from the house because she thought he was crazy. He lived in an abandoned school bus and broke the law by stealing food.

The chaplain noted that often the staff team, which includes a counselor, dormitory superintendent, and classroom teacher, decides that although the child is ready to be released, he should remain rather than deal with a negative home situation.

Often the boys arrive "smiling from ear to ear," because they are returning to the center, said Key. "He wouldn't admit that his home life is not good. It may be hell on earth, but it's his."

One young man admitted that he stole



SHARING INFORMATION — Chaplain Key tells a staff member at another youth development center in the state about a volunteer program.



HIS APPROACH — The chaplain often sits on the arm rest of a pew as he speaks to the boys during a service in the chapel.

a lawnmower so he would be sent back to the center after he went home to check on his family.

Since Key began serving the center in 1972, the crimes committed by the children have changed from shoplifting an apple and skipping school to offenses committed by adults, he reported.

"I don't believe in coddling criminals, but I don't believe in abusing children, either."

A father's help

"The love of God can reach them," he declared, even though the obstacles are "heartbreaking."

Chaplain Key suggested that the biggest problem of the boys is a lack of self-discipline, but he believes that it stems from a lack of self-respect.

When he asked a youngster to rank how he felt about himself on a scale of 1-10, the boy did not hesitate before answering one, Key stated.

To meet this need, he initiated a grievance process for the youth. The boy and an advocate present the grievance to center officials and receive a response.

Because many chose the chaplain as an advocate, it took a lot of his time, but he believes it was worth it. Now a staff member has been assigned to serve as the advocate, Key reported.

One youngster's grievance was especially funny, Key remembers. He complained about the food. He had gained 12 lbs. though he had been at the center for less than two months.

In addition to self-respect, the boys need direction, observed the chaplain.

During a chapel service, a boy was talking out loud. Key stopped speaking and asked him if he knew that persons were to listen and not talk during the service. The boy replied that he didn't and rarely missed a service after the incident.

Key proudly reported that the weekly Sunday morning service is attended by more than half of the center's population and that "life-changing experiences" occur nearly every Sunday.

The administration considers chapel attendance important to a boy's rehabilitation and allows the chaplain to file a good incident report on boys that miss only one service each month.

Most boys sign a very detailed request form for a Bible. The form states that it is their responsibility to read the Bible daily and maintain its constant care. It also states that they promise not to abuse it or allow anyone else to abuse it, not to give it away, sell it, or make it easy for someone to steal it.

The chaplain also has good response to individual Bible lessons. Because the boys

turn them in for grading and he returns them, it enables him to personally contact many of the boys.

The boys also respond to special opportunities to learn. The chaplain works with volunteers who lead a language skills class and a Bible study.

The father's family

The work of volunteers is essential to his work, Chaplain Key explained. They can teach students, like Zilla Hawkins of First Baptist Church, Somerville, who helps lead the language skills class.

They can participate in chapel services, or lead special studies like John Bramlett, a deacon at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, who leads a Bible study for the boys twice a month.

They can sponsor a special event like the Woman's Missionary Union of First Baptist Church, Somerville, which holds a monthly birthday party for the boys who have birthdays that month.

The chaplain proudly reported that one Baptist pastor who did volunteer work at the center is currently employed as a counselor.

Key knows most of the 132 staff members, and he claims them as "family," explaining that they do not come and go like the boys. One of the most difficult experiences during his work at the center was ministering to the staff and the family of the center's young coach, who drowned in an accident.

Tennessee Baptists can also help him by supplying the Good News Bible. He gives about 600 of them to the boys every year.

He tries to supply clothing and a pre-release gift that includes personal items like a comb, toothbrush, and toothpaste, and school supplies such as a pencil and paper.

The center also needs support for a special fund that provides bus fare for boys whose family cannot transport them home.

A father's commitment

Though the chaplain faces violence and the emotional stresses of his work every day, "I know I love it," he exclaimed.

He had been a pastor for 20 years "when the state government's chaplaincy director found out that he had worked with prison inmates and asked him to consider working at the center."

Key said he felt that he had accomplished little with the inmates, but visited the Wilder Youth Development Center.

He saw a group of "bedraggled" young boys on a smoke break and decided that "if anybody in this world needs somebody, these kids do."

By his actions, he still believes that.



EXERCISING — The recreation program at the center includes basketball, volleyball, and other competitive games, arts and crafts, exercise, weight training, table games, and swimming.



PASTOR'S OTHER JOB — Pastor Jim Douglas of Shaw's Chapel Baptist Church in Brownsville teaches full-time in the center's school.

Programs set for SBC-related meetings

Southern Baptist Forum expands to three sessions

ST. LOUIS (BP) — An expanded format and new speakers will greet participants in the Southern Baptist Forum, to be held June 14-15 in Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis.

The forum traditionally is held immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, which this year is June 16-18 in St. Louis. Previously the forum has had just one Monday afternoon meeting, but this year's event will be comprised of sessions Sunday

evening, June 14, and Monday morning and afternoon, June 15, said Charles Wade, forum chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas.

The convention's breadth and depth of speakers made the expanded format necessary, Wade said. "Those of us who have been working on the forum felt the availability of many Southern Baptist pastors, professors, and laypersons whom Southern Baptists need and want to hear required an expanded program," he explained.

Forum planners followed through on that idea by creating a completely new lineup of forum preachers, added Kenneth Chafin, a forum organizer and professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.: "We have all new speakers. This is a great big denomination with a lot of talent. We think this denomination is too big and rich in talent to go down there and hear the same people. We can use different people every year for the next 20 years and not exhaust the possibilities."

Speakers are Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern seminary; Don Aderhold, pastor of Columbia Drive Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.; Rosalyn Smith Carter, wife of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter of Plains, Ga.; James Slaton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.; Nancy Hastings Sehested, associate pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.;

Also Oswald Hoffman, preacher for "The Lutheran Hour" from St. Louis; Fisher Humphreys, professor of theology at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C.; Lavonn Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norman, Okla.; and Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas.

Musicians are Jim Davis, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Tulsa; Ron Boud, professor of church music at Southern seminary; and Cynthia Clawson, concert artist from Louisville.

"Uniting All Things in Christ" will be the theme for the event. "We hope to show that Southern Baptists have an enormous amount of variety in them" in terms of such factors as geography, size of churches, approaches to worship, and gender of leaders, Chafin said. "We are hoping there will be a wholesome awareness that we are all different yet united.

"We want to provide fellowship for people in support of theological education and home and foreign missions," he added. "We want to be an island of affirmation and encouragement to people who have not found that in recent years."

Baptists for Life

Southern Baptists for Life, an organization of Southern Baptists interested in restoring legal protection to the lives of the unborn, will be holding its third annual meeting on June 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel Ballroom in downtown St. Louis.

All persons interested in the Southern Baptist right-to-life effort are invited to attend.

State convention presidents

JACKSON, Miss. (BP) — Southern Baptist state convention presidents will meet at 5 p.m. June 15 at the Missouri Athletic Club in downtown St. Louis.

The meeting will include a meal, discussion of common problems and solutions within state Baptist conventions, and prayer time.

The group, which also meets during the February and September meetings of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville, began in 1985, when the presidents gathered for a prayer retreat to see what they could do to help bring about reconciliation within the SBC. From the prayer retreat came the idea for the SBC Peace Committee, charged with seeking solutions to the theological/political controversy within the convention.

SWBTS alumni

FORT WORTH, Texas — A reunion of alumni and friends of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will be held at the annual noon luncheon on June 17 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown St. Louis, Mo.

The program will include a report of the 1986-87 year, presentation of distinguished alumni awards, testimonies, and special music.

Tickets cost \$12.50 per person if ordered by mail or \$15 for unsold tickets purchased at the seminary booth in the convention exhibit area. Ticket orders should be sent to John Seelig at the seminary, P.O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX 76122, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Campus ministers

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Campus ministers from across the country will focus on the relationship between their spiritual journeys and their ministries to college students during the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers June 14-15 in St. Louis.

The meeting, which will be held in the Mayfair Hotel in downtown St. Louis, is expected to attract from 75 to 100 campus ministers.

Keynote speeches will be delivered by E. Glenn Hinson, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Scott Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C.; and Temp Sparkman, professor of religious education and church administration at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Another feature will be stories of individual spiritual journeys, by Fred Witly, Baptist Student Union director at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City; Milt Hughes, editor of *The Student* magazine, published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; and Raye Nell Dyer, BSU director at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

The conference also will include time for campus ministers from similar situations to compare their ministries and share ideas.

Directors of missions

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Southern Baptist associational missions directors will examine how their local organizations help churches reach America for Christ during their annual meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis.

The 26th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions, is expected to draw about 400 persons to the St. Louis Park Terrace Airport Hilton.

Six presentations by directors of missions, who will describe specific facets of their work, will include "Building Fellowship in the Association," Jim Joslin, Green County Baptist Association, Springfield, Mo.; "Building Pastor/Staff Relationships," Jim Smithwick, Columbia (S.C.) Metropolitan Baptist Association; "Ministering to Churches in Conflict," Richard Hubble, Saline Baptist Association, Harrisburg, Ill.; "Ministering to Churches in Transition," Nolan Johnston, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Association; "Involving Laity in Ministry," David Holden, Puget Sound Baptist Association, Federal Way, Wash.; and "Ministering to Ethnic," David F. D'Amico, Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

The conference will also include addresses by William M. Pinson Jr., executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas, two Bible studies by Robert Hamblin, vice-president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., and a presentation by Mildred McWhorter, director of the Baptist Mission Center in Houston, Texas.

Ministers' wives

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Susan Baker, wife of U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, will speak to the 31st annual Conference of Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon on June 16 in St. Louis.

The luncheon will be held at 12:15 p.m. in the ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel. Advance tickets will cost \$12 and may be ordered from Karen Hayner, 203 Whitehall Way, Cary, N.C. 27511. Each order should be accompanied by ticket payment and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Tickets purchased at the convention will cost \$14.

GGBTS alumni

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Tickets may now be ordered for the 1987 Alumni and Friends Luncheon of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., to be held June 17 at 1 p.m. in the Promenade Ballroom of the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis, Mo.

Advance tickets for the luncheon are \$14 each if ordered by May 29. Tickets purchased at the seminary exhibit during the SBC will be \$17 each. To order tickets in advance, send payment to the seminary's alumni office, Strawberry Point, Mill Valley, CA 94941-3197. Checks should be made payable to the Golden Gate Seminary Alumni Association.

William O. Crews, president of GGBTS, will be the featured speaker. In addition, the alumnus of the year and meritorious service award commendations will be presented.

Church musicians

ST. LOUIS (BP) — An array of sounds will greet musicians from across the Southern Baptist Convention when they convene June 13-15.

About 1,000 musicians are expected to participate in the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, to be held at First Baptist Church of Ellisville, Mo., a St. Louis suburb.

Harry L. Cowan, conference president and minister of music at First Baptist Church of New Orleans, La., explained that the organization's constituency necessitates the length of its three-day conference. Cowan said: "We try to minister to three groups — those who work in local churches, those who work for the denomination and those who work for educational institutions. We are trying to meet the needs of all of our musicians through these divisional meetings and through three simultaneous conferences on choral technique, organ and children's choirs."

Graded church choirs, orchestras, handbells, college, seminary and men's choirs, and clinicians will perform.

A key feature of the conference will be a panel discussion on "Perspectives on Music in the Church Worship Services." It will feature ministers of music from five Southern Baptist churches and will be moderated by William L. Hooper, dean of the Casebolt School of Fine Arts at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

The conference also will include mini-recitals by Cynthia Clawson, vocalist from Louisville, Ky.; Steve Amerson, vocalist from Van Nuys, Calif.; Greg Buchanan, harpist from Fresno, Calif.; Boyd Jones, organist from Louisville; and Warren Angell, pianist from Shawnee, Okla.

Two commissioned anthems by Vicki Hancock Wright, arranger and composer from Nashville, and John Purifoy, composer and arranger from Knoxville, will be premiered.

Participants also will hear non-musical presentations by Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, and Wade Rowatt, associate dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, who will speak on stress.

Charles S. Gatwood, retired music secretary for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Eugene F. Quinn, music secretary for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will receive honorary memberships in the organization. The late Thad Roberts Jr., former minister of music at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, will receive the W. Hines Sims Award.

Women In Ministry

ST. LOUIS (BP)— Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will focus on visions of healing in a broken world during the organization's fifth annual meeting in St. Louis June 13-14.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide "encouragement, because of our denominational situation and world situation in general. We think all Baptists need encouragement," said Irene Vinyard Bennett, public relations chairperson for the organization and minister of education and youth at Evans (Ga.) Baptist Church.

The opening morning session on June 13 will be an informal worship service led by Catherine Meeks, a lay preacher, and instructor and director of the Afro-American studies program at Mercer University in Atlanta.

In the afternoon conferees will participate in a variety of workgroups.

Workgroup topics are practice of peacemaking, reconciling the races, Jesus as the wounded healer, a theology of the household, constructive use of anger, poverty in America, global poverty, clergy couples, the "fire that refines," Bread for the World, prison ministry, parenting for peace and justice, healing for abused women, the status of women in the Southern Baptist Convention, a new humanity from a feminist perspective, Baptist heritage, women's contributions in healing, using vocation in the healing process, contemplative prayer, balance in life, strategies for meditation, and faith development.

A worship service Sunday morning, June 14, will be led by Lynda Weaver-Williams of Richmond, Va., former copastor with her husband, Sammy, of Goshen (Ky.) Baptist Church.

In addition, participants will eat an "agape meal" Saturday evening, featuring music by Darrell Adams, Christian songwriter and performing artist from Louisville, Ky.

A Saturday evening service will feature the Voices of Faith Choir from Faith Temple Baptist Church in Waterloo, Iowa; excerpts from the new musical, "Rubies," by gospel artist Cynthia Clawson and her husband, Ragan Courtney, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and composer of the musical; and testimony by Vernon Davis, associate professor of Christian theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and his daughter, Carol Davis-Younger of Paoli, Ind., describing how they related to her call to ministry.

Saturday meetings will be held at Kirkwood (Mo.) Baptist Church in suburban St. Louis, and the Sunday service will be held at the Clarion Hotel in downtown St. Louis.

For preregistration, send conference fees to Rebecca Turner Lawson, c/o Kirkwood Baptist Church, 211 N. Woodlawn Ave., Kirkwood, MO 63122. Registration checks should cover all applicable conference fees: the conference, \$7; Saturday lunch, \$3; and Saturday dinner, \$5.

MWBTS alumni

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Alumni and friends of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., will gather for the school's annual luncheon and meeting at the Days Inn Hotel in St. Louis, Mo., at 12:45 p.m. on June 17.

Luncheon tickets are available from the seminary's alumni office, 5001 North Oak Street Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118. Cost of the tickets is \$10 in advance and \$12 in the convention exhibit area.

SEBTS alumni

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — The annual luncheon and meeting of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis, Mo., at 1:00 p.m. on June 17.

Tickets may be obtained from the seminary's alumni office, Wake Forest, NC 27587. They are \$12 per person and \$8 for an accompanying spouse or child. Depending on advance sales, tickets may also be available at the seminary's exhibit at the convention.

Religious educators

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Religious educators from across the Southern Baptist Convention will focus on interpersonal relationships when they meet in St. Louis June 13-15.

The Southern Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting will be held at the Omni International Hotel.

"We're going to deal with interpersonal relationships. This is a time when a lot of people on church staffs are hurting," said Lloyd Householder, the association's president and assistant vice-president for communications at the SBC Sunday School Board in Nashville.

This issue will be the subject of two addresses by Wayne Oates, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Ky.: "Disorders of Character: A Challenge to Religious Educators," an elective seminar on June 13, and "Freely Give ... Freely Receive" on June 14.

Other major conference speakers will include:

— Calvin Miller, author and pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., who will speak on "Christ: Our Model as Educators."

— Pollster George Gallup Jr., president of the American Institute of Public Opinion in Princeton, N.J., who will address "Religion in Our Changing World."

— Reginald M. McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, will describe Directions 2000, the plan for implementing the denomination's missions and evangelism goals through the end of the century.

The conference also will feature panel discussions using the staffs urban and primarily rural churches.

Registration for the annual meeting is free to SBREA members. Registration for the premeeting seminar featuring Oates is \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members. Reservations for an evening banquet on June 15 are \$18.50 per person.

Preregistration for all events is necessary. To register, make checks payable to SBREA and write to SBREA, 8218 Alamo Rd., Brentwood, TN 37027.

NOBTS alumni

NEW ORLEANS, La. — The annual luncheon for alumni and friends of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary will be held at 12:45 p.m. June 17 at the Clarion Hotel in St. Louis, Mo.

Seminary President Landrum P. Leavell II will speak, and Joe McKeever, alumni association president, will be luncheon moderator.

Also, two persons will be honored as distinguished alumni.

Tickets are \$15 per person, \$12 if purchased by mail by June 1. For more information, contact the seminary's national alumni office, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

Southern seminary trustees affirm Glorieta commitments

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees overwhelmingly approved a report detailing the response of the seminary faculty to commitments set forth last fall by the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminary presidents.

Meeting in annual session on the seminary campus, April 27-29, trustees voted 51 to 1 with two abstentions to approve a lengthy report detailing specific plans for implementation of the Glorieta Statement.

Last fall, during a prayer retreat attended by the SBC Peace Committee and leaders of all national convention agencies, the presidents of the six seminaries issued a statement which has come to be known as the Glorieta Statement and which set forth specific commitments related to resolving the crisis in the denomination.

The statement says Christianity is supernatural, the Bible is "not errant in any area of reality," and pledges to address "legitimate concerns" in the convention.

It commits the seminaries to fairness and balance in teaching and selection of faculty, compliance by faculty members to the seminaries' professional statements, and continued emphasis on spiritual growth, evangelism, and missions on the seminary campuses.

Another commitment was to hold a series of three conferences on Biblical inerrancy, Biblical interpretation, and Biblical imperatives. The first was held May 4-7 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Southern's report included a list of conservative scholars who have been invited to the campus as guest lecturers and visiting professors. "Conservative evangelical scholars have not been represented as fully as they should have, and we're moving to correct that imbalance," President Roy L. Honeycutt said.

In response to a question about adding full-time faculty members, Honeycutt emphasized that as positions become available the seminary "will be adding qualified scholars from differing perspectives."

Honeycutt also assured trustees the administration will continue to require all faculty to teach according to the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's 1858 statement of faith which is included in the school's charter and is signed by all faculty. "I have made it clear to the faculty that we will not support you if you deviate from the abstract," he said.

In his report to the trustees, Honeycutt cited the "dynamic" spirit of renewal and spiritual growth on the campus illustrated by events such as the seminary's fall revival and week-long World Missions Conference. At the close of the missions conference, more than 100 students made public commitments to missions service.

Trustees also addressed criticisms of public statements by two members of the faculty. They unanimously approved a report from the board's academic personnel committee dealing with charges against ethics professor Paul Simmons for an article on abortion. In the article, written for a Baptist state paper, Simmons had expressed opposition to the proposed Human Life Amendment to the Constitution. After the article, appeared several individuals wrote Honeycutt demanding that Simmons be fired.

After long discussions, the committee adopted a statement that while the members were "not in unanimous accord with Dr. Simmons' position on abortion as reflected in the article, we do unanimously concur with President Honeycutt that there are no grounds for dismissal of Dr. Simmons."

During the full board meeting, trustees voted to add a sentence that the board "expresses its concern with Dr. Simmons' position and requests the president to encourage him to moderate his public involvement in this issue."

In the closing miscellaneous business session, trustees also debated at length a motion from the floor expressing disapproval of recent comments by church history professor E. Glenn Hinson. In an address at Catholic University in Washington, Hinson declared the opposing sides in the denominational controversy are "hopelessly polarized" and that division is now the best course.

After a vote to take a secret ballot was defeated overwhelmingly, trustees voted 25 to 22 against the motion.

In other actions, trustees:

— Approved preliminary plans and cost estimates for construction of a campus center complex. The seminary will wait until all funds are either in hand or firmly committed before breaking ground on the \$12.6-million project, probably in the fall of 1988. The complex will include sports and recreational facilities, bookstore, cafeteria and banquet facilities, offices, conference rooms, and a prayer chapel.

— Adopted a 1987-88 operating budget of nearly \$13.6-million and a capital budget of \$400,000.

— Adopted a 3 percent salary scale increase for faculty and administrative staff and authorized the administration to grant a one-time bonus equal to one step on the salary scale to faculty and administrative staff by taking funds from contingency reserves.

— Adopted a resolution reaffirming the board's "commitment to peace and reconciliation within the Southern Baptist Convention" and pledging its "continued prayers for the Peace Committee."

— Received copies of "Pathway to Peace," a one-page statement prepared by the Student Government Association in response to the crisis in the denomination. The appeal to peace and reconciliation was signed by hundreds of students during the week before the trustee meeting.

University of Richmond gets \$20-million gift

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The University of Richmond will receive a gift of \$20-million to establish a center for leadership studies.

The gift, the second-largest in the school's history, will be presented in two stages. Mr. and Mrs. Roger S. Jepson Jr. of Elmhurst, Ill., will provide \$5-million this summer to go toward construction of a 65,000-square-foot building to house the proposed leadership studies center.

The Jepsens and an anonymous donor will provide an additional \$15-million when the studies program has been created and implemented.

Jepson, a University of Richmond graduate, is chairman and chief executive officer of the Jepson Corp.

Singapore communications post lures Jim Newton from HMB

ATLANTA (BP)— Jim Newton, long-time writer and editor for the Baptist Press, has been named director of communications for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.

Newton, director of news and information services for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be moving to Singapore in July to head communications for the broadly-based interdenominational, international committee.

For the past two years, Newton, 51, has served as senior communications consultant to the Lausanne Committee, developing a comprehensive international communications program leading up to an international congress the committee will hold in Singapore in 1989.

His appointment was announced in Charlotte, N. C., by Thomas Wang, international director for the Lausanne Committee. At almost the same time, the Lausanne Committee announced a decision to move the site of its 1989 International Congress on World Evangelization from Lausanne, Switzerland, to Singapore, in an effort to save an estimated \$3-million in costs.

Last July, Evangelist Billy Graham, honorary chairman of the Lausanne Committee, had announced the 1989 congress would be held at the same location of the 1974 international congress which gave birth to the Lausanne Committee and the movement it represents. Leighton Ford of Charlotte, Graham's brother-in-law, is chairman of the 75-member committee. The international headquarters will be moving in June from Charlotte to Singapore.



Newton

Newton had served for seven months in 1983 as news director for Graham's International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam, on special leave from the Home Mission Board.

In 1986, Newton was manager of the news room for the second such conference, called Amsterdam 86. Newton was also on the press staff for the first World Congress on Evangelism sponsored by Graham in Berlin, Germany, in 1966.

For the past 28 years, Newton has worked in various communications roles for the SBC Home Mission Board, the SBC Brotherhood Commission, the SBC Executive Committee, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

He has been a staff writer and editor for Baptist Press bureaus in Dallas, Memphis, and Atlanta, and was for eight years assistant director of the Baptist Press in Nashville, 1965-73.

Before going to the Home Mission Board in 1980, Newton was editor of World Mission Journal published by the Brotherhood Commission for eight years. He was press representative in Texas Baptists' public relations office from 1959-65.

Newton and his wife, the former Patricia Tullos of Clinton, Miss., plan to purchase a home in Clinton, where Mrs. Newton's family and their two daughters live. Mrs. Newton, a secretary in the church music department for the Georgia Baptist Convention, is a former editorial assistant for the Baptist Record in Mississippi.



VBS WORKER FOR 30 YEARS — Grace Hawkins, pictured with Roy Miller (left) and Bennie Creel (right), was presented a certificate of recognition by Miller, representing the Sunday School department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, for her 30 years as Vacation Bible School director in Sweetwater Baptist Association. Over 2,863 professions of faith have been recorded during that time, according to Creel, director of missions for the association.

Belmont graduates 233 students

NASHVILLE — Phillip A. Cooley and Betty L. Siegel addressed the 233 graduating seniors during spring baccalaureate and commencement exercises at Belmont College May 9.

Cooley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gallatin, during the baccalaureate address, said parents, educators, and friends have all dared to consider themselves "partners with God in (the) great equipping mission" of preparing the graduates to "journey forward in life." Siegel, president of Kennesaw College

in Marietta, Ga., who spoke during commencement exercises, warned the graduates they were about to embark on an "odyssey of change." She urged them to "believe your profession matters," have "a real love for lifelong learning," "have a strong belief in family," and "give something back."

Four Baptists received commencement awards. Joy Suzanne Smith of Nashville won two of the four awards.

Smith, one of Belmont's first three Presidential Scholars, graduated at the top of her class with a 4.0 grade-point average to win the J. Frank Jarman Award for academic achievement. She became the first summa cum laude graduate to also receive the Kenneth B. Sidwell Sr. Award for "best all-around student." Her father, Richard Smith, is pastor of Nashville's Glendale Baptist Church.

Randal Edward Fry of Chattanooga, received the Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Senior as selected by the senior class. He is a member of Concord Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

Laura Ellen Peitso, of Dalton, Ga., received the Byrn Memorial Award given each year to a female student who has demonstrated exemplary service and loyalty to Belmont.

Among the honor graduates was Presidential Scholar, Laurie May of Chattanooga. Her father, Herman May, is minister of music at Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

M. Streeter to assist C-N campus minister

JEFFERSON CITY — Montrose A. Streeter has been promoted to the position of associate campus minister at Carson-Newman College, effective June 1. Streeter will assist C-N Campus Minister Jim Wilson in programming and also will be involved in minority planning.

A native of Greenville, N.C., Streeter came to Carson-Newman in the fall of 1986 to serve as campus ministries intern. He has been active in that position in involving minority students in the work of campus ministries and in other college activities. The BSU Gospel Choir was organized under his leadership.

Streeter is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Lees-McRae College. He also attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Paul Hall accepts associational role

Paul Hall, retired associate director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention missions department, was elected interim director of missions of Lawrence County Association of Baptists at the biannual meeting April 13.

Frank Proffitt, former director of missions, moved to a similar role in Sevier County Baptist Association, Dec. 8, 1986.

Hall, who began serving May 4, retired from the TBC Jan. 30.

The associational meeting was held at O.K. Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg.

Williams accepts ministry with Oak Grove church

Kent Williams began serving as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Covington, on May 3.

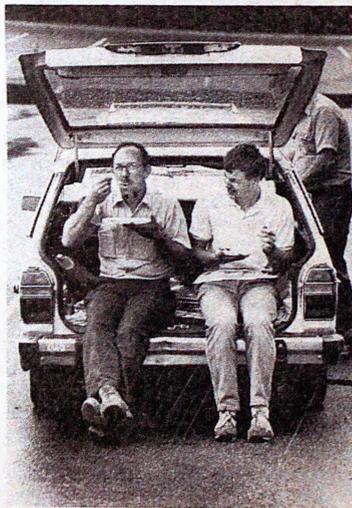
Coming to Covington from First Baptist Church, Cotton Plant, Ark., previous pastorates also include Antoine Baptist Church, Antoine, Ark.; and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Howell, Ark. He also served as interim pastor of Fisher Baptist Church, Fisher, Ark.

Williams is a graduate of Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Volunteers prepare for disasters

GERMANTOWN — Twenty west Tennesseans attended regional disaster relief training in Germantown, as a part of the five meetings being conducted across that state in which 57 persons have been trained. The final meeting will be at First Baptist Church in Dickson May 30.

The May 2 certification training at Germantown Baptist Church was led by Robert L. Armour, director of missions for Beulah Baptist Association, and sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Conven-



NO DISASTER, JUST RAIN — John Cole (left) and his son, Alan, from Scenic Hills Baptist Church in Memphis found protection from the rain while eating a meal prepared by the state disaster relief unit during training in Germantown.

tion Brotherhood department. It involves both men and women volunteers.

"I've watched kids so hungry they'd just gobble the food up," said Armour, who noted that the ministry meets physical and spiritual needs.

He has responded to disasters throughout the Southeast and Midwest and reported that it takes a special person to minister through disaster relief, because one must be prepared psychologically, socially, physically, and spiritually.

Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts typically center on food preparation. Seventeen mobile feeding units are operated by state Brotherhood departments throughout the country.

The Tennessee disaster relief mobile unit was equipped in 1979. The main unit is capable of preparing over 5,000 meals per day. Additional feeding units are in Crossville, Oak Ridge, and Jamestown.

The ministry is funded partially by the Golden State Missions Offering.

Sullivan Baptists call Jesse Wooten as pastor

Jesse Wooten began his pastorate with Sullivan Baptist Church in Kingsport April 5.

Previous church pastorates include Biltmore Baptist Church, Elizabethton; Reservoir Road Baptist Church, Kingsport; Calvary Baptist Church, Palatka, Fla.; and First Baptist Church, Deleon Springs, Fla.

Denominational service includes serving as vice-moderator for Seminole Association in Deleon, Fla., and as evangelism chairman for St. Johns River Association in Palatka, Fla.

Wooten is a native of Wilder, Va.

Increased food supply slows spread of hunger worldwide

By Tim Fields

WASHINGTON (BP) — The worldwide food supply has increased for the second consecutive year due to favorable weather, expanded planting, price incentives, availability of fertilizer, and use of high-yielded plants, according to a new United Nations report.

The latest issue of Food Outlook, a publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reported "the 1986 cereal output is a record" and "cereal stocks will rise sharply in 1986-87 for the third consecutive year."

Contributing to the increased production of cereals is a 2 percent rise in the aggregate output in developing countries, where poverty and hunger are the greatest. Much of the increased productivity is in Asia and Africa.

"The increased production for the second successive year in Africa represents a sharp turn away from the famine conditions of 1984-85," said Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Nine of the Sahelian countries which suffered profoundly from the hunger crisis are expected to have a 4 percent increase over last year's record harvest," Parham noted.

According to the report, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali are among the countries forecast to reach new peaks in production. Ethiopia's crop yields are projected to be 40 percent better than in 1984 and 1985 but still below pre-drought levels. Cereal output in Sudan is anticipated to exceed the 1986 record, while Malawi and Zimbabwe are producing enough crops for export.

In Asia, the picture also is good. Rice production in both China and Bangladesh is expected to increase, while India's rice crop is anticipated to fall about 5 percent from the record level in 1985. Turkey and

Pakistan have experienced higher output in coarse grains.

Amidst the good news, the FAO offered a cautious word that food harvests are threatened in Africa and parts of Asia by infestations of locusts and grasshoppers. Swarms of locusts have been reported in Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, and western Saudi Arabia. If the anticipated heavy breeding in the spring is not controlled, the FAO warned, the swarms of locusts could spread into the Arabia peninsula, south of the Horn of Africa and West Africa.

Other threats to food production include civil strife in Angola and Mozambique and insufficient rains in Botswana and Lesotho. An estimated 3.5-million people in Mozambique, one-fourth of the population, now need food relief.

"Despite the increased food supply," Parham said, "an estimated 730-million people around the world remain hungry each day. Increased productivity does not necessarily mean increased availability. People are malnourished in large measure because they are poor. And one of the best ways to alleviate hunger is to help poor people become self-reliant."

Thieves strike Baptist House

JERUSALEM (BP) — Thieves stole a 1,300-pound safe containing about \$1,200 in cash and checks in late April from Baptist House, a ministry to Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

Southern Baptist representative John Anthony, director of the 62-year-old institution, said the intruders apparently broke through one door and used a key to open another in order to obtain access to the safe.

A witness who saw a truck being loaded about 8:15 p.m. April 28 outside Baptist House has submitted a description of the vehicle to police.

An employee of the institution was questioned by police but released the next day.

Anthony said the ministry has suffered four petty thefts already this year, but added, "These were professionals."

An unusually large amount of money had accumulated because the Baptist House secretary had been out a few days and banking hours had been restricted because of Israeli holidays. Most of the money stolen belonged to the Narkis Street Baptist Church, which was burned by arsonists in October 1982. Baptist House and the church, which now meets in a tent-like structure, are located on the same property.

Concord church ordains new pastor, Bryan Caves

Concord Baptist Church in Mohawk ordained their new pastor, Bryan K. Caves on April 26.

Caves began his ministry with the church March 4. This is his first pastorate.

Glenn Toomey, director of missions for Nolachucky Baptist Association, participated in the ordination service.

A native of Long Beach, Calif., Caves attended California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif. He is presently attending Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

HMB predicts 175,000 baptisms during 1990 simultaneous revival

ATLANTA (BP) — Evangelism leaders of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board are optimistic that more than a third of the denomination's baptisms for 1990 can be reaped from national simultaneous revivals scheduled for that year.

About 175,000 baptisms, or 35 percent of the denomination's projected 500,000 baptisms, are predicted to come from the revivals, said Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the board.

That would be an increase from the 103,000 conversions reported in the 1986 Good News America simultaneous revivals, which were 28 percent of the denomination's total of 364,000 baptisms. The 1986 figure ended a four-year decline in baptisms that had seen the totals steadily erode from a high of 411,000 in 1982.

Tied to the 1990 goals will be the first large-scale evangelistic effort among American ethnics and the launching of 1,000 new churches in 250 targeted areas of the nation.

Leaders and editors from the 17 Southern Baptist ethnic fellowships recently took the lead in pledging their support for the revivals. As a result of their commitment, a growing network of ethnic newspapers will be used for the first time in uniting the fellowships around Southern Baptist objectives of evangelizing the nation for Christ.

In announcing the goals, Harris called for greater involvement among Baptist state conventions, associations, and churches to make the second set of national revivals the most far-reaching in the denomination's history.

Set for March 18 through April 29, 1990, the evangelistic emphasis will be promoted as "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You." The theme recently was modified from

"Here's Hope. God Cares for You" to present a more direct evangelistic appeal with a Christian flavor.

Some board members had questioned the effectiveness of the campaign if the word "Jesus" were left out and the campaign weakened, since many cults are using the word "God" in a generic sense. Harris explained. The modification will distinguish the meetings as "distinctly Christian in nature," he added.

Nevada will serve as pilot for the meetings, when statewide simultaneous revivals are launched prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas in 1989. On a national scale the same year, 100 summer missionaries and 100 interns and PRAXIS leaders will be targeted for service in strategic areas of the nation to provide groundwork for the upcoming revivals, Harris said. PRAXIS is a partnership venture of the Home Mission Board and Southern Baptist seminaries that provides students with 10 weeks of supervised church-starting experience with seminary credit.

A five-year goal of training 1-million Sunday School workers in evangelism is expected to be reached by the revival date, which also will utilize 50 church planter apprentices, 100 interns and PRAXIS leaders, 500 retired ministers, and 150 Mission Service Corps pastoral leaders in the evangelistic thrust and follow-up, Harris said.

When the revivals are launched on May 18, 1990, Southern Baptists — armed with up to 15-million complimentary copies of the New Testament — will be involved in the largest attempt to evangelize the nation in their 145-year history. Harris added.

HMB study shows 200 churches reported 11 percent of baptisms

ATLANTA (BP) — Eleven percent of Southern Baptist baptisms in 1985 were posted by 200 large evangelistic churches which averaged 100 or more baptisms for the year, a study from the research division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board shows.

The 200 churches baptized 38,000 individuals during the 1984-85 church year, up 2,000 or 5.3 percent, while the denomination total declined from 372,000 to 351,000, a drop of 5.6 percent. Although they represent only one-half of one percent of all SBC congregations, the churches reported enough baptisms to equal the addition of 100 average size SBC churches to the denomination.

The statistics were compiled from the 1985 Uniform Church Letter and reflect the most recent church-by-church breakdown on baptisms, said Orrin Morris, director of the HMB's research division.

While the churches "should be applauded for their outstanding outreach," Morris was quick to caution smaller congregations from setting unrealistic baptism goals to mimic the success of these churches.

"These are a metropolitan phenomenon and are not likely to occur unless they are located in the vicinity of a fast growing Sunbelt city," he warned. "There are a dozen cities that account for 86 of the 200 churches. The largest concentrations are found in the Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston areas with 17 each while Tulsa (Okla.) and Atlanta tied for second with eight each."

The aggressive evangelism of the large churches was reflected in significant gains in resident members, Morris said. The 200 churches increased 5.1 percent while all other churches averaged less than 1 percent increase. A total of 28,000 of the 82,000 SBC gain in resident members was reported by the 200 churches.

The large churches in the study averaged more than 4,000 total members with 3,000 resident members and 2,800 enrolled in Sunday School. The congregations were generally 10 times larger and baptized 20 times more persons than the average SBC church.

Morris observed that the most successful of the churches were located in small and medium-sized cities within metropolitan areas that lie beyond the central city suburbs. The inner city churches with strong evangelistic outreach had to work "twice as hard as suburban counterparts to overcome the out-migration of the population."

Tennessee couples work in Namibia

NAMIBIA, Africa — On Feb. 15, a church was started with the help of two Tennessee couples in this country, which has 1-million people, eight Southern Baptist missionaries, 22 Baptist congregations, and 750 Baptists reported in 1986.

Missionary Carlos Owens reported that 23 people met at the home of Adney and Velma Cross in Ongwediva. The Crosses are from Clarksville. Owens and his wife, Myrtice, who are church development advisers for the area, also attended the meeting with Agastino Khumalo, a pastor. The Owens and Khumalo live in Tsumeb, about 200 miles south of Ongwediva. Owens is from Henry County in Tennessee.

Owens added that a Baptist man, Jesiah Shiwongo, who had recently retired from his work in a copper mine in Tsumeb and moved to his farm not too far from Ongwediva, also attended the meeting with his family.

"Those present showed great enthusiasm and excitement and committed themselves to meeting regularly and to the establishing of Baptist churches in the area," noted Owens.

The Crosses have served for two years. The Owenses just completed their furlough spent in the missionary house of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, and have served 30 years as foreign missionaries.

Baptist and Reflector brings you the news first

Mission board leaders report growth in Cuba

ATLANTA (BP)— Two executives of the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission boards returned recently from a four-day visit to Cuba, saying they were encouraged by the growth and stability of Baptist churches there.

It was the first time that representatives of both Southern Baptist Convention mission boards have visited Baptist leaders in Cuba on a jointly sponsored trip.

Oscar Romo, director of the language missions division for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and Don Kammerdiener, vice-president for the Americas at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., were enthusiastic about the reception and response they received in Cuba.

Romo said the visit of Foreign and Home Mission Board representatives marks the beginning of a new cooperative relationship between the two boards and Baptists in Cuba.

Historically, relationships with the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba and Southern Baptists have been through the Home Mission Board. Until 1965, the Home Mission Board supported missionaries in Cuba, and it has maintained relationships in Cuba through the Baptist World Alliance after the missionaries left the country. American Baptists have maintained relationships with the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention.

Romo noted the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba reported 256 baptisms last year. Total membership in the 102 churches affiliated with the convention was reported at 6,413.

Kammerdiener, who has travelled extensively in other Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, said he was impressed with the high level of commitment, education, and training of the Cuban Baptist pastors.

There are 65 full-time Baptist pastors in Cuba serving the 102 churches, Romo said. Most of them have been trained at the Baptist seminary in Havana. Nine full-time students currently are enrolled in the seminary, compared to three full-time students five years ago.

Pastors and churches are creative in dealing realistically with their local context, Kammerdiener said. Many of the programs of the churches are patterned after programs in the Southern Baptist

Convention during the 1950s, he noted.

Kammerdiener commended the relationship that the Home Mission Board has cultivated with Cuban Baptists historically, and especially the leadership that Romo has given in maintaining these relations since 1961.

When the two Baptist leaders arrived in Havana, a crowd of Baptists, including leaders of the convention, welcomed them at the airport.

During the four-day visit, Romo and Kammerdiener met with the Executive Committee and Executive Board of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba and with many of the pastors. They also visited several churches, the seminary, and the home for the elderly.

Romo met privately with Jose Filipe Carneado, minister of cultural affairs for the Cuban government who has coordinated relationships with the churches in Cuba for more than 20 years. "We sat down and drank coffee together like old friends and talked about ways we could improve relations and be of mutual benefit," Romo said.

Romo and Kammerdiener also were honored at a dinner hosted by Hiram Fuentes and Arturo Garcia, Carneado's representatives who have been assigned responsibility for dealing with the churches in Cuba.

The visit marked the beginning of a new era in improved relationships between Southern Baptists and Baptists in Cuba, Romo and Kammerdiener said.

'Roof-less' church meets

RUNDU, Namibia — After a windstorm during rainy season destroyed the roof of Kaisosi Baptist Church in Rundu, Namibia (formerly South West Africa), repair work started immediately. Meanwhile, hundreds of worshippers continue to meet outside under large trees near the church building for Sunday worship when it is not raining.

The building was constructed by the Kaisosi people, who made the bricks themselves. The Baptist Association of Namibia and Baptist missionaries in that country helped purchase materials for the roof. The church's pastor, Moses Tololi, last year became the first Baptist pastor to be ordained in Namibia.



SWBTS TENNESSEE CLUB OFFICERS — The newly-elected officers of the Tennessee Club at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary include (from left to right): Steve Whipple, treasurer, from Cleveland; Charlie Elrod, secretary, from Cleveland; James Eaves, faculty advisor; David Sheddan, president, from Knoxville; and Robbie Witt, vice-president, from Knoxville.

Baptists explore ways to help in Mozambique hunger crisis

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— Southern Baptists are preparing to provide food to the southern African nation of Mozambique to help stem mass starvation which some experts predict will equal or surpass that experienced in recent years in Ethiopia.

The Foreign Mission Board's relief planner, John Cheyne, expects the board will release up to \$1-million, much of it for food distribution, by year's end. The need is expected to intensify as rebel troops fighting in rural Mozambique block efforts by the government to rebound from a famine two years ago.

Cheyne received a report April 30 by phone from John Faulkner, the board's director for Eastern and Southern Africa that up to 2-million people could die even if relief equal to that provided in Ethiopia were begun immediately. At least 1-million people are estimated to be inaccessible, surrounded by fighting.

Missionaries who plan relief in Mozambique and five bordering nations will meet with Cheyne and other board officials in Harare, Zimbabwe June 25-30, to decide how they will feed some of the 4.5-million Mozambicans the United Nations estimates are facing starvation.

Until then the missionaries will survey border areas of their countries to determine how to help refugees streaming into neighboring Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, and Swaziland, Cheyne said. The organization of missionaries in each country has access to \$5,000 for immediate relief work.

Cheyne said he expects the June meeting to produce longer range plans aimed at creating a strategy for the area as a whole. He said he does not know whether instability within the country will permit Southern Baptists to establish a network of feeding stations with medical assistance like those in Ethiopia.

Mozambique has been troubled by political unrest and austere economic conditions for some time, and Southern Baptists have helped supply relief to Mozambicans as they have been able. In one instance, missionaries and an interracial group of South Africans traversed a dangerous area with a convoy of trucks to deliver 15 tons of food and supplies to needy people. The group also did evangelistic work.

The Mozambique Baptist Convention

invited Southern Baptists to re-enter the country in 1982. Missionaries withdrew in 1975 after anti-American sentiment in the newly independent Marxist nation made their work practically impossible.

James Brock, a former Alabama pastor, and his wife, Brenda, arrived last October to begin church development, evangelism, and leadership training among the convention's nine churches and 32 missions. The Brocks are the only Southern Baptist missionaries in the country.

Smith addresses C-N graduates

JEFFERSON CITY — "The future is yours; I urge you to use it wisely," Charles E. Smith told graduating seniors of the class of 1987 at Carson-Newman College.

Smith, commissioner of education for the state of Tennessee, delivered the commencement address at the college's 136th graduating ceremony May 8.

"Your task is greater than those who have gone before you," Smith said in discussing the rapidity of change in the modern world. "Your association with the learning process must not end with tonight's graduation," he said.

Carson-Newman President Cordell Maddox presented diplomas to 205 graduates.

This year's James T. Warren Award, which is presented to the graduating senior with the highest academic average, was shared by Linda D. Farah, an accounting and business data processing major from Chattanooga, and Shelley J. Patterson, a biology major from Hixon. Both Farah and Patterson finished their undergraduate careers with perfect 4.0 averages.

S. Mark Turner, a political science major from Gloucester, Va., who served as president of the Student Government Association, received the W. D. Hudgins Memorial Leadership Award.

Earlier in the day, Patricia L. Snowden, a mathematics major from Morristown, and F. Edward Phillips, a biology major from Knoxville, were named recipients of the Edward Glover Senior-Alumni Award.



WORLD WALKERS — The Clarence Stewart Royal Ambassador Crusader Chapter of First Baptist Church, Pulaski, raised \$412.45 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Crusaders sought pledges for the distance walked during their World Walk for Home Missions at Davy Crockett state park in Lawrenceburg.

Michael Smith accepts role as editor of new commentary

NASHVILLE (BP) — The general editor for a new multi-volume commentary to be published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman division will be Michael A. Smith, chief editor of general religious books in the Broadman products department.

Smith will oversee editing of the commentary with the first volume expected to be released in 1991, said James W. Clark, senior vice-president for publishing and distribution.

Smith an employee of the board since 1985, holds the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has been pastor of four churches, including Bellevue Baptist Church in Nashville, from 1983-1985.

The commentary, which was approved in February by the board's trustees, will use writers who are Biblical inerrantists.

The "Baptist Faith and Message" will be the doctrinal guideline for editing the commentary, as it is for all other Broadman books, Clark said. The "Chicago

Statement on Biblical Inerrancy" developed by the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy will be the guideline for defining inerrancy, he added.

"Several Broadman officials held a very productive meeting in mid-February with SBC President Adrian Rogers to discuss the project," Clark said. "The group agreed that the new commentary would include the Scripture text, that it should be a scholarly commentary, and that it could be a significant tool for many Southern Baptists."

The first volume of the commentary should be released in time for the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention meeting and release of the final volume is planned by 1995 or earlier if possible, Clark said.

A meeting with an informal, pre-advisory group will be held in May, he said. Participants in this meeting will suggest people to serve as contributing editors "who will give more specific counsel concerning the shape the commentary will take."

"Screening and selection of writers should begin by this summer," Clark said. "Broadman is already pulling together the various groups needed to make this project a worthy success. No stone will be left unturned in our efforts to produce a commentary of which Southern Baptists can be justifiably proud."

The new commentary will be the third multi-volume commentary set available from Broadman. Others are the "Broadman Bible Commentary" and the "Layman's Bible Book Commentary."



PLANNING COMMENTARY — James Clark (left), senior vice-president for publishing and distribution at the Sunday School Board, talks with Michael A. Smith, who will be the general editor for a new multi-volume Bible commentary to be published by the board.

Togo effort reaps 820 new converts

LOME, Togo (BP) — A 70-year-old chief, almost blind and knowing he was putting his life in danger because of his decision, came to a Christian church for the first time in his life last March to profess a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Another chief spoke of how difficult it is to be a Christian and a chief in Togo requested prayer for decisions he must make as a Christian chief.

Two more chiefs and two sub-chiefs also were among 820 people who became Christians in March during the Togo All-Country Evangelism effort. Since the Baptist emphasis in the country in western Africa started in February, 1,460 conversions have been recorded.

The March effort concentrated on the Upper Ogo region of Togo, the site of the North Carolina Baptist Convention/Togo Baptist Partnership Development Project. The project started in 1984 and has provided water, road access, health services, literacy training, better farming techniques, and saturation evangelism in the area.

Eight evangelistic teams from North Carolina held services in 40 villages. The Americans' words sometimes were translated into three languages so everyone present could understand. Team members preached, taught, witnessed for Christ, sang, played instruments, and even juggled and arm-wrestled as they introduced Togolese to Jesus.

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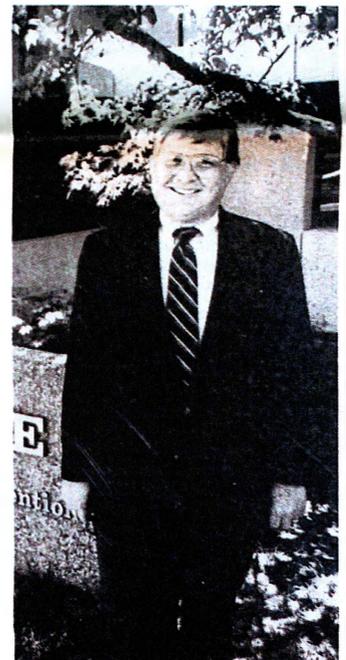
I am a layman and have been privileged to serve as chairman of the Layman's Pastor/Staff Compensation Study Committee for nearly 10 years. You need to know that there are still many people who give their entire lives to the ministry of the church and reach the end of their active years with poverty level retirement income. You laymen in the local church can do something about this by seeing that your church is signed up for the Expanded Church Annuity Plan.

Now you know more about what to do. Be a concerned layperson and see that your church and your staff take advantage of this expanded program.

For free advice and assistance, contact the Protection Plans Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027 — 615-373-2255.

Sincerely,

Jack Knox



Jack Knox is president of Q. S. Storage & Transfer Company, Agents for North American Van Lines. He is a graduate of Memphis State University; a deacon and chairman of the finance committee at Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown; past chairman of trustees for the Brotherhood Commission; and secretary for the National Fellowship of Baptist Men.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES
Lesson for May 24

Praise the Lord of heaven

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

Basic Passage: Psalms 103; 115
Focal Passages: Psalms 103:1-18; 115:1-3

With this week's lesson we begin a new unit of study. We begin a look at the song-book of Judaism and Christianity. Because the Book of Psalms is so vast, we will only be doing an overview of Psalms 101-150.

As with any book of songs about man's relationship with God, we will see that our emotions are constantly stirred. We shall also see that we cannot even read these words without a desire to fall on our knees in worship of God.



Nail

God is merciful

Most of you who have been a Christian for any length of time will remember the opening verses of Psalm 103. I have been in worship services where those words were quoted and people began to shout praise to God. These words are from the heart of one who has known the mercy of God in his own life. They strike a responsive chord in the life of all who have trusted God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

These verses read like a testimony meeting in which everyone joins in with a word about the work of God in his own life. Having been in such meetings, I can testify that there is no greater witness to a lost world than the thankful heart of a believer. What is our witness anyway if it is not the testimony of what God in His mercy has done in our lives?

We must also understand something further about the mercy of God. His mercy does not mean that He is indulgent. Verses 8 and 9 remind us that, though He is slow to anger, He will not allow us to continue in sin without judgment. The writer states that even His judgment is tempered with mercy (vv. 10-12).

God's mercy is unending

The psalmist pictures the mercy of God in terms of a father dealing with his little children. There is a difference in the way

you punish a small child and the way you would punish a nearly grown son or daughter. God is pictured as understanding our weaknesses. He is even shown to be constant in His mercy in spite of our flowering of faith one moment and fading the next.

In light of this mercy, what can we as His creatures do? The writer calls on the angels to "bless the Lord." They abide with Him at all times and constantly obey His word. They have never known sin and they still praise the Lord. Then we mortals are called upon to "bless the Lord." We have lived in sin from the beginning, but still have the privilege of knowing His presence and so must praise Him.

Nothing can substitute for God

In some of the most satirical mockery outside the prophecy of Isaiah, the psalmist shows how idols compare with God (115:1-11). Other nations around Israel seem to have derided Israel for not having a God Who could be seen. All others had such gods to worship. At times it was a strong temptation to make a representation of God to bolster their faith and to make them more like the other nations. But God would not have it.

Even believers of today seem to want something other than God Who is Spirit. Many continue to want to put their emphasis on the things which aid in worship. They increasingly depend on these things rather than upon God.

In some groups this may be a place of worship, a leader of worship, or sometimes even the book of worship, the Bible. These things or persons may point us to God; but they must never be allowed to substitute for God Who is Spirit. After all, those are created things and will pass away. Only God abides forever.

The blessing of following God

God can and should be followed because of Who He is. However, God has done so many things for us to add to our reasons for following Him. Perhaps the greatest statement of His blessings toward us is contained in verse 12. It says that "the Lord has been mindful of us."

What a tremendous statement in such brief words! Yet it sums up God's mercy. We have always been in His mind. No matter how far we have wandered, He has not forgotten us and our welfare.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES
Lesson for May 24

Agony over the unfaithful

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

Basic Passage: Hosea 10:1 to 11:11
Focal Passage: Hosea 11:1-9

When I was a teen-ager, a South American Baptist leader on his way to the Baptist World Alliance in Europe, came to Jackson to see my father. I asked the leader if his parents were Southern Baptists. He said when he became a Christian and joined a Southern Baptist church his parents forbade him to see them again. Weeping, he said his family did not even allow him to attend the family's funerals.



Kendall

Then he said, "But when I realized that I was a lost sinner, the Father in heaven came running to me, forgiving me of my sins. In my life, the Father in heaven took the place of my parents and I have never been sorry for my decision." How many Christians seriously consider the inexhaustible love of God, as a Father, for each one of us?

The prophet Hosea revealed the hurt of the Father over the sin and rejection of His children. God was hurt deeply because He loved deeply. Many never consider that God suffers.

We are aware of heartbreak on earth. But there is also heartbreak in heaven. God is a person. He experiences heartache and suffering. No person fully knows God unless that person realizes that God suffers.

Why does God suffer? People break the heart of God. People who are not Christians are eternally lost. Imagine the pain in God's heart over a person He created being lost forever.

Unfaithful Christians also cause God pain. What unmet expectations of Israel caused Him so much pain? God is hurt

when a Christian neglects the Bible. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (4:6). Christians break the heart of God when they neglect the church, "a vulture is over the house of the Lord" (8:1). Empty pews and filled stadiums cause God to suffer. Breaking God's laws creates anguish in God's heart. When we are indifferent in witnessing to the lost and serving in ministry, we break God's heart.

God's abiding love (11:1-7)

Hosea 11 is one of the greatest chapters in the Bible.

God reflected on His past relationship with Israel. The people of Israel were the children of God. Just as God chose us, God came to a group of nobodies, who were slaves and sinners, and elected to make them His children. God carried Israel as tenderly as a parent carries a child, and taught His people to walk on their journey in becoming a nation. He molded them as a parent would a child. The Lord saved His children. The Exodus was God's mighty act of deliverance of Israel from slavery.

Israel's reaction to God's love was ingratitude. Israel worshiped idols. Verse 3 reveals God's heartbreak because of Israel's disloyalty and disobedience.

However, God's love includes discipline. A worse slavery than the one in Egypt awaited Israel because God's people refused to repent and turn to Him. Samaria, the capital city of Israel, would be sacked by the Assyrians and the people carried into exile.

The dilemma of God (11:8-11)

Verse 8 is one of the most poignant verses ever written - "How shall I give thee up, Ephriam?"

What could God do? His love made it impossible for Him to permanently abandon or destroy His people, even as the prophet Hosea could not abandon his unfaithful wife. Admah and Zeboim were cities that were destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). God did not want Israel to suffer the same fate as these cities. God's nature was to forgive, but His righteousness demanded that sin be punished. As Hosea purchased Gomer from slavery, God would deliver Israel from foreign slavery.

A friend of mine was asked to conduct a funeral for a wife who had left her husband and son for another man. During her first night away from home, she died. My friend went to the funeral home with the husband and son to view the body. The husband picked up his son and walked to the casket. He leaned over and kissed his wife's cheek. He then said to his son, "Look at your mother, isn't she sweet." My friend said with great emotion, "In that scene, I saw an expression of the love of God for you and me."

The pain of God is expressed in verse 8, "How shall I give thee up, Ephriam? how shall I deliver thee, Israel?" This question was ultimately answered on the cross, for the greatest love in the universe made the cross inevitable.

Two Chilean leaders die in car accidents

CHILE - Two Baptist leaders recently were killed in traffic accidents. Nester Novoa, president of the pastors' conference, was killed in an accident as he was driving home from a week-long pastors' camp in January. A week later, Juan Moya, Chilean Baptists' camp director and statistical secretary, and his son were killed in another accident.

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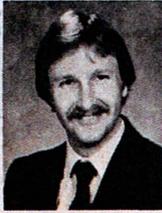
LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
Lesson for May 24

Stephen, faithful unto death

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

Basic Passage: Acts 6:8 to 8:2
Focal Passages: Acts 6:8-15; 7:59-60

This is the first of three lessons on "Pioneers in Mission." Stephen, a true pioneer, redefined the word "witness." In our New Testament the word for witness is martyr. Our English word "martyr" is a transliteration, each Greek letter replaced by the equivalent English letter. A martyr is by definition a person who gives testimony, hence a witness.



Johnson

Stephen bore witness to the Lord Jesus. His testimony was sealed by the shedding of his blood. Stephen became the first person to forfeit life as a consequence of the Christian faith. Through the years the term "martyr" has come to mean more than a witness so that today a dictionary entry might look like this:

martyr /mart-er/ n 1: a person who chooses to suffer death rather than renounce his religion
2: a person who is put to death or endures great suffering on behalf of any belief, principle, or cause

Our concept of a martyr is derived from people like Stephen, who are "faithful unto death." This pioneer followed the leadership of Christ all the way to death, blazing a trail many have since followed.

A true witness (6:8-10)

Stephen was one of the seven selected to fulfill the ministry that was lacking in the Jerusalem church. He was well-respected, Spirit-filled, and possessed wisdom. Being a servant in the church, Stephen was active in the efforts to share the good news. He eloquently and forcefully presented the truth of the gospel as he witnessed. Stephen, a powerful witness, was likewise "full of grace." The root word for "grace" also gives us our word "charm." A true witness will relate to others with warmth, dignity, gentleness, and genuine concern. In short, love will characterize Christian outreach.

Our Lord promised power to witness. The indwelling Holy Spirit provided the dynamic for Stephen's ministry, which was characterized as "full of power." Supernatural power is required for an effective Christian witness. Human efforts and ingenuity are insufficient.

The Spirit also empowered Stephen to "keep on doing works of wonder and signs" among the people. These were not commonplace occurrences. In fact, they are described as "great." If Jesus told us that we would continue His work and that we would do "greater works" (John 14:12), should not a true witness do greater things in Jesus' name?

Disputation, or debate, is a method Stephen employed. This Christian witness held forth the truths of history and of Scripture as proof of the gospel message. The champions of the synagogue could not overcome Stephen in what was apparently an ongoing debate. The true witness

must speak with "wisdom and the Spirit."

Our Lord said that when the Spirit comes He will guide us into all the truth (John 16:13), for He is the Spirit of truth (John 14:17). Submission to Jesus allows the Spirit of truth to indwell and empower us to be true witnesses, even when situations become difficult. We, like Stephen, may encounter opposition as we witness.

A tested witness (6:11-15)

A true witness speaks the truth in love for the glory of the Lord by the power of the Spirit. Unfortunately, not all who claim to speak for God are furthering the bold mission of the church. Some would even resort to various unholy means in order to preserve their self-serving institutions. Stephen faced opposition that tested his resolve to serve the Lord Jesus.

Stephen could not be stopped by logic or oratory, but he fell victim to a frenzied mob. Like Jesus, Stephen was more of a victor than a victim because his witness was true, his motives pure, and his methods righteous. Even those who accused Stephen saw that his face was like that of an angel.

A triumphant witness (7:59-60)

A true witness is an angel, an agent of God. Stephen was true to his testimony all the way to the end. Our Lord encourages all of His witnesses to be faithful unto death and promises the crown of life to those who persevere (Revelation 2:10, James 1:12). As he was being put to death for the cause of Christ, Stephen saw the Lord Jesus standing to receive him into glory.

The witness of Stephen was triumphant, for the truth of God was not bound, but set free. While he did not live to see the

results, Stephen planted the seed of the gospel in the heart of a brilliant and zealous young Pharisee - Saul of Tarsus.

Here is one witness who lived up to his name. "Stephen" (stephanos) means "crown." The word may refer to the

crown of greenery presented to a victorious Greek athlete, but most significantly, it is used of the reward or crown of Christians who are overcomers for Christ. May we all live up to the name "Christian."

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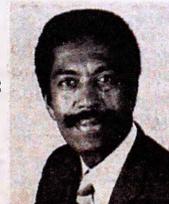
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C-N religion professor teaches 'Jesus' on TV

JEFFERSON CITY — Many college professors feel that the time their students spend watching television is time which could be put to better use studying. However, for William Blevins, professor of religion at Carson-Newman College, the opposite is true. Blevins has cause to worry if his students do not watch television.

During the spring semester at Carson-Newman, Blevins taught an evening course entitled "Jesus" via television. The program, the first in what Blevins hopes will become a new and exciting series of courses taught by this method, was televised in the Jefferson City area over LCNC TV-10, the college's cable channel.

Although Blevins has taught "Jesus," or Religion 330, for 18 years in a conventional class setting, he found talking to a camera to be different from teaching students in a classroom. "It is a lot more exciting to teach students face-to-face," Blevins said. "There's a spark that enlivens the whole procedure."

But while instant feedback is not available from students, teaching a course on television has its advantages. Blevins has found that the medium of television has allowed him to reach many people who are not students.

"Almost every week someone asks me

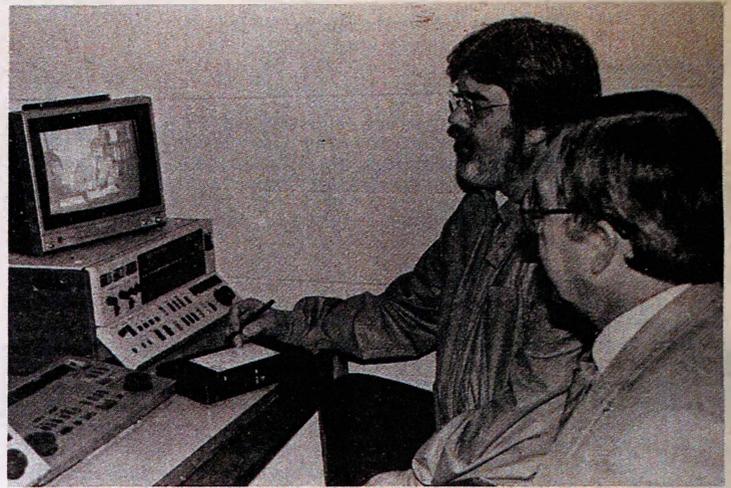
if I'm Dr. Blevins, and then they comment about the show," said Blevins, who noted that the program seemed to attract young and old alike. "I think that TV courses offer an opportunity to develop a constituency."

Response from the 30 students enrolled in the course also has been positive. The format of the class allowed them chances to see the two lectures broadcast each week. One lecture aired on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7-7:30 p.m., with a different lecture airing on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7-7:30 p.m. Students also had reading assignments and written work to complete.

The class met twice, once for the midterm and once for the final. Blevins noted that the students could come by his office at any time for questions or discussion.

Blevins credits Roy Dobyms, Carson-Newman vice-president and academic dean who acted as the program's executive producer, with originating the idea for the television course. Bruce Whitney of the college's media services center served as the program's director.

Eventually Blevins would like to use this method to teach another one of his courses, but first he would like some other Carson-Newman professors to have the



TELEVISED RELIGION — William Blevins (left), professor of religion at Carson-Newman College, reviews a segment from his televised course in religion with Bruce Whitney, C-N director of media services.

opportunity to teach on television.

"There are a number of other professors with courses which would be good to do this way," he said. And with one

complete semester of shows already on tape, Blevins could make use of that television tradition known as the rerun to teach "Jesus" again.

Volunteers win Mexicans despite opposition

By Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP) — Amid strong opposition by clergy and media in Leon, Mex., called "the cradle of Mexican Catholicism," 129 Lubbock Baptists reported 682 professions of faith in Christ through a Partnership Missions effort in the Zurieil Baptist Association.

"By their zeal in serving the Lord, the brethren from Lubbock left a positive image that will never be forgotten," said Josue Gonzalez G., director of missions for Zurieil association which covers three states in central Mexico.

The volunteers, primarily from First

Baptist Church and Iglesia Bautista Hispana, both of Lubbock, were the largest single group to serve in the Mexico Partnership, said Bill Gray, Partnership Missions coordinator for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Texas Baptists are in the early phases of a second consecutive three-year evangelistic partnership with Mexico Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Lubbock volunteers linked hands with Mexico Baptists in many areas of ministry, said Sam Douglass, university minister at First Baptist Church of Lubbock. They did construction on eight church sites and built a clinic; held backyard Bible clubs, personal evangelism, and clown ministries; and conducted medical and dental ministries under direction of general practitioner James R. Matthews and dentist Myles Sadler, both of Lubbock.

Gonzalez said the partnership volunteers who served in the city of Salamanca were warmly received by city officials. "The clowns presented a program for children, and all of the people attended," he added.

"Local authorities provided sound equipment, scenery, and all that was necessary for the presentation."

Gonzalez said many people received medical aid. "This made a tremendously favorable impact and presented a good image of Baptists, not only to the city of Salamanca, but also to the city of the Valley of Santiago, Guanajuato.

"We are amazed at the ways in which the Lord used the brethren from Lubbock. Some of them, without knowing any Spanish at all, could communicate with the church members and the people of the area."

Only in the city of Leon did the Catholic clergy react against the Baptists. Gray said nowhere is the environment more difficult for Baptist work. "It is from this area that the Cristeros movement had its beginning toward the end of the last

revolution in Mexico with the stated purpose of wiping out evangelical Christianity," Gray said.

"Baptists who live and work in this area do so under very adverse circumstances." The propaganda efforts of the Catholic clergy was actually favorable for the Baptists because it has projected the image of the Baptists throughout all of the region, Gonzalez said.

"Many people knew nothing about us, and by means of the propaganda from the Catholic clergy on television and radio, we are now known in three states."

Gonzalez said the reaction of the Catholic clergy "does not frighten us. To the contrary, it motivates us to redouble our efforts and commitment to serve the Lord."

Many Catholics condemned the propaganda of their clergy, said Gonzalez. They criticized severely the partisan attitude of the media.

As a result of the partnership effort, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Leon, was invited to write an article for the local paper on who Baptists are and what they are doing.

"God grant that many more churches can come to Mexico to respond to the Macedonian call: 'Come to Mexico and help us,'" said Gonzalez. "There will be no problems in doing so if it is done for the glory of God."

Gray said, "The Lubbock group was, without a doubt, the best prepared team we have had go to Mexico. The requirements were strenuous and their preparation arduous, but they did it all with enthusiasm and joy."

Gray said a number of other Baptist associations in Mexico have asked to become partners in evangelism with Texas Baptist associations. There are also requests by Mexico Baptists for construction teams and Vacation Bible School teams, he added.

The week of partnership missions was concluded by a rally with the crowd overflowing the courtyard, said Douglass.

"There were no 'gringos' or 'Mexicans,'" said Douglass, "just Christian brothers and sisters who love the Lord and each other. The service lasted more than 4 hours, but it had to end so the missionaries could load their buses and begin their 29-hour journey back to Lubbock. There were few dry eyes as the buses rolled out of Leon."

Asked "Would you do it all over again?" the volunteers responded unanimously, "Just tell us when," Douglass reported. Gonzalez said, "All of the churches of our area were strengthened, revived, and inspired by the enthusiasm of the brethren from Lubbock and their dedication in serving the Lord. We are sure that this work will bear fruit for time to come."

Holston association holds biannual meeting

Holston Baptist Association met in biannual session April 21 at Ninth Street Baptist Church in Erwin.

Featuring a doctrinal sermon on prayer by David Crocker, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Johnson City, the meeting also included an evening message delivered by Jerry King, evangelism associate with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Joe Blankenship, pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Jonesborough, was elected moderator. Mike Womack, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Erwin, was elected assistant moderator. Both take office at the end of the Oct. 20 biannual meeting, to be held at Bowmantown Baptist Church in Jonesborough.

In other action, messengers voted to accept the report of the credentials committee to admit Covenant Baptist Church, Bristol, under watchcare for a year. The Christian life council presented a resolution, which was accepted by the messengers, encouraging area school boards to accept only value-oriented sex education programs as part of their curriculum.

North Sweetwater calls Cummings to pastorate

Robert J. Cummings recently began his pastorate with North Sweetwater Baptist Church.

Former pastorates include Macedonia Baptist Church in Morristown, Valley View Baptist Church in Mooresburg; Parkway Baptist Church in Morristown, and West View Baptist Church in Rogersville.

Cummings served on the evangelism committee, on the missions committee and on various other committees in the Holston Valley Missionary Baptist Association. He was also associate moderator in that association.

He is a native of Maryville.

Cedar Fork Baptists call Spradlin to lead as pastor

Robert Spradlin recently began serving as pastor of Cedar Fork Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

A native of Madisonville, Spradlin comes to the church from Steubenville Baptist Church in Monticello, Ky. He also served as pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church in Manchester, Ky.

Spradlin is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky.