

Baptist and Reflector

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Moderates react to Rogers' appointments

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— Nearly two-thirds of the members named to a key Southern Baptist Convention committee by SBC President Adrian Rogers are aligned with the denomination's fundamental-conservative faction, three Southern Baptist moderate-conservative leaders have charged.

The 1987 Committee on Committees includes only one identifiable moderate-conservative, but 43 identifiable fundamental-conservatives, one leader claimed during a news conference in Richmond, Va., May 20.

James H. Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church of Richmond, and the recognized leader of the moderate-conservative political coalition since 1985, told reporters the 66 persons appointed to the Committee on Committees include one moderate-conservative, 43 fundamental-conservatives, 11 "non-aligned" members, six persons the group was unable to check, and five persons who reportedly are unknown to leadership in

the state from which they come.

Slatton, was joined in the news conference by Norman Cavender, a layman from Claxton, Ga., and John H. Jeffers, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Auburn, Ala., in announcing the results of an informal survey of the 66-member committee, an essential element in the process which culminates in the election of trustees to the SBC's 20 national program agencies and theological seminaries.

The Committee on Committees, which consists of two representatives from each qualified state Baptist convention, is appointed by the SBC president. It nominates the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve the 24 national entities of the SBC.

The Committee on Committees is appointed by the SBC president, "in conference with" the two vice-presidents and does not require convention action, but

messengers must elect the Committee on Boards and the persons they nominate to serve as agency trustees.

The appointment-election process has been at the center of the eight-year con-

trovery in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, named the 1987 Com- (Continued on page 3)

Texan announces plans to nominate Jackson

ST. LOUIS (BP)— A Texas pastor, Charles Redmond of Sulphur Springs, says he will nominate Richard Jackson for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention when the SBC holds its annual meeting June 16-18.

Redmond told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, in mid-May he decided to nominate Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church after reading that Jackson had indicated he would serve if asked.

"For the past two years, perhaps three, I have prayed that God would raise up someone that would be a new person to guide us and lead us," Redmond said. "I really feel that Richard Jackson represents the mainstream of Southern Baptists and will give a balance of leadership that will represent the majority of us."

"I think God has raised Richard Jackson to lead us to a new plateau as Southern Baptists in reaching the world for Jesus Christ," he added.

Redmond said he has talked with Jackson about the nomination and said the Arizona pastor consented to the nomination and agreed to let it be known that Redmond would nominate him.

Jackson, who in April told Baptist Press he believes the office of the presidency of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination should seek the man, not the man the office, said he is "not a candidate for anything," but will allow the nomination. "If anybody feels I can help the denomi-

nation and wants to nominate me, they have my permission," he said at the time. He added he would not give individuals permission, but "anyone" who wished to nominate him had the "freedom" to do it.

Jackson told the Standard he was honored by Redmond's intention and had told the Sulphur Springs pastor the matter was "between him and the Lord."

"I am sticking to my original statement that any messenger to the convention has the freedom to nominate me if he or she wants to," Jackson told Baptist Press.

If nominated, Jackson likely will oppose incumbent president Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, who has said he will allow his nomination "if the brethren want me."

For the past seven years, Redmond has been pastor of Sulphur Springs First Baptist Church, where Jackson served from 1964-67, prior to accepting the pastorate of the Phoenix congregation.

'Baptist Hour' drops Jackson

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)— Richard Jackson has been replaced as the preacher of the Baptist Hour, aired on the ACTS television network, until after the Southern Baptist Convention, June 16-18, because of speculation he will be nominated for president of the SBC.

Jackson, who has been the Baptist Hour preacher since the program became part of the ACTS format in March of 1986, said he requested the change to avoid any criticism of ACTS or the Radio and Television Commission.

Jackson will be replaced by Joe Ford, co-pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church.

"I am grieved that we have such a political atmosphere, but I have thought through that someone might be critical of ACTS or the Radio and Television Commission and have asked that I be removed after May 17 until after the convention," Jackson explained.

He said he regretted having to leave the preaching assignment. "I would much rather be pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church — or any local church — than be SBC president. And, I would much rather preach the gospel to the world on the Baptist Hour than be president of anything."

Tennessee ACTS affiliate receives two RTVC awards

FORT WORTH, Texas — One of Tennessee's ACTS affiliates, W11BD TV-11 in Lebanon, won two top honors in the second annual ACTS Awards.

ACTS, which celebrated its third anniversary at the awards presentation before 850 people in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Truett Auditorium, is beamed via satellite and cable 24 hours a day on 265 stations nationwide.

Christian humorist Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, Miss., received the Jimmy R. Allen Award, named for the president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television

Commission which sponsors ACTS (American Christian Television System).

The Lebanon station won the Community Service (Broadcast) Award and tied with ACTS of Montgomery, Ala., for Best Promotional Spot. The station also was nominated for Broadcast Affiliate of the Year, but failed to win in that category.

Lebanon's Channel 11 won the Best Promotional Spot for "News Watch." It won the Community Service Award for a story on the Wilson County Sheriff's Youth Ranch. Randall Hughes, station manager, accepted the awards on behalf of the station.

Another Tennessee affiliate, ACTS of Alcoa, was nominated in two award categories, Best Spot Series and Best Spot of the Year, but failed to win.



RECEIVING TV STATION AWARD — Randall Hughes, station manager of Lebanon's ACTS affiliate, accepts awards from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

March CP ranks 10th

NASHVILLE (BP)— Southern Baptists contributed \$10,455,604 to their denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget in April, according to Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

The April total was \$510,491 more than the amount received during April of 1986, representing a 5.04 percent increase, Bennett said. It represents the 10th-best month in Cooperative Program history.

The latest receipts bring the Cooperative Program's year-to-date income to \$76,073,628 at the end of seven months of the fiscal year. That is 4.59 percent over the 1985-86 seven-month total.

The Cooperative Program is the Southern Baptist Convention's financial instrument for funding evangelistic endeavors and mission work across the United States and in more than 100 countries. Funds are channeled from individual Southern Baptists, through their churches and state Baptist conventions and to 19 SBC-wide entities, with each organization keeping a portion for its own operations.

Alliance forms groups to probe 'problems'

By Marv Knox

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist Alliance members talked more of supplementing the work of their denomination than splitting from it during their first national meeting.

Widely criticized as a potential vehicle that could carry disgruntled moderate-conservatives out of the Southern Baptist Convention, the alliance focused instead on denominational heritage when about 400 members gathered at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., May 14-15.

But the alliance voted without dissent to create four task forces to look into "problem" areas of Southern Baptist life. Three of those can have direct impact on denominational organizations:

•**Educational literature** — The alliance force will study the feasibility of producing Christian educational materials to be used within local congregations. If developed, these products would be in direct competition with materials produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Last fall, the Sunday School Board published a series of Sunday School lessons that moderate-conservatives said provided a too-narrow interpretation of Genesis. Several moderate-conservative churches returned their materials to the board, expressing displeasure with content they claimed catered to fundamental-conservatives.

"I would say literature is our big concern," said Henry Crouch, alliance president and pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. "The fundamentalists have said they wanted parity, but what they (the Sunday School Board) have done is stop publishing our literature. We're not going to have that literature coming into our churches."

•**Women in ministry** — This task force particularly will study ways the alliance can help mission churches who call women as pastors.

Thirteen to build on Venezuela trip

Thirteen Tennesseans will be doing construction work in Venezuela as a part of the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership. Since the partnership began in November 1985, 344 persons have participated.

Serving from May 25 to June 5 will be a team of six persons who will continue construction on a church building in Trujillo. Missionaries Gene and Eva Nell Kimler live in the building. The church auditorium on the upper level of the building needs a roof and other work.

From May 30 to June 10 seven members of Lakeview Baptist Church in Selmer will be working with Missionary James McDonald to help the Iglesia Bautista Central de San Felix complete educational facilities. The church members are meeting under trees.

The volunteers going to Trujillo include Bob Jones of First Baptist Church in Woodbury, Joe C. Fann of Mount View Baptist Chapel in Johnson City, C. T. and Glenda Mattox of Calvary Baptist Church in Big Rock, and John Jr. and Etta Mae Gill of Friendship Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

Those volunteers from the Selmer church include Larry Cartwright, Floyd Hawkins, Darren Hawkins, Phil Moore, Don Hawkins, Nelson Rickman, and Terry Moore.

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

This issue was precipitated by a decision the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board made last fall to deny Church Pastoral Assistance funds to mission churches with women pastors. Alliance members failed in an effort to get that decision appealed during the board's March meeting.

Crouch told the alliance's board of directors he has received "many letters" since the organization was launched Feb. 12, particularly "pleas for help from the field."

"We could not let this convocation go by without organizing a task force . . . to help people" who might not qualify for the Home Mission Board's financial supplements, he said.

•**Religious liberty** — This group will work to secure separation of church and state from encroachment by both religious groups and government.

This endeavor currently is the responsibility of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a coalition of nine Baptist bodies, including the SBC. The BJCPA has been under fire from more conservative Southern Baptists, particularly for not opposing the School Prayer Amendment and for not supporting anti-abortion measures. Changes in the composition of the BJCPA will be presented to messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 16-18.

•**Placement** — This service will help like-minded ministers locate in congregations which generally share the alliance's views. It also will help moderate-conservative Southern Baptists who move to locate sympathetic congregations in their new home communities.

Unlike the other three task forces, the placement group does not overlap responsibilities with any Southern Baptist organization. Alliance members affirmed its value, however, citing the need for "networking" among ministers and laypeople seeking to affiliate with Southern Baptists of similar viewpoints.

In addition to the task forces, the alliance approved without dissent a motion to express appreciation for a document titled "A Pastoral Plea for Peace Among Southern Baptists."

The four-part theological statement was sponsored by four Southern Baptist pastors who claimed no affiliation with either group in the convention's theological/political controversy. However, many

of the 100-plus published signers of the document are known to be associated with the moderate-conservative cause.

In addition to the "Pastoral Plea," the alliance has its own seven-part "covenant." It commits members to freedom of the individual, freedom of the local church, the larger body of Christ, the servant role of leadership, theological education, the proclamation of Christ, and the principle of a free church in a free state.

The alliance's four officers, selected by the founding temporary board of directors this spring, were elected to one-year terms. They are Crouch, president; Susan Lockwood Wright, pastor of Cornell Baptist Church in Chicago, first vice-president; Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., secretary; and Bruce Morgan, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., treasurer. The board of directors also was empowered to elect a

layperson as second vice-president.

A Constitution and bylaws for the new organization was approved without dissent.

Alliance members also gathered in state or regional groups to select members for the organization's first permanent board and to make plans for organizing the alliance on state or regional levels.

Inspirational services illustrated the convocation theme, "Celebrating Our Baptist Heritage." Included were two worship services, a historical/dramatic presentation, and a banquet.

The alliance has 800 individual members from 28 states, Crouch said, noting 70 percent of those members are laypeople. In addition, eight churches with a total of 4,000 members have joined. Alliance leaders hope the organization will include 2,000 individual members by mid-May of next year, he added.

Lee Roberts resigns

NASHVILLE (BP) — A layman affiliated with the fundamental-conservative wing of the Southern Baptist Convention has dropped out of the moderate-conservative Southern Baptist Alliance.

Lee Roberts, a mortgage banker and member of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., resigned following the alliance's first national convocation May 14-15 in Raleigh, N.C., citing his disagreement with the organization's "ungodly creed" as his reason for resignation. Roberts was chairman of the Southern Baptist Committee on Boards in 1986.

"My spirit was grieved to hear conservatives accused of wanting to adopt a creed, to hear the messengers adopt the statement, 'no creed but Christ,' and in the next few minutes listen as they approved a seven-point creed that all members must affirm," Roberts wrote in his letter of resignation mailed to alliance President Henry Crouch.

The seven-point document is the alliance's "covenant," approved when the 400 participants ratified the organization's Constitution.

"We have no creed," said Crouch, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. He described the covenant as a list of "historic Baptist principles."

"Basically, our statement of purpose

says that we are dedicated to the preservation of historic Baptist principles," Crouch said. "We feel these principles have been part of Southern Baptist life for a long, long time. We are not creedal; no one has to sign anything."

But Roberts said the document conflicted with his conscience: "One need not go any further than the first paragraph in the seven-point creed to know that one must choose between the creed of the Southern Baptist Alliance and the Holy Word of God. It is in paragraph number one that your creed states that each individual has the right to interpret the Scriptures. But God has clearly instructed us in 2 Peter 1:20 to 'know first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation.'"

"I came to the convocation to learn where the Southern Baptist Alliance stands," Roberts wrote. "I found it to stand in direct opposition to the Holy Word of God, and I can no longer be a part."

Crouch responded: "I appreciate his integrity — if he doesn't believe in what the Southern Baptist Alliance stands for — in disassociating himself. He was certainly welcome at the convocation; we tried to be friendly with him. We could include him, but he could not accept us."

Leaders call alliance 'lifeline'

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptist Alliance leaders, during the group's first national convocation here, have described their new organization as a lifeline to save some Southern Baptists, not a scalpel to amputate them from their convention.

"We want to provide a lifeline to Southern Baptists who are discouraged and keep them from leaving the denomination," said Henry Crouch, alliance president and pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Crouch added that lifeline is one of nurture, not politics: "We have said from the beginning, we are not political; we will not be political. Most of us (as individuals) are moderates, and we have been political. But that is not the purpose of the Southern Baptist Alliance."

Walter Shurden, dean of Mercer University's school of religion in Macon, Ga., described a "division of the house" between the "political group" and the "alliance or fellowship group" of moderate-conservatives during a meeting last summer in Macon.

"The way we've been doing things as moderates was not getting us anywhere," Bill Puckett, pastor of Millbrook Baptist Church in Raleigh, said of the political effort to motivate Southern Baptist messengers to attend the SBC annual meeting and elect a moderate-conservative candidate as

president. The result for moderates who helped form the alliance was a retooling of efforts, "not to win the presidency, but to establish some passion for things we believe in."

That passion grew out of a realization the political struggle — which moderate-conservatives consistently have lost by about 55/45-percent vote margins — is out of reach for the time being, Crouch explained:

"We recognized we won't be on convention boards and control what's happening. And that's OK; we'll be positive. This group is through with politics. We don't plan to play that way any more."

"We keep getting press about splintering and starting a new denomination. That's not in our conversation and intent," said Mahan Siler, pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh and organizer of the convocation. "Hopefully, rather than eroding the convention, this will provide a vision for people to stay in the SBC with concern and leadership. A lot of Southern Baptists are hungering for support. They feel alienated.

"I'm personally in it to provide a support place for younger ministers," he added. "I want them to feel there's a place of support with a kind of ministry with which they can identify — to show them there's an option to stay in the convention."



Stacker



Campbell



Bryson

Union hosts preachers' school

JACKSON — The annual West Tennessee Summer Preachers' School will be held July 6-9 on the campus of Union University. This year's theme is "Jesus, Our Example."

Program personalities will include Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department at the Baptist Sunday School Board; Harold Bryson, chairman of the division of pastoral ministries at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; Robert Campbell, associate director of the specialized evangelism

department of the Home Mission Board; Delores Taylor, pastor's wife, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; John Adams, vice-president for religious affairs at Union University.

The second annual golf tournament has been planned as an integral part of the preachers' school. This two-round tournament will be July 7-8 at the Hidden Valley Golf Course.

For more information, contact the office of religious affairs.

Moderates react ...

(Continued from page 1)
mittee on Committees May 29.

Slatton told the news conference: "We had been hoping against hope that there would be in Dr. Rogers' appointments this year a move away from politics, a move toward including people rather than trying to shut them out. We expected a preponderance of fundamentalists, but not a committee with only one identifiable moderate."

Slatton said information was gathered on 60 of the 66 committee members, as moderate-conservatives in 30 state conventions inquired concerning the two appointees in their respective states, adding that state executives, editors, and "people who knew the nominees" provided the information.

Cavender noted the survey reflects a "multiplicity of sources" and "not just one person giving his opinion of someone else."

To determine the theological/political position of each committee member, two questions were asked, Slatton said: "First, are the appointees identified with a particular faction in the present controversy? Second, to what extent have the nominees been involved in Baptist life in the state level, so as to know the state Baptist fellowship well enough to make representative nominations for national office?"

In addition to the ideological slant of the committee, Slatton said the survey reveals that 36 percent of the committee members have been uninvolved in state Baptist activities and 19 percent have been marginally involved. Only 42 percent

Larry Partain begins Grandview pastorate

Larry G. Partain began his ministry as pastor of Grandview Baptist Church, Maryville, on April 12.

A graduate of Dallas Baptist University in Dallas, Partain received his seminary degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Partain comes to the Maryville pastorate from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Jefferson City. Prior to that he served as associate pastor of Lochwood Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

are considered active in their states, he said.

To avoid dealing in "personalities," the three men refused to identify their information sources or to categorize committee members by name.

Rogers told Baptist Press, "These appointments have been carefully selected from loyal, active, and qualified Southern Baptists."

"The churches from which they have been selected have an average Cooperative Program percentage of over 12 percent and the pastors have an average tenure of over 11 years," he said. "Many of these selected are direct recommendations of state executive secretaries, and many others have been approved by these executive secretaries. Still others were chosen from recommendations that came from the broad spectrum of denominational life."

"These appointments have been made in consultation with the two vice-presidents. I have every confidence that these good and godly people will serve Southern Baptists well," Rogers added.

Trustees of FMB 'regret' lack of women nominees

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board voted May 20 to express "regret" that no women have been slated for nomination for election to the board at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention and to ask the SBC Executive Committee to "note this inequality in future years" and address it.

Mary Strauss, who completed her second and final term as a Foreign Mission Board trustee at the May meeting in Richmond, made the motion after reading the list of nine pastors and one full-time evangelist who will be nominated to the agency by the Southern Baptist Committee on Boards in June.

"I stand before you as a member of a vanishing species — a woman serving on one of the Southern Baptist Convention's boards or agencies," Strauss told her fellow trustees. "The women of this denomination are beginning to feel disenfranchised, second-class, and second-rate as they continue to be bypassed for positions of leadership."

Since the April 28 Baptist Press news release upon which she based her comments, another pastor has been nominated to the Foreign Mission Board. Two vacancies are yet to be filled. Ten women elected in earlier years remain on the 85-member board.

No count was taken on the motion which passed easily, but apparently three trustees voted "no" while some other trustees did not participate in the hand vote. No one spoke against the motion.

T. C. Pinckney, chairman of the 1987 Committee on Boards, was contacted at his home in Alexandria, Va., after the vote. He said he had encouraged committee members to consider women and ethnic minorities and feels "they did a commendable job — we have a number of women who will be nominated to other boards, it just happened the people for the Foreign Mission Board all happened to be men."

Pinckney's committee will suggest 142 new trustees and 104 renominations to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis in June. Nine women were included in the April committee report, including one each on the Executive Committee, the Sunday School Board, the Annuity Board, the Radio-

Television Commission and, pending a bylaw change, the Public Affairs Committee. The Historical Commission and the Christian Life Commission each had two women nominees listed.

"It is lamentable when you look at what women have contributed to the mission effort," that from among 14.6-million Southern Baptists, "not one woman could be found capable of helping formulate mission policy."

She pointed to Baptist women serving as governors, legislators, presidents of national organizations, and heads of businesses as examples of "women who are articulate, well-educated, and experienced who are not being used," on the Foreign Mission Board governing group.

Strauss, a homemaker from Hagerstown, Md., and president-elect of the American Medical Association Auxiliary, warned that such women, "if not utilized, will exercise their talents in other places and we (Southern Baptists and foreign missions) will be the losers."

Lawrence Brown dies in Memphis

Lawrence E. Brown, a retired physician and member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, died May 21 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis of an apparent heart attack.

The funeral was May 23 at Hinds-Smythe Cosmopolitan Funeral Home in Memphis and burial was at Forest Hill Cemetery, Midtown, in Memphis.

Brown was also a member of the TBC Education Committee and Union Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis. He had been an outpatient physician at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Memphis. He previously had practiced gynecology and obstetrics at Baptist Hospital.

The graduate of the University of Tennessee, Memphis, and Memphis State University was a volunteer organist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and a substitute organist in local churches.

He is survived by a sister, Mary Bryson, and a brother, Murray E. Brown, both of Memphis.



EASTVIEW CHAPEL BREAKS GROUND — Members of Eastview Baptist Chapel broke ground for a new building on April 26. As a mission of First Baptist Church, Huntington, the Eastview congregation began in October 1984. Pictured with shovels in hand are (from left to right) Bob

Cole; Jim Humphreys, director of missions for Carroll-Benton Baptist Association; Fred Ward, pastor of First Baptist Church; Joe Harris, pastor of Eastview Baptist Chapel; Al Hilliard, chairman of the FBC missions committee; and Joe Patterson, treasurer of FBC and Eastview chapel.

Editorials

Is Baptist money effectively utilized?

The continuing media coverage of the troubled PTL Club, along with a few other stories about the financial assets of other televangelists and parachurch groups, raises questions in the public's minds concerning the financial accountability of all religious organizations.

Even some faithful Tennessee Baptist church members, who have given freely of their financial possessions through their churches, might be raising questions about what happens to the money channeled through the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Stories of the extravagant houses, expensive chartered plane trips, and fur coats, not to mention "bribe" money, casts a hideous shadow on every Christian organization.

Is Baptist money safe? Is it properly managed and protected from mishandling? Is it efficiently channeled into effective ministries?

The answer to all of those questions is an absolute and decisive YES, YES, YES!

When church members give their money through the local church, a committee of fellow church members is chosen to count it, deposit it, and account for it in a fiscally responsible manner.

A percentage of it, determined by each local church, is designated as Cooperative Program funds and is sent to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Other funds, such as the mission offerings, are designated to specific TBC or SBC causes.

These funds are received in each day's mail at the Tennessee Baptist Convention accounting office. Such mail is opened, always in the presence of more than one employee, is processed using the most meticulous accounting procedures, and is deposited in the bank, again by more than one employee.

Martha Grove, controller-director of accounting for the TBC, exercises extreme care and sound business practices to assure that every penny is accounted for and is used according to the dictates of the churches and the convention-approved budget. Money on hand is deposited daily in accounts that will earn the highest interest possible until it is needed for various ministries.

Each year the TBC Executive Board-recommended budget which is to be approved by messengers to the annual convention is printed in the TBC annual. The annual also includes a detailed report of the independent audits of all TBC agencies and institutions.

Any other time during the year, interested Baptists may call or visit the TBC Executive Board building to find out specific details about how Baptist money is handled and distributed.

Last year, Tennessee Baptists channeled about \$32-million through the Executive Board building. About 64 percent of it (\$20.8-million) was Cooperative Program funds. The Cooperative Program is the denomination's unified budget plan that channels support to Baptist causes on the state and national levels. About 36 percent (\$11.5-million) was designated to specific causes.

Of the \$20.8-million Cooperative Program money, 37 percent (\$8.3-million) was forwarded on to Southern Baptist Convention causes and 63 percent (\$14.2-million) remained in Tennessee.

Tennessee's Cooperative Program dollars supported three child care campuses and two satellite homes, foster care, a home for unwed mothers,

an adult home, a retirement community, three Baptist colleges and an academy for high school students, BSU work on about 30 campuses, and two camp programs. TBC Cooperative Program money also undergirded a variety of other ministries and TBC support programs to help about 2,900 churches and missions reach people for Christ.

The \$8.3-million sent to SBC causes, combined with contributions from Southern Baptists in other states, supported about 3,750 foreign missionaries in more than 100 nations and about 3,630 home missionaries in the United States, six seminaries, the work of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission which has established a television network, American Christian Television System (ACTS), and the work of other SBC agencies and institutions.

In addition, the \$11.5-million in designated gifts were channeled directly to the cause or causes designated by the giver. This includes the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, the Golden State Missions Offering, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Mother's Day Offering, hunger relief gifts, and funds earmarked for Baptist colleges and other institutions.

Incidentally, 100 percent of these designated gifts can be used for the need for which they were directed because the administrative costs are covered by Cooperative Program funds.

Of course, the Tennessee Baptist Convention is one of many Baptist state conventions. Last year, these state conventions, through Cooperative Program funds that remained in each state, supported 67 colleges and universities with more than 200,000 students and dozens of children's homes, hospitals, and homes for the aging. They also provided ministries to students on 1,100 campuses in the United States through Baptist Student Unions.

Compare these TBC and SBC statistics with the combined missions and ministry efforts of six of the leading television evangelists last year.

These six televangelists had a combined income equivalent to the missions giving of 14.6-million Southern Baptists, but their missions and humanitarian ministries do not hold a candle to the worldwide mission efforts supported by Southern Baptist funds.

Southern Baptists in 1986 gave slightly more than \$635-million for missions causes, somewhat less than the combined incomes of six of the top televangelists featured in the April 6 U.S. News and World Report.

Five of the televangelists and their 1986 gross incomes, according to U.S. News, are Pat Robertson, \$176-million; Jim Bakker, \$172-million; Jimmy Swaggart, \$142-million; Jerry Falwell, \$100-million; and Robert Schuller, \$36-million. Also included is Oral Roberts whose income was listed at \$58-million in 1985.

Between them, the six TV evangelists, in addition to their television programs, supported four schools, a hospital, three churches, two ministries to needy children, a home for unwed mothers, and a ministry to the needy, U.S. News reported.

Southern Baptists have a great system for channeling money to effective ministries that will reach people for Christ and build up the kingdom of God. Safeguards are built into the system to protect it from extravagance or fraud. The books are open. Baptists have nothing to hide.

Compared to the limited ministries supported by televangelists and many parachurch groups, Southern Baptists can be justifiably proud. CEW

Prepare to register

Experts are predicting about 28,000 messengers at the 1987 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis June 16-18.

But be warned, if you head out for St. Louis without the proper credentials for registering, you will face difficulties when you attempt to register.

It is extremely important for churches to properly elect their messengers and meet the certification requirements. This is easily done if the messenger has an official registration card, properly filled out when he or she arrives at the registration area. These cards are available from associational offices throughout Tennessee.

Messengers must be elected by a church during a regular or a called business meeting. The registration card then should be filled out and signed by either the moderator or the clerk of the church.

Messengers without the properly completed card will be referred to the convention's Credentials Committee. Messengers who go before the committee must have either a letter on the letterhead of the church signed by either the moderator or clerk, or a telegram sent from the local church stating that the individual is a properly elected messenger from the church.

According to the SBC Constitution, every church "which is in friendly cooperation with this convention and sympathetic with its purposes and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work" is entitled to elect and certify one messenger.

Additional messengers are permitted for each 250 members or for each \$250 contributed to SBC causes during the previous fiscal year. Under no circumstances can any church have more than 10 messengers registered at an annual convention.

Registration will open at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 14, in the registration area on the second floor of the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis. Registration will close at 9:30 p.m. Sunday. It will continue from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday (June 15-17) and from 8 a.m. until the close of the convention at 5 p.m. Thursday.

We urge Tennessee Baptists to make the necessary preparations to be properly registered and to go to St. Louis prepared to participate in the inspirational sessions and to vote their consciences during the business sessions. CEW

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

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Golden State Missions Offering 1987 allocations

These are the allocations for the 1987 Golden State Missions Offering which will be received with the Week of Prayer for State Missions, Sept. 6-13. The allocations were approved by the TBC Executive Board May 5 and the WMU Executive Board May 15.

Program of Work:

	1986 Allocation	1987 Allocation	Increase (Decrease)
Appalachian Outreach Shelter (Carson-Newman) . . . \$	-0-	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Black Baptist Student Work	7,500	7,000	(500)
Burney Love Gifts (for Tennessee foreign mis- sionaries' dependent children in TBC colleges) . .	9,500	7,000	(2,500)
Camps Capital/Renovation	170,000	200,000	30,000
Camps for Mentally Retarded (Sunday Sch. Dept.)	18,575	38,600	20,025
Church-related Vocations Students' Emergency Fund	7,000	9,000	2,000
Disaster Relief (Brotherhood)	10,000	10,000	-0-
Gifts to Native Tennessee Missionaries at Christmas	21,000	13,000	(8,000)
GSMO Promotion Expense	17,000	25,000	8,000
International Student Ministries	12,000	12,000	-0-
Language Missions Ministries	20,000	24,000	4,000
Ministers Aid Fund	7,500	7,500	-0-
Ministry to the Handicapped	6,000	3,000	(3,000)
Ministry to Military Personnel (Millington)	1,000	1,475	475
Missionary-in-Residence (Union)	-0-	3,000	3,000
Mission Lot and Building Fund	100,000	100,000	-0-
New Work Pastoral Salary Assistance	60,000	30,000	(30,000)
New Work Revolving Loan Fund	193,225	150,000	(43,225)
Prison Ministry - Scripture Distribution (WMU) . . .	6,000	5,000	(1,000)
Proposed Conference Center Fund	40,000	40,000	-0-
Rainbow Acres Baptist Home for Retarded Adults . .	5,000	-0-	(5,000)
Resort Missions	6,600	6,600	-0-
Rural and Mountain Missions	16,000	16,000	-0-
Seminary Studies Assistance (Union)	-0-	2,500	2,500
Site Fund for New Churches	100,000	100,000	-0-
Student Exchange - Chinese (Carson-Newman) . . .	-0-	2,500	2,500
Student Scholarships (WMU)	29,500	36,000	6,500
Student Summer Missions (Missions Dept.)	8,600	9,000	400
Summer Preachers Schools (Colleges)	14,000	14,100	100
United Tennessee League	75,000	75,000	-0-
VBS Summer Missionaries (SS Dept.)	7,000	8,000	1,000
Video Equipment and Maintenance	7,600	7,400	(200)
Weekday Missions Ministries	3,000	3,000	-0-
WMU Budget Supplement (Metro WMU Promotion)	13,250	13,250	-0-
WMU Budget Supplement (Rural WMU Promotion)	5,000	6,000	1,000
WMU Volunteer Workers	4,500	6,000	1,500
Contingency Fund	3,650	4,075	425
TOTAL	\$1,005,000	\$1,000,000	\$ (5,000)

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.

be a good time for each local church and association to focus on the ministry of women in our denomination. Work groups could be organized which would include men and women who are willing to look carefully at Scripture and discuss the role of women in their own particular church and association. Discussion should include topics such as the leadership of women as deacons and pastors and church staff members.

Rather argue than give

Dear editor:

It was sad to read that the Woman's Missionary Union felt compelled to lower the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 1987 by \$6-million because we Southern Baptists had rather argue over innerrancy (which we can't define) than give to spread the Word around the world.

My wife and I just returned from a visit to the Ivory Coast where our daughter is a journeyman. There we learned firsthand how the devaluation of the dollar also cuts back on what we give to missions. In April the exchange rate in the Ivory Coast was 306 CFA (francs) for one dollar. Last year it was in the range of 400 to one. This means that the dollar we gave last year is only worth 75 cents now.

I came back from the Ivory Coast with several convictions. First, that the Word of God is powerful and applies to any culture or people. Second, that the Christians there put me to shame with their commitment and joy in the Lord in the midst of trying circumstances and meager resources. Third, that the way Southern Baptists organize and fund their mission work is the best that I know of. Fourth, that I would pray more and give more to missions.

We don't have to be limited by a goal. May the Spirit of God move us to give way over and above the goal. We do what we really believe, all the rest is just religious talk.

Tom Brown
407 East Main
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

What better way to celebrate the very fine work of the WMU than to consider again the gifts women have to offer through ministry in every area of church life.

Karen E. Smith
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Rd.
Louisville, KY 40280

Personal Perspective



By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Five times the Scriptures record the use of perfume, or balm, as an expression of love and devotion to the Savior by those who brought it.

The Magi brought frankincense and myrrh. The woman who was a sinner came to Simon's house where Jesus was a guest and "brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with her tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with ointment." Also, Mary of Bethany anointed His feet with a pound of ointment of very costly spices, "and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment." Nicodemus, with Joseph of Arimathea, "brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred weight. Then they took the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices." The Scriptures also recount how, early in the morning, certain women came into the sepulchre, bringing the spices and ointments which they had prepared.

As I thought upon these experiences, the thought occurred to me, "Is it possible to still bring perfume to express our love to Christ?" If I can't, and of course I can't, are there other ways I can express my devotion? Let me share with you some of the ways that came to mind.

Holy, righteous, pure living by His people must send up a sweet smelling fragrance to our Lord. I have been present when a godly person walked into the room and the whole atmosphere was uplifted.

I am convinced that as we bring our gifts to our Lord, if they are given generously, happily, and sacrificially, they refresh our Lord. Paul refers to the offerings sent him by the Philippian church as "an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God."

Also there is the perfume of prayer. We read in Revelation 5:8 about "golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints." In centuries gone by, the saints used to speak, I understand, of "collecting the prayers." So it must be that God gathers the spiritual essence which provides an ascending stream of sweetness before God's throne.

Perhaps a question we might consider is, "Does my life offer up to God a fragrance?"

Consider the gifts

Dear editor:

The joint annual meeting of the Baptist Historical Society and the Historical Commission was held on April 12-22 at the WMU National headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

The society has always tried to plan its meetings to discuss topics which are timely and pertinent to SBC life and this year was no different. Planned in conjunction with the celebration of the Woman's Missionary Union centennial in 1988, the theme for the meeting was "Women in Southern Baptist History."

Since women were excluded from serving as voting messengers until 1918 and the first presentation by a woman on the convention floor was not until 1929 (men read the WMU reports to the convention for the first 40 years of its existence), it is hard to believe that an entire meeting of the historical society could be given over to the history of women in the denomination.

However, the meeting was significant not simply because "the role of women" was discussed, but more importantly because it provided an opportunity for men and women representing differing viewpoints toward women in ministry within the denomination to meet together for discussion.

As we prepare to celebrate the centennial of WMU in 1988, perhaps this would

HMB elects two staff members

ATLANTA (BP) - The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected two staff members and appointed 27 missionaries during their May meeting.

Jerry Carl Wolverton of Nashville was elected to the new position of associate director of marketing services. Wolverton, former sales promotion supervisor for the SBC Sunday School Board, will assist with development of marketing strategy for the board's products and programs.

He has been a general contractor for the past two years, and is former director of the Donelson Christian Academy in Nashville, former minister of music and education for Woodcock Baptist Church in Nashville, and former regional sales man-

ager for a company in Los Angeles.

Bill Graham, who has been associate director of the missionary personnel department since 1983, was promoted to director of the department. He will be responsible for recruitment, screening, and orientation of all candidates for missionary appointment by the board.

Before coming to the board, Graham was pastor of Middletown Baptist Church, Middletown, R.I. Previously, he had been pastor of churches in Manitowoc and Sheboygan, Wisc., and Paris, Texas. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Graham succeeds Irvin Dawson who became a national consultant for missions development field servicing.



Tennessee/Venezuela prayer net partnership

—Pray for Stan Parris, general evangelist serving in Maracaibo, who celebrates his birthday May 30.

—Pray for the six members of the church construction team leaving May 25 to work in Trujillo.

—Pray for the construction team of seven persons leaving May 30. The team from Lakeview Baptist Church in Selmer will be working on education facilities for Iglesia Bautista Central de San Felix.

—Pray that the Venezuelan government will grant visas allowing new missionaries to work in the country.

Southwestern grants degrees to 30 from Tennessee

FORT WORTH, Texas — The largest graduating class in the history of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, included 30 from Tennessee.

During the May 15 ceremony, 503 degrees were conferred. The graduates included the following Tennesseans.

Master of divinity degree: Anthony Hood Burdick of Memphis; Harold Mark Ashworth of Chattanooga; Richard Alan Jones of Chattanooga; Rodney Wayne Maples of Knoxville; Jana Lynn McClintyre of Nashville; M. Piere McClintyre of Nashville; Victor Lewis Morrison of Milan; James Wallace Presnell of Elizabethton; Kenneth Wayne Madden Jr. of Dickson; Jeffrey Albert Nave of Elizabethton; Mark Stephen Johnson of Kingsport; Mark Edward Thompson Jr. of Paris; Michael Kreg Smith of Lenoir City; Robert Merritt Warden of Johnson City; Donald Alan Davidson of Memphis; Matthew Howard Hudson of Jackson; and Ben Allen Wilkes of Memphis.

Master of arts in religious education degree: Kenneth Dale Heath of Nashville; Gordon William Davidson of New Market; Michael Curtis Cummings

of Nashville; Rodney Lynn Collins of Knoxville; Michael George Berner of Memphis; Mark Montgomery LaGrone of Memphis; Timothy Wilkins Patterson of Camden; Judy L. King of Nashville; James Calvin Markle of Memphis; and Todd Andrew Meredith of Knoxville.

Associate of divinity degree: Ronald Douglas Hatmaker of Clinton.

Master of music degree: William Allen Crawford of Knoxville.

Master of arts in communication degree: Darralyn Cummings of Nashville.

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Union to host prayer focus

JACKSON — The Southeast Regional Conference on Prayer for Spiritual Awakening will be held at Union University in Jackson, July 9-10.

The program will include speakers, small group sharing, music, fellowship times, and much more. The conference is a joint effort of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., the evangelism department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood, and Union University.

The purpose of the conference is to provide information and motivation for a spiritual awakening in the last quarter of this century.

Program personalities include: Manley Beasley, evangelist, Eules, Texas; D. L. Lowery, director of state missions, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas; Ron and Patricia Owens, concert artists, Fort Worth, Texas; Glenn Sheppard, president, International Prayer Ministries, Atlanta; Robert Hamblin, vice-president, Home Mission Board; and Duane and Iris Blue, Mission Service Corps volunteers, Houston, Texas.

The conference will begin at 3 p.m. (immediately following the West Tennessee Summer Preachers' School) in the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel. Morning, afternoon, and evening sessions will be held on July 10, concluding at 9:30 p.m.

Advance registration and lodging information may be secured from TBC, evangelism department, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027, or Union University, office of religious affairs, Jackson, TN 38305.

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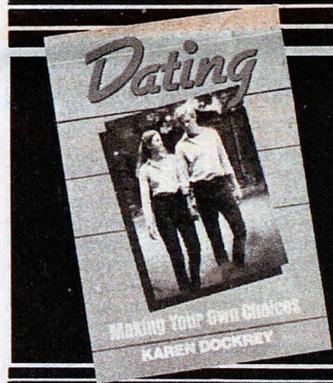
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Though written for youth, this book provides excellent material for ministers of youth, youth workers, and parents!

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Karen Dockrey, also the author of *Friends: Finding and Keeping Them*, and *Getting to Know God*, resides in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

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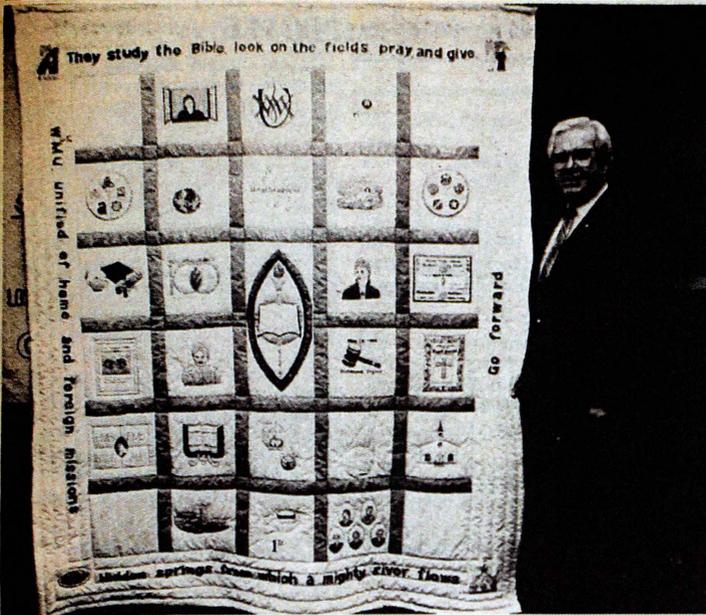
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HANDMADE GIFT — M. B. Howard, a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Covington, shows off the Woman's Missionary Union centennial quilt made for him and his wife by Dorothy Bringle, the secretary of the church's WMU. The gift, noting the WMU centennial in 1988, was given to honor Howard for his volunteer missions work, which includes Mission Service Corps work at the Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, prison ministry, and work in Michigan and South Dakota.

SBC-related meetings set

Evangelists

ST. LOUIS (BP) — The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists aims to "stir up the fires of evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention" when they meet June 17 in Keil Auditorium in downtown St. Louis.

The conference, composed of about 300 persons involved in full-time vocational evangelism, will hold its main session on June 17 from 1:15 to 5 p.m. Other sessions include a business session and banquet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, and "Afterglow" sessions at 9:30 p.m. on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

With the exception of the June 17 afternoon conference in Keil Auditorium, all of the other sessions will be held in the Ballroom at the Sheraton Hotel adjacent to the Cervantes Convention Center.

The afternoon session will feature preaching, testimonies, and music from vocational evangelists as well as special recognitions of four men who have been in vocational evangelism for more than 25 years: Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows, both from Montreat, N.C.; Leonard Sanderson of Pineville, La.; and Melvin Wise of Atlanta.

Main messages will be delivered by former SBC President Bailey E. Smith, now a vocational evangelist from Del City, Okla.; Lewis A. Drummond, the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Jerry Johnston, of Overland Park, Kan., an evangelist who speaks to high school audiences and has written a book on teen suicides.

Evangelists who will give their testimony include Larry Taylor from Bander, Texas, president of the Conference of Texas Baptist Evangelists; Randall Miller, a black evangelist from Euless, Texas; and Howard Baldwin, from Richmond, Va.

Musicians include Gary Bradford from Baytown, Texas, who is physically handicapped; Claude Rhea, president of Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm

Beach, Fla.; J.J. Turner, a 15-year-old soloist from Carrollton, Ga.; and John McKay, a music evangelist from Fort Worth, Texas, and music leader for the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC.

A special event during the afternoon conference will be a 60-voice choir made up of full-time evangelists.

The Wednesday afternoon session is open to all who wish to attend. Tickets will be required but will be available from members of COSBE or at the group's booth in the convention's exhibit area. There is space for about 3,500 persons in the Keil Auditorium.

SBTS alumni

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The annual alumni and friends reunion of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been scheduled for June 17 at 1 p.m. in the St. Louis Ballroom of the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Mo.

Tickets are \$10 if purchased prior to May 30 or \$14 after that date. To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check payable to the seminary to: SBTS, alumni relations, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

Oak Grove Baptists call Williams to pastorate

E. Kent Williams began the pastorate of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Covington May 3.

The Arkansas native previously served as pastor in his home state.

He served on the Arkansas State Convention's mobile home task force committee and on an associational committee.

Williams holds degrees from Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He and his wife, Paula, have one child, Jennifer.

Texas rejects lottery bill

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Gambling opponents won an important battle when the Texas House of Representatives rejected a proposed state lottery May 14, but a Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission spokesman warned the fight is not over.

The lottery bill by Rep. Ron Wilson of Houston called for a constitutional amendment to do away with Texas' 142-year-old ban on lotteries. In addition to two-thirds approval in the House, the proposal needed Senate passage and voter approval in a statewide referendum. In the House, lottery proponents tallied only

72 of a needed 100 votes, while opponents registered 73 votes to kill the measure.

"We were enormously pleased with the vote outcome," said Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. He said a motion to reconsider is possible in the regular session, which is scheduled to end May 27, but not likely. The motion would have to be initiated by a legislator who originally voted against the proposal. A simple majority vote could then approve reconsideration of the lottery, but the bill would still need a two-thirds majority on the final vote.

"The likelihood of lottery supporters turning around the votes they need in this regular session is slim," said Strickland. "However, a lottery is very likely to come up for consideration if, indeed, there is a special session this summer."

Sources in Austin have said that a special session appears increasingly probable as Texas lawmakers struggle to adopt a balanced budget during a time of drastically decreased revenues from oil, gas, and agribusiness. During the last special session, a state lottery bill passed in the Texas Senate, but that earlier proposal died in the House Committee on State Affairs.

Early missionary to Thailand dies

NEWPORT Ky. — Emeritus missionary Mary Frances Gould, one of two women to begin Southern Baptist work in Thailand, died May 18 in Newport, Ky. She was 70 years old.

Gould was a Southern Baptist missionary from 1948 until she was placed on medical retirement in 1976. She was appointed to China, but just as she completed language study in Canton, political instability forced her to leave the country.

Early Southern Baptist missionaries to Thailand concentrated their witness on the Chinese minority, but in 1952 Gould and another woman initiated work among the Thais.

Gould also worked several years in literature publication and promotion and was missionary adviser to area churches and chapels. She taught religious education at the Thailand Baptist Theological Seminary in Bangkok. She also helped develop day care centers.

Born in Ohio, Gould grew up in Covington, Ky.

Surviving Gould are a sister, Esma Painter of Lancaster, Pa., and a brother, LeRoy Erl of Victorville, Calif.

Mission board logs 5,000 phone calls

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The number of telephone calls in one week to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's PrayerLine topped 5,000 for the first time during the first week of May.

PrayerLine's toll-free number is 1-800-ALL-SEEK (1-800-255-7335).

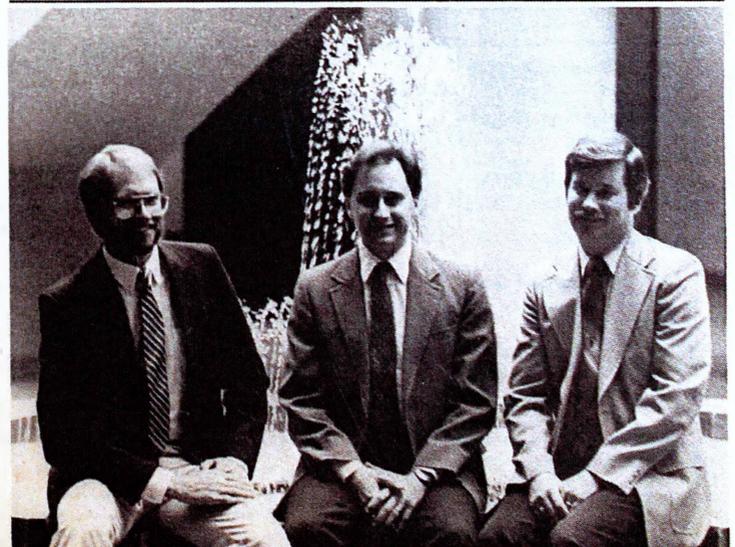
Clark to receive honorary degree

Paul Clark, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Jackson who underwent a heart transplant April 15 at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., will return to Jackson May 28 to receive an honorary doctor of divinity degree during Union University's commencement ceremony May 30.

Clark, who became ill Jan. 13, will be greeted by church members who will line the street he will travel to his home, reported David Stephan, the church's minister of music.

He will return to the St. Louis hospital during the first week of June, where he is undergoing physical therapy in the rehabilitation unit. Stephan said that no signs of rejection of the heart had been reported.

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



NOBTS TENNESSEANS — New officers of the Tennessee Club at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary are (from left) Ted Headlee of Chattanooga, vice-president; Jeff Alford of Chattanooga, president; and Mike Yopp of Memphis, secretary-treasurer.

Tennessee

LEADERSHIP...

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida, has called Allen Matthews to serve as staff assistant. He joined the staff May 4. John Shepherd is the pastor.

Robbie Robison has resigned as minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, to become minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Center Point, Ala. His resignation was effective May 24. Billie Friel is pastor of the Mt. Juliet church.

Bert Jones has accepted the call to serve as associate pastor/education of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga. He has been serving as minister of education of Westwood Baptist Church in Cleveland. He has also served as associate pastor/education of First Baptist Church in Laurel, Miss., and First Baptist Church in Troy, Ala. Fred Steelman is pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church.

Mars Hill Baptist Church in Knoxville has called Todd Meredith to serve as minister of youth and education. A native of Knoxville, he is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in that city. He recently graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort

Worth, Texas. Most recently Meredith served as minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Palo Pinto, Texas. Bob Peek is pastor of the Mars Hill church.

Bill Reinhard, pastor of the Spanish mission at Temple Baptist Church in Memphis, has moved to California. Jose Zepeda is the new pastor of the congregation.

Daniel Shim resigned as pastor of the Korean mission of New Providence Baptist Church in Clarksville. Ho Kil Kahng, who began this work, is once again serving as pastor.

Entae Jo is pastor of the recently begun Korean mission at First Baptist Church, Jackson.

The Korean mission of Cumberland Baptist Church in Knoxville is being served by John Young Kim as pastor.

The Cambodian mission at Silverdale Baptist Church in Chattanooga has called Samkhanh Chhom as pastor.

Sereivuth Chan has been called as pastor of the Cambodian mission of Temple Baptist Church in Memphis.

PEOPLE...

Harsh Chapel Baptist Church in Nashville voted May 22 to elect Fred Gibson as deacon emeritus. Robert LeMay is the pastor.

Robert French and Gary Slayden were ordained as deacons at Charlotte Road Baptist Church in Nashville on April 26. Joe Estes is the pastor.

CHURCHES...

Glenwood Baptist Church in Kingsport is in the midst of a year-long centennial celebration which began with a watch-night service on Dec. 31. Events have been planned monthly throughout December 1987 to recognize the 100th anniversary of the church. Highlighting the festivities will be a homecoming celebration on June 7. William Palmer is presently serving as interim pastor of the church.

REVIVAL PRAYER REQUESTS...

Shaw's Chapel Baptist Church in Brownsville has revival services scheduled for May 31 through June 5. Charles Pratt will be the evangelist. John Kimberly Jr., minister of music and youth, will lead the music. Jim Douglass is the pastor.

Clifford Horne, former pastor of Woodcock Memorial Baptist Church in Nashville, will lead revival services for the church June 7-10. Horne is now director of Christian social ministries for the Nashville Baptist Association. Frank Armstrong is presently serving as pastor of the Woodcock church.

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Dr. Gerald L. Stow
Executive Director/Treasurer
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

TBCH camp provides a time for Christian enrichment

Suffer little children and forbid them not...

For the third straight year we will hold our Camp of Champions at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala. All of our children and staff will meet together for five wonderful days of learning the word of God, recreation, worship in the Lord and building meaningful relationships.

In the last two years, a total of 37 boys and girls have made professions of faith at the camp. Rev. Steve Wright will serve this year as our

camp pastor. Steve is well qualified to serve in this way since he grew up at the Memphis home.

The camp is called a "Camp of Champions" for we believe that there is a champion in the life of every child. It is up to those of us who work with them to help them realize their greatest potential.

The camp has never been a budgeted item. It costs \$55 per individual for the camp. Friends of our children across the state have shared in such a generous way that we have always had the resources to meet the expenses. As our camp

dates of June 7-11 approach, we still lack scholarships for some of the children. Your help is always appreciated.

Please pray for the good staff of workers who will be teaching our children. Pray for our staff to be spiritually, emotionally and physically refreshed. Pray that our children who need to be saved will be, and others will find a closer walk with Jesus.

Thank you Tennessee Baptists for having time and caring like Jesus did (Matthew 18).

Children gather for a joyous week of worship, fellowship and fun

"But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ." —Philippians 3:13b, 14

The opportunity of attending a Christian summer camp was not often extended to children of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes prior to 1984.

"Some of our children had had good camp experiences through the support of the churches they attended. But many, many of our children had not had that opportunity," explains Dr. Gerald L. Stow, executive director/treasurer of TBCH. "So we began to dream and plan how we could have such an experience. It was important not only to the children, but also to the staff members at our campuses who needed a time of sharing and strengthening."

When the agency was unable to reserve space in a Tennessee-based Baptist camp due to prior obligations, staff members finally located a "near perfect" site in Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala.

"The facilities there fit our needs perfectly," says Cliff McClendon, assistant director of the TBCH Camp of Champions, scheduled this year for June 7-11. "The housing for the youth is good, and the staff quarters are like a hotel. There's a lake

with paddleboats, a large pool, a miniature golf course, plenty of classrooms and a good worship facility."

Staff members from each TBCH campus (social workers, administrators and house parents) attend camp with the children. In addition, volunteer teachers from across Tennessee join to teach daily Bible study lessons.

"We're indebted to Mary Allen (director of Youth Work in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Training Department) for her assistance in locating volunteer teachers," says Richard Savage, director of cottage life at the TBCH Chattanooga campus. "We also received several volunteers from Dr. Stow's talks across the state."

Children will spend each morning in Bible study. The lesson book, "Our Father": The Doctrine of Prayer, was written by Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union. It is designed to give youth a better understanding of prayer and the Biblical teachings relating to it.

During the children's conferences, TBCH staff members will join for a time of Bible study and fellowship.

Following lunch, the adults and children will rejoin for afternoon recreation activities. Each person is given a camp t-shirt—red, blue or green—to represent their team for competition in softball, volleyball and swimming. (Each team sits out one event each day for a free period.) At the end of camp, each member of the winning team receives a banana split.

Evening worship services are led by Rev. Steve Wright. In the



Touring the lake on paddle boats is a favorite pastime at the Shocco Springs Camp.

past two years, 37 children have made professions of faith during this special time. "Those are the moments which make all the work and effort worth it," notes Dr. Stow.

Following a break, the campers divide into cluster groups of eight members each. During fellowship, each person thinks up one compliment for each member of the group. "So at the end of camp, each child has 32 positive things to think about," explains Mark Vigus. "We want to bring out the positive aspects of each individual."

In addition, each of the cluster groups performs a skit on the last evening of camp. The activity is a favorite among campers because of the creative silliness of some of the skits which brings laughter from the audience.

Because of the large number of staff and children of TBCH, the entire camp is reserved at a cost of \$55 per child. Private donations provide scholarship support for the once-a-year event. At times, the logistics and expenses of taking more than 250 youth and adults to camp seem overwhelming. But Dr. Stow says he knows the effort is well worth it.

"On the last day of camp last year, I saw a teenage girl crying in the chapel. I asked her what was wrong, and she said she was sad that they were leaving because she had never had so much fun.

"Children who have been battered or abused need a trip like this. They need an opportunity to focus on something besides their family problems."

During camp, each child is challenged to better himself or herself in several areas, including spiritual, social, and physical skills. Accomplishments of each child are recorded each day. Honor Camper ribbons are given to those who succeed in their goals.

There's no doubt that the visit to camp is a time of personal challenge. But, reminds Cliff McClendon, the children look forward to the camp each year with great anticipation, and for a very good reason: "It's just plain fun."

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for May 31

Cries of the people

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

Basic Passages: Psalms 123; 126; 137
Focal Passages: Psalms 123:1-4; 126:1-6; 137:1-8

Throughout my years as a Christian, it has continued to come to mind what I was told by my pastor early in my life. He told me that the Book of Psalms was not only a collection of songs of the joyful soul; but it was also a collection of the prayers of the tortured soul.

The three psalms which make up our Scripture lessons for today are among this latter type.

Any of you who have found yourself in trouble will surely be able to identify with the yearnings for the touch of God that we find in these psalms. As we read and study them together this week, my prayer for you is that you will be reminded of the source of your strength in life.

Psalms 123 and 126 are subtitled "A Song of Ascents." These were the songs sung by the pilgrims making the journey to the Temple of Jerusalem on the feast days. From all over the country, even including other countries, they came to find renewal and help from God.

As they made those final steps up toward the main entrance to the Temple after so many miles, can't you imagine the excitement and the joy they would feel. This was where they believed the Lord lived and finally they could have their needs met.

Have mercy, Lord

This prayer begins much like the Lord's Prayer, recognizing the highness of God and our own lowliness before His throne. The psalmist knows the source of his help. He knows that whatever help he may receive will surely come from the hand of the Lord.

Though not quite certain of the Lord's timing in giving His help, the psalmist waits patiently for it. The picture of the servant waiting on his master helps us to understand the certainty in his heart. As a servant waits on the slightest gesture from the master as a signal to perform some service, the child of God keeps his eye fixed on the Lord for he is sure that He will come to his aid.

The psalmist voices a prayer for many of us who have known a similar kind of persecution. He is not concerned with a threat of death or physical punishment from his tormentors. Instead his faith has made him an object of contempt and ridicule. Isn't this the worst sort of hurt anyone can inflict on us?

This is that special kind of persecution which our youngsters know as peer pressure. It is not limited to teens. That kind of pressure is the reason many adults seldom say anything to their colleagues and co-workers about their faith. The

prayer of the psalmist for the mercy of God in such times should be our prayer as well.

Do it again, Lord

Until the recent habit of thinking only about the present or future, it was customary for people to talk a lot about the past. When old friends got together even after brief separations, they would begin to talk about happier times when there were fewer problems and their friendship was at its peak. They would have done anything for each other.

The picture in Psalm 126 is of a reminiscence like that of past experiences with God. The Jewish people taught us Christians how to remember the gracious acts of God.

They, and we, are usually at our best spiritually when we can remember God's goodness to us in the past. It is this remembrance that is a constant refrain of the prophets who called the people of Israel to repentance.

When we pause to remember the gracious acts of God on our behalf, can we help but be filled with joy? When we recall those awful, sin-darkened days of the past and the grace of God in Jesus Christ bringing us deliverance, we cannot help but rejoice "with joy unspeakable and full of glory." This is what the psalmist was talking about in verses 1-2.

Remembering that, is it any wonder that when trouble came again it was only natural to seek God's graciousness again? Again, as in the previous psalm, the expectation is that God will surely act quickly and the joy will be restored. The psalmist sees the showers of God's mercy bringing a flashflood of His blessings (v.4).

Remember us, oh Lord

This last psalm (137) is the prayer of the believer who has kept the faith so long in the midst of unbelief that he is "plum tuckered out." Most of us have come to some point where we felt that our faith had reached its end. We weren't ready to quit believing. We were just so discouraged that we were losing all hope.

They had lost all their joy. Unlike the pilgrims to the Temple who were in sight of the holy place of God, these were men and women living in a pagan country who had not been allowed to make these journeys to renew their faith. Yet, in these weak moments of their faith, they steadfastly refused to forget Jerusalem or forsake their God.

The last three verses may give us some problem as Christians. We have been taught by the Lord Jesus to love our enemies and to pray for them. But we must remember that these are the cries of people in spiritual anguish and also that they were living on the other side of the cross.



Nail



Kendall

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for May 31

Promise of restoration

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

Basic Passage: Hosea 13:1 to 14:9
Focal Passage: Hosea 14:1-9

A successful lawyer sat in my office. He stated he wanted to become a Christian. However, he said he had found that the first step must be the right one in making any decision.

He then asked: "What is the first step I must take to become a Christian?" What would you have told him? Surprisingly, many are unable to answer his question.

The answer is repentance! The Old and New Testaments make this unmistakably clear.

Peter preached at Pentecost and the people cried out under conviction: "What must we do?" The answer: "Repent ye . . . in the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 2:37-38).

Jesus began His ministry in Galilee preaching the necessity of repentance. "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

During World War II, a mother received a telegram that her son had been killed in action. In fitful sleep that night, she dreamed she was allowed to choose a moment in his life in which she could see him again. She recalled so many scenes in his life. Then she remembered an incident when he was a small boy.

She was in the kitchen preparing the noon meal, and her son asked for a cookie. She denied his request because it was so near lunch time. He shouted: "Mamma, I hate you," and stomped out of the kitchen. The mother stood at the stove and wept. In a few minutes, she felt his chubby arms around her aproned waist. She looked down and as a big tear fell down her son's cheek he said: "Mamma, I didn't mean it. I love you." She said that was the moment she wanted to see him again.

The Bible says when a person repents, there is joy in heaven (Luke 15:7). Joy is brought to the heart of God.

The prophet Hosea realized God would never cease loving us, no matter what we become or what we do. Hosea did not stop loving his wife because of her immorality or slavery to sin. He paid the price to redeem her. She was restored to the family. In like manner, God sought to restore backsliding Israel to Himself.

Call to repentance (14:1-3)

Hosea urged Israel to pray for forgiveness and accept responsibility for her sins (vv.1-2). He worded a prayer for the people. God did not desire sacrifices (calves) — but genuine repentance. The prophet believed God had power to forgive sins and restore sinners, and he

wanted the people to have faith in God to "take away all iniquity" (note the word "all").

The prophet urged the people to turn away from relying on human allies and trust God alone for their protection (v.3). He was referring to Israel's reliance on Asshur (the god of Assyria). The horses represented the cavalry (military might).

Hosea also urged the people to turn from idol worship ("work of our hands"). He called for genuine repentance (v.1): "O Israel return unto the Lord thy God," that is, the turning away from idol worship to follow after the way of the Lord. Israel was to make a spiritual U-turn. Repentance would occur when Israel turned from her sins. Their commitment to follow the Lord would be an act of faith.

Repentance is not mere sorrow or remorse, though sorrow is a facet of repentance. True repentance results in a change of conduct.

There is, then, a repentance that is not genuine. If a man steals \$10,000 and seeks to make restitution by merely repaying \$100, he is appeasing his conscience.

Many people do things for God in order to appease their conscience but do not give up their sins. These people are deluding only themselves. Some use worship for this purpose.

Hosea told the people of Israel that God wanted them to genuinely repent by turning from their sins to follow only the Lord. God called Israel to make a recommitment to the covenant made with Him.

Mercy offered (14:4-9)

God spoke to Israel, through Hosea, in these verses. If God's people sincerely prayed the prayer in verses 1-3, then God would respond in love and mercy. Verses 4-9 depended on verses 1-3. God's love is not unconditional, but His response of mercy is conditioned on genuine repentance and faith in God without which there can be no forgiveness. No person living in rebellion against God can expect God's forgiveness. We repent or we perish (Luke 13:3).

If Israel repented, the nation would be healed of backsliding and then would be blessed. The nation of Lebanon was used to describe these blessings, because of that nation's natural beauty and prosperity (vv. 5-7). God would bless Israel with fruitfulness. The pagan gods were powerless (v.8).

The people of Israel needed wisdom to understand spiritual truths (v. 9). Hosea promised that God would never lead to destruction, but always to an abundant life. Hosea 14, which reveals the never ending mercy of the Lord, is ultimately fulfilled in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A relevant question is: "In what ways would God bless you if you repented of your sins?"

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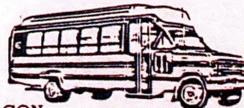
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LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
Lesson for May 31

Philip, zealous witness

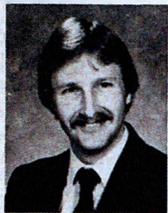
By Johnny M. Johnson, pastor
Trinity Baptist Church, Clarksville

Basic Passage: Acts 8:4-40

Focal Passages: Acts 8:4-8, 26-30, 35, 40

Our God can bring triumph out of tragedy.

When Stephen sealed his testimony by the spilling of his blood, shock waves of doubt and fear must have rocked the young church. Can we not imagine their somber gathering as they assembled to seek the face of God? The twelve, along with six remaining servants of the church, women, children, and others



Johnson

were quietly gathering as the church came together to comfort one another.

Perhaps someone rose and said, "We remember the darkness of Good Friday. We were defeated, disturbed, and downcast until the dawning of the Lord's day. Now our Lord lives; He conquered death. He has come to us to lift us up and help us tell the good news . . ." One could feel the oppressive weight of gloom lifting as the Spirit of God ministered to the hurting congregation.

This scene would be disturbed by one bursting through the door. The breathless messenger relates that officials of the Temple are looking for believers, arresting them, bodily rousting them from their engagements. Some are being beaten, their homes ransacked. Others are drilled for information concerning "the way."

The peaceful existence of the church was shattered by the coming of pressure from without. "Persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria" (Acts 8:1). The death of Stephen seems to have sparked outrage against the church which in turn spurred the church to fulfill the bold mission of witnessing to the world.

Scattered by persecution (8:4-8)

The persecution which was intended to stop the spread of Christianity actually served to facilitate evangelization. Luke notes that as Christians were dispersed, the church expanded along the lines Jesus had outlined - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Those who were scattered (literally "sown in separate or scattered places") went about preaching the Word (v.4).

One of those who was preaching was Philip, who had earlier been selected to be a servant in the Jerusalem church. Philip went to a Samaritan city and became a herald of the Christ to them. Philip was a pioneer in witnessing beyond the barriers.

The rift between the Jews and the Samaritans is proverbial. In spite of their mutual exclusion, these groups had much in common. They shared the expectation of the Messiah, as is evidenced by Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman (John 4:19-26).

Philip overcame the distinctions that could separate him from his audience. He told the people the good news that the Christ (Messiah) had come. He showed

them how to be saved, and multitudes of Samaritans responded to the gospel message. The zealous witness of Philip transformed the Samaritan city so that there was "much joy in that city" (v.8).

Sent by the Spirit (8:26-30)

While persecution provided the impetus that spread the seeds of the gospel beyond Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit energized faithful witnesses. The Holy Spirit was working through Philip to evangelize many Samaritans when the zealous witness was compelled to go to a "desert road" (v.26).

Why would the Lord lead an effective, dedicated servant away from the multitudes to one person in a wilderness? The Lord knows the value of one.

The Lord led another layman, a Sunday School teacher named Kimball, to a shoe store to witness to a clerk. That clerk became Evangelist D. L. Moody. Moody's ministry touched the heart of F. B. Meyer, a pastor. Meyer spoke on a college campus and brought a student named J. Wilbur Chapman to Christ. Chapman engaged in YMCA work and employed a young athlete named Billy Sunday to help him. Sunday later held a revival in Charlotte, N.C., that was so successful that it was followed by a campaign led by Mordecai Hamm. Under the preaching of Hamm, a lanky young man named Billy Graham made Christ Lord of his life.

The Holy Spirit works in specific situations with dramatic results. Let us ever be obedient to the leadership of the Spirit

in our lives, even if we are led along a "desert road."

Speaking about Jesus (8:35, 40)

Philip was led to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. Soon he spotted a deluxe chariot carrying an important person, and the Spirit prompted him to join this traveller. Obedience to the Spirit led Philip to a wonderful opportunity to witness to a person who was primed and ready to respond. Philip "told him the good news" (v.35). The traveller turned out to be an Ethiopian who was in the administration of the Candace of Ethiopia. He accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, was baptized, and the seed was scattered also in Ethiopia.

Philip continued his witness. He preached the gospel from town to town, lifting up Jesus, touching lives, spreading the gospel toward the ends of the earth. We are still witnessing on our street corners and to the isolated corners of the world.

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Start rejoicing if you supported Southern Baptist foreign missions in 1986. You're part of something big—the world's biggest program of foreign missions. It used 180 million of your dollars to help change lives in 108 nations.

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- 20 new churches started each week
- 411 missionaries appointed (ending the year with 3,756)
- More than:
 - 14,500 national pastors
 - 50,000 radio and 2,150 TV programs
 - 1,900 Southern Baptist volunteers joining overseas Baptists in partnership evangelism, resulting in 24,279 professions of faith
 - 6,200 total volunteers overseas
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Cooperative Program	61,289,000	34
Investment Income	30,007,000	17
Designated and Special Gifts	10,476,000	6
Hunger and Relief	8,503,000	5
Other Income	2,411,000	1
Total	\$179,821,000	100%

How it was used

1986		
Missionary Support	\$ 86,212,000	47.9%
Evangelism and Church Development	12,672,000	7.0
Leadership Development	6,021,000	3.3
Media Ministries	2,948,000	1.6
Health Care Ministries	2,542,000	1.4
Human Need Ministries	663,000	.4
General Foreign	6,225,000	3.5
Other Field Activities	7,576,000	4.2
Special Gifts Disbursed	3,034,000	1.7
Hunger and Relief	8,510,000	4.7
Home Administration and Promotion	18,014,000	10.0
Endowment Transfers and Additions to Property Funds	20,542,000	11.4
Funding of Employee Benefits Programs	2,500,000	1.4
Available for Designated Use in Subsequent Year	3,500,000	2.0
Available for Appropriation in Subsequent Year	(1,138,000)	(.5)
Total	\$179,821,000	100%

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Tennesseans start deaf work in Puerto Rico

By Jim Burton

PONCE, Puerto Rico — A breeze rushes through the carpet, rustling bushes and flapping temporary curtains that divide the groups meeting there.

But it doesn't distract the 30 or so who have come to worship with Tennesseans David and Marsha Mitchell. Their attention is focused on the Mission Service Corps volunteers from Seymour.

The small group they lead is the deaf mission congregation of Glenview Baptist Church in Ponce, the largest Southern Baptist church in Puerto Rico.

Glenview's work with the deaf was the

first among churches in this predominately Catholic city of 250,000. But it took MSC volunteers to get it started.

The Mitchells first became involved in deaf work 20 years ago after allergy problems began to impair David's hearing. He had served as a bivocational pastor in churches throughout Tennessee and Kentucky, dividing his time between the church and barbering.

But the allergies made it impossible for David to continue in barbering and made it increasingly difficult to serve hearing churches.

After the Mitchells overcame their initial bitterness concerning David's hear-

ing impairment, they began to realize ministry opportunities, states Jerry Seale, deaf minister at First Baptist Church, Knoxville.

"It moved them into an area that proved to be the providence of God," says Seale.

The Mitchells moved to Seymour where Mitchell served as volunteer chaplain to the deaf at Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy while learning sign language. In addition, prior to their assignment with MSC in May 1985, he served part time on the staff of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, ministering to families with deaf members.

Today, in Ponce, Puerto Rico, services are held in the new Glenview Baptist facility with between 50 and 55 attending three Sunday School classes. According to Mitchell, over 35 professions of faith have

been made as a result of the ministry. In addition, they have begun a drama class and a special Bible class for more serious students.

During their first year of service in Ponce, the Mitchells were joined by their daughter, Lei Ann, who finished high school there. The opportunity to live in Puerto Rico and serve alongside her parents was an experience Lei Ann cherishes.

"The Puerto Ricans really believe in themselves," says Lei Ann. "It's a great culture. I have a lot of people there I can call friend."

MSC volunteers are assigned by the Home and Foreign Mission boards with specific ministry tasks. MSC volunteers are self-supporting. They typically receive financial assistance from individuals and churches.

FCC hits 'shock radio'

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE (BP) — Recent action by the Federal Communications Commission to crack down on "shock radio" deejays who use indecent or obscene language on the air may be a breakthrough for anti-pornography forces.

For the first time in recent years, the FCC asked the Justice Department to investigate a radio station for possible prosecution for broadcasting material containing graphic depictions of sex acts. The commission said the broadcast was indecent "and may have crossed the line" to obscenity.

The FCC also issued warnings to two other stations, including one which airs morning-show personality Howard Stern of New York. Stern's program mixes sexual innuendo, music, news, weather, and traffic reports. The Stern show is one of a growing number of highly profitable "shock radio" shows which uses crude, obnoxious, and sometimes illegal material on the air.

"Shock radio" deejays compete to build ratings and earn higher advertising revenues for their stations and salaries for themselves.

The FCC's passivity related to these and other indecent radio and television broadcasts is viewed by anti-pornography groups as a major factor in the erosion of suitable prime time family programming.

Various groups have exerted pressure on the FCC in recent months to enforce existing federal statutes related to the broadcast of indecent or obscene programs.

Although the FCC was not in the limelight of the recent Report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, it was mentioned several times as an agency which could use its powers more aggressively. The report's focus on "hard-core" pornography was reflected in recommendations that the FCC use its power against dial-a-porn companies and cable and satellite television.

The FCC's action is a warning to radio stations across the country that the commission will be imposing stricter standards for compliance of laws prohibiting the broadcast of indecent or obscene material.

The move by the FCC drew guarded praise from N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. The CLC for years has fought for higher moral standards for radio and television programming.

"Technology has moved the obscenity and pornography problem well beyond the printed page," Baker emphasized.

"The Christian Life Commission welcomes any sign of responsible enforcement of current federal obscenity statutes.

"Although the action is not as substantial as we would like," he said, "it represents a clear change in the mood of the FCC which through deregulation has very candidly supported a marketplace theory of regulation. That approach has been an abdication of the social responsibility embodied in obscenity statutes."

Baker said the latest FCC action may become a battleground for the FCC and the radio industry: "Shock radio" means big money for radio personalities and the stations. Two leading deejays who work as a team split an annual salary of \$750,000 and another team has signed a multimillion-dollar five-year contract.

"The obscenity movement has moved from 'adult' bookstores into our homes via radio and television," Baker said. "Hopefully the FCC and the rest of the federal government will begin more consistent enforcement of public policy against obscenity which our laws embody."

Interpretations

The compassionate Christ

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And Jesus . . . was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and He began to teach them many things" (Mark 6:34).

Jesus had taken the apostles across the sea of Galilee for a period of rest. But sensing His destination, a multitude of people ran around the northern end of the sea to be with Him. Though He needed rest, Jesus could not deny them. After a long run they probably were lying on the ground, panting. They reminded Jesus of sheep without a shepherd.

The Jewish religious leaders were supposed to be their shepherds. But they were as blind leading the blind. Their rote rituals and dry-as-dust legalism failed to feed people's souls. So Jesus had compassion upon them. His heart went out to them.

Therefore He "began to teach them many things." To teach is a present infinitive. He began, and kept on teaching them many things. Parallel passages in Matthew 14:14 and Luke 9:11 add that He also healed them. Jesus was never too tired or busy to minister to people's needs. With Him people came first. If the Lord's people ignore the needs of people about them, these people will soon ignore His people. It was immediately after this extended teaching session that Jesus fed the



EFFECTIVE MINISTRY — Mission Service Corps volunteers Marsha (left) and David Mitchell conduct deaf worship services at Glenview Baptist Church in Ponce, Puerto Rico. The mission has resulted in more than 30 professions of faith in less than two years.

Brazilian governor asks for service in church

BELEM, Brazil — At newly elected Gov. Helio Gueiros' request, First Baptist Church in Belem held an "evangelical worship service of thanksgiving and intercession" the night before he was sworn into office as leader of Para state. Included in the official inauguration activities, the service attracted more than 1,000 people according to Southern Baptist missionary Loyd Moon, who preached.

"The incredible thing was the reverence," Moon said. "People were still and listened to every word." Gueiros also spoke, telling of what the Bible has meant in his life.

Belmont names professor of year

NASHVILLE — F. Janet Wilson, professor of English at Belmont College in Nashville, was recently named Chaney Distinguished Professor of the Year. She was honored at the April 29 awards day at the college.

Wilson, a native of Mississippi who grew up in Florida where her father was a Baptist pastor, holds two degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Texas. She also holds advanced degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and from Oxford University in England.

Before joining Belmont's faculty in 1961, Wilson taught at the elementary, high school, and college levels. She also served as dean of girls at San Marcos

Baptist Academy in Texas and as state secretary of youth for Woman's Missionary Union in North Carolina.

She is also a composer, having co-written the Belmont College alma mater.

"A teacher's job includes, not only communicating information and insight, but also motivating students and helping them to discover the gifts in themselves. We only have what we give away. That's one of the great rewards of teaching," said Wilson.

Since 1959, Belmont has honored one professor each year with the outstanding professor award.

Wilson was also named professor of the year in 1965-66, and she was voted teacher of the year by the student body in 1970.

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