

Baptist and Reflector

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News journal of Tennessee Baptist Convention

State court views churches as PACs

Jackson churches appeal to United States Supreme Court

By Charlie Warren

The Tennessee Supreme Court, in a 5-0 decision, overturned the earlier decision of the Tennessee Court of Appeals, ruling instead that churches which speak out on referenda issues must declare themselves to be political action committees and file disclosure statements.

Representatives of 10 of the 13 Jackson-area churches involved in the lawsuit met May 29 and reaffirmed their decision to appeal the case to the United States Supreme Court.

John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church and spokesman for the 13 churches, read a statement prepared for the press by the group that met May 29.

"We have reviewed carefully one of the cardinal principles on which our democracy was founded — the separation of church and state," the statement declared. "The issue for which we contend continues to be of such consequence to the exercising of our religious faith that we

have reaffirmed our decision made earlier to pursue it to the highest court of our country.

"Our legal counsel team has been asked to file our appeal at the earliest possible date," the statement continued. "Our attorneys anticipate the United States Supreme Court's willingness to hear our case.

"We should like to state again in unequivocal terms that we are churches. We are not political action committees. We believe that as churches, we have the constitutional right to exercise our religious faith publicly without interference by the state.

"Morally and doctrinally, we are conscience bound to address issues that may or may not appear on a ballot in an election. Because we confront publicly a moral issue that has become a part of an election process does not transform us from being a church to being a political action committee.

"The ramifications of this issue impact the religious community across America, not just 13 churches in Jackson, Tenn.," the statement concluded. "There will be other moral issues on ballots that churches must confront as a matter of faith and practice without being labeled political action committees across our land. The preservation of the doctrine of the separation of church and state must be preserved."

In its decision, the Tennessee high court stated, "We think that the sole determinative issue is whether the Act (the Tennessee Campaign Financial Disclosure Act) violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. We find it unnecessary to address the other issues to resolve this case."

The justices also noted, "The recent history of campaign financial abuses as well as the growth and possible dominance of special interest political action committees make the state's disclosure require-

ments necessary to allow the public to have some gauge by which to assess the sources, content, and frequency of campaign publicity and activity.

"As enacted, the Campaign Financial Disclosure Act does not and cannot control the quality or content of speech," the court opinion continued. "It does not limit contributions or expenditures made during a campaign; it is neutral in all respects as regards the groups to whom it applies and the types of activities at which it is specifically aimed.

"If any group wished to engage in financing outside specific election campaigning, whether involving a candidate election or referendum, the people of the state, including these plaintiffs, have the right to know the extent of such financial involvement during the campaign in order to maintain a balanced and informed view of the campaign," the statement added. "Accordingly, we conclude that (Continued on page 3)

FMB names Tennesseans as foreign missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. — Three couples and one single person with Tennessee connections were among 32 appointed as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board May 19 at Huguenot Road Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

William W. Lawson will be a missionary associate in Surinam, where he will start and develop churches.

The native of Chattanooga is associate pastor of Northwoods Baptist Church, Chamblee, Ga.

Lawson is a graduate of Reinhardt College in Waleska, Ga. and Georgia Southern College in Statesboro. He has taught school and has served on church staffs in Georgia.

Earl R. and Jane Martin will begin serving in Switzerland in August, where he will teach at the International Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon and they will be involved in outreach ministries.

Martin is a graduate of Maryville (Tenn.) College; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and the University of Nairobi (Kenya).

Since 1982, he has been a professor at Southwestern seminary. Prior to that the Martins served as missionaries in Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda for 26 years. They also established Temple Hills Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., where he was pastor.

Jane Winchester Martin is a graduate of Mars Hill (N.C.) College. The Martins have four grown children.

Michael E. and Nancy McGough will work in Canada, where he will teach in a



William Lawson



The Martins



The McGoughs



The Phelps

seminary and they will do outreach ministries.

McGough, who has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Whitwell and a church in Kentucky, does field education work at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is a graduate of Chipola Junior College in Marianna, Fla.; the University of West Florida in Pensacola; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and New Orleans seminary.

He also has taught school and has been an executive management trainee for a

retail company.

Nancy Carter McGough, who considers First Baptist Church in Whitwell her home church, graduated from the University of Richmond (Va.) and Southern seminary. She also expects to earn a degree from the University of New Orleans in August.

She has been a writer for Woman's Missionary Union, the Foreign Mission Board, and Southern seminary, and a teacher at Cameron College in New Orleans.

The McGoughs have one child.

Don H. and Linda Phelps will serve in the Philippines, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in outreach ministries.

Phelps, who is from Nashville where he considers Crievewood Baptist Church his home church, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Currently associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Bellaire, Texas, Phelps also has worked at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and has been on other church staffs in Texas.

Linda Campbell Phelps has been a teacher in Fort Worth and is a graduate of the University of Texas in Arlington.

The couple has four children.

Lawson, the McGoughs, and the Phelps will go to Rockville, Va., in June for a seven-week orientation before leaving for their fields. The Martins had attended missionary orientation before their earlier missionary services.

TBC gifts slow in May

Mission giving by Tennessee Baptists through the Cooperative Program is running 4.84 percent ahead of last year, but behind the convention-adopted goal, according to Tom Madden, executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

After seven months of the current convention year (November 1986 through May 1987), \$12,530,231.07 had been received. This amount is \$578,588.07 higher than the \$11,951,643.00 received during the same period last year.

The seven-month goal (seven-twelfths of the \$22.5-million budget) would be \$13,125,000. Receipts for the seven-month period are \$594,768.93 below (4.53 percent below) the pace needed to reach the goal.

Mission gifts through the Cooperative Program for May had reached \$1,596,999.76 when the convention's books closed Friday, May 29. The monthly goal for the current year is \$1,875,000. May's gifts followed April's total of \$2,123,783.43, which is the sixth highest total in TBC history.

Parks cites risks of mission service

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The man who leads the world's biggest program of overseas Christian missions said May 20 he foresees some tough, risky times ahead for missions but believes the potential results are worth the risk.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told trustees the board is in no way suggesting its missionaries should court martyrdom. He noted, however, that in every enterprise there is a measure of risk.

"The rule of thumb is that we limit our risks according to the results that might come," he said.

At any given time missionaries in some countries are working with a degree of risk, and occasionally the missionaries have no choice but to leave. However, when the missionaries feel led of God to stay, concerned Southern Baptists sometimes question whether the board should allow its missionaries to remain in places of risk, Parks said.

He pointed out that governments continue to risk the lives of their finest young men for the sake of their country.

"I simply come this morning to remind us that the stakes we are seeking to gain are more valuable than anything else God has created," he declared. "Jesus defined one soul as of greater value than the entire created universe."

Southern Baptists have committed themselves to Bold Mission Thrust, a program through which the 14.6-million-member denomination is seeking to do its part in sharing the gospel with all people by A.D. 2000. Through the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptists have about 3,800 missionaries at work in 110 countries worldwide and plan to have 5,600 missionaries in 125 countries by the end of the century.

He reiterated the board has a policy that it will not pay ransom if any of its representatives are taken hostage — "not because we do not value the individual taken hostage but because we do value all of our missionaries so much that we would not dare to jeopardize all the rest in trying to save one."

With more of the world's nations becoming hostile toward Christianity, the mission executive said, "I can't help but believe there will be some tough times ahead — that we will face crises we've never faced."

When and if such times come, Parks said, his prayer is that "we can be prepared to react from a sound biblical basis and from a solid policy posture, rather than being driven to react from an emotional level that might have serious repercussions in all that we try to do."

Missions research indicates there are between 60 and 70 nations inaccessible to traditional missionary approaches today, he said. If trends continue, he added, by the year 2000 there could be as many as 100 nations hostile toward the gospel. Their populations would include about 83 percent of the unreached world that Southern Baptists are committed to reach.

"We're talking about penetrating hostile societies with the gospel," he continued. "We cannot do that unless we are willing to take risks and to be responsible for running those risks."

In the same board meeting, trustees voted to study the need for a vice-president of communications and public relations, elected three new area directors, appointed 32 new missionaries and

reappointed two, and honored Winston Crawley, who is retiring after 40 years of service.

Crawley and his wife, Margaret, worked as missionaries to China and the Philippines before he was elected secretary for the Orient in 1954. From 1968 until 1980 he was director of the overseas division and since 1980 has been vice-president for planning. During his first year of retirement, he will teach missions courses at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, with tentative plans to teach at two other seminaries in the following years.

Studying the need for a vice-president for communications and public relations came as a final recommendation from the trustees' transition committee, which has worked closely with Parks in a major staff reorganization this year. The action instructed the communications and public relations committee "to give attention to this matter in concert with the strategy committee."

From 1980 to 1985 the board had a vice-president for communications, but beginning in 1986 the unit became the office of communications and public relations and was placed under the board's executive vice-president, Bill O'Brien, for a closer relationship to the executive office. An associate vice-president and two assistant vice-presidents have assisted O'Brien in the daily supervision of this area.

The three new area directors elected in May complete the board's new team to direct work in the nine geographic areas set up in the reorganization. They are Joe Bruce, Middle America and Canada; William Richardson, Brazil and the Caribbean; and Jerry Rankin, Southern Asia and the Pacific.

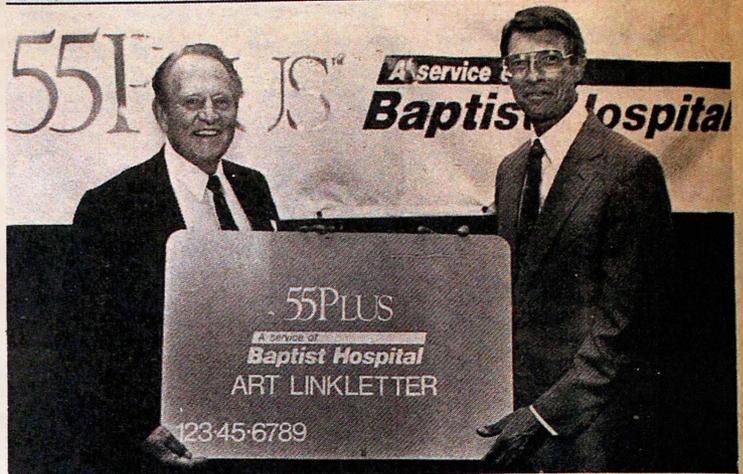
Bruce, a native of Clarkton, Mo., and his wife, the former Shirley Plumlee of Clarendon, Ark., have been missionaries in Central America since 1971. He became associate to the area director for the former Middle America and Caribbean area in 1981. In his new role he will direct the work of 300 Southern Baptist missionaries in seven Central American countries and in Canada from a home base in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Richardson, from Tulsa, Okla., has been associate director for Eastern South America since November 1986. He will live in Brazil and coordinate the mission work of more than 400 missionaries in Brazil and the Caribbean.

He and his wife, the former Kathryn Mallory of Springfield, Mo., were appointed in 1964. Following language study they lived for 20 years in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where he directed the department of evangelism and missions for the Minas Gerais, State Baptist Convention, was president of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Minas Gerais and was professor of New Testament at the seminary.

Rankin, from Clinton, Miss., most recently has been administrator for Southern Baptist mission work in India, working out of Bangkok, Thailand. He and his wife, the former Bobby Simmons of Lincoln County, Miss., became missionaries in 1970. Rankin was first assigned as a field evangelist in East Java, Indonesia, where he worked with new groups of Baptist believers. He worked in Surabaya, Indonesia, from 1979 to 1981.

From 1982 to 1986 Rankin was associate area director, acting as a liaison between the board and missionaries in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Brunei.



LINKLETTER LAUNCHES 55PLUS — Art Linkletter (left) and C. David Stringfield, president of Baptist Health Care System, Nashville, show off an enlarged version of the 55Plus membership card.

Nashville Baptist hospital event features Linkletter

NASHVILLE — Baptist Hospital has announced the introduction of 55Plus, a comprehensive package of services designed to meet the individual health needs of those 55 and over.

Veteran television and radio personality and author Art Linkletter outlined the program at a luncheon held at Baptist Hospital.

"I commend Baptist Hospital for presenting this new public service program to the community," Linkletter said. "As the 55 and older segment of the population increases, we are facing more and more choices, particularly in the area of health care. Baptist 55Plus offers a variety of services which will make those choices easier to understand and make."

Membership in Baptist 55Plus is free. The program provides health related services designed not only to help members with access to medical care, but stresses preventive care as well, according to C. David Stringfield, president of Baptist Hospital.

Membership in 55Plus provides a variety of complimentary services including health screenings and seminars, physician referral services, interest-free payment plans, private rooms at semi-private room rates, and much more. If hospitalization is needed, free transportation will be provided within a 25-mile radius of Baptist Hospital.

If admitted, Baptist 55Plus members will receive complimentary parking, an assigned guest representative, and up to six hours of complimentary homemaker services upon discharge if approved by a physician.

55Plus is not an insurance program or a Medicare supplement. Anyone over age 55 can join by completing an application and returning it to Baptist Hospital.

For more information on Baptist

55Plus, or to receive an application for free membership, write to Baptist 55Plus Program Manager, Baptist Hospital, 2000 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37236.

Barbara Mayo dies

Barbara Farmer Mayo died May 31 at 10 a.m. The wife of Michael Mayo, pastor of Saturn Drive Baptist Church in Nashville, she suffered a cerebral hemorrhage.

Mayo, 36, was six months pregnant at the time of her death. The 1-pound, 15-ounce boy is presently in critical care at Baptist Hospital in Nashville. Other survivors include her children Stephen, 12, and Laura, 9. Her father and step-mother live in Huntington. Funeral services will be June 3, at 1 p.m., at First Baptist Church in Milan. Bodkin Funeral Home is in charge.

The Mayos are natives of Milan. He has been pastor of the Saturn Drive church for just over one year.

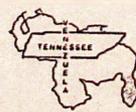
Mayberry's brothers die in Centerville

Douglas and George Mayberry, brothers of Director of Missions Joe Mayberry at William Carey Baptist Association, recently died after extended illnesses in Centerville.

Douglas Mayberry died on May 24. He was 75 years old. George Mayberry died on May 28. He was 67 years old.

The funerals were held on May 26 and May 30 respectively at McDonald Funeral Home in Centerville. The brothers were buried in Fairfield Cemetery in Fairfield.

Thomas Mayberry, another brother of Joe Mayberry, is pastor of Fairfield Baptist Church in Centerville.



Tennessee/Venezuela prayer net partnership

—Pray for the annual meeting of missionaries to be held in Rubio and for H. Eugene Cotey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, who will be the speaker.

—Pray for the simultaneous evangelistic crusades to be held in Venezuela in August and for the hundreds of volunteers from Tennessee who will be participating.

Fire destroys large church in Missouri

By Bob Terry

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)— A spectacular two-alarm fire destroyed the sanctuary and the top floor of the adjoining administrative building of First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Mo., on May 24.

More than 250 people were attending the church's Sunday evening worship service when the fire was discovered about 7:25. It raged for more than six hours before fire fighters from Jefferson City, Columbia, and Boone County could bring it under control.

The flames could be seen for miles around the capital city and drew hundreds of spectators. Jefferson City Fire Chief Robert Renick described the blaze as "the most expensive fire in the history of Jefferson City." He said his men had never fought a more difficult fire.

Fire marshals said the fire started beneath the choir loft in the 1,200-seat auditorium. The \$3-million auditorium facility, dedicated in October 1985, was among the newest and largest Missouri Baptist worship facilities.

Cause of the fire was listed as accident,

although fire officials refused to rule out faulty electrical wiring. Renick said the fire had probably been burning at least 30 minutes before it was discovered. He explained that worshippers would not have noticed the fire because the air flow "created a natural chimney effect" which took the blaze upward, where it spread between the sanctuary's ceiling and roof.

Workers from the Union Pacific railroad, located about a block from the church, noticed a thick, black pillar of smoke coming from the church roof and called an emergency number to report the fire. A policeman who was passing the church at the time of the report entered the building to order an evacuation. However, before the message could be conveyed to Pastor G. Nelson Duke, the smoke alarms in the building sounded and the congregation immediately evacuated the building without incident.

Several worshippers said they first thought it was a false alarm, but once outside they could see the heavy column of smoke.

Associate Pastor Don Gundy said flames broke into the sanctuary within minutes of the evacuation. He recounted

how he was leading firemen to the top floor of the building when fire shattered the large stained glass windows above the choir area, showering the auditorium with broken glass and sending fingers of fire across the ceiling.

"That was less than five minutes from the time the alarm sounded," he said. "I think we were very fortunate that no one was hurt."

Renick said firemen battled the blaze from inside the church for more than half an hour. When they were unable to contain the blaze, they were ordered out of the building. Hundreds of feet of hose and other equipment had to be abandoned when the ceiling started falling.

"It was close," Renick said of the fire fighters' evacuation. "The ceiling fell right behind them as they came out."

Once the fire fighters were out of the building, officials used water cannons and other equipment to battle the blaze from the roof down. Renick said they were hindered by the height and massiveness of the auditorium and the inaccessibility of the fire.

Firemen were able to keep the fire out of the church's adjoining four-story educational building, but they could not keep it off the administrative building roof. About midnight, the steel beams in the administrative building buckled from the heat and collapsed, sending a fireball hundreds of feet into the air. However, fire fighters were able to contain the blaze to the top floor of the attached three-story building.

For a time officials feared the walls of the auditorium would give way, but they did not. The extent of structural damage to the walls of both the auditorium building and the administrative building is yet to be determined.

In addition to losses from the fire, the church complex suffered extensive water

damage. Water ruined musical instruments, carpets, furnishings, books, and other supplies in the lower floors of the auditorium building. Similar losses occurred in the administrative building.

Church members were able to salvage most of the music library, many church records and the pastor's personal library from the administrative building. Losses were minimized when church members arranged to have paper records flash frozen and freeze dried to remove the moisture.

In all three buildings, electrical systems were destroyed and ceilings and floors were extensively damaged.

A temporary office complex has been set up in a church-owned house which adjoins the church complex. The church's family life center will be converted into a worship center for use while the buildings are rebuilt. The family life center escaped damage because it is not connected to the other buildings.

The church plans to continue its programs. Its two worship services will be held on Sunday as usual. Sunday School will be rearranged, with all adults meeting together in the worship center. Youth and children will meet in the Missouri Baptist Convention building located two blocks from the church. Preschoolers will meet in the worship center also.

"It isn't what we would like," said Duke. "But at least we will be able to meet together and worship together. Our people need that."

Duke said the fire had produced an outpouring of help from neighboring churches as well as from church members: "I don't know when I have seen so many people voluntarily come to work as we had here the day after the fire. When this is all over, we are going to be closer to the Lord and closer to each other."

Jackson churches appeal . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the Campaign Financial Disclosure Act of 1980 is constitutional in every respect."

Lee Boothby, the attorney for Americans United for Separation of Church and State who presented oral arguments on behalf of the churches during the April 7 hearing at the Tennessee Supreme Court, noted there is an advantage to losing the state high court decision.

"There is an advantage in the sense that you have more control of the questions that go up if you lose," Boothby said, adding that whoever appeals to the nation's high court gets to present the issues relevant to the appeal.

On Aug. 21, 1986, the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Western Section, ruled 2-1 that the Tennessee Campaign Financial Disclosure Act is unconstitutional as applied to referenda elections because it violates the First Amendment right of free speech.

The appeals court ruling reversed a Chancery Court decision that would have required churches that speak out on referenda issues to file financial disclosure statements. However, the appeals court judges ruled that such churches are political action committees under the disclosure act.

The case erupted when the 13 churches, nine of which are Southern Baptist, refused to file disclosure forms related to their involvement in opposing an August 1984 local option liquor election. That referendum was defeated by 40 votes, but a later referendum was successful.

On Aug. 29, 1984, Attorney General Michael Cody issued an opinion that churches which had spent at least \$250 in seeking to defeat the liquor-by-the-drink referendum were political action committees and were subject to filing the forms within 48 days after the election.

The churches refused to comply and instead brought suit against the State of Tennessee on the grounds that the Financial Disclosure Act, as interpreted by Cody, violates the freedom of religion guarantee of the First Amendment.

The Tennessee Supreme Court's ruling last week in effect means that while the case awaits a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, churches that spend more than \$250 addressing referenda issues

would be considered political action committees and would be required to file disclosure statements. Churches also would be required to provide the names of any individuals who contributed \$100 or more toward the defeat of a referendum.

The decision comes at a time when Tennessee voters are likely to face local referenda regarding the location of horse tracks which will allow pari-mutuel gambling.

Ivy Scarborough, a Jackson attorney who is representing the churches, said church members can still fight the pari-mutuel threat without the churches themselves becoming political action committees.

He said "people of like minds" could establish political action committees to raise funds and work to defeat the issue.

"Contributions could be made by individual members of the churches to the PAC, which in turn could file the necessary reporting documents and include the names of those contributors who made a contribution of \$100 or more," Scarborough said. "This would insulate the churches from having their names directly associated with the PAC, but would provide an organization through which funds could be utilized to defeat the measure."

He urged pastors to be aggressive and not be intimidated or inhibited by the Tennessee Supreme court decision.

"Pastors can readily stand up before their congregations on any Sunday and speak out against this legislation and urge their parishioners to make contributions to political action committees without having any fear of legal repercussions," Scarborough said. "They must not, under any circumstances, allow themselves to be muzzled."

Churches involved in the lawsuit that will now go to the U.S. Supreme Court are Bemis Pentecostal Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Englewood Baptist Church, First Assembly of God, First Baptist Church of Bemis, First Baptist Church of Jackson, Malesus Baptist Church, North Jackson Baptist Church, Northside Assembly of God, Poplar Heights Baptist Church, Skyline Church of Christ, West Jackson Baptist Church, and Woodland Baptist Church.

HMB honors Redding

James Redding, program associate in the missions department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was named 1987 State Interfaith Witness Coordinator of the Year recently by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board based in Atlanta, Ga.

It was the first time such an award has been given.

Redding received the award May 16 at the annual national conference for interfaith witness coordinators which met in San Francisco, Calif. About 40 states have such coordinators.

The native of Nashville has led training for 27 certified interfaith witness associates currently in Tennessee during his three and one-half years in this role. He also has trained associational coordinators and led the first statewide recognition of Interfaith Witness Week in 1987 which was held at Union University in Jackson and in local churches.

Redding and his wife, Marilyn, led an interfaith witness workshop at the seminary in Los Teques, Venezuela, to support the Tennessee/Venezuela partnership, and led seminars in a seminary and in churches in Peru. The Reddings served as missionaries to Peru from 1964-79.

The work is important "because the number of cults is growing, the number of adherents in those cults are growing, and many of those . . . are former evangelical Christians who simply do not know what their own churches teach nor were they aware of the false doctrines of the cults," said Redding.

"We also teach our people how to teach



1987 INTERFAITH WORKER — James Redding recently received the plaque which is on his desk naming him 1987 State Interfaith Witness Coordinator of the Year.

and win people of other persuasions." Redding added, noting that the principal threats in Tennessee are Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. Other areas of interfaith witness training include Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism, and the Unification Church, whose members are sometimes known as Moonies.

Prior to his work at the TBC, Redding was pastor of Lamar Heights Baptist Church in Memphis.

Letters to the editor

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

Distressed with letters

Dear editor:

I have been a faithful reader of the Reflector for many years now, but quite frankly I am getting rather distressed with some of the letters to the editor that you have been printing.

It seems to me that this page has been used to fan the flames of an already roaring inferno. Every week there are at least one or two letters addressing different "political" issues that seem to be at the front of the controversies in our convention.

Take, for instance, the comments made by Mr. Bledsoe in the May 20 issue. Everyone that knows me knows that I am very conservative, but honestly, comments like these sound as if they came from the mouth of Archie Bunker. Letters like these from either a conservative or moderate standpoint do nothing but damage the witness and influence of our convention and do not have enough value to be included in our paper.

I would encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ to watch what they say and how they say it. Mr. editor, I would encourage you to stop printing material that is so terribly detrimental to the efforts to restore peace and unity within our convention.

I beg you, please let the Reflector be an instrument of peace and not a flame fanner.

Dennis Johnson
P.O. Box 720
Italy, TX 76651

We print every letter we receive that meets the criteria stated at the top of the letters to the editor column each week. On rare occasions we call or write a letter writer, advising them of reasons we feel his or her letter should not appear in print. Even then, however, we'll use it if they insist. (editor)

Thanks for the scholarship

Dear editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Tennessee Baptist Foundation for their work with students from Tennessee. We have just received a scholarship from the foundation that will enable us to continue here at Southern seminary.

This is a fine ministry, and we are proud to be from a state that provides such an active ministry to their students that are away from home.

There are many pressures in seminary life, not the least of which is a continuing financial burden. Scholarships such as are provided by individuals through the foundation are one of the means that the Lord uses to ease that burden.

On behalf of all the students who receive these scholarships, let us say thank you. And to all those who provide such scholarships, may a special blessing fall from heaven!

Chuck and Carol Sikler
Box 1033
2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, KY 40280-1033

God was present

Dear editor:

I have just returned from Ridgecrest, where I attended the "Conference on Biblical Inerrancy" sponsored by our Southern Baptist seminaries.

From the start it was obvious that God was present as Peacemaker. Not every speaker contributed as much as some, but every participant had something important to say. They said that we Baptists can ill afford to be weak in our statements of how we trust the Bible as "truth without any mixture of error." They said that we can ill afford to trash one another with unkind and unloving criticisms. They said that the world of evangelical Christians is watching to see how we settle our honest differences and disturbances.

As a pastor who serves on the General Board of Virginia Baptists, I hear brothers and sisters from across the Commonwealth of Virginia speak their mind on our present controversy. Sometimes I hear well-reasoned arguments for taking this or that position. Sometimes I hear emotional statements impugning the character and commitment of persons who figure prominently in the fight. But

sometimes I hear what makes my heart glad: that there can be peace among brothers and sisters in Christ.

Any person who is in a position of leadership who no longer believes in reconciliation has forgotten something about the Person of Nazareth that should have been remembered. We cannot afford the cost to His church and His gospel of being so dangerously at odds with one another.

Therefore, I plead with my friends who stand under the Southern Baptist umbrella, please, for Christ's sake, adopt the spirit which reigned at Ridgecrest May 4-7. It was a spirit of openness and love. It was a spirit of healing and forgiveness. It was, in fact, the Spirit of God.

James R. Chandler Jr.
P.O. Box 36
Collinsville, VA 20478

Concerning school prayer

Dear editor:

Should conservative Baptists support school prayer? There are four reasons for not:

One, the purpose of the public school system is to provide a secular education. The purpose of the church is to provide a

Personal Perspective

By Tom Madden
TBC Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



"As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the Lord alone did lead him" (Deuteronomy 32:11-12).

Someone has described experience in three words: nesting, testing, and resting. All of these illustrate God's loving care for His people.

Nesting — "As an eagle maketh her nest on high, and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, in a strong place," thus it is that God sets us on high in safety and peace where we nest on the greatness of God and hide under the shadow of His wing. There we are secure.

Then comes testing. Here the picture changes. Life outgrows the nest. The nest becomes too narrow and restrictive. Notice what the mother eagle does. She stirs up the nest, scatters the sticks and feathers of which it is made, and, against the protest of the young eagles, she pushes them out to the very edge of the precipice and shoves them over. In order to keep from falling they use their untried wings in awkward and cumbersome attempts to fly. As they are about to fall on the sharp rocks below, the mother eagle sweeps under them, spreads abroad her strong wings, and bears them back to safety.

She then repeats the process. She is still protecting them while she tests them. She is actually blessing them while making them repeat the exercises until they learn to fly.

Resting — riding on divine wings, having been nested and tested, we are able at last to arise to rest in Him. Isaiah wrote, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles."

Whether we are nesting or experiencing testing or resting, we are always in the presence and under the protection of our Lord.

religious education. As Baptists, we must maintain the historical separation of church and state.

Two, you cannot teach prayer without also teaching the basics of religion. (A profession of faith precedes a relationship of prayer.)

Three, we must respect the rights and religious freedom of non-Baptists and non-Christians as we would want them to respect our rights and religious freedom. This is the Golden Rule applied.

Four, Jesus taught that prayer is a personal and private experience. He did not approve of public prayer or public piety.

However, I do not suggest that we abandon child evangelism. We must increase our efforts to reach lost and unchurched children! There are two reasons for our slack: we are indifferent and we are embarrassed because unchurched children do not know how to dress or behave in church.

But we must not use the public school system to do the work of the church. Each Baptist family could bring one or two unchurched children to church (Sunday School, GA's, RA's, Youth Choir, etc.) each week. Our family knows from experience that this is not easy, but we try! Does your family?

Not everyone will agree with me. Those who disagree have the right and opportunity to express their opinion. I can appreciate an open debate and dialogue.

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

On inerrancy

Dear editor:

Now that the scales appear to be tilted in a more conservative direction within our convention, I feel it would be very helpful for conservative Southern Baptists to roll-up their sleeves and read James Barr's *Beyond Fundamentalism*.

This is a new paperback, written by the world's leading assailant of biblical inerrancy. His thinking has served to form the views of most of our seminary professors who espouse non-conservative beliefs about what Scripture really is.

Very few conservative Southern Baptists have ever felt the intense pressure of liberalism at full-force. Reading Barr's paperback will change that. He'll show them what they're really up against in their battle for biblical inerrancy. Barr is in a class by himself when it comes to denouncing the complete trustworthiness of the Scriptures.

I hope that those who read your journal will take the time to stop by a Baptist Book Store and purchase this paperback — and read it.

I know from personal experience that many of our erudite, seminary professors think that run-of-the-mill (like me), Southern Baptist laypeople never read scholarly books about the Bible.

They're mistaken.

John Gill
1233 Radmoor Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Knoxville bookstore gets award for 1986

GLORIETA, N.M. — The staff of the Baptist Book Store in Knoxville has been recognized for outstanding performance during 1986, according to William S. Graham, director of the 63-store chain for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Loren Miller, store manager, accepted the award for best overall performance among stores of comparable size having both local and mail order sales.

The recognition was made at the annual Baptist Book Store division meeting at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE — 70,820

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Clarksville ministry paves way to Korea

By Charlie Warren

When James and Barbara Hampton decided to encourage First Baptist Church, Clarksville, to begin a medical ministry for the poor, they had no idea God was going to use that ministry to lead them to the foreign mission field.

That was about six years ago. Later this month, the Hamptons will go to the missionary learning center in Rockville, Va., for a seven-week orientation before leaving for their new assignment as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to Pusan, Korea.

Their "missionary" service, however, began when First Baptist Church's medical ministry opened in 1982. All they're doing now is changing locations.

It all started when Mrs. Hampton, a registered nurse, read a story in *Guidepost* magazine about Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Va. The Lutheran church had won *Guidepost's* church of the year award because of its extraordinary medical ministry to Roanoke's poor people.

Mrs. Hampton showed the article to her husband, a physician with a private practice in Clarksville. They began to pray about it and dream about it and presented the idea for such a ministry to the missions committee of First Baptist Church, where they were active members.

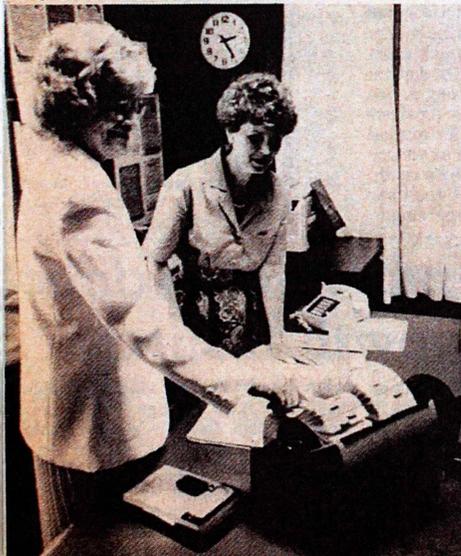
It took about a year to lay the groundwork, but the church approved the ministry, purchased a house about a block from the church for \$26,000, and the Good Samaritan Medical Ministry was launched in November 1982. A year later, a dental program was added and it became the Good Samaritan Medical-Dental Ministry.

An optometry ministry was added later and today there is a network of more than 75 volunteers working with the ministry: eight medical doctors, an optometrist, about 10 dentists, some 25 nurses, a half dozen dental assistants, about 15 spiritual counselors, and about 15 others who assist with other specialties or help operate the office.

Hampton directs the ministry and serves as one of the physicians. Mrs. Hampton is one of the volunteer nurses.

About 2,500 patients have been treated at the ministry's building, which doubles as Sunday School classroom space on Sunday mornings. More than 500 of the patients receive care on a continuing basis.

"I'm convinced many people in this city are alive today because of this ministry," said Ray Carter, a deacon at First Baptist Church who gives two nights a month as a volunteer. Carter once worked for a pharmaceutical company and uses that knowledge to help the physicians distribute medicine.



SEARCHING THE ROLODEX — Betty Craig, paid coordinator of the Good Samaritan Medical-Dental Ministry, and Peggy Huddleston, a volunteer secretary who has worked more than 1,000 hours for the ministry, search for a name in the Rolodex file in the receptionist area.

The doctors hand out about 80 percent of the medicine they prescribe. The office keeps a closet full of generic medicines to distribute.

"We've found that if a person can't afford to see a doctor, he can't afford to buy medicine either," Hampton explained.

"When a person has to choose between buying food and buying medicine, he'll buy food every time," Carter added.

Carter admitted that sometimes he's tired after a hard day's work and doesn't feel like going to help at the clinic. But he goes anyway and he's always glad he went. He said he admires the doctors and dentists who take their turn assisting the ministry regardless of the stress they've experienced that day.

"Nobody could pay them to do it," Carter stated. "It's got to be love for the people."

Actually, the doctors and dentists pay for the privilege. To avoid the red tape of insurance and federal and state regulations, the ministry leases the facilities to each medical or dental professional for \$1 a year. When a particular doctor or dentist is in the building, it becomes an extension of his private practice. It is not a clinic, it is a second location for his practice.

"A church cannot buy malpractice insurance," Hampton explained. "But the church can lease the space to the doctor and his insurance covers malpractice."

"It's a complicated ministry," Hampton continued. "The purpose is to help the professional community take care of the poor."

Most of the medical or dental professionals work one or two times a month. The ministry is open from 6 to 10 three nights a week and from 9 to 12 two mornings a week. Not all of the doctors, dentists, nurses, and dental assistants are members of First Baptist Church. Some are not even Baptists, but all are born-again Christians, according to Hampton.

The facilities include a large waiting room, two examining rooms, a room with lab equipment, two dental chairs, and an optical exam area.

Patients must be classified as having income below federal poverty guidelines but not be Medicare or Medicaid patients. Hampton explained that there are a lot of people who are poor but still do not meet the qualifications for Medicaid or Medicare.

"We don't accept any type of government funds, therefore, we don't have to follow anyone's red-tape regulations," explained Betty Craig, the paid coordinator for the ministry.

Hampton credited Craig with much of the success of the ministry, explaining that she "keeps it together."

Another key member of the volunteer team is Dwight Dickson, a member of First Baptist Church, who coordinates the spiritual ministry. He works with about 15 spiritual counselors. All of the counselors are members either of First Baptist Church or Saint John's Baptist Church, a black church in the community that contributes to the ministry financially and provides workers.

When a patient comes in, the spiritual counselor fills out the person's medical history, financial information, and family data, and then offers spiritual counseling. Bibles and tracts are distributed.

All of the medical and dental personnel "show Christian love and concern for the people," according to Hampton, but each approaches witnessing differently. "I try to be alert to spiritual needs," Hampton explained. "I try to witness as I see them (patients). If they're interested in the gospel, my wife takes them aside for spiritual counseling."

The stated aim of the ministry is "to honor the Lord and show Christian love and concern to persons who need medical and dental services." The spiritual counselors are trained to witness to any who express interest in the gospel.

First Baptist Church underwrites the ministry's \$15,000 budget. Additional donations come in from people, other churches, and organizations. All services are free, but a donation box is available for any patient who wishes to contribute.

"We offer basically what they would get at a private doctor's office," said Craig. "A doctor will see as many as 16 to 18 patients in the few hours he's here. The nurses



MINISTRY OF LOVE — James Hampton, a Clarksville physician, examines a patient in an examining room of the Good Samaritan ministry. Hampton, the key force behind the establishment of the ministry, was recently appointed by the Foreign Mission Board as a missionary to Korea.

keep the patients ready in each examining room."

The ministry was recently presented with the Tennessee Department of Human Services Volunteer of the Year Award for region five.

The success stories are remarkable.

"One patient literally stumbled through our door with blood pressure so high she required immediate hospitalization," said Hampton.

The mother of three children had chronic hypertension but had not been able to afford a doctor or medication for about three years. Now, she visits the Good Samaritan ministry monthly. Furnished with proper medication, she lives a normal life.

A father of eight children was able to regain employment after treatment of a knee condition that had disabled him for more than a year.

"What has made this a smooth operation is prayer," Hampton emphasized. "Many of us have prayed for this ministry regularly. We regard this as the Lord's ministry. We haven't tried to get any credit for it."

One Sunday a year, First Baptist Church celebrates "Good Samaritan Day," recognizing the ministry and awarding plaques to volunteers who have reached 500 hours of service. During the worship service, a missionary doctor or dentist speaks.

Robert Anderson, a dentist serving in Nigeria; Sam Cannata, a doctor in Tanzania; Tim McCall, a doctor in Nigeria; Carlos and Myrtice Owens, missionaries to Namibia; and William Skinner, a medical missionary in Paraguay, have all visited in Hampton's home while in Clarksville for those speaking engagements. Each has told of his or her love for foreign mission work.

"You can't be around these missionary physicians without it being infectious," Hampton explained.

He will give up his private practice, as well as the Good Samaritan ministry, and he and his wife will serve in Pusan, Korea. He will be a missionary physician at the Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital, which is named after legendary Tennessean Bill Wallace, a missionary doctor who died in 1951 during internment in a prison camp during World War II.

William Prine, another Clarksville physician, will take over Hampton's role as director of the Good Samaritan ministry.

While the ministry they initiated six years ago will miss their efforts, it will continue effectively without them.

What they've learned during their six years of involvement in the Clarksville ministry, however, no doubt will make them more effective as Southern Baptist missionaries in Korea.

Southern Baptist Convention

Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis, Mo.

June 16-18, 1987

Theme: "To Know Him . . . To Make Him Known"

Scripture: Philippians 3:10

Tuesday morning, June 16
 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Bellevue Baptist Church choir and orchestra, Memphis
 8:50 Call to order; Congregational singing
 8:55 Prayer, Paige Patterson, president, Criswell Bible College, Dallas, Texas
 9:00 Registration report and constitution of convention
 9:05 Committee on order of business
 9:10 Welcome, John Ashcroft, governor of Missouri
 9:15 Response, Wallace E. Jones, pastor, Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.
 9:20 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
 9:25 Theme interpretation and prayer time, Manley Beasley, evangelist, Bedford, Texas
 9:40 Executive Committee report (part 1)
 10:45 Introduction of business and resolutions
 11:15 Congregational singing
 11:20 Music, Bellevue Baptist Church choir and orchestra
 11:25 President's address
 12:00 Benediction, David Rogers of Memphis, student, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Tuesday afternoon, June 16
 1:00 Evangelistic singers
 2:00 Congregational singing
 2:05 Prayer, Ernie Eudy, evangelist, Fort Myers, Fla.
 2:10 Introduction of business and resolutions
 2:20 Report of nominations, Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees
 2:35 Theme interpretations and prayer time, Sam Cathey, evangelist, Oklahoma City
 2:50 Election of officers
 3:00 Executive Committee report (part 2)
 3:55 Congregational singing
 4:00 Messenger information survey
 4:10 Business - Report of nominations, Committee on Committees, miscellaneous business
 4:45 Election of officers
 5:00 Benediction, Roy Moody, director of evangelism, Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, Topeka, Kan.

Tuesday evening, June 16
 6:30 Music for inspiration, choir and orchestra, First Baptist Church, Dallas
 7:00 Congregational singing
 7:05 Prayer, David Spriggs, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Haines City, Fla.
 7:10 Election of officers
 7:25 Bold Mission Thrust prayer launch
 7:45 Congregational singing
 7:50 Foreign Mission Board report
 8:50 Peace Committee report
 9:20 Benediction, Mary Wilson, realtor, Falls Church, Va.

Wednesday morning, June 17
 8:30 Music for inspiration, choir and orchestra, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

8:50 Congregational singing
 8:55 Prayer, Stephen Rogers, minister of music, Riverside Baptist Church, Fort Myers, Fla.
 9:00 Election of officers
 9:15 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary report
 9:25 Education Commission report
 9:35 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary report
 9:45 Theme interpretation and prayer time, Eddie Martin, evangelist, Lancaster, Pa.
 10:00 Christian Life Commission report
 10:10 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary report
 10:20 Brotherhood Commission report
 10:30 Congregational singing
 10:35 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary report
 10:45 Woman's Missionary Union report
 10:55 Southern Baptist Foundation report
 11:05 Annuity Board report
 11:20 Business - election of officers, Committee on Resolutions (first report), miscellaneous business

11:55 Congregational singing
 12:00 Music, choir and orchestra, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; convention sermon, Jerry Vines, co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.
 12:30 Benediction

(No afternoon session)

Wednesday evening, June 17
 6:30 Music for inspiration, The John McKay Family with Vernard Johnson, evangelistic musician, Fort Worth
 7:00 Congregational singing
 7:05 Prayer, Gerald Taylor, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark.
 7:10 Business - election of convention sermon preacher and alternate and music director, 1988

7:20 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
 7:25 Presentation of past presidents
 7:30 Presentation of newly elected SBC officers
 7:35 Sunday School Board report
 8:05 Planned Growth in Giving report
 8:15 Congregational singing
 8:20 Home Mission Board report
 9:20 Benediction, Ruffin Snow, pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Thursday morning, June 18
 8:30 Music for inspiration, choir and orchestra, Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, La.
 8:50 Congregational singing
 8:55 Prayer, Byung Kook Ahu, president, Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in North America, Annadale, Va.
 9:00 Business; Resolutions Committee (final report)
 10:00 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary report
 10:10 American Baptist Theological Seminary report
 10:20 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary report
 10:30 Report of Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group
 10:40 Congregational singing
 10:45 Historical Commission report
 10:55 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs report
 11:05 Recognition of outgoing officers
 11:10 Message, Billy Graham, evangelist, Montreat, N.C.
 12:10 Benediction, Stephen A. Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ark.

Thursday afternoon, June 18
 2:00 Music for inspiration - the Powell Brothers, Enid, Okla.; the Don Baltzigger Family, Griffin, Ga.; and Jane Green, Morrilton
 2:25 Congregational singing
 2:30 Prayer, Harold Finch, retired businessman, Mission Hills, Kan.
 2:35 Introduction of fraternal representatives
 2:40 Committee on denominational calendar report
 2:50 Denominational press report
 3:00 Radio and Television Commission report
 3:10 Baptist World Alliance report
 3:20 Stewardship Commission report
 3:30 American Bible Society report
 3:40 Business
 4:30 Benediction, Joe McKinney, pastor, Gracemont Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

Brazilians seek to avoid theological controversy

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) - Brazilian Baptist leaders are concerned they could face a controversy similar to the one in the Southern Baptist Convention, but they are working to help prevent it and have some advice to offer Southern Baptists.

Brazilian Baptists potentially could divide over theology as Southern Baptists have done, said Roberto Alves De Souza, editorial coordinator of the Religious Education and Publications Board and professor at Bethel Baptist Seminary in Rio de Janeiro.

One reason for concern centers on the Brazilians' realization "that much of our theological formation as well as the books and literature which we have are highly influenced by theologians and missionaries who come out of the Southern Baptist Convention," Souza said. And many of Brazil's seminary professors, including Souza, have studied in Southern Baptist seminaries.

To help settle the controversy, Souza suggested that Southern Baptists "look more toward the element of love and of mutual understanding, comprehension, spiritual commitment to God, as modeled by Jesus Christ, can 'bring about that kind of peace and harmony which needs to prevail to enable us to have a mutual

Christians need 'mutual respect for the other, believing that God can give some understanding to everybody,'" he said.

Southern Baptists' controversy "has made us more cautious," Souza said, "and alerted us to the need to do our best screening in selecting professors" who will show concern for a student's spiritual life, as well as his academic performance.

What the world needs is a "deeper consecration of our lives," said Orivaldo Pimentel Lopes, executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. A spiritual commitment to God, as modeled by Jesus Christ, can "bring about that kind of peace and harmony which needs to prevail to enable us to have a mutual

respect that God expects us to have one for another as our brothers in Christ," he added.

Souza and Lopes, along with Samuel Cardoso Machado, president of both the Brazilian Baptist Convention and the National Mission Board in Rio de Janeiro, and Eraldo Sewa Campos, president of the Religious Education and Publications Board, visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in May on their way to a meeting at Baptist World Alliance headquarters in McLean, Va.

Brazilian Baptist leaders say they believe the possibility of a split in the Brazilian Baptist Convention is slim now.

That is because "our hearts are set on evangelism and mission work," Souza said. "We're involved in expanding our mission work as far as we can throughout the earth. And I believe as long as we have love for missions and love for those who are lost, and our desire for mutual respect one for the other, and as we are at the present time focusing upon really winning the world to Christ, I don't see much possibility of division occurring."

Missions professor to direct church growth institute

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) - A professor of missions and world religions in Texas is accepting a new challenge - directing the new Institute of World Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Earl Martin, a 26-year veteran of missions in East Africa who has taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, since 1982, is expected to be reappointed as a Southern Baptist missionary May 19 in Richmond.

He is scheduled to assume his duties at the institute in September. The institute's initial programs should

begin in early 1988, said Isam Ballenger, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice-president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. He said the institute will offer evangelistic training to pastors and laypeople from Western and Eastern Europe. Programs also may be designed in cooperation with the directors of European foreign missions agencies. Martin and his wife, Jane, were missionaries in East Africa from 1956 to 1982. They worked in Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

The institute, which will adjoin the seminary, will be housed in Baptist Center facilities at Ruschlikon.

Send the B & R
to a friend

Woman's Missionary Union

June 14-15, 1987

Clarion Hotel, St. Louis

Theme: "Celebrate"

Sunday afternoon, June 14, 1:45

Pre-session music — Betty Jean Chatham, concert artist, Shelbyville, Ky.; Emily Chatham, musical performer, Charlotte, N.C.

Celebrate: study God's Word
Opening meditation: "The First Eyewitness, Mary Magdalene," Laurita Miller, actress, Vandalia, Ill.

Call to order — Marjorie McCullough, WMU national president, Alexandria, La.
Congregational singing
Prayer

Bible Study: "The Resurrection," Dorothy Elliott Sample, WMU past-president, Flint, Mich.

Special music — Malvie Giles, soloist, Magnolia, Ark.

Our session in focus: "I remember studying God's Word," Marjorie McCullough
Congregational singing
WMU annual report
Offering

Missions Talk Time: "Living Witnesses: Going Everywhere Teaching the Word"; Interviewer, Suzanne Moss McMahon, television reporter, Dallas; Missionary participants, Kendale Moore, Albuquerque, N.M.; Lynn Barrett, Hong Kong; Margaret Lasley, Louisville, Ky.
Congregational singing

Message: "Translating God's Love," Roberta Ryan, writer, Spanish Baptist Publishing House, El Paso, Texas
Hallelujah Chorus — Missouri Music Women
Prayer box supper

Sunday Evening, June 14, 7:15

Pre-session music — Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist

Celebrate: look at the tias
Opening meditation: "The Dreamer in Action, Annie Armstrong," Laurita Miller
Congregational singing

Prayer
Bible Study: "Study the Fields," Dorothy Sample

Special music — Malvie Giles
Our session in focus: "look at the fields," Marjorie McCullough; recognition of missionaries

Congregational singing
WMU annual report
Special music

Missions feature: "The Love of God," Russell Begaye, home missionary, Arlington, Texas; Pam Wesley, children's music director, First Indian Baptist Church, Albuquerque; Rose Ignacio, WMU director, Tinan Baptist Church, Cuba, N.M.; Lydia Whitey, WMU director, First Indian Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Helen Coons, associational WMU director, Sapulpa, Okla.; Helen Begaye, home missionary, Arlington, Texas.

Benediction

Monday morning, June 15, 8:45

Pre-session music — Betty Jean Chatham, Emily Chatham

Celebrate: Pray
Opening meditation: "The Woman Who Prayed with Others, Ann Baker Graves," Laurita Miller
Congregational singing
Prayer

Bible Study: "By Praying for Others," Dorothy Sample

Special music — Missouri Music Women

Our session in focus: "Missionary Praying" Marjorie McCullough
Congregational singing
Business

Congregational singing
WMU annual report

You Prayed For Me — June Scobee, widow of astronaut Dick Scobee, Houston

Congregational singing
Missions talk time: "Christ for All — Everywhere"; Interviewer, Suzanne

Moss McMahon; Participants, Judy Edwards, home missionary, Yah To Hey, N.M.; Vera Gardner, foreign missionary, Thailand; Charlotte Cearley, foreign missionary, Zimbabwe

Special music — Malvie Giles

Keynote address: "World in View," R. Keith Parks, president, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Benediction
Promotivation luncheon

Monday afternoon, June 15, 1:45

Pre-session music — Betty Jean Chatham, Emily Chatham

Celebrate: Give
Opening meditation: "The Life Fragrant with Self-denial," Kathleen Mallory," Laurita Miller

Congregational singing
Prayer

Bible study: "Celebrate through giving," Dorothy Sample

Special music — Malvie Giles
Our session in focus: "Stimulate the Grace of Giving," Marjorie McCullough

Congregational singing
WMU annual report

Congregational singing

Missions talk time: "Grow in Giving"; Interviewer, Suzanne Moss McMahon; Participants, Virgie Brown, home missionary, Milwaukee; Dan Stringer, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville; Jerry Moser, home missionary, Theriot, La.; Jane Courtney, foreign missionary, Guatemala

Special music — Missouri Music Women
Message: "Celebrate through giving," John Mills, director for West Africa, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond
Benediction

Monday evening, June 15, 7:15

Pre-session music — Betty Jean Chatham, Emily Chatham

Celebrate: Go

Open meditation: "The One Who Keeps On Going, Martha Franks," Laurita Miller

Congregational singing
Prayer

Bible study: "As You Go," Dorothy Sample

Special music — Malvie Giles

Our session in focus: "Create an Environment," Marjorie McCullough

Congregational singing
WMU annual report

Message: "His Willingness to Use Me," Mary Saunders, foreign missions volunteer, Richmond

Ten years of missions education council — Carolyn Weatherford

Celebrate the Future: Let the Church Reach Out — Missouri Music Women

Benediction

SBC Pastors' Conference

Cervantes Convention Center

June 14-15, 1987

Sunday morning, June 14, 6:30

Pre-session music — choir and orchestra, Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

Welcome — Nelson L. Price, pastor, Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

Invocation

Congregational praise

Special music — choir and orchestra, Roswell Street Baptist Church

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in Forgiveness," Thomas D. Elliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

Congregational praise

Offering

Special music — choir and orchestra

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in Conquering Contemporary Crisis," — Richard Vera, evangelist, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas.

Special music — Roger Hill, soloist, Marietta, Ga.

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in the Compassion For Souls" — Bailey Smith, evangelist, Del City, Okla.

Benediction

Monday morning, June 15, 9:00

Special music — Greg Buchanan, concert harpist, Fort Worth, Texas

Invocation

Congregational praise

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in a Life of Self-Denial," Jack Millwood, pastor, First Baptist Church, Chickasaw, Ala.

Congregational praise

Special music — Joe Estes, music evangelist, Mobile, Ala.

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in Resurrection," Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Special music — Greg Buchanan

Testimony — Mark Price, Cleveland Cavaliers, Cleveland

Congregational praise

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in Salvation," E. W. McCall, pastor, St. Stephens Baptist Church, LaPuente, Calif.

Congregational praise

Offering

Special presentation — Tom Clark, Broadman, Nashville

Special music — Jeff and Joy Earle, concert artists, Marietta, Ga.

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor and Neopagan Philosophy," Carl F. H. Henry, evangelical theologian and author, World Vision International, Arlington, Va.

Benediction

Monday afternoon, June 15, 1:15

Special music — Miss J. J. Turner, concert soloist, Carrollton, Ga.

Invocation

Congregational praise

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in the Spirit-Filled Life" Ralph M. Smith, pastor, Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas

Congregational praise

Special music — Joe Estes

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... When We Need Him," Richard G. Lee, pastor, Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga.

Congregational praise

Offering

Election of officers

Special music — Greg Buchanan

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in the Church," David Miller, missionary, Little Red River Baptist Association, Heber Springs, Ark.

Congregational praise

Special music — Miss Marlesa Ball, Miss Georgia, 1986

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in Contending for the Faith," Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville

Benediction

Monday evening, June 15, 6:30

Pre-session music — choir and orchestra, Roswell Street Baptist Church

Special music — Babbie Mason, concert artist, Marietta, Ga.

Invocation

Congregational praise

Special music — Greg Buchanan

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in Search of Integrity," James T. Draper Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas

Welcome — Adrian Rogers, SBC president

Introduction of 1988 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference officers

Offering

Special music — Roswell Street choir and orchestra, Roger Hill, soloist, Marietta, Ga.

Message: "The Emmanuel Factor ... in Evangelism," Jerry Johnston, evangelist, Overland Park, Kan.

Benediction

HMB endorses 27 chaplains

MORROW, Ga. (BP) — When seeking to minister in a society that grows increasingly crowded each day, Southern Baptists need to develop Christ's perspective of being responsive to individual needs, newly endorsed chaplains were told.

"Our view of crowds may be of fear, contempt, or conformity, but Jesus' view was always one of compassion which prompted him to action with a powerful touch of love and grace," said Ronald K. Brown, pastor of First Baptist church, Morrow, Ga., where the endorsement service was held.

A total of 27 chaplains were endorsed during the ceremony at the suburban

Atlanta church. They join 1,853 other chaplains who serve "in every imaginable situation around the world," said Huey Perry, director of the chaplaincy division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The board does not appoint chaplains as missionaries but endorses them to the employing agencies. In addition to the endorsement the board provides them with pastoral and professional support through personal ministry, seminars, and conferences. The chaplains, who are paid directly by the institutions they serve in industry, prisons, hospitals, and military, minister throughout the nation and in 17 foreign countries.

Southern Baptist woman abducted in Mozambique

DALLAS (BP) — A group of right-wing rebels in Mozambique have announced they will free seven captured foreigners, including Southern Baptist Kindra Bryan of Texas, seized from a mission farm in a central province of Mozambique.

The group known as the Mozambiquean National Resistance stated May 20 in Lisbon, Spain, the seven whites would be freed with the help of international humanitarian organizations but did not specify when they would be released.

Bryan's mother, Mary Jo Free of College Station, Texas, said in a telephone interview May 27 that she had been assured her daughter was all right and was hopeful that she would soon be released.

"I am very, very grateful for all the prayers and concern for Kindra," Free said. She also requested people to "con-

tinue to pray for Kindra's safe release."

Bryan, a member of Second Baptist Church in Houston, is a registered nurse and was thought to be the only American in the group. They are part of Youth With a Mission, headquartered in Hawaii.

Stephen Bradley, minister to single adults at Second Baptist, said Bryan was helping establish a medical clinic and missions station in what government officials called "one of the most suffering areas in the world." Their leader had gone for supplies and returned to find the rural church, their clinic, and a truck in flames.

Villagers reported five men kidnapped the medical missions team. The villagers said the men talked rough, but no shots were fired.

Members of the church have been pray-

ing for Bryan and the other hostages around the clock through their 24-hour-a-day prayer ministry, Bradley said, adding, "We feel confident God is going to do something through her."

Some of the church members have provided financial support for Bryan, who had been serving with Youth With a Mission for about six weeks.

Bryan had expressed concern about the

warfare in the area but said she knew it was God's will for her to be there and that she knew He would take care of her, Bradley said.

Bryan was a leader in the MasterLife program at Second Baptist Church, he said.

"She has a real heart for people, which comes from her relationship with the Lord," he noted.

Kathleen Manley dies

Tennessean Kathleen S. Manley, a former missionary to Nigeria and a distinguished alumna of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, died May 24 at Shannondale Health Care Center in Knoxville after a brief illness. She was 80 years old.

The native of Morristown earned a degree from Carson-Newman College in 1928 and became a registered nurse after attending the Baptist Memorial Hospital Training School in Memphis. She also was an instructor at the hospital's school of nursing and became a registered pharmacist.

She served in Nigeria as a nurse from 1934-41. Although the country had been at war, she returned in 1944. Manley became ill with yellow fever, which was rarely survived. Her illness caused her to resign from missionary service in 1958.

While in the United States recuperating, Manley had begun working at Carson-Newman College in 1952 as college nurse. She also served the college as instructor in health and director of student health services. In 1962 the new infirmary was named the Kathleen Manley Infir-

mary in her honor. She was named nurse emeritus after her retirement in 1971 and in 1974 was presented the college's distinguished alumna award.

Manley, who co-wrote *Back Side O'Nowhere* about her experiences in Nigeria, was a member of First Baptist Church in Jefferson City and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The funeral was held on May 26 at First Baptist Church in Morristown. It was led by Ian C. Walker, pastor, and A. H. Hicks, pastor emeritus, both of the Morristown church; A. Moncrief Jordan, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jefferson City; and Richard Emmert, pastor of Manley Baptist Church in Morristown. An uncle of Kathleen Manley helped begin the Manley Baptist Church.

Manley was buried at Jarnigans Cemetery in Morristown.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Billye Manley Spotts of Eagleville; two aunts, Ona Mullins of Morristown and Mrs. Robert Johnson of Largo, Fla.; and a niece, Mrs. Fred David Brown of Knoxville.

Memorial gifts should be given either to Carson-Newman College or to the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions through local churches.

Educators study future

Future population and lifestyle trends in the United States such as the aging population and population growth, especially by Hispanics, blacks, and Asians, were explored during the annual spring retreat of the Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association at Henry Horton State Park May 7-9.

James Williams, executive vice-president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, and Cliff Tharpe, research analyst at the BSSB, presented the research and implications for religious education.

Other findings were that fewer persons will be attracted by a "fun/games approach," the family will be an emphasis, and illiteracy will be a growing problem.

To respond, the educators were called to prepare for more family education and to provide fewer graded programs. Small group meetings not held at the church will make church programs more accessible. Adult education will need to be emphasized. Other needed responses shared were

the need for more technology, programs for the small church, small groups, and discipleship training.

J. Clark Hensley, director of family ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, discussed needed family ministries.

The new 1987-88 officers elected were Paul R. Peak, minister of education at Third Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, president; Don Dillingham, minister of education at Manley Baptist Church in Morristown, vice-president/program; Liz Lee, director of children's work in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School department, promotion/enlistment; and Tony Long, minister of education at First Baptist Church in Columbia, secretary/treasurer.

Wayland president resigns after financial difficulties

PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP) — David L. Jester, president of Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, since 1981, has resigned.

A college spokesman said Jester had been "under fire internally" from faculty, students, and staff members due to severe financial problems in recent months. In late March the college's trustees cut the school's \$12.5-million 1986-87 budget by 20 percent or \$2.5-million.

Cutbacks included reducing present faculty and staff by 30 and eliminating some academic programs with limited enrollments, the spokesman said.

In addition to Jester, three of the college's vice-presidents have resigned during the past month. Ron Mooney, development vice-president, and Paul Butler, student development vice-president, accepted similar positions at different Baptist colleges — Mooney at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., and Butler at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

Fred Teague, academic vice-president, resigned to become dean of graduate studies at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

The college spokesman declined to speculate whether the vice-presidents' resignations were related to Jester's administration.

Reports circulating in area media before a special called meeting of the trustees May 9 said Jester would be asked to resign. All parties denied those reports.

The college's spokesman said Jester was hospitalized May 11 for health problems and is unavailable for comment.

Lubbock Attorney Kent Hance, spokes-

man for the trustees, said no decisions have been made regarding Jester's replacement.

Wayland board names interim

PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP) — Glenn Barnett, a Methodist layman and retired vice-president of Texas Tech University, has been named interim chief executive officer at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas.

Barnett will assume his duties June 30, when President David L. Jester's resignation becomes effective, announced J. B. Roberts, a Plainview businessman and chairman of the Wayland trustees' executive committee.

Barnett was executive vice-president of Texas Tech for 13 years prior to his retirement in 1981.

In a related move, the executive committee named Tom Parrish as interim special assistant to the president, Roberts said. Parrish recently retired as vice-president for development at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and before that was vice-president for development at Wayland.

A search committee for Jester's permanent replacement should be named soon, Roberts said, noting groups beyond the board of trustees — such as faculty, staff, students, and possibly former students — will be included. Trustees will not fill three recently vacated vice-presidential positions until a president is elected, he added.

Palmer to write lesson comments

William L. Palmer, president of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, has been selected to write the Uniform Lesson Series commentary for the Baptist and Reflector, beginning with this issue.

Palmer was elected president of HCBA in April 1984 and began his duties in June. He was inaugurated as the fifth president on April 29, 1985.

The Colorado native came to his present position from First Baptist Church, Galax, Va., where he served as pastor from 1981-1984. Previously, he was pastor of three churches in South Carolina.

While serving as pastor of First Baptist Church in Morristown from 1969-1981, Palmer was elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1979. In denominational life, he served as a trustee for Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and East Tennessee Baptist Hospital, Knoxville. He was elected first vice-president of the TBC in 1978. He also served as a member of the TBC Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Palmer was general chairman of the 1979 Second Century Campaign for Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy.

After graduating from college, Palmer earned the doctor of ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.



Palmer

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LEADERSHIP...

May 31 was Bucky Phillips' first Sunday as associate minister/music at First Baptist Church, Sevierville. Joe Wren is the pastor.

Mark Granlund has been called to serve as minister of music and youth at South Seminole Baptist Church in Chattanooga. The pastor is Bill Delaney.

D. Long returns to home state

Don Long accepted the pastorate of Chamberlain Memorial Baptist Church in Chattanooga. He began May 3.

He returns to Tennessee from Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. He had served in Tennessee for 18 years before moving to Florida.

In Florida, he served as the first state-appointed chaplain with the Florida Highway Patrol.

A native of Petros, Long is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky.



Long

Carney's speech wins Missions Speak Out

Royal Ambassador from Mount Washington, Ky., has been selected as the winner of the 1987 National Royal Ambassador Missions Speak Out competition.

Carney won the award in competition with finalists who represented nine SBC state conventions. His five-minute, original speech was entitled "Sharing Christ With Others."

As the national winner, Carney will receive an expense-paid trip to the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo., where he will deliver his winning speech during the annual Brotherhood breakfast June 17.

Tandy Rice, chief executive officer of Top Billing Inc., will present the National Jerry Clower Award to Carney. The award is named in honor of the Christian comedian, who endorses and supports the Royal Ambassador Speak Out. Carney also will receive a college scholarship, presented by the trustees of the Brotherhood Commission, and a Royal Ambassador blazer.

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Phillip Senn resigned from the staff of Fairview Baptist Church, Obion, May 17, to accept a position with Calvary Baptist Church, Union City. He is now serving as minister of outreach and evangelism at the church where James Kinsey is pastor.

First Baptist Church of Mountain City has called Sam Wagner as music and youth director, effective June 1. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Micki Jones resigned as children's director and youth assistant at Calvary Baptist Church in Jackson. Jones has accepted the position of youth director at First Baptist Church, Bethel Springs. Mike Holloway is the pastor of the Bethel Springs church.

Victor H. Lutz has joined the staff of Saturn Drive Baptist Church, Nashville, as minister of education/youth. He began serving at the church where Mike Mayo is pastor on May 17. Lutz is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. He previously served as executive director of Gold Haven Ranch for Boys in Camden, South Carolina.

Steve Pentecost, minister of music and youth at Wynnburg Baptist Church, Wynnburg, recently resigned. Ernest Mayo is the pastor.

Benjamin Avenue Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Mich., recently called David Rice as pastor. He previously served as minister of education and evangelism at Bayside Baptist Church in Harrison.

First Baptist Church, Livingston, has called Grover F. (Jeff) Carter Jr. as minister of music/youth. He began May 31 at the church where Donald L. Cobb is pastor. He is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Georgia in Athens. He formerly served as part-time minister of music/youth at Parkway Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Carter is a native of Newnan, Ga.

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NEW POSITIONS — David Danner (center) and Greg Skipper (right) join Fes Robertson, director of Genevox Music Group, in managing the publication of Broadman, Van Ness, and McKinney music.

Danner, Skipper accept new positions at Genevox

NASHVILLE — Genevox Music Group, the music publishing department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has added David Danner and Greg Skipper to management positions, according to Fes Robertson, Genevox director.

Danner is now manager of the production section, and Skipper is manager of the music marketing section.

A native of Oklahoma, Danner has been a music design editor in the board's church music department since 1982. He came to the board in 1973 as an assistant music editor and in 1980 became a full editor.

He is a graduate of Central State University, Edmond, Okla., and George Peabody College for Teachers (now a part of Vanderbilt University), Nashville.

A keyboard and choral clinician, composer and arranger, Danner has composed more than 100 individual anthems published by Broadman Press and Van Ness Press.

Skipper, a native of Florida, has been

music sales coordinator for the Baptist Book Store Music Service since 1984. Earlier, he was music merchandising specialist for Baptist Book Stores.

He is a graduate of Troy (Ala.) State University and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Genevox Music Group, established by the Sunday School Board's trustees in 1986 to produce Christian music for use by churches, schools, and individuals, produces print and audio products in vocal and instrumental areas under the Broadman, Van Ness, and McKinney imprints.

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BIBLE BOOK SERIES

Lesson for June 7

Songs of thanks and faith

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

Basic Passages: Psalms 107; 118; 121

Focal Passages: Psalms 107:1-8; 118:19-24; 121:1-8

All three psalms in this week's lesson speak of the faithfulness of God toward His people. More than our faith in Him, it is important for us to know that God is faithful. We know that He can be counted on because He has been true at all times in the past.

God to the rescue

The first of our psalms reminds me of an old-time Baptist testimony meeting. People are called upon to remember the goodness of God in times past. These memories are designed to remind the people to give thanks to their God.

Each Sunday at our church our Sunday School director asks those present if they have had a blessing from God in the past week. This gives all the assembled an opportunity to share with their brothers and sisters some experience of the goodness of God. Sometimes there is a flood of responses.

Sadly, though, quite often there is almost total silence. Once in a while I prod them a little by asking if they thought God had been away during the past week.

As believers, we always have something to be glad about and thankful for, even in the most difficult times. The very fact that we have been redeemed ought to make us want to "say so" (v. 2).

The Lord has been faithful to us. He has brought us through the deserts of loneliness. He has set us free from our bondage to sin and self. He has delivered us from despair of our own life. He has brought us through many troublesome waters.

Each time trouble came and they thought they would be overwhelmed, the redeemed cried to the Lord and He came to their rescue (vv. 6, 13, 19, 28).



Nail

God brings salvation

Psalm 118 may not look familiar at first. It is truly chock-full of passages that we have heard before. So much of this psalm is seen in the gospels.

This is a psalm of victory. We have no way of knowing what battle to which it may refer. However, we do know that it was one of a series of psalms which were sung at the time of the Feast of Passover.

You will notice that much of the last portion of the psalm appears in connection with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday before His death and resurrection. How fitting that this Passover psalm should be applied to Jesus as He entered the city to become the passover Lamb Who would shed His blood that we might live through Him.

It is also ironic, as is shown in verse 22, that mankind has always tended to reject God's way of doing things. Though the psalmist says that it is better to trust in the Lord than to put our trust in men (vv. 8-9), the very way chosen by God is so often rejected by mankind. This proved especially true in the case of Jesus. Whom the Bible writers said was the cornerstone.

God is on guard

It is almost confusing the way the first verse of Psalm 121 is usually translated. Surely the Bible is not encouraging us to look to the mountains for our help. Some more modern versions have made the Hebrew text more clear by putting the verse in the form of a question.

As we noticed in the previous Psalm 118, mankind is too often tempted to look everywhere else for help before finally turning to God, as though He were a last resort. What a waste of time! Our help in any time of trouble comes best and always from God (v. 2).

Our God never goes off duty. I am reminded here of the taunt of Elijah to the prophets of Baal who yelled loudly and beat themselves trying to get Baal to come to their aid. Our God is always ready and available to deliver us and care for us.

We don't have to wait until trouble comes. If we allow Him, God will keep us from falling into much of the trouble we cause ourselves.

No one with any degree of spirituality can read these three psalms without bowing the head and the knee to give thanks to God for all the blessings He has given us. He has always been here with us to do good for us.

UNIFORM LESSON SERIES

Lesson for June 7

Paul and the Romans

By William L. Palmer, president
Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour

Basic Passages: Romans 1:1-17; 15:14 to 16:27

Focal Passage: Romans 1:1-17

By the influence of my past biblical experiences and through diligent study, I have no question in my mind that the author of the epistle to the Romans was the Apostle Paul. I have come to know the Apostle Paul personally as he has directed my thinking to Jesus Christ in the Book of Romans.

Being a Christian and being concerned for the doctrinal foundations of the early New Testament church, I have read through the 16 chapters of Romans as a spiritual exercise each month, month after month, year after year for more than 40 years. I have read the first chapter of Romans on the first day of each month, the second chapter of Romans on the second day of each month, and I have read subsequent chapters on subsequent days through the first 16 days of each month. I can recommend this practice.

Apostle Paul was uniquely equipped to be used of the Holy Spirit to write the message which we find in Romans. He was Jewish by birth. He knew the Hebrew language. He possessed Roman citizenship. He had received a Jewish education. He knew the Greek language. He benefited from the Greek culture. He was committed to Jesus Christ. He experienced a life-changing encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road (Acts 9).

Paul wrote to a church which he did not know personally. He had never been there, but he earnestly desired to go there. Rome was the greatest city of the greatest empire in the world of his day.

In the first verse of the first chapter of Romans, Paul identified himself as he gave his credentials. "Paul, a servant (bond-slave) of Jesus Christ." Paul thought of himself as a "slave" of Jesus. He felt that he belonged entirely to Jesus as his Lord. He considered Jesus to be his absolute "master" and "owner."

He described himself as "called to be an apostle." Paul considered himself as a man who had been "called" by God. He had been given a task. God had called Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). He had called Moses (Exodus 3:10). He had called Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4,5). He had called Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8, 9), and He had called Paul, formerly known as Saul.

He described himself as "separated (set apart) for the gospel of God." He believed that he was set apart by God from his mother's womb (Galatians 1:15). He believed that every man's life had purpose. He had heard the Holy Spirit say "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them"

(Acts 13:2). Paul knew that his task was to share the good news.

In verse 2 Paul affirms his belief in the validity of the Old Testament. The written word was an authority to Paul. The gospel was no novelty. The Old Testament clearly set forth the promise of the Messiah and the promise of salvation.

Paul's special responsibility was to share the aspects of the person and work of Jesus. "Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (v. 3) identified Jesus' divine sonship. The foundation of God's revelation was that "He gave us His Son."

In verse 3 Paul identified Jesus' incarnation (His human life) with the words, "which was made (born) of the seed of David according to the flesh." Jesus of Nazareth was of the lineage of King David. He was "Son" before He came into the world. He was "declared (designed, ordained, appointed) with power" by His divine nature "according to the spirit of holiness" and by "the resurrection from the dead" (v. 4). Jesus is alive.

In verse 3 Paul identified Jesus as Son, as Savior (Jesus), as Christ (Messiah), and as Lord. Jesus was of the seed of David and He was the eternal Son of God. The gospel had a divine Source. The gospel was in agreement with the Old Testament. The gospel was about a divine Savior. The gospel was about God Who became man (a human Savior). The gospel was about a risen Savior. The gospel was about divine power. The gospel required a personal commitment to the Lord.

The work to which Christians are called has a divine Source. Christians are given a divine commission ("we have received" v. 5). Christians are given divine equipment ("grace and apostleship" v. 5). Christians are given a divine purpose ("for obedience to the faith" v. 5). Christians are given a commission which is supreme motive ("for His name" v. 5).

"The just shall live by faith" (v. 17).

Missionaries to teach
164 Olympic officials

SEOUL, South Korea - Twenty-two Southern Baptist missionaries have volunteered to teach English to Korean Olympic officials training for the 1988 Summer Olympics, to be held in South Korea. Most of the 164 officials involved have studied English in school, but will concentrate on Olympic terminology and improving conversational skills as they prepare for the estimated 250,000 foreign visitors expected for the games. Missionary Joe Gene Autry prepared curriculum materials for the English training.

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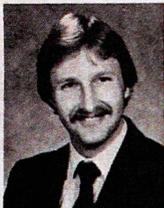
LIFE AND WORK LESSON SERIES
Lesson for June 7

Peter's will to change

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

Basic Passage: Acts 9:1 to 11:18
Focal Passages: Acts 10:9-16, 28, 34-35

He was frustrated, nearly devastated. He was on the brink of a career as a major league catcher, but a mysterious throwing problem had all but stymied his hopes. He looked to God, and his faith proved itself as an answer finally came.



Johnson

The rangy young athlete changed from a catcher to a center fielder and soon demonstrated great prowess in that position. The story of Dale Murphy, the franchise player for the Atlanta Braves, demonstrates that change may be the key to unlocking one's future.

Peter learned that one must change, if necessary, to conform to the will of God. As our story unfolds, Peter is ministering in Joppa where many are accepting salvation. The apostle is lodging outside of town with another Simon, who makes his living as a tanner. The Jewish residents of the city consider a tanner ceremonially unclean because he works with the skins of dead animals. Peter sees Simon as a brother in Christ, not as an impious outcast.

At Caesarea, some 40 miles up the coast from Joppa, resides a Roman military official named Cornelius. Here is a Gentile worthy of notice. He is a devout man who makes generous charitable donations to benefit the people of Caesarea. He prays constantly, not to pagan deities, but to the living and true God. Cornelius is specifically described as one who "feared God" (Acts 10:2). "God-fearer" is a title used to refer to a Gen-

tile who accepted the ethical-monotheism of Judaism, attended the synagogue, and conformed to the requirements of the Jewish religion. Stopping short of circumcision separated a god-fearer from a proselyte.

This dedicated Gentile had apparently been seeking the will of God in a special way. He experiences a vision in which he is assured that his prayers have been heard. Cornelius is instructed to send for the Apostle Peter. Interestingly, here is an instance in which he is assured that his prayers have been heard. Cornelius is instructed to send for the Apostle Peter. Interestingly, here is an instance in which a person has to participate in the answer to his prayer. Obedience to God is prerequisite for answered prayer (1 John 3:22).

Peter's vision (10:9-16)

Two servants and a devout soldier were dispatched by Cornelius to go and find Peter. Even as they journeyed toward Joppa, Peter went up on the roof of the flat-topped house to pray at the noon hour. While noon was not one of the regular prayer times, it is commended in Psalm 55:17. The housetop became a Bethel as Peter "fell into a trance" (v. 10) and received a message from God. This phrase should be rendered "a trance came upon him," thus Peter was passive and the initiative was God's.

The Lord was actively dealing with His servant Peter. Just as a sculptor shapes and smooths his stone, the Lord was shaping Peter (the rock) into what He wanted him to be. Part of the shaping process for Peter involved change. There are times when we must all change in order to conform to the will of God.

In his vision, Peter saw "all kinds of

animals, reptiles, and birds" (v. 12). A voice told Peter to go, kill, and eat some of the meat of the animals. In his typical impetuous fashion, Peter refused and gave his reasons. The voice answered, "What God has cleansed, you must not call common" (v. 15). The scene was repeated three times, yet Peter was "inwardly perplexed as to what the vision which he had seen might mean" (v. 17).

God demonstrates that His timing is always perfect. Even as Peter meditated upon the significance and implications of his vision, the envoys from Cornelius were asking for Peter. When Peter heard the explanation of Cornelius' vision the meaning of his experience became clear. God shows no partiality between people. He accepts all who come in faith. All people may repent and believe in Jesus with no distinctions whatsoever.

Partiality vanquished (28:34-35)

Peter made his way to Caesarea, along with his new friends and some Christians from Joppa. Cornelius, who had been expecting Peter, had called together some of his kin and close friends. Peter shared that he had been changed, that God had shown him not to "call any man common or unclean" (v. 28), Jew or Gentile. The apostle went on to share the gospel message with his Gentile audience. The word was heard and received, and the entire group was saved, as evidenced by the

coming of the Holy Spirit upon "all who heard the word" (v. 44).

Gentile believers received the Spirit just as Jewish Christians, further proving that God shows no partiality among people. Peter was seeing the fulfillment of his Pentecost sermon. He had quoted Joel, "And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21). Partiality is vanquished by God.

Peter had to change in order to share with a Gentile audience. It may be that we will have to change in order to reach our world. Peter was a pioneer in the mission of the church as he helped open the door for us, and all Gentiles, to receive Christ. Let us be willing to change, if necessary, to open doors of opportunity in our community and to take the gospel through open doors in every nation.

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Romanians use funerals as witnessing tool

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Funerals provide a prime witnessing opportunity for Romanian Christians, a Baptist pastor from the Eastern European country reports.

Constantine Dupu, pastor of three churches in northern Romania, says funerals are a key means of witness for Romanian Baptists because funerals are the only church services the government permits in homes and outdoors. All other services must be held in church buildings.

Dupu, who visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board May 19-20 and spoke during the trustees' meeting, is pastor of a 120-member Baptist church in Piatra Neamt, a city of about 200,000 people, and pastor of two other congregations outside the city. One of these has 150 members, the other 75.

When someone dies in Romania, the body is kept at home and typical funeral services span four days, Dupu explains. In Baptist funerals, one or more pastors and a church choir come to the home for services the first three nights. On the fourth day, a final home service is held, along with one at the cemetery. And there's a processional from the home to the cemetery.

The church members invite relatives, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances. Hundreds often attend; sometimes,

thousands, Dupu says. Once, he preached before about 2,000 people in a service for a deacon who had been an official at the local cement factory.

Each service may entail several sermons, each with an evangelistic emphasis, Dupu says.

"This is a big challenge for the pastor," as he often must prepare five new sermons. But it's "a big opportunity for the church . . . to show who we are."

The Baptist Union of Romania encompasses about 1,000 churches with 200,000 members. There are only 200 ordained pastors and 200 deacons who handle some ministerial responsibilities. Dupu says 100 or more pastors could be put to work immediately.

Baptists in Romania are expanding by about 10 percent a year, 20 percent a year in some churches, "a phenomenon from above," Dupu says. He says many converts are 18 to 40 years of age whose spiritual needs have not been met by Romania's predominant Eastern Orthodox Church. Many are seeking meaning in life in the face of economic troubles the nation is experiencing.

On several fronts, Dupu says, Romanian Baptists face restrictions. The government allows the Baptist Union to publish one periodical. No others can be printed even by local churches.

The Baptist seminary at Bucharest is



EVANGELISTIC FUNERALS — Constantine Dupu, pastor of three Baptist churches in Romania, says evangelistic preaching is heard by hundreds and sometimes thousands at funeral services.

limited to 15 students. The government allowed an enrollment of 40 several years ago, but only 10 when Dupu graduated in

1974. And evangelicals are barred from attending some universities.

To renovate a building or build a new one, Dupu says "you need a lot of patience and waiting" at various levels of bureaucracy, each manned by officials not inclined to favor the church. Some pastors and congregations have moved ahead without permission, only to see their construction or renovation destroyed by the government. "Some of them, afterwards, got permission, and it was just twice the work," Dupu says, adding that their defiance also "takes a lot of money." Dupu led one of his churches in building a 200-seat auditorium in 1982.

And there is "psychological pressure" of various sorts. His wife, Violet, for example, is a university graduate in economics who has worked at a local factory for agricultural machinery for 10 years. But she is not the head of the business office and never will be "because she's a believer."

Pastors dissatisfied with life in Romania can easily get a way out of the country, and become heroes wherever they go, by preaching a few anti-government sermons, Dupu says.

But in 14 years of ministry and three years of teaching at the Bucharest seminary, Dupu says no one has ever told him "what kind of sermon I should have (or) what subject to preach (on)."

Church, law conference probes liability threat

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The law of the land that has kept churches immune from liability no longer applies, pastors and church leaders were warned during a church and law conference at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., May 11-12.

"Charitable immunity is gone," said James Guenther, a Nashville attorney and chief counsel for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

"The end of charitable immunity means that if you slander someone in a public prayer, or a child is hurt in a tug of war, or you are negligent in counseling, you and the church can be sued for damages," Guenther said.

Guenther and other program personnel cited numerous court judgments — some involving millions of dollars — that have been leveled against religious organizations. More than 2,000 cases involving churches and their leaders are before the courts this year.

The conference, entitled "The Legal Threat," was sponsored by Samford's Center for the Study of Law and the Church. During the conference, center director Chriss H. Doss announced a hotline available for use by pastors and others who seek information from the center. The telephone number is 1-800-468-6726.

Participants expressed concern after being warned that churches are liable if a pastor, church staff member, or volunteer is involved in a vehicle accident while on church business. In one such case, plaintiffs are seeking a \$6-million settlement.

"Liability insurance must be in place, and church staffs should be sensitive to selection of drivers," Guenther stressed. Accidents related to church-sponsored recreational activities rank second in number to incidents involving vehicles. Many of these are the result of negligence, he added.

"Use common sense and gumption when planning activities, particularly those involving children," he said, citing negligence shown in a California case in which a girl was paralyzed following an injury at a church outing. She was awarded \$2-million.

Guenther observed two types of cases "waiting to happen": those resulting from children running in church hallways and those resulting from church kitchens which fail to meet health codes.

He also pointed out churches are liable for violation of statutory duties, such as state and federal securities laws and copyright laws. "Songs can be sung during a service, but not broadcast. Copyrighted material may not be copied," Guenther reminded the audience.

The participants also were warned "the clergy will be the newest group of professionals sued for malpractice," by Roy and

Nancy Herron, both Tennessee attorneys and ordained Methodist ministers. The couple spelled out the dangers related to malpractice.

Breach of confidentiality is a growing problem, and pastors should be careful about telling stories and giving examples from the pulpit, they said.

Arthur Walker, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, and a parliamentarian, noted the convention "has spent \$300,000 defending itself against suits based on parliamentary procedure."

"Using proper procedure is important. It gives structure and provides a beginning place. It is important for a group to know that there is a predetermined authority and that everybody's rights will be observed," said Walker. However, he cautioned, when parliamentary pro-

cedure is used to thwart participation, its purpose is being misused and abused.

Insurance representatives advised the group to carry adequate and proper insurance.

"The legal explosion we are seeing today has caused insurance premiums to skyrocket," said Dave Smith, an independent agent who specializes in church liability insurance. "If we don't stop this trend, church insurance premiums will escalate to unprecedented heights."

"You can be a part of the solution through an awareness of problem areas, proper planning and implementation, and a board of deacons that will be willing to face the problems," he said.

His advice included obtaining written parental consent for each specific event a child participates in and making certain that supervisors are qualified.

Holston banquet honors Paul Hall

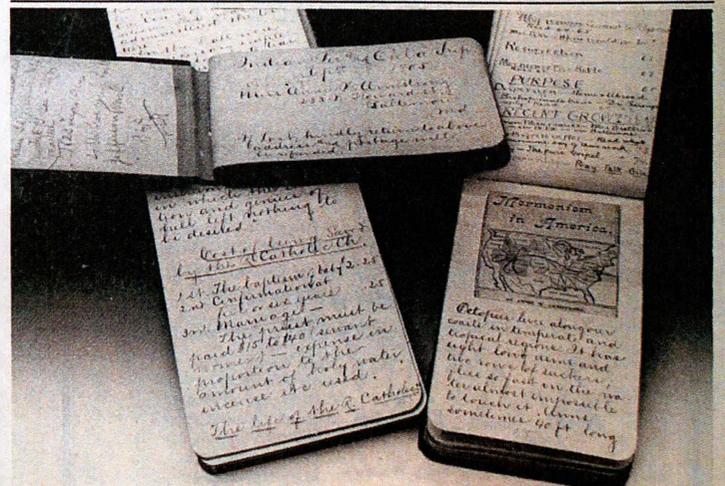
A recent banquet for bivocational pastors, hosted by Holston Baptist Association, turned into a celebration honoring Paul Hall.

Hall, who recently retired as associate in the missions department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, served as director of missions for the Holston association for 10 years prior to working for the TBC.

Hall was presented a painting of an east Tennessee snow scene as an expression of appreciation from the Holston churches. The presentation was made by Paul Broyles, president of the Holston Bivocational Ministers Fellowship.

Dale Holloway, Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board consultant on bivocational ministries was the banquet speaker. The event was held at Central Baptist Church in Johnson City.

Tal Thompson is presently serving as director of missions for Holston Baptist Association.



ANNIE'S NOTEBOOKS COME HOME — The national Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham recently gained possession of 14 notebooks which belonged to Annie Armstrong, the first WMU executive secretary. The notebooks had been preserved at the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and were given to WMU by seminary officials.

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